

**Kuwait MP slams KPC over plans to hire expats**



**Brothers who brought death and ruin to Philippine city**



**Murray in spotlight; Wimbledon looming**



Imsak 03:03 Fajr 03:13 Shorook 04:48 Duhr 11:49 Asr 15:23 Maghrib 18:50 Isha 20:22

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## AMIR ADDRESSES THE NATION, PRAYS FOR PEACE, STABILITY

KUWAIT LEADER PRAYS FOR HEALING RIFT IN GULF TIES



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Max 47°  
High Tide 07:03 & 19:03  
Low Tide 00:27 & 13:18



### MAKING THINGS EASY

By Tony Braun

Have you ever signed up for a gym, made a strict plan to go everyday, decided to follow a rigorous new diet, and then... nothing happens. Why don't we stick to our resolutions? The problem is likely - do to the fact that we aren't machines. Therefore, when we pile up expectations on ourselves, it is very easy to get overwhelmed.

We should keep this in mind when it comes to religion. When I first reverted to Islam, I think that I overburdened myself a lot. For example, I went to Hajj just a few months after my reversion, which was a big ordeal. I also went to extremes trying to make my fasting and prayers perfect. I spent a lot of energy trying to get my friends and family to revert to Islam. I got through it, but when I look back, I think I could have achieved better results if I had started with a more reasonable mindset.

Now when I meet new Muslims, which is often because I work at the TIES Center, I always give them the same advice; it is a big step in their life and they should be careful that they don't overdo it. My friend once told me that if Satan can't stop you from doing something (like praying or helping others), he will try to make you go to extremes in that thing. Although, I don't think this is specifically mentioned within the Islamic religion, I am sure that we can all relate to this anecdote.

In Kuwait, there is a nice saying which says that we should hold the stick from the middle. It means that we should try to be balanced and reasonable, as much as possible. Islam is supposed to be a religion of mercy, graciousness, understanding and ease (among other things). We aren't supposed to burden ourselves or others with undue hardship. It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah that the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Religion is easy, and no one overburdens himself in his religion except that he will be unable to continue in that way." The reference for this hadith can be found in Al-Bukhaari (39) and Muslim (2816).



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said he hopes for healing the rift among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states through dialogue, urging Kuwaitis to abide by national unity for the security and safety of the nation.

In a speech yesterday marking the last 10 days of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, His Highness the Amir said he is looking forward to overcoming the latest developments in the Gulf, and remedying the situation by providing a favorable condition to dissolve the regrettable disagreements and heal the rift through dialogue.

His Highness the Amir highlighted the deep-rooted historical ties, rapport family relations, and common fate and interests that connect the GCC member states. "These makes it inevitable for us to lavish utmost effort to preserve the Gulf entity so that it can remain cohesive, embodying the expectations of the peoples in the member countries," His Highness the Amir stressed.

Kuwait leader prayed to Allah Almighty that the ongoing sincere endeavors and efforts would bring about the outcome to preserve the Gulf nations, and avoid whatever that might harm their solid ties or threaten their security or safety. He congratulated the Kuwaitis, the Arab and Muslim nations on Ramadan, wishing them many returns of the occasion, with further glory and pride.

His Highness the Amir urged the Kuwaitis to abide by the teachings of Islam, renounce differences and hold onto national unity, which is the "defensive fence" of the nation, as well as sticking to the constitution, which he described as "a source of pride."

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## BODIES OF US SAILORS FOUND

**YOKOSUKA:** The bodies of missing sailors were found in flooded compartments of the USS Fitzgerald, which came close to sinking after a collision with a container ship off Japan tore a gash under the warship's waterline, the US Navy's Seventh Fleet commander said yesterday. Vice Adm Joseph P Aucoin declined to say how many of the seven missing sailors had been recovered, but Japanese media said all had died. "Out of concern for the families and the notification process, I will decline to state how many we have found at this time," Aucoin told a news conference.

The search at sea had ended, Aucoin said. The USS Fitzgerald could have foundered, or even sunk, but for the crew's desperate efforts to save the ship, he said. "The damage was significant. There was a big gash under the water," Aucoin said at Yokosuka naval base,

home of the US Seventh Fleet, the docked Fitzgerald behind him. "A significant portion of the crew was sleeping" when the destroyer collided with the Philippine-flagged container ship, destroying the commander's cabin, he said.

The Fitzgerald is salvageable, he said, but repairs will likely take months. "Hopefully less than a year. You will see the USS Fitzgerald back," Aucoin said. Multiple US and Japanese investigations are under way on how a ship as large as the container could ram into the warship in clear weather. Aucoin was asked if damage on the starboard side indicated the US ship could have been at fault, but he declined to speculate on the cause of the collision. Maritime rules suggest vessels are supposed to give way to ships on their starboard.

The Seventh Fleet said in a statement earlier yesterday:

"Divers were able to access the space and found a number of bodies." They were transferred to a US naval hospital for identification, it said. The Fitzgerald collided with the merchant vessel more than three times its size some 56 nautical miles southwest of Yokosuka early on Saturday. Three people were medically evacuated to the US Naval Hospital in Yokosuka after the collision, including the ship's commanding officer, Bryce Benson, who was reported to be in stable condition, the Navy said.

The other two were being treated for lacerations and bruises. The Fitzgerald limped into port on Saturday evening, listing around 5 degrees, a US Navy spokesman in Yokosuka said. The flooding was in two berthing compartments, the radio room and auxiliary machine room, he said.

Continued on Page 13

## PAKISTAN GRAB CHAMPIONS TROPHY, HUMBLE INDIA



LONDON: Pakistan's Sarfraz Ahmed lifts the trophy as Pakistan players celebrate their victory after the ICC Champions Trophy final cricket match between India and Pakistan yesterday. — AFP (See Page 20)

## COURT REDUCES DEATH ON PRO-IRAN CELL RINGLEADER

ACQUITTAL OF 13 MEMBERS OVERTURNED

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The Court of Cassation yesterday commuted the death penalty against the ringleader of a pro-Iran cell in prison but overturned the acquittal of half the cell members sentencing them to various jail terms. The members were convicted of forming a cell with links to Iran and Lebanese Hezbollah and plotting attacks in Kuwait.

Hassan Abdulhadi Ali Hajji was sentenced to death by the criminal and appeals courts last year. He was convicted of several crimes including forming the cell and smuggling explosives from Iran. Judge Ahmad Al-Ajeel also reduced a life term against one of the 26-member cell to 15 years in jail and confirmed a similar sentence on a third member. The court, whose rulings are final, sentenced 15 members to 10 years in prison, three others to five years in jail and acquitted two others.

Continued on Page 13

## HUGE FOREST FIRES KILL 62 IN PORTUGAL

**PENELA:** Raging forest fires in Portugal have killed at least 62 people, most of whom burnt to death in their cars, the government said yesterday, in one of the worst such disasters in recent history. The fire broke out on Saturday in the municipality of Pedrogao Grande in central Portugal, before spreading fast across several fronts. Yesterday afternoon, nearly 900 firefighters and 300 vehicles were still battling the blaze as scenes of devastation could be seen around the town.

"Unfortunately, this seems to be the greatest tragedy we have seen in recent years in terms of forest fires," said a visibly moved Prime Minister Antonio Costa, who declared three days of mourning starting yesterday. The flowing expanse of hills situated between Pedrogao Grande, Figueiro do Vinhos to the west and Castanheira de Pera to the north, which 24 hours before had glowed bright green with eucalyptus plants and pine trees, were completely gutted by the flames.

A thick layer of white smoke hovered over either side of a national motorway for a distance of about 20 kilometers,

as blackened trees leaned listlessly over charred soil. A burnt-out car sat outside partly destroyed and abandoned houses, while a few meters away police in face masks surrounded the corpse of a man hidden under a white sheet.

Secretary of State for the Interior Jorge Gomes said 62 people burned to death, mostly trapped in their cars engulfed by flames in the Leiria region. "It is difficult to say if they were fleeing the flames or were taken by surprise," he said. More than 50 people were injured, five critically, including one child and four firefighters. "The number of fatalities could still rise," Costa said. "The priority now is to save those people who could still be in danger."

The European Union said it would provide firefighting planes following a request from Lisbon. "France has offered three planes through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and they will be quickly sent to assist the local emergency efforts," EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides said.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: Photo shows a general view of the Palace of Justice in Kuwait City, which is home to Kuwait's Supreme Court. Kuwait's Supreme Court reduced the death sentence of a citizen convicted of forming a pro-Iranian cell and of plotting attacks to life in prison. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



**KUWAIT:** Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah signs a document to end the British Protectorate Treaty, replacing it with a friendship agreement between the governments of Kuwait and Britain. —KUNA

## KUWAIT CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY JUNE 19

**KUWAIT:** The State of Kuwait marks its independence day on June 19, an important date that helped to shape the development of the country. The Kuwaiti people and their late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah realized on June 19, 1961, that the protectorate treaty Kuwait signed with Britain in 1899 was not feasible anymore.

At that time, Kuwait was heading towards independence and the Kuwaitis refused the British protection treaty because it was not honoring their ambition for full freedom, despite recognition that the treaty was crucial when needed. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem realized regional and international circumstances were ripe, and became more convinced in the importance of scrapping the treaty by signing the declaration of independence with Sir George Middleton, Britain's Chief Political Resident in the Gulf. The Protectorate Treaty was replaced by a friendship agreement between the governments of Kuwait and Britain.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, addressing the nation following the signature of the declaration, said: "today we move from one phase of history to another. We turned a page of the past to open a new page, and it is this declaration by which Kuwait gains full independence and complete sovereignty."

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem's desire for independence

was planned long before June 19. Kuwait was in full control of the domestic post service on February 1, 1958, and exactly a year later it took control of external post services. It was in 1959 when the late Amir instructed the wording of the citizenship law. The late Amir ordered the Finance Department to work on issuing a national currency. And on October 19, 1960, Kuwait Monetary Law was issued and national currency, Kuwaiti Dinar, was circulated on April 1, 1961.

### Shaping the state

Shaping the state began immediately following the independence. An Amiri Decree was issued defining the flag. Kuwait applied for the membership of the Arab League, which was accepted on July 16, 1961. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem called on August 26, 1961, for holding general elections for a constituent assembly, mandated with writing the constitution. Addressing the first session of the constituent assembly on January 20, 1962, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem said the declaration of independence was a gateway for freedom and dignity. The assembly finalized the constitution in nine months, and the late Amir ratified the 183-article document on November 11, 1962.

The State of Kuwait had witnessed a domestic stability, comprehensive development and establishment of good relations with countries around the world. The independence paved the way for the creation of the state. An Amiri decree was issued on August 19, 1961, establishing the foreign office. The first foreign minister was late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, who succeeded Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem following his death.

Kuwait applied for the United Nations membership and became a member on May 14, 1963, when current Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was a foreign minister. It was Abdullah Al-Salem, who ruled Kuwait for 15 years, whose name would always be associated with independence and constitution. His sacrifices for Kuwait will remain engraved in hearts and souls of Kuwaitis. —KUNA

## IRAQI PM TO START GULF TRIP

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi will embark on a three-day tour of neighboring Saudi Arabia today, followed by Iran tomorrow and Kuwait on Wednesday. The timing of the tour was previously set and has nothing to do with the recent developments in the Gulf region, he told reporters here on Saturday night. "Iraq's policy is based on keeping our distance from all neighbors and non-interference in the domestic affairs of others in order to avoid polarization. We seek close neighborly ties with all neighbors and have nothing against them. "Iraq will not allow any party to use its territories for any aggressive acts against its neighbors," the Prime Minister affirmed.

He noted that his country shares interest with other neighborly country in such areas as the combat against terrorism. "Iraq sees a stage marked by gains against terrorism for the first time since 2003," he said referring to the liberation of large parts of Iraq from the grip of the so-called Islamic State (IS). He vowed that his government would not allow terrorists back to the country and restore stability and development nationwide thanks to the military preparedness to defeat terrorism.

During his stay in Kuwait, Abadi is scheduled to discuss a range of issues, including the compensations for Kuwait relating to the Iraqi invasion of 1990. The Kuwait leaders agreed to the repeated demands from Iraq to postpone the payment of compensations, he pointed out.

Regarding the plan to convene an international donor conference for Iraq in Kuwait in last August, he said the slump in the oil prices in the recent months forced putting off the conference. He added that his government is trying to revive the suggestion given the current financial difficulties in the country.

On the relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said heralds of improved relations appeared in 2015 when the then Saudi foreign minister Saud Al-Faisal planned to visit Iraq and reopen the Saudi embassy here but he passed away. This will be the first visit to Saudi Arabia by an Iraqi Prime Minister since he took office in September, 2014. —KUNA

## KRCS DELIVERS 1,500 FOOD BASKETS TO IRAQIS

**IRBIL/RIYADH:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) delivered 1,500 food baskets to displaced Iraqis living in Al-Khazer camp, on the road linking Mosul and Irbil yesterday. The aid is part of the "Kuwait by your side" campaign to aid as many displaced Iraqis as possible, Kuwait's Consul General in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kanderi said. Meanwhile, camp officials and residents thanked the Kuwaiti government for the continuous aid to ease the suffering of Iraqis who fled their homes in Mosul, due to the ongoing military operations against the so-called Islamic State (IS). Since the beginning of 2017, Kuwait has distributed thousands of tons of food to displaced Iraqis in and out of refugee camps in Irbil, Mosul and Nineveh Governorate.

### 'Kuwait by your side'

Separately, the 'Kuwait by your side' campaign distributed Saturday 4,000 food baskets in Baydha governorate, Central Yemen, as part of its ongoing relief projects during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Baydha is currently undergoing several problems, including continued violence by armed militias and their control over parts of the governorate, Ahmad Salem Awad, Director-General of Transportation in Baydha, said in his speech at the food distribution ceremony in Al-Zaher directorate. His remarks were available in Riyadh. Abdullah Al-Mousa, Director of financial and administrative affairs in Baydha, expressed sincere gratitude and appreciation to all financial backers from Kuwait and members of the 'Kuwait by your side' campaign, valuing their great and genuine efforts in aiding the Yemeni people and society. The 'Kuwait by your side' campaign has implemented a number of food basket projects in a number of Yemeni governorates some days ago, including Hadhramaut, Taiz, and Lahj as part of its permanent relief projects in the Republic. —KUNA

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VISA REGULATIONS

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Visa concerns seem to be a growing worldwide trend and not just in Kuwait. It is not clear to people what regulations are in place. Can I travel to a certain country? Can I go to a country's border and cross over to another country? For non-nationals in Kuwait, the issue gets even more complicated. Can I transfer my work visa from one employer to another or one type of visa to another? The majority of people in Kuwait are non-Kuwaitis and cannot understand how to navigate the system. Today I answer major concerns of non-nationals in Kuwait regarding visas.

Tourist visa

**Question:** I have many friends working in Kuwait under a tourist visa or while they are on their husband's visa. Is this legal?

**Fajer:** No. It is illegal to work under a tourist visa in Kuwait or while being on a dependent visa, and the same goes for most countries. Unfortunately, I have seen it many times, especially teachers. It does not make sense that schools are allowed such practices - teachers need to be qualified to be teaching our students and there have to be strict regulations in place. If you are an employer and you are not offered a work visa by your employee, then be prepared to be deported for violating visa regulations, as it is a violation to work while on a tourist visa in many countries, resulting in deportation or even a ban from the country or region.

Transfer

**Question:** I don't want to work for my employer anymore and I want a transfer. Can I get a release from them even though I haven't found a new job? What can I do if I haven't found a job yet?

**Fajer:** I would always suggest my clients that they find another job before they ask for a transfer. This is because it is smart to always have a plan before you make a decision. Unless your work environment is not safe, I would wait it out and take all the right steps. With that said, you can get a release and some companies will give you a time frame for you to find another job. Most companies give around two weeks. You can always get an extension visa through the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor or from your previous employer - it's a temporary visa and you can't travel on it, but at least you will be able to buy time to transfer.

Contractor

**Question:** I was told that since I work in a camp for another country's military as a contractor, Kuwait's laws do not apply to me even though I have a Kuwait work visa. Instead, the labor law of my employer applies to me - is this true?

**Fajer:** No, this is not true. Everyone who works in Kuwait for a company is under the Kuwait labor law (excluding those who work for oil companies). A simple way to understand this is to look at your passport - if you have a Kuwaiti work visa or a Kuwaiti work permit - most likely you do - then Kuwaiti law applies to you. On the other hand, if you are deployed to Kuwait for a certain project and a certain temporary timeframe, and you were already working in a foreign country and will go back to working in that foreign country, then we could say that Kuwaiti law is not applicable to you.

If you have any legal questions, please email Ask@FajerTheLawyer.com

# LAWMAKER SLAMS KPC OVER PLANS TO HIRE EXPATS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** MP Faisal Al-Kandari criticized Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) for reportedly fielding job offers for expatriates at a time when thousands of Kuwaitis remain in the unemployment line.



MP Faisal Al-Kandari

and administrative staff directly at a drilling company. "The problem is that the contract's value is KD 4 million and will not go through

the standard tendering process," he added, wondering why no tender was announced.

Kandari added that KPC had recently laid off many expats with the excuse of rationalizing expenditure. He also noted that the concerned drilling company had been involved in various violations. Finally, Kandari urged Oil Minister Essa Al-Marzouq to subject whoever is behind this decision to legal accountability, especially since many unemployed citizens are waiting for a job opportunity in the oil sector.

Failure in legislation

Separately, Chairman of the parliamentary priorities committee MP Thamer Al-Sowaitt said some MPs like to hold the committee responsible for their own failure in legislation. Speaking to reporters, Sowaitt stressed that according to parliamentary norms, whenever a committee finalizes a report on certain bills, the priorities committee should be notified so that the report could take its turn in the priorities agenda.

Meanwhile, MP Askar Al-Enezi urged the government to immediately intervene to stop what he described as illegal practices committee by the central apparatus for illegal residents affairs against thousands of bedoons, such as suspending the renewal of their security cards. Enezi stressed that this is inhumane, as it deprives bedoons any access to education, healthcare and employment.

Allowances suspended

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare warned that citizens who reject the housing unit allocated to them in new cities might have their rent allowances suspended unless they apply to get their units in new projects in South Khaitan, South Abdullah Al-Mubarak and South Mutlaa.

Free licenses

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has finalized preparations to use an online system to issue free licenses, which

will be completely ready after the Eid holidays, said informed sources, noting that the one-window system will be used to issue these licenses. Notably, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan had issued a ministerial decision announcing that the new licenses would include 20 activities such as fashion design, interior designing, software and website design and programming, telecom device repairs, translation, organizing sports championships, exhibitions, sports camps, photography and others. It is also expected that the national fund for small and medium projects will fund these projects.

Session postponed

Because of the upcoming Eid holidays and the engagement of many members in obligations abroad, the Municipal Council postponed its coming session till July 10. The last session in this council's tenure would be held on Aug 21.



## AHLI UNITED BANK HONORS WINNERS OF ITS ANNUAL HOLY QURAN RECITATION COMPETITION

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced the winners of its annual Holy Quran recitation competition, which was organized throughout the month of Ramadan at the Bank's headquarters. The competition included four categories: male staff and female staff who recite An-Najm and Al-Toor verses of choice, staff children and also younger participants from outside the Bank whose ages range between 5-14 years old. The children had to recite Al-Mursalat or Al-Muzzmil verses.

The winners for the male staff members category included: Abdullah Sofyan Abu Ghali, who took the first place, Abd Al-Khader Sultan came second, Essa Abdullah Al-Hammer came third, Nabeel Abdulghafoor came fourth and Nouredin Ahmed came fifth.

Among the female staff members category, Dhuha Salmeen came in first place, Eman Mahmoud Omrani came second, Madahel Al-Baloul followed in third place, Aishah Al-Hendi came fourth and Fatema Ahmed Adam came fifth.

From the staff children's category, Maryam Adel Abbas ranked first, Hadi Mohsen Heikal followed in second place, Farida Ahmed Rashwan came third, Tasneem Mohmed Adel came fourth and Basel Mohsen Heikal came fifth.

Winning male children participants from outside also performed well. Jasser Hani Jamal won the first place, Mohammed Awad Fouad was in second place, Faisal Anwar Al Yaqout came in third, Abdelrahman Zakaria Al Failakawi was in fourth place and Amer Abdulla Badran in fifth place. In addition, Liyan Ghassan Abdelrahman won the first place in the female children category, whereas Taghreed Akram Al-Sayed won second place, Mariam Ahmad Antar third place, whilst Alia Makram and Hager Soud Al-Dousari won the fourth and fifth places respectively.

Winners were honored and rewarded during a special ceremony that was held at the Bank's main building, and was attended by Naqeeb Amin AUB's General Manager

Human Resources, Mariam Al-Mudhaf AUB's Head of Employee Relations and Abdullah Al-Shuaib, AUB's Shariah Manager.

The Bank said in a press release, "The bank continues its Ramadan Quran recitation activities every year to instill enthusiasm and competition among the contestants. AUB's management and organizing committee were impressed with the competitive and positive spirit portrayed by all participants, and in return congratulated all winners and all of those who made this unique event a success."

The bank added, "Such activities aim to reflect a positive contribution and collaboration across all members of society to truly understand the values of the Holy Quran and apply its principles throughout their daily lives. The Bank's commitment to similar initiatives is a core element of its comprehensive social responsibility approach that includes a broad range of activities that help to spread more awareness and encourage education around positive values."

## MAN ADMITS TO STABBING WIFE DEAD AFTER ARGUMENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Investigations revealed that a woman who was found dead in Khaitan on June 11, 2017 was stabbed to death by her own husband who had been hiding in Jahra ever since he committed his crime. Police arrested the man in an ambush at his hideout, the Interior Ministry announced in a statement released Saturday night. The suspect told police that what started as an argument with his wife escalated into a fight which saw him grab a kitchen knife and stab her three times. He was sent to the concerned authorities to face charges.

## KFSD DENIES REPORTS ABOUT FIRE IN SALMI JUNK YARD

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) denied Saturday a report that a huge fire broke out in the junk yard in Salmi Area, terming it as "not true." Social media reports suggested that a huge fire erupted in the junk yard. But the KFSD said the reports were inaccurate. There was a report of a fire in the junk yard and Salmi fire station rushed to the scene but the fire was "small and was even extinguished by people in the yard before arrival of the firefighters," KFSD added in a statement. No one was hurt, it confirmed. —KUNA



## EQUATE PLANTS 300 TREES IN CHINA TO PRESERVE ENVIRONMENT

**KUWAIT:** EQUATE Petrochemical Company, a global producer of petrochemicals, continued its global sustainability initiatives by planting trees in China as part of ongoing efforts to preserve the environment and giving back to the society in partnership with one of its leading Chinese customers.

Representing the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the People's Republic of China Sameeh Johar Hayat, the event was attended by the Deputy Chief of Mission Adel Al-Salhat. Aimed at improving the air quality in the environment, the initiative included planting a total of 300 pine trees, of which 150 trees by EQUATE and 150 by the Chinese customer, Zhejiang Wonder Imp. and Exp. Co. Ltd.

EQUATE President and CEO Mohammad Husain said, "As a global contributor to the petrochemical industry, EQUATE continues its efforts to ensure overall Quality, Reliability, Sustainability and Growth for itself, its customers and all other stakeholders as 'Partners in Success.' Our participation in planting trees in China is part of our sustainability strategy within a balanced framework that includes the society, economy and environment, which includes pre-

serving and protecting our planet through all possible means. On behalf of EQUATE, I would like to extend appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador Hayat and the embassy's staff for their invaluable support."

The President of EQUATE Marketing Company (EMC) Ahmad Al-Saleh said, "EQUATE is always keen on translating its corporate values into strategic initiatives that emphasizes its commitment to service excellence, quality products, and unsurpassed customer experience. We enjoy well-rooted strategic partnerships in this region whereby EQUATE's name has become associated with world class products and services. It is a source of pride to execute this environmental initiative with one of our main customers in China and share our success with the society by preserving the environment and its elements, reflecting EQUATE's sustainability strategy."

During the ceremony, EQUATE presented tokens of appreciation to Al-Salhat and the Chinese customer. In 2014, EQUATE commenced its international sustainability efforts in China by planting a total of 200 pine trees at the same location in Beijing's Huairou District.

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PART OF KUWAIT'S 2035 VISION



**KUWAIT:** Environment protection and the establishment of natural reserves are integral parts of the 'Kuwait 2035' development vision. A number of government authorities were established to promote and protect the environment in Kuwait. In addition to that, some 11 natural reserves were created to safeguard Kuwait's marine and land ecosystems. —KUNA

# PALESTINIAN EMBASSY HOSTS GHABQA



**KUWAIT:** Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub hosted a ghabqa recently attended by diplomats, media personalities and other dignitaries. Furthermore, the event featured a ceremony in which Tahboub honored high achieving Palestinian high school graduates in Kuwait. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT

Heritage



The Sheikh Mubarak Kiosk, one of the most important historical places in Kuwait. Founded in 1897 Kuwait's seventh ruler Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah(1840 -1915), it was regarded as the seat of government, where Sheikh Mubarak used to sit in the morning and monitor the affairs of government. The kiosk was surrounded by a variety of markets such as the vegetable, dates and water markets. The state renovated and officially reopened the kiosk as a tourist attraction in 2011. (Source: Sons of Sindbad, the Photographs, by Yacoub Hijji and Grace Pundyk, London, 2006. Prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, heritage researcher in the Ministry of Information)



Ahmad Al-Qattan

A MUCH SAFER FUTURE

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

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?

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The doubt about the actions that will make Kuwait a better place evokes a deep reflection of contemporary reality, its negative and positive aspects. Everyone who answered this question agrees that change starts from us. But some, like pilot Ahmad Al-Qattan, believe that the solution is to deal with the roots and not just improve what's on the surface.

"Personally I think it all starts with a person's upbringing and how he/she was raised, to instill a certain mentality into the future generation such as respect and integrity," he said. "That unity and helping each other will help us grow and make us stronger with years to come."

"People worry too much about where we come from or what religion a person believes in, which causes hatred and greed," he added. "I think people should be more open to other cultures and ways of thinking and understand that we are all different in many ways, but even if we disagree on many things, we will help each other to make the future for our children a much safer and better place."



KUWAIT: Worshippers flocked to the Grand Mosque and other mosques around Kuwait Saturday night to perform the Qiyam Prayer; a ritual performed during the last ten nights of the Holy Month of Ramadan.— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



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# AL-JERI GROUP GIVES DUE CARE TO EDUCATION, MATCHING STATE'S POLICIES

"Education is the basis of Kuwait's economy," said Chairman and CEO of Al-Jeri Holding Group Talal Khalifa Al-Jeri, noting that sound educational outcome has been the basis of nations' development throughout history.

In an interview, Al-Jeri added that the group gives due care to education in a way that matches the state's policies, with its six educational companies that include many schools serving various categories and nationalities throughout Kuwait. "This indicates the volume of the huge investments Al-Jeri Group has in this significant sector," he added.

Al-Jeri noted the increasing demand for international schools, because both citizens and expats prefer enrolling their children in private schools providing good quality education. Al-Jeri also reviewed the problems Kuwait's educational sector is facing, such as the high cost of land, paper-

- Al-Jeri Holding Group includes six companies and many schools
- Talal Al-Jeri believes in the significance of education for any economy and that sound educational outcome is the basis of development of nations
- Kuwait's educational sector still witnesses comprehensive reforms
- Kuwait took care of developing the educational sector through building universities and encouraging higher education
- Al-Jeri owns over 10 percent of Kuwait's educational market share
- Launching Cambridge English School's new trademark reflects our strategy towards developing company sectors

work and the high cost of building educational facilities. Some excerpts:

**Q: Tell us about Al-Jeri Holding Group's structure.**

**A:** Al-Jeri Holding Group includes six companies and many schools serving students of all grades and nationalities in various areas around Kuwait. This indicates the volume of investments dedicated to this important sector, which includes:

- English schools
- Bilingual schools
- Arab exemplary schools, special needs schools.
- Indian schools
- Pakistani schools
- Philippines schools
- Training and consultancy centers
- Centers for rehabilitating people with special needs older than 21

**Q: How did you start with the educational sector?**

**A:** It was a long time ago. Or start reflected state policies,

## About Talal Al-Jeri



- He is the Chairman and CEO of Al-Jeri Holding Group
- He holds a BSc in Business Administration
- Throughout his career, he managed to achieve substantial achievements
- He calls for adopting moderate analyses as a lifestyle for all.
- He calls for enhancing patriotism, loyalty and communication through various activities.
- He believes in creative work and exchange of expertise.

as education is a top priority for Kuwait according to article 40 of the constitution. I personally believe in the significance of education. That is why Al-Jeri Group has been keen on establishing the best educational facilities since the 1969s.

**Q: What do you think of the situation of education in Kuwait?**

**A:** Well, it is quite evident that Kuwait has been keen on education. It is also known that the sector is still witnessing considerable reforms that started with a program launched in collaboration with the World Bank (2015-2020), in which all official educational bodies focused on developing education and improving the efficiency of both teachers and school administrations.

Modern studies in this field show that government spending on education has been annually growing by 14.4 percent over the past four years, which is 15 percent of government spending.

This shows the government's interest in developing education through building universities according to inter-

national standards such as the Sabah Al-Salem University in Shadadiya, which is expected to absorb the growing numbers of school graduates.

**Q: Does this mean that Kuwait is on the right path?**

**A:** We can of course say so, especially since the growing spending on education is accompanied by World Bank consultancy with the aim of reframing the educational system in a way to meet the requirements of the labor market, provide sustainable employment and proper training needed for international competence.

**Q: Can you tell what is your group's share of the local educational market?**

**A:** According to our follow up, I can assure you that our market share is not less than 10 percent of the local educational market, as we own many schools following different systems.

**Q: What are the most prominent problems Kuwait's educational sector is facing?**



مجموعة الجري القابضة  
AL JERI HOLDING GROUP



**CAMBRIDGE**  
**ENGLISH SCHOOL**  
مدرسة كيمبردج الإنجليزية

**A:** To start with, the most important problem is getting land plots in investment areas, which have prohibitive costs. The second problem lies in the high cost of construction materials, particularly for building schools and all the needed facilities such as playgrounds and labs, which require huge capital amounts, in addition to the quest for qualified Arab and foreign teachers.

**Q: How would you view the future of this sector?**

**A:** Demand for education is correlated to the growth of the population in Kuwait, where expats form the majority. According to IMF assessments, Kuwait's population is expected to considerably grow in the period of 2015-2020, and so will the educational sector.

Taking into consideration that expats form the majority of the population, this has increased demand for British and American schools, in addition to international systems like Indian, Pakistani and Philippines schools. This suggests that more schools will be needed to meet the expected growing number of students.

**Q: Can you explain the current demand for private schools?**

**A:** As a matter of fact, demand is increasing for foreign and international schools because many citizens and expats prefer them. We also notice that English schools are most popular, followed by bilingual schools or those teaching Arabic curriculums. Statistics show that 108 out of the total of 170 private schools are foreign, while only 62 are Arab.

**Q: What are the group's latest moves in terms of developing its subsidiary companies?**

**A:** Our latest move was launching the new trademark for Cambridge English School, which reflects our strategy to develop the company's various sectors. This step is but a start for the group's new strategy, expected to be followed by further steps.

During the interview, Al-Jeri emphasized the significance of supporting national investment and urged relevant establishments to fight capital migration through providing various companies with needed facilities. He also urged company owners to support the national economy.



**Immigrant business helping to sell Trump nostalgia**

## IS THREAT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA RAISES ALARM IN WASHINGTON

# ASSAULT LAUNCHED ON MOSUL OLD CITY

**MOSUL:** Iraqi forces launched an assault yesterday to retake Mosul's Old City, the last district still held by the Islamic State group three years after the jihadists seized the northern city and declared their "caliphate". Military commanders told AFP the assault had begun at dawn after overnight air strikes by the US-led coalition backing Iraqi forces. They said the jihadists were putting up fierce resistance. The push into Mosul's Old City - a densely populated warren of narrow alleyways on the western side of Iraq's second city - marks the culmination of a months-long campaign by Iraqi forces to retake IS' last major urban stronghold in the country.

The loss of Mosul would mark the effective end of the Iraqi portion of the cross-border "caliphate" IS declared in the summer of 2014 after seizing large parts of Iraq and neighboring Syria. The military announced the start of the assault in a statement, saying the army, counter-terrorism forces and federal police had "launched an attack on the Old City". Machinegun fire crackled and plumes of smoke rose above the Old City as surrounding Iraqi positions were hit with heavy mortar fire.

On the first floor of a building on a street lined with destroyed car repair shops, a commander holding a tablet computer feverishly called in coordinates for an air strike against a suicide car bomb approaching his position. Staff Lieutenant General Abdulghani al-Assadi, a senior commander with the Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS), said the operation was advancing slowly "to preserve civilian lives as we breach the enemy's defence lines".

### 'Last episode of IS show'

"Our forces have moved in on foot because the alleys are very narrow," he said. "The strategy has changed compared to other operations. There is no room for our vehicles to maneuver and there are many civilians." The United Nations said Friday that IS may be holding more than 100,000 civilians as human shields in the Old City. Surrounded by Iraqi forces on three sides and blocked on the other by the Tigris River that runs through Mosul, the jihadists had no choice but a fight to the finish, Assadi said. "This is the last episode of the Daesh show," he said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. "It's our most difficult operation. Fighting is fierce because it's their last stronghold... They have nowhere to flee."

He said he hoped the operation could be concluded before Eid - the festival marking the end of the Muslim



**MOSUL:** Iraqi forces gesture during their advance towards Mosul's Old City yesterday during the ongoing offensive by Iraqi forces to retake the last district still held by the Islamic State group. —AFP

## GUNFIRE ON SYRIA AID CONVOY WOUNDS ONE: RED CRESCENT

**DAMASCUS:** At least one person has been wounded after a convoy seeking to deliver aid to a besieged Syrian rebel-held town came under fire, the local Red Crescent said. The incident occurred on Saturday as the convoy attempted to access Harasta in the Eastern Ghouta region outside Damascus, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) said in a statement late the same day. "The gunfire led to the injury of one of the truck drivers, who was seriously wounded and taken to hospital to undergo surgery," the statement said.

The convoy was a joint operation by SARC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the United Nations, whose top official in Syria condemned the attack. "Attacks on humanitarian aid workers violate international humanitarian law and compromise the humanitarian community's ability to provide the essential assistance to people who so desperately need it," Ali al-Za'tari said in a statement.

"The UN and its partners will return to East Harasta to complete this humanitarian mission and hopes that the humanitarian team will be given the required assurances of safety." The ICRC said the 37-truck convoy had been trying to deliver food, medicine and daily essentials to 11,000 people in Harasta, who have received no aid for nearly eight months. It said the shooting occurred "as the convoy approached the city at around 7:00pm local time", or 1700 GMT.

The incident meant the aid went undelivered and "renewed security guarantees are needed in order to proceed with this planned aid delivery", it added. It was not immediately clear who was behind the shooting, which is not the first time aid convoys in Syria have been attacked. In February, a convoy taking aid to a besieged part of the central city of Homs was looted by gunmen, who diverted the trucks to a government-held area and roughed up the drivers.

And in Sept 2016, a UN aid convoy en route to Aleppo city was hit in an air strike, though an investigation was unable to identify the perpetrators of the attack. The United Nations estimates more than 600,000 people in Syria are living under siege, a tactic employed primarily by government forces, but also used by rebel fighters and the Islamic State group. More than 320,000 people have been killed in Syria since the conflict began in March 2011 with anti-government protests. —AFP

Holy Month of Ramadan, expected around June 25 or 26 - "but I think it is going to take longer". Iraqi forces launched the battle for Mosul in October, retaking the eastern part of the city in January and starting the operation for its western part the following month.

### 'A terrifying time'

The International Rescue Committee, a major aid group operating in Iraq, warned of the huge risks facing already-traumatized civilians. "This will be a terrifying time for around 100,000 people still trapped in Mosul's Old City and now at risk of getting caught up in the fierce street fighting to come," the IRC's acting country director Nora Love said in a statement. "Both coalition and Iraqi forces must do every-

thing in their power to keep civilians safe during these final stages of the battle for Mosul."

Since the battle to retake Mosul began, an estimated 862,000 people have been displaced from the city, although 195,000 have since returned, mainly to its eastern side. Yesterday, only yards from Iraqi forward positions and falling mortars, civilians could be seen cleaning their homes on streets lined with rubble. Some people appeared to have never left while others, carrying boxes of food and canvas bags stuffed with clothes, were returning to areas the security forces retook from IS only a few days earlier.

It was in Mosul in July 2014 that IS chief Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi made his only public appearance, urging Muslims worldwide to move to the group's "caliphate" straddling Iraq

and Syria. The jihadists have since lost most of the territory they once controlled in the face of US-backed offensives in Iraq and in Syria, where an alliance of Kurdish and Arab forces are advancing on their last Syrian bastion Raqqa.

It is not clear how many IS members remain in Mosul, where many foreign fighters have joined local jihadists since the city was taken. "The locals in Daesh will shave their beards and try to blend in with the civilians as they always do," Assadi of the CTS said. "The foreigners will fight hard and eventually get killed." The fall of Mosul was the Iraqi forces' worst defeat in the war with IS. Regaining it would cap a major turnaround for security forces, who broke away and ran despite outnumbering the jihadists who attacked the city in 2014. —AFP



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## NICARAGUAN WOMEN FIGHT SEXISM TO BECOME LANDOWNERS

**MATAGALPA, Nicaragua:** When Maria Magdalena Moran was told she had lost her land she didn't know what to do. The deed for the property in an indigenous village in Nicaragua's mountainous north had been forged, she learned. The discovery was a harsh blow for the 70-year-old, whose only asset was the small plot where she grew corn and kidney beans. Magdalena had broken what in Nicaragua is a patriarchal model that usually consigns women to the kitchen while viewing farming as "man's work."

According to a national farming census, only 22 percent of women in Nicaragua are able to work the land. Magdalena bought her small parcel after looking after her aunt for 24 years. From her savings, she paid 10,000 cordobas - just \$350 at the official exchange rate, but a sizable sum in this poor country. Technically, indigenous territory in Nicaragua is protected by national and international law. But cases like the one she encountered are common.

Magdalena said an indigenous leader forged documents to take her land and sell it, using some of the proceeds to

bribe witnesses to back his account. "I've cried my tears. Something really serious has happened to me. I'm a woman, alone, and they took advantage of me. Machismo treats us as if we're nothing. But from now on they are going to know about the rights we women have," she said.

### A struggle against tradition

Magdalena went to ADIC, an community-development organization that fights for women's rights in rural communities, and was told that she could get her land back. "I went hungry, put up with rain in the streets of Matagalpa," the town where she had to begin the legal process, she said. "In the end I managed to get the deed, to rescue the land." Her case illustrates the struggle many Nicaraguan women face in securing land rights.

Silvia Elena Gonzalez is a mother of four who has been farming for 15 years. But to grow her corn and beans she has to rent the land. "If we had land of our own we could provide food and for our children's studies," she said. Her brothers are landowners, but an inheritance cut her out simply because she was a daughter,



**MATAGALPA, Nicaragua:** Maria Magdalena Moran (left) poses with Silvia Elena Gonzalez in the community of Samulali. —AFP

not a son. "I know I have a right, if my brother doesn't want to give me a share (of an inheritance), to bring in a lawyer to

represent me," she said. "We are four sisters and three brothers, but the inheritance was only for them (the males)."

### A law ignored

Nicaragua's National Assembly in 2010 approved a law meant to redress the balance, to guarantee rural women access to land. But not one woman has managed to successfully use it, according to the Rural Women's Coordinating Group, which is demanding the law be applied. A spokeswoman for the group, Marla Teresa Fernandez, said Nicaragua's government under President Daniel Ortega had shown little interest in providing funds to meet the goal.

The law was supposed to create a fund to promote equality by facilitating the purchase of land by rural women. It was meant to fix an imbalance created in the 1980s, when Ortega's Sandinistas, having taken power, enacted farm reforms that massively benefited men while leaving women with just eight percent of agrarian land. The Rural Women's Coordinating Group is urging the government to make good on its commitment to fund the equality initiative. "It's an act of justice. We are demanding a legal measure that's already been approved. We're not going against the law," Fernandez said. —AFP



**MOSUL:** Iraqi women wait outside the University of Mosul as students arrive to take their exams on June 13, 2017. —AFP

## MOSUL STUDENTS RETURN FOR EXAMS AMID DEVASTATION

### SECURITY AT MOSUL UNIVERSITY TIGHT

**MOSUL:** Amid buildings destroyed by heavy fighting, University of Mosul students are returning to take exams interrupted three years ago when militants took control of their city. The university and an army of volunteers are working to clear up rubble and repair the damage left by fierce battles between Iraqi forces and Islamic State militants. "The fact that I am here with my friends today shows our determination and our will to resist," says Ahmad Chehab Ahmad, 23.

Around 40,000 students were studying at the university, one of the biggest in Iraq, when IS seized the city in a sweeping summer 2014 offensive across Iraq and Syria. Elite Counter-Terrorism Service forces seized the campus back in January as part of a months-long operation to oust the militants from the capital of their self-declared "caliphate". "Less than a month after we were liberated, I was back in class," says Sanaa Nafih, minutes before going in for her English exam. "I feel good, despite all the destruction I see," says the 21-year-old, who hopes to finish her studies and become a teacher.

With Iraqi forces still fighting militants across

town in Mosul's old city, security at the university is tight. Heavily armed guards check ID cards and search students at the campus entrance. The signs of fighting are clear - some buildings have been completely demolished, while others are pock-marked by shelling and small arms fire. While the science department remains closed, humanities students have returned after years without setting foot in a lecture hall.

"We girls stayed at home" under IS rule, says Nafih. "In the beginning we had electricity and we could receive news - I could use the Internet to download books. But after a few months the Internet was cut off and a period of darkness began," she says. "People could only imagine what was happening in the world."

### 'I broke down in tears'

Part of the university continued to operate under IS control, mostly serving the relatives of IS fighters, according to a staff member who worked there at the time and asked to remain anonymous. Before they fled the campus, the jihadists set fire to the university library, turning

the large building into a blackened shell. "Daesh destroyed hundreds of thousands of books, valuable encyclopedias and rare manuscripts," says university employee Zaid Muhieddine, using an Arabic acronym for the group. "The first time I saw the library in this state, I broke down in tears."

But for Maher, a third-year geography student, life must go on. "As long as there are classes, it doesn't matter so much that the buildings are burned or destroyed," he says. The university's management hopes to have courses up and running as normal by October. In the meantime, it is trying to catch up on exams. "The clean-up has been finished in most faculties, thanks to volunteering by the city's youth - both university and school students," says Osama Hamdun of the university's maintenance department. "In four months they removed thousands of tons of rubble and remnants of the fighting." Re-opening the university is a "message to the world", he adds. "Mosul is a city of civilization. Neither Daesh nor anyone else can break the will of Mosul's people to live," he says. — AFP

## DISPLACED SEE LITTLE CHANCE OF PEACE

**JUBA:** When South Sudan's civil war erupted in 2013, Nyayath Uluak was caught in crossfire in the northern town of Malakal and a bullet tore her leg apart. She survived, but the lower half of her limb didn't. On leaving hospital, she found refuge with family in Yei, to the south, but then had to flee again as the war spread last year. Now, home is a camp outside the capital ringed by barbed wire and sandbagged positions manned by UN peacekeepers.

The elderly lady has little hope that South Sudan's warring leaders, President Salva Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, and his former deputy Riek Machar, a Nuer, will heal the personal and tribal animosity that split South Sudan just two years after it became the world's youngest nation. "I don't think the leaders will resolve this any time soon," she said, sitting on the dirt floor of a shelter that was once used to teach children grammar and maths, but is now occupied by new arrivals. "I don't even know what they are fighting over."

The camp outside Juba hosts 30,000 people, 50 percent more than it was designed for. The fugitives are part of the biggest movement of people in Africa since the 1994 Rwandan genocide - some two million within South Sudan and nearly the same again outside its borders. UN experts say the conflict, which also has roots in control of South Sudan's oil wealth, amounts to ethnic cleansing and risks escalating to genocide. "People told me stories of fear and violence," UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said after walking through the tent city, where the stench of latrines hangs in the air and children play football on pitches of baked red earth. The destitute camp-dwellers took advantage of Grandi's presence to list their daily hardships. Kun Chuol, an education coordinator, complained of congestion and a lack of rations. Angelina Nyagak, a women's representative, said those

who left the camp to try to top up rations face the risk of attack and rape by armed men.

In the last major bout of fighting, in July, 60 people in the camp were killed. Today, white armored personnel carriers are parked around the perimeter. Grandi pledged to speak on their behalf in meetings with South Sudan's leaders. "I can only speak to their sense of responsibility, hoping there is one," he said. "The flight of people is a clear testimony that you are not taking enough responsibility for your own citizens. People wouldn't go away if they weren't afraid."

### Peace Efforts

After several failed peace efforts, South Sudan has launched its own national dialogue, while regional leaders have sought to revive internationally brokered talks. But few in the

camp hold out much hope while Riek Machar, who is being held in South Africa under virtual house arrest, remains outside the negotiations. "It is about power. The problem came when Riek said he would stand in the election against Salva," said John Wiyual, a Nuer whose home is just 5 km away but says he fears setting foot outside the camp. "They just need to bring those two people back together. There will be no peace in South Sudan if Riek is excluded."

Grandi said the failure of previous agreements, from those that ended decades of war with Khartoum and granted South Sudan independence to the more recent peace efforts, meant rebuilding trust would be tough. "There will have to be a bloody good agreement to convince people to go back," Grandi said. "And it has to be sustainable." — Reuters



**ABUROC, South Sudan:** This photo taken on June 05, 2017 shows an aerial view of a new settlement of displaced families. — AFP

## ISRAEL GOODWILL RAMADAN MEASURE CUT AFTER ATTACK

**JERUSALEM:** Israel revoked yesterday the permits of 200,000 Palestinians to enter Israel that were approved for the holy month of Ramadan following two near simultaneous Palestinian attacks on police that killed a young female officer near Jerusalem's Old City. Israeli defense body COGAT, posted the announcement on its Arabic language Facebook page. Earlier, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that preparations are underway to destroy the homes of the Palestinian attackers and tighten security at the entrance to the Old City, home to sensitive holy sites sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians.

Three Palestinian attackers armed with an automatic weapon and knives assaulted officers on duty near the Old City in two locations Friday evening. Police said Staff Sgt Maj Hadas Malka, 23, was rushing to respond to that initial attack nearby when a Palestinian assaulted her with a knife. Malka wrestled with the man for several seconds as he stabbed her multiple times before other officers saw what was happening and opened fire, killing him, police said. She later died of her wounds in hospital.

The Islamic State group took responsibility for the attacks but two Palestinian militant groups, Hamas and People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine quickly retorted the three attackers were their members and accused IS of trying to undermine their efforts. At his weekly Cabinet meeting, Netanyahu lashed out at Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas for not condemning the attack.

Israel had previously announced its annual goodwill measures for Ramadan that included 200,000 thousand visiting permits for family visits for Palestinians from the West Bank and access for 100 Gaza residents to attend prayers at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque. COGAT said the visiting permits were canceled but the prayer permits

remain unchanged. Netanyahu criticized the Palestinian government for not condemning the attack. He called for the world to "demand the immediate cessation of Palestinian Authority payments to the families of terrorists, something that only encourages terror."

Israel has long unsuccessfully pushed for the Palestinians to halt the "martyrs' fund" payments to roughly 35,000 families of Palestinians killed and wounded in their long-running conflict with Israel, including suicide bombers and other militants. Last week US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the Palestinians had agreed to stop the payments but both the Palestinians and Israel disputed the claim.

Israel argues that such pay promote violence. It stepped up a campaign against the fund after a wave of Palestinian attacks began in Sept 2015. Since then, Palestinian assailants have killed 43 Israelis, two visiting Americans and a British student, mainly in stabbing, shooting and car ramming attacks. In that period, some 250 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire. Israel identified most of them as attackers.

At times the attacks were daily occurrences, but they have relatively subsided in recent months. However there have been a string of recent attacks near the Old City in east Jerusalem. Israel captured the territory with its key holy sites from Jordan in the 1967 war. Israel considers the city its eternal, undivided capital while Palestinians want the eastern sector as the capital of their future state. The fate of the area is an emotional issue at the heart of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Israel blames the violence on incitement by Palestinian political and religious leaders compounded on social media sites that glorify violence and encourage attacks. Palestinians say it stems from anger over decades of Israeli rule in territory they claim for their state. — AP



**JERUSALEM:** Israeli border guards frisk Palestinian men outside Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City yesterday. — AFP

## SAUDI-TURKISH TIES STRAINED OVER DIFFERING QATAR VIEWS

**RIYADH:** Ties between Saudi Arabia and Turkey have begun to fray due to sharply different policies toward Qatar. Saudi Arabia has led other Arab nations in cutting diplomatic ties with Qatar over allegations the small Gulf nation backs terror groups and that its policies, including its support for Islamist groups, threatens the region. Qatar denies it backs terror groups and says the decision to isolate it is politically motivated.

Turkey, which is a strong backer of Islamist groups like the Muslim Brotherhood, has criticized the measures against Qatar and authorized the deployment of additional troops to Qatar in a show of support. Turkey also sent additional supplies of dairy products to Qatar's capital, Doha, after Saudi Arabia sealed shut Qatar's only land border, impacting a significant source of food imports.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu held talks late Friday with Saudi Arabia's King Salman about the crisis engulfing Qatar. No statement was issued after their meeting. Saudi tour guides Khalid Abdullah and Edris Ismail told AP on Sunday that some Saudis are cancelling planned visits to Turkey for the upcoming Muslim Eid holiday, which starts next week. Saudi Arabia says around 250,000 Saudis visited Turkey last

year. An Arabic hashtag on Twitter has also appeared calling for Saudis to cut ties with Turkey.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raised eyebrows over the weekend when he said King Salman agreed to consider an offer to establish a Turkish military base in the kingdom alongside a Turkish base in Qatar. In an interview aired Thursday with Portuguese broadcaster RTP, Erdogan said work on the Turkish base in Qatar began in 2014 with the aim of supporting regional security. Erdogan added that he had previously raised the possibility of a Turkish base in Saudi Arabia and said the Saudi king agreed to consider the offer.

The official Saudi Press Agency released a statement Saturday strongly rejecting any such offer. "Saudi Arabia cannot allow Turkey to establish military bases on its territories," the statement, adding that the country "has no need for this". Ties between Saudi Arabia and Turkey had become strained under King Salman's predecessor over Turkey's support for the Muslim Brotherhood during the height of Arab Spring protests. Those ties, however, had begun to improve under Salman after he aligned Saudi Arabia closer with Turkey and other Sunni Muslim countries in a bid to counter Shiite-ruled Iran. — AP



## BLACK GUN OWNERS WORRIED BY ACQUITTAL IN CASTILE SHOOTING

**DETROIT:** Gerry Martin isn't sure he will ever tell a police officer during a traffic stop that he has a concealed-weapon permit - and possibly a weapon - on him. The acquittal of a Minnesota officer in the death of a licensed gun owner who volunteered that he had a gun seconds before being fatally shot during a traffic stop adds to the worries of African-American gun owners about how they are treated by police and society. Acknowledging that they have a weapon, they said, can open them up to violence from police, who can then claim they feared for their lives simply because of the presence of a gun, even a legal one.

"As soon as you say, 'I'm a concealed carry holder. This is my license,' they automatically are reaching for their gun thinking you're going to draw your gun on them, once again not realizing you're a good guy," said Martin, who lives in Glenside, Pennsylvania. Philando Castile was fatally shot by the officer July 6 in a St Paul suburb seconds after he told the officer he was armed. Officer Jeronimo Yanez, who is Latino, was acquitted Friday of manslaughter and two lesser charges. During the stop, Castile volunteered, "Sir, I have to tell you, I do have a firearm on me." Yanez told Castile, "OK, don't reach for it then" and "Don't pull it out." On the squad-car video, Castile can be heard saying, "I'm not pulling it out," as Yanez opened fire. Prosecutors said Castile's last words were, "I wasn't reaching for it." The verdict "tells African-Americans across the country that they can be killed by police officers with impunity, even when they are following the law," said Rep. Cedric Richmond, a Louisiana Democrat who is chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The verdict also tells blacks that "the Second Amendment does not apply to them" because Castile "was honest with the officer about having a weapon in the car, and there is no evidence that he attempted to or intended to use the weapon against the officer," the Louisiana Democrat said. Outside the courthouse, Castile's mother said Yanez got away with murder. Her son was wearing a seatbelt and in a car with his girlfriend and her then-4-year-old daughter when he was shot. "I am so very, very, very ... disappointed in the system here in the state of Minnesota," Valerie Castile said.

Licensed gun owner and open-carry advocate Rick Ector of Detroit said stereotypes can cloud the minds of some officers when dealing with black gun owners. Officers may have had previous encounters with people carrying guns illegally - especially young black men. And that experience can carry over, Ector said. Once they find out that a black American has a gun permit, "they are not necessarily going to relax, but they now have an idea about your

character," Ector said.

Phillip Smith, head of the National African American Gun Association, said police need additional training to remind them that Second Amendment rights apply to black gun owners as much as anyone else. Like several similar cases, Castile's death was shared worldwide on social media. His girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, livestreamed the aftermath of the shooting on Facebook because, she said, she wanted to make sure the truth was known.

### Few convictions

But videos of black people dying at the hands of police have led to few convictions. "I'm sure people of color are going to say, and rightfully so, what is the burden of proof for an officer to be convicted?" asked Dwayne Crawford, the executive director of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. Eric Garner died in July 2014 in New York City after a white officer placed him in a chokehold during an arrest for selling loose cigarettes. Garner complained that he couldn't breathe on video captured by onlookers. A grand jury declined to indict that officer or any others involved in the arrest.

Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old boy with a pellet gun tucked into his waistband, was fatally shot by a white Cleveland police officer in Nov 2014. But a grand jury declined to indict patrolman Timothy Loehmann, who fired the fatal shot, or training officer Frank Garmback. The city settled Rice's family's lawsuit for \$6 million. Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old, was fatally shot by a white officer, Darren Wilson, in Aug 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri. Their confrontation was not captured on video. A grand jury declined to indict Wilson, and the Justice Department opted against civil rights charges. Wilson later resigned.

Only one police officer in recent publicized cases is facing jail time. South Carolina officer Michael Slager, who is white, shot black motorist Walter Scott in the back as he fled from a traffic stop. Slager pleaded guilty in May to a federal charge of violating Scott's civil rights, and a judge will determine his sentence, which could range from probation to life in prison without parole.

Scott's shooting in April 2015 was captured on cellphone video seen worldwide. It contradicted Slager's original statement that Scott had attempted to grab his Taser. "This was a clear-cut case of unnecessary, fatal police violence," Rashad Robinson, executive director of Color Of Change, said of the Castile case. "District attorneys around the country, from Tulsa to Cleveland to now St. Paul, must be held accountable for their failures to secure justice for victims of police violence." —AP



CLEVELAND: Dinesh Chawla walks with his dogs outside his home on June 9, 2017. — AFP

## IMMIGRANT BUSINESS HELPS TO SELL TRUMP NOSTALGIA

### FAMILY BUSINESS TO HELP LAUNCH NEW CHAIN OF HOTELS

**CLEVELAND:** Dinesh Chawla is a key part of the latest venture for the Trump hospitality brand. The American of Indian descent plans to use the family business to help launch a new chain of budget hotels dubbed "American Idea" and inspired by Donald Trump's victorious presidential campaign. On a sunny day in June, the medium-built, short-haired Chawla appeared weary and was fighting a stubborn cough, having returned to this small suburban town only three days earlier from New York, where he had joined Donald Trump Jr in announcing the partnership.

"I feel like Kelly Clarkson or Carrie Underwood when they won 'American Idol,'" the 52-year-old said at the offices of Chawla Inc., the company created by his late father that he now runs with his brother Suresh. But as an immigrant, he can tell you about being shoved around and suffering racist taunts. And in interview after interview, one question keeps coming up: How could he go into business with the Trump Organization, when its founder is pushing a highly controversial ban on travel from predominantly Muslim countries?

### Strictly business

His answer seems readymade: "We're not invest-

ing in his presidency, his policies on refugees and all that stuff," he told AFP. "We are investing in technology, expertise, intelligent administration." President Trump was not involved in the deal, Chawla continued, adding that his brother had briefly met Trump once during the political campaign, when the idea for the hotel chain was born, but that they were barred from seeing him for several years for ethics reasons.

Still, the Chawlas and the Trumps have a history: Years ago, the future president had offered their father advice on securing financing for his first hotel. "People would always question motives," said Chawla. "I realize there is some concern. Our decisions were strictly business." He pauses. "If they are using us, people might have to consider that we are using them a little bit too," said Chawla, citing the larger scale of the Trump Organization's operations.

Chawla describes himself as a Republican on economic matters and a Democrat on social questions. He favors adoption by gay parents and promotes gender equality in his business. Fully half of management at Chawla Inc., which employs 400 people, is African American. "I liked some of the things Trump was saying for business," said Chawla. "I respected Hillary Clinton's competence." "If I had a

daughter, I would tell her, that's your role model there," he said, adding that he voted for Barack Obama in 2008 but did not vote in 2016.

Since the announcement of the Trump partnership, Dinesh, who arrived in the United States from Canada in 1977 at age 12, has had anonymous calls and threats. "All the conservative people are really for it," said Chris, who tends bar in town at Hey Joe's on Cotton Row, the town's main thoroughfare. "But the liberal-like college-educated people around here...are all really unhappy," Judson Thigpen, head of the local chamber of commerce, hopes the new American Idea hotel will help draw tourists and spur growth in a town already home to Delta State University, which specializes in the arts and recently added the only Grammy's museum outside Los Angeles. "It could help," he said. "But there is a huge stigma about who is behind it."

### Campaign nostalgia

In January 2018, the local Comfort Inn will be transformed into an "American Idea" hotel. On the edge of Route 61, which links Tennessee and Louisiana, it is an ordinary hotel. In the lobby, the reception desk sits opposite a simply furnished dining room. — AFP

## ACTIVISTS HOLD SECOND RALLY OVER US SHOOTING VERDICT

**MINNEAPOLIS:** Minnesota activists held a second rally against police violence Saturday following 18 arrests during a night of protests after a policeman was acquitted over the shooting of a black motorist. Angry protesters had blocked a major highway in the state capital of St Paul early Saturday after Friday's acquittal of

Officer Jeronimo Yanez, 29, of all charges he faced in the shooting death of 32-year-old Philando Castile during a traffic stop.

Demonstrators held a smaller, more reflective rally and march Saturday evening "against injustice and to raise awareness that we will not stand for laws and policies that

allow police to kill with impunity," organizers wrote on the event's Facebook page. About 200 people turned out for that demonstration in Minneapolis - the state's largest city that borders St Paul - according to the Star Tribune newspaper. Castile's death was part of a series of high-profile shootings of African-Americans by police. Americans were stunned to see the video, livestreamed on Facebook, of his panicked girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, as blood spread on Castile's shirt.

Yanez fired repeatedly at Castile, testifying later he thought the man was reaching for a gun. Reynolds said he was reaching for his wallet. The verdict had sparked outrage among many in the St Paul area. An estimated 1,500 people marched through the city, then poured onto interstate highway I-94, shutting it down. When some marchers ignored repeated police orders to disperse, state and local officers arrested 18 of them shortly after midnight, a state police spokesman said. The Star Tribune said those arrested included two reporters for other Minnesota newspapers who were covering the march. A police statement said the charges against the 18 included "being a pedestrian on the freeway." —AFP



MINNEAPOLIS: Protesters gather in Loring Park on Saturday. —AFP

## WOMAN WHO STORMED STAGE DURING 'CAESAR' IS ARRESTED

**NEW YORK:** A New York production of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" with a Trump-like character who is assassinated had a boisterous new scene this weekend: An activist who stormed the stage, yelling, "Do you want Trump to be assassinated?" Police said Laura Loomer was arrested Friday evening during the play presented in Central Park by the city's Public Theater. She was arrested, charged with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct and released. She must appear in court at a later date to respond to the charges.

"I'm out of jail, but I'm not apologetic," the 24-year-old conservative activist wrote on Twitter. "Thanks to everyone who is supporting me & condemning political violence." As she rushed to the stage, Loomer reportedly shouted, "Stop leftist violence!" In the play, actor Gregg Henry resembles Donald Trump,

with fluffy blondish hair, wearing a suit and a tie hanging below his belt. Sticking to Shakespeare's script, he is stabbed multiple times by a group of senators including his close friend Brutus.

Several audience members tried to shush Loomer by booing. And the performance came to a brief stop. She was not alone. Her supporters were in the audience, and one stood up and yelled, "The blood of Steve Scalise is on your hands!" - referring to the Republican congressman who was shot and critically injured earlier this week by a lone gunman on a baseball field in Virginia; four others were injured before the shooter was killed by police.

In New York, a video of the Shakespeare play incident was released almost immediately after Friday's disruption, apparently by the protesters who posted it online

for all to see. The Public Theater reacted on Twitter, saying that while they are "champions" of the First Amendment, Friday's interruption of the performance was "driven by social media." The young woman belongs to an online, right-wing group called The Rebel Media.

Delta and Bank of America have pulled their sponsorships of the Public Theater, citing the "Julius Caesar" production. Sunday is the last performance of the play, which is part of the free Shakespeare in the Park series in the Delacorte Theater. The production opened on May 23 in previews - a week before comedian Kathy Griffin's staging of a bloody, decapitated Trump-like head and after Snoo Dogg's video of him shooting a Trump-lookalike clown. But the production did not get much attention until more recently when the media highlighted the Trump-linked details. — AP

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## WAR FOR SINALOA CARTEL LEAVES TRAIL OF BODIES IN MEXICO

**MEXICO CITY:** Since the infamous Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was extradited to the United States, a war has broken out for control of his Sinaloa cartel, leaving a growing trail of bodies. At least three sides have been fighting each other for control of the multi-billion-dollar drug trafficking operation, experts say. One group is led by Guzman's right-hand man, Damaso Lopez Nunez, who knows the cartel's operations inside-out and helped his extradited boss escape prison twice.

Another is led by two of the extradited kingpin's sons, Jesus Alfredo and Ivan Archivaldo, who say they are the rightful heirs to his drug-running empire. The third is led by Guzman's brother Aureliano "El Guano" Guzman, who controls the area around their hometown, Badiraguato. Since Guzman's extradition in January, a bloodbath has engulfed Sinaloa, the western state where the cartel is based. There have been 764 homicides in Sinaloa so far this year, the highest rate in six years, according to the security secretariat for the state of three million people.

### 'Generalized terror'

"It's terror. The word for what is happening in Sinaloa is generalized terror," said Alejandro Sicaivos, editor of local magazine Espejo. "This hasn't been the usual kind of shootout. They're

coming with everything they've got: High-caliber weapons, full arsenals, vehicle-mounted artillery." The trigger for the conflict appears to have been an armed raid on Guzman's mother's house in June 2016, according to another drug trafficking expert, Jose Reveles.

That incident - unconfirmed by authorities, but reported by Guzman's lawyers - happened five months after "El Chapo" was re-arrested following a brazen escape from a maximum security prison in July 2015. It was the first sign that war was brewing in Sinaloa. Two months later, Guzman's son Jesus Alfredo was kidnapped in the resort town of Puerto Vallarta. Authorities blamed the abduction on a rival cartel, Jalisco New Generation. But questions linger about whether the kidnapers got an inside tip. Things escalated after "El Chapo" was extradited on January 19, effectively eliminating any possibility he would escape again or manage to maintain control from inside jail. In February, Guzman's sons penned an open letter accusing Damaso Lopez Nunez of trying to kill them in an ambush. Then, last month, Lopez Nunez himself was arrested. But the killing continues unabated. "It's a real battle. The 'Damosos' even have their own uniformed army, the 'Damoso Special Forces,'" said Reveles. — AFP



**NAVOLATO, Mexico:** This photo taken on Feb 07, 2017 shows members of the Mexican army and federal police patrol at a crime scene after an organized crime shooting in the Villa Juarez neighborhood in this city in Sinaloa. — AFP



**BOGOTA:** Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos speaks inside a shopping center following an explosion on Saturday. — AFP

## THREE KILLED IN BLAST AT UPSCALE BOGOTA MALL

### FRENCHWOMAN AMONG THE DEAD

**BOGOTA:** Three people including a young Frenchwoman were killed and nine wounded Saturday when an explosion rocked an upscale mall in Bogota, as Colombia's only active guerrilla group condemned the blast. President Juan Manuel Santos said there were "no clear indications" who was behind the explosion, emphasizing that those responsible would be captured and held accountable. "Terrorists are not going to change our ways," he said at the scene of the attack, urging Colombians to continue "normal life" and enjoy the Father's Day holiday on Sunday.

One Frenchwoman, 23, died in the attack, according to the city's mayor. Two Colombians also died, the Clinic of the Country said in a statement. Another 48-year-old Frenchwoman was among the injured, according to the clinic. Bogota Mayor Enrique Penalosa also said authorities could not confirm "which group could be responsible" for the blast, but it was "clearly a cowardly terrorist attack". The Frenchwoman who died had spent six months working in a school in a poor neighborhood, Penalosa said.

Police said that at about 5:00 pm (2200 GMT) the explosion tore through a restroom in the Centro Andino Mall, crowded with shoppers ahead of Father's Day and located in an affluent area of the Colombian capital that is popular with foreigners. National police chief General

Jorge Nieto told reporters "a device" was placed "behind one of the toilets in the women's bathroom" in the shopping centre.

### 'Miracle I'm alive'

Michael Montoya, who works in a pastry shop on the third floor, told AFP that "we were tending to customers and we heard an explosion on the second floor". After heading to the scene he said he and his colleague saw people crying and bloodstained. "It was in the bathrooms because some women came out crying," he said. "There was a lot of smoke and security people told us to evacuate."

Andres Bermudez, his hands still trembling in the aftermath of the attack, described "people crying in panic". "It's a miracle I'm alive," he told AFP, explaining that he had been in the mall to pay some bills. Police, ambulances and firefighters swiftly arrived at the shopping centre, popular for its bars, restaurants and nightclubs. President Santos said the mall would open normally on Sunday.

Late Saturday, clubs in the area still opened their doors to revellers, though fewer people than usual walked the streets. John Herrera said he had decided to go out to take advantage of a friend's visit. "If it already happened once, I do not think that it will happen twice in the same place," he said.

### Guerrillas condemn attack

Colombia is still grappling with a civil conflict that has lasted more than half a century between guerrilla fighters, paramilitary groups and state forces - leaving at least 260,000 dead, 60,000 missing and 7.1 million displaced. The government is seeking a "complete peace" after reaching a peace accord last year with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as FARC.

The ELN, with 1,500 fighters, is the last guerrilla group still active in the country, but was quick to condemn the attack. "ELN Paz condemns this deplorable incident," the group wrote on its Twitter account, noting that the attack was "against civilians". "We share the pain and stand in solidarity with the victims," the group wrote. "The state should investigate thoroughly to identify those responsible."

The leader of the FARC, Rodrigo Londono - known as Timochenko - also denounced the explosion. "Solidarity with the victims of today in Bogota," he wrote on Twitter. "This act can only come from those who want to close the roads of peace and reconciliation." The blast was the second major attack this year in the Colombian capital. In February the ELN claimed responsibility for a bombing at a bullring in Bogota, which killed a police officer and wounded more than 20 people. — AFP

## AMERICANS LAMENT CUBA BECOMING 'FORBIDDEN ISLE'

**HAVANA:** American travelers who long to swill a cocktail at Havana's legendary Sloppy Joe's bar or dive into the rooftop pool of its newest luxury hotel had their dreams dashed when US President Donald Trump announced his new Cuba policy this week. In a setback to the US-Cuban detente negotiated by his predecessor Barack Obama, Trump on Friday ordered tighter restrictions on Americans traveling to the Caribbean island and a clampdown on dealings with its military, which owns many of the capital city's top establishments.

"You could say, 'You could buy a drink anywhere,' but we want to come to a famous, very nice place," said Russell Francis, 35, a special education teacher from Houston, after visiting Sloppy Joe's, which won renown during the 1920s US Prohibition era when American tourists flocked to Havana to drink and gamble to their heart's content. The watering hole, with its 18-m bar immortalized in the 1959 movie "Our Man in Havana," was frequented by film stars such as John Wayne, Spencer Tracy and Clark Gable. Many Americans have headed there again since detente to soak up its historic atmosphere.

While there is a growing number of private sector joints in Old Havana, considered one of the jewels of colonial architecture in the Caribbean, virtually all the state hotels and eateries are owned by the military. "Part of the beauty of being in the city is the historic aspect," Matt Flynn, 30, an accountant from New Orleans, said as he wandered along popular Calle Obispo where live salsa music floats out from restaurants and bars. He said he was disappointed by Trump's move, although he understood the principle.

Lauren Sivan, 39, of Los Angeles said she was glad she slipped into Cuba before the policy shift and was still able to stay at the Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski, owned by the tourism wing of the military, Gaviota. The stunning property, in a renovated Belle Epoque mall, opened this month billing

itself as Cuba's first luxury hotel, with a vast spa, rooftop terrace and cigar lounge. "We're just so glad we came now," said Sivan, who was visiting Cuba for a long weekend with a group of friends.

### Devil in details

US visitors tripled in number in the wake of 2014 detente, emboldened by Obama's easing of the travel ban. Many came in under the self-directed "people to people" category, which Trump is eliminating. Americans like Flynn and Sivan said they would not have undertaken the trip under the new rules, which make Communist-run Cuba more like the "forbidden island", just 145 km from Florida. Confusion remains about what will be allowed and whether individual visitors could simply come in under the "support for the Cuban people" category now. Experts say the devil will be in the details of the regulations to be drafted over coming months. Similarly, it is not yet clear how the ban on dealings with companies affiliated to the military will work.

GAESA, the Armed Forces Business Enterprises Group, is involved in all sectors of the economy. That means when you enter a shop in Cuba to purchase a bottle of water, soda or beer, you probably are patronizing a military establishment. "They are not marked so you would have to do your research," Flynn said. "It's very hard to police because if you come without tour guide, it's cash and there aren't receipts."

Forcing would-be visitors into organized trips, issuing lists of which establishments they could not visit and auditing those tours would go some way to solving that issue. But it also would give the Cuban government, which sanctions tours, more control over what visitors see and likely reduce Americans' contact with ordinary Cubans. "You would probably have to go through a tour group which has its advantages but it would be considerably more expensive and very structured," said Christian Walther, 26, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. — Reuters



**HAVANA:** A Cuban follows the speech of US President Donald Trump on TV on June 16, 2017 as he vows to roll back his predecessor Barack Obama's deal re-opening trade ties with the island nation. — AFP

## WARMBIER'S STRANGE, SAD N KOREA TRIP

**WYOMING, Ohio:** Over and over, Otto Warmbier apologized and begged - at first calmly, then choking up and finally in tears - to be reunited with his family. North Korean officials seated at long tables watched impassively, with cameras rolling and journalists taking notes, as the adventuresome, accomplished 21-year-old college student from suburban Cincinnati talked animatedly about the "severe crime" that had put him there: Trying to take a propaganda banner for someone back home, supposedly in return for a used car and to impress a semi-secret society he wanted to join, and all under the supposed direction of the US government.

"I have made the worst mistake of my life!" he exclaimed as his formally staged Feb 29, 2016, "confession" to anti-state activities ended in Pyongyang. More than 15 months later, he has finally been reunited with his parents and two younger siblings. Whether he is even aware of that is uncertain. "His neurological condition can be best described as a state of unresponsive wakefulness," said Dr Daniel Kanter, director of neurocritical care for the University of Cincinnati Health system. Doctors say he has suffered "severe neurological injury", with extensive loss of brain tissue and "profound weakness and contraction" of his muscles, arms and legs. His eyes will open and blink, but without signs of understanding verbal commands or his surroundings.

Warmbier, now 22, remains hospitalized at the UC Medical Center immediately after his arrival late Tuesday aboard a medevac flight following North Korea's decision to release him for what it called humanitarian reasons - and under strong pressure after the Trump administration learned of his condition in a special US envoy's June 6 meeting in New York with North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations.

His parents, Fred and Cindy Warmbier, were told he had been in a coma since shortly after being

sentenced March 16, 2016, to 15 years of prison with hard labor. If life had gone to plan, he today would be in his first month as a new graduate of the University of Virginia. He had planned to study abroad in his third year of college in China and heard about Chinese travel companies offering trips to North Korea. His parents were OK with it. "Otto's a young, thrill-seeking, great kid who was going to be in that part of the world for a college experience," Fred Warmbier explained.

Young Pioneer Tours described itself as providing "budget tours to destinations your mother would rather you stayed away from". They also included Iran, Iraq and former Soviet countries. He booked a five-day tour for late Dec 2015 and was in the process of leaving on Jan 2 2016, to return to China when he was detained. The US State Department warns against travel to North Korea. While nearly all Americans who have been there have left without incident, visitors can be suddenly seized and face lengthy incarceration for what might seem to them to be minor infractions. A state-run news agency released a short, grainy video with a shadowy, unrecognizable figure that purported to show Warmbier taking the banner down from the wall of his hotel.

### Critics

There have been critics at home of Americans who venture into the unfriendly country, leaving themselves open to becoming pawns. Ohioan Jeffrey Fowle was detained in 2014 when he intentionally left a Bible in a night club. Fowle was freed after six months; he said he was kept isolated most of the time but not physically abused. He and others freed from North Korea have said they were coached and coerced into giving a confession there.

Former National Basketball Association star Dennis Rodman gets warm receptions there. When he arrived on his latest visit the day of Warmbier's

release, there was immediate speculation about his role. But officials in Washington and Pyongyang said he had none. A British member of the Young Pioneer tour group who was Warmbier's Pyongyang hotel roommate, Danny Gratton, told The Washington Post last week that he never heard or saw any hint that Warmbier planned or did anything wrong. He called him mature and very polite.

Warmbier was abruptly pulled out of the airport security line, Gratton said. He didn't resist or seem scared, he recalled, and gave Gratton a half-smile as he was led away. "He was just a young lad who wanted a bit of adventure," Gratton told The Post. "Every once in a while they single out someone to make a point, and this was just Otto's turn. It's so sick and warped and unnecessary and evil."

Warmbier's father has accused the tour company of helping lure Americans to North Korea. The company has claimed Warmbier was the first to be arrested of the 7,000 people it had taken to North Korea. What happened to Otto Warmbier after his sentencing might never be known outside the reclusive country. His parents discount the North Korean claim that he contracted botulism, caused by a rare toxin, and then fell into coma after taking a sleeping pill. His doctors in Cincinnati found no evidence of botulism, but also said there were no signs of fractures to indicate he was beaten into his present state. His condition is consistent with cardiopulmonary arrest from a loss of oxygen to the brain, they said.

US doctors said they received some North Korean medical records but can't make conclusions about the cause or the care he got. In his upscale hometown of Wyoming, after nearly 18 months of wariness about saying anything that might disrupt diplomatic efforts, people now feel able to speak freely of their admiration for the popular young man who played soccer and was salutatorian of his 2013 class at the esteemed Wyoming High School. — AP

## TEMER, BILLIONAIRE ACCUSE EACH OTHER OF CORRUPTION

**SAO PAULO:** Embattled President Michel Temer exchanged furious denunciations of corruption Saturday with a leading businessman who alleges Brazil's leader was behind the bribes paid by business executives to politicians and government authorities in exchange for political favors. Meatpacking billionaire Joesley Batista, who is himself under investigation for fraud, claimed in an interview published in the newsmagazine Epoca that "Temer leads Brazil's largest and most dangerous criminal organization." He provided no specifics to back up his charge.

Temer's office fired back with a statement describing Batista as "the most notorious and successful bandit in Brazil's history" and it promised to file criminal and civil lawsuits against him. Batista is now a key witness in corruption investigations that threaten to force Temer out of office before his term ends in December 2018. Prosecutors have said they are considering charging the president with receiving bribes and with trying to obstruct the investigation into a colossal corruption scheme at the state-run

oil company that involved huge kickbacks to politicians in return for inflated contracts. Dozens of politicians and business executives already have been convicted in the Petrobras case.

A key part of the evidence against Temer comes from plea bargain agreements with prosecutors signed by Batista and his brother Wesley that allow the two men to remain free. Under investigation in a pension fund fraud, they have said they paid kickbacks to more than 1,800 politicians to win favors for their JBS meatpacking company. JBS is the world's biggest meat processing company and operates more than 100 industrial units around the world, including in the United States.

His revelations include a recording of a March meeting between Batista and Temer in which the president appears to condone the payment of hush money to imprisoned former Speaker of the House Eduardo Cunha, who is serving a 15-year corruption sentence. Prosecutors have said that in the recording Temer is heard authorizing Batista to pay Cunha the equivalent of about \$150,000 a week for not reaching a plea bargain deal. — AP

## TENSIONS FLARE IN ZAMBIA AMID SLIDE TO 'DICTATORSHIP'

**LUSAKA:** Nearly a year after coming to power in a contested election, Zambian President Edgar Lungu is facing a growing chorus of criticism over his government's moves to clamp down on dissent. "Zambia eminently qualifies to be branded a dictatorship," the country's religious leaders said in a rare statement on Friday, the latest sign that opposition to Lungu's authority is spreading. At the heart of the tensions is the arrest and continued detention of opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema, a wealthy businessman who has run for president five times, and narrowly lost out to Lungu last August.

His United Party for National Development (UPND) unsuccessfully tried to contest what it called a stolen election, and in April Hichilema was arrested on treason charges after his convoy allegedly refused to give way to the presidential motorcade. He has since been moved to a maximum security prison and it is unclear when he will return to court. In the meantime, the authorities have kept up

pressure on his supporters, including blocking a prominent South African opposition leader from attending Hichilema's trial last month. "Hakainde's arrest for treason was at first dismissed as an intimidatory gimmick by president Lungu," said Telesphore Mpundu, the archbishop of the Lusaka diocese, but "outrage over Hichilema's arrest and incarceration is growing." Treason is a non-bailable offence in Zambia, with a minimum jail term of 15 years and a maximum sentence of death. And Lungu himself did not mince his words during last year's campaign, warning political rivals and activists that "if they push me against the wall, I will sacrifice democracy for peace."

### 'What crisis?'

Last week, parliament suspended 48 UPND lawmakers who boycotted Lungu's address to legislators in March, depriving them of pay while demanding they recognize Lungu's legitimacy. The govern-

ment has also increased pressure on media outlets that support the opposition, further eroding Zambia's longstanding reputation as a stable democracy. Tensions are mounting even as the government battles slowing economic growth after prices plunged for copper, the country's key export, leading to soaring inflation and unemployment.

"We have to see the violent arrest and subsequent detention of Hichilema, and the suspension of the 48 opposition lawmakers, in a much wider context," said Sishuwa Sishuwa, a politics lecturer at the University of Zambia. "One that has seen the critical free press stifled and eventually shut, a number of nonstate actors such as trade unions and religious organizations co-opted or muted, and free speech effectively suppressed," he said.

The government has dismissed the claims. "What crisis? There is no crisis," Lungu told journalists Friday after the church leaders' statement. Earlier in the week, government spokeswoman Mulenga Kampamba told

AFP: "Who tells you the country is sliding into a dictatorship? We are a democratic country where state institutions are operating without any interference."

But such claims have failed to sway many outside observers, with Amnesty International's Southern Africa director Deprese Muchena warning in April that Hichilema and his aides were "victims of longstanding persecution" by the authorities, facing charges that are designed to "harass and intimidate". For Lungu's critics, his intentions of silencing Hichilema have been made brutally clear.

Earlier this year, a senior official in Lungu's Patriotic Front party hinted that the government was losing its patience. "He should take note that we will treat him the way a rat is treated if you want to catch it, for those of us who eat mbeba (rats) we know how to catch a rat," said deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri. "It is time that we confined him to the dustbins of political history." Days later Hichilema was arrested. — AFP

## BRITAIN HURTLING INTO THE BREXIT UNKNOWN

### MAY WEAKENED, INSECURE AFTER FAILED ELECTION GAMBLE

**LONDON:** With her strategy unclear and her position insecure, Prime Minister Theresa May plunges this week into tortuous divorce talks with the European Union that will shape Britain's prosperity and global influence for generations to come. At one of the most important junctures for Europe and the West since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, May's government is reeling from a crisis of her own making - the loss of her parliamentary majority in a June 8 snap election she did not need to call.

Such is the collapse of May's authority that her entire Brexit strategy is being picked apart in public by her ministers, her lawmakers and her allies on the eve of formal negotiations which begin in Brussels today at 0900 GMT. Despite signals from both France and Germany last week that Britain would still be welcome to stay if it changed its mind, Brexit minister David Davis insisted on Sunday there would be no turning back. "As I head to Brussels to open official talks to leave the EU, there should be no doubt - we are leaving the

post-election deal to stay in power with the support of a small Northern Irish party, there are fears of a disorderly exit that would weaken the West, imperil Britain's \$2.5 trillion economy and undermine London's position as the only financial centre to rival New York.

Compounding the pressures on the British leader, she has been widely accused of failing to show enough empathy with victims of a horrific tower block fire in London last week. One European diplomat in London said the political upheaval was such that it was difficult to know what to write back to his capital, pouring scorn on May's campaign slogan of 'strong and stable leadership'. "What can you say of meaning about such chaos?" the diplomat asked. "I suppose it isn't quite a strong and stable Brexit yet."

### What Kind of Brexit?

Leaving the European Union was once far-fetched: Only 15 years ago, British leaders were

said Anand Menon, professor of politics at King's College London. Before the election, May proposed a clean break from the EU: leaving its single market, which enshrines free movement of people, goods, services and capital, and proposing limits on immigration and a bespoke customs deal with the EU. Opponents describe that as a "hard Brexit". They argue instead for a "soft" version, prioritizing some form of continued access to the single market in order to minimize economic damage.

While European leaders try to gauge what to expect from Britain, May is so weakened that her own finance minister and the partners on whom she will rely for her majority, Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, are giving her public guidance. "My clear view, and I believe the view of the majority of people in Britain, is that we should prioritize protecting jobs, protecting economic growth, protecting prosperity as we enter those negotiations," finance minister Philip Hammond said.

### Dog's Breakfast

While Britain's economy has shown unexpected resilience since the Brexit vote, there are signs of weakness. Business leaders say the uncertainty means they are having to plan on the assumption that Britain leaves without a proper deal. "Everything is all over the place," said a senior executive responsible for Brexit preparations at a FTSE 100 company. "It's a bit of a dog's breakfast at the moment because there is a lot of maneuvering and a lot of moving parts."

Brexiters accept there is likely to be some short-term economic pain but say Britain will thrive in the longer term if cut loose from what they see as a doomed experiment in German-dominated unity and excessive debt-funded welfare spending. Opponents of Brexit fear that ditching a 60-year strategy of trying to hedge European integration with a special relationship with Washington or a brittle Commonwealth of former colonies would undermine what remains of Britain's global influence.

The first issue at the Brussels talks will be the status of millions of EU citizens living in the United Kingdom and British residents of the other 27 countries, including their right to stay, to work, and to access medical care. The extent of Britain's exit bill needs to be decided, with the EU27 expected to seek tens of billions of euros they see as London's fair share of programs to which it has committed.

The situation in Ireland - where the only land border between the EU and United Kingdom will lie - will also be discussed. May wants to negotiate the divorce and the future trading relationship before Britain leaves, followed by what she calls a phased implementation process to give business time to prepare for the impact of Brexit. The EU wants to deal with the first phase of divorce talks before moving on next year to discuss trade, though EU officials acknowledge that the agreements to be reached before Britain leaves can only be concluded as a whole package simultaneously.

Three days after the talks begin, May is due to travel to Brussels for an EU summit - a chance for the other 27 leaders to take stock of their negotiating partner in the sharply altered climate brought about by the dramas of the past two weeks. — Reuters



**LONDON:** Mayor of London Sadiq Khan (right) is embraced by a parishioner as he leaves St Clement's Church in Notting Hill yesterday, close to Grenfell Tower, after attending Sunday service in which the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire disaster were remembered. —AFP

## GOVT SCRAMBLES TO LIMIT FALLOUT FROM LONDON FIRE

**LONDON:** The British government yesterday scrambled to contain political fallout from the London high-rise inferno that has claimed at least 58 lives. The cause of Wednesday's blaze is still under investigation, but anger has mounted in the community amid reports that exterior paneling used in an extensive renovation completed last year may have spread the flames. Treasury chief Philip Hammond said Sunday he believes the flammable cladding used on the building's exterior is banned in Britain.

Labour Party lawmaker David Lammy said that the government and the police should immediately seize all documents relating to the building's renovation to prevent the destruction of evidence that could show criminal wrongdoing. "The prime minister needs to act immediately to ensure that all evidence is protected so that everyone culpable for what happened at Grenfell Tower is held to account and feels the full force of the law," Lammy said.

He said all records, including emails, minutes of meetings, correspondence with contractors, safety assessments, specifications and reports - must be kept intact. "When the truth comes out about this tragedy, we may find that there is blood on the hands of a number of organizations," Lammy said. Prime Minister Theresa May said more help will be sent to the scene to help survivors cope and find alternative housing now that the 24-story Grenfell Tower has been destroyed. "I have ordered that more staff be deployed across the area, wearing high visibility clothing, so they can easily be found, dispense advice and ensure the right support is provided," May said after a meeting with survivors at her Downing Street office on Saturday.

In addition, British health authorities will provide long-term bereavement counselling for those who lost loved ones in the tragedy. Counselors are already working with 52 families. There has been a public outcry at the government's initial failure to provide up-to-the minute information. May, criticized in the first few days after the blaze for failing to meet with victims, says the public inquiry looking into the tragedy will report directly to her.

She says she will receive daily reports from the stricken neighborhood, where hundreds of people have been displaced. Anger among residents has been mounting in recent days as information about the missing has been scanty and efforts to find temporary housing have faltered. British officials say they are helping the Syrian family of the first officially confirmed victim of the London tower blaze to come to Britain.

The Home Office said late Saturday night it will make arrangements for the family of Mohammad Alhajali to "travel to the UK in these terribly sad circumstances." The 23-year-old Alhajali is the only victim of the Grenfell Tower fire to be officially named as the difficult process of identifying human remains continues. His family said in a statement that Alhajali "came to the UK because he had ambitions and aims for his life and for his family."

Police say at least 58 people are either confirmed or presumed dead, with the figure likely to rise in coming days. Officials are using dental records, fingerprints and DNA samples to try and positively identify victims. They say they will also use visual elements like tattoos and scars, in the painstaking process. Sixteen bodies have been taken to a mortuary for examination. — AP



**LONDON:** Demonstrators hold placards and chant during an anti-Conservative Party Leader and Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May and Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) protest on Whitehall, opposite the entrance to Downing Street on Saturday. — AFP

European Union," said Davis, who will launch the talks with chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier. "Now, the hard work begins. We must secure a deal that works for all parts of the United Kingdom, and enables us to become a truly global Britain."

Britain has less than two years to negotiate the terms of the divorce and the outlines of the future relationship before it is due to leave in late March 2019. Both sides need an agreement to keep trade flowing between the world's biggest trading bloc and the fifth largest global economy. But the other 27 members of the EU combined have about five times the economic might of Britain. They also have a strong incentive to deny the UK a deal so attractive it might encourage others to follow the British example.

With May still hammering out the details of a

arguing about when to join the euro, and talk of an EU exit was the reserve of a motley crew of sceptics on the fringes of both major parties. But the turmoil of the euro zone crisis, fears in Britain about immigration and a series of miscalculations by former Prime Minister David Cameron prompted Britain to vote by 52 to 48 percent for Brexit in a June 23 referendum last year.

Leaving the EU - the biggest blow since World War Two to European efforts at forging unity - is now the official consensus of both the Conservatives and the opposition Labour Party. Amid such upheaval, though, there is little agreement on what kind of Brexit May should try for - even assuming she can hold onto her job. "The United Kingdom's political tectonic plates are moving at the very moment when we are negotiating

know the new faces it's not important. We're not voting for individuals but for a program," she added.

The main concern for observers and critics is the likely absence of any political counterweight to Macron, leading some to forecast that opposition could be led through street protests or in the media. "Desperately seeking an opposition," declared the front page of Saturday's Le Parisien newspaper.

### Virtual unknowns

Turnout will be closely watched after it hit a nearly 60-year low in

the first round, leading some to warn Macron that his mandate is not as strong as he thinks. REM won 32 percent of the total number of votes cast in the first round, but this represented only about 15 percent of registered voters. "Go and vote!" Prime Minister Edouard Philippe urged on Thursday, calling it both "a right and a responsibility". Around half of REM's candidates are virtual unknowns drawn from diverse fields of academia, business or local activism. They include a mathematician, a bullfighter and a former Rwandan orphan. — AFP



**LE TOUQUET, France:** French President Emmanuel Macron (center) rides a bicycle in the streets on Saturday. —AFP

## MACRON EYES NEXT STAGE IN REVOLUTION

**PARIS:** French voters went to the polls yesterday in a parliamentary election set to hand a landslide victory to the centrist party of President Emmanuel Macron which would complete his stunning reset of national politics. The new assembly is due to be transformed with a new generation of lawmakers - younger, more female and more ethnically diverse - winning seats in the aftermath of Macron's success in last month's presidential election.

The scale of the change is forecast to be so large that some observers have compared the overhaul to 1958, the start of the present presidential system, or even the post-war rebirth of French democracy in 1945. It is also entirely unexpected: Macron was unknown three years ago and initially given little chance of emerging as president, but he and his 15-month-old *Republique en Marche* (Republic On the Move, (REM) party have tapped into widespread desire for change.

And yet despite the zest for renewal the vote has failed to generate much excitement. Official statistics showed turnout at middling down more than three points over the last election in 2012 at 17.75 percent, revealing a degree of election fatigue. REM and its allies are forecast to win 400-470 seats in the

577-strong parliament, one of the biggest post-war majorities that would give the pro-EU Macron a free hand to implement his business-friendly program.

### 'Desperately seeking an opposition'

Yesterday's voting is the decisive second round of the election after a first round last weekend that was topped by REM and which was also marked by low turnout. If confirmed, REM's crushing win will come at the expense of France's traditional parties, the rightwing Republicans and Socialists, but also the far-right National Front which faces major disrepute. The Socialists are set to be the biggest victim of voters' desire to reject establishment figures associated with years of high unemployment, social unrest and lost national confidence.

Pollsters predict the party will lose well over 200 seats after its five years in power under former president Francois Hollande, leaving them with only around 20. "People are tired of always seeing the same faces," said Natacha Dumay, a 59-year-old teacher voting in the northeastern Paris suburb of Pantin where Socialist former justice minister Elisabeth Guigou was voted out a week ago. "Even if we don't

## BROTHERS WHO BROUGHT DEATH AND RUIN TO PHILIPPINE CITY

**MARAWI, Philippines:** Twenty years after obtaining Christian educations, Muslim brothers Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute returned to their southern Philippine city with the black flags of the Islamic State group and set fire to their alma mater. Hundreds of gunmen, many of them young locals recruited by the Maute brothers, destroyed Dansalan College in a rampage across Marawi city last month as they launched a brutal offensive to stamp their credentials as Philippine leaders of IS.

It turned the siblings, aged in their mid-30s, into the most infamous high school alumni of the Protestant Church-run institution, which had been a symbol of religious tolerance in the mostly Muslim city of 200,000 people. The brothers have since remained holed up in parts of Marawi, using their local knowledge of tunnels and bomb-proof basements, to withstand a military offensive that has left entire neighborhoods in ruins and claimed more than 300 lives. "We do not understand where that hate is coming from," said Zia Alonto Adiong, a member of the regional parliament in a self-ruled Muslim area in the southern Philippines' Mindanao region that includes Marawi. Duma Sani, an ex-dean of Mindanao State University whose daughter also went to school with one of the Maute brothers, said most locals did not support their radical brand of Islam, under which non-believers must be killed. "These (Marawi gunmen) are young people who have their own interpretation of the Quran and who do not respect their own elders," Sani told AFP.



This screen grab taken from handout video released yesterday shows Abdullah Maute (right) looking at an improvised map of Marawi, while Isnilon Hapilon (second left), leader of the hardline group Abu Sayyaf looks on, as they plan an attack on Marawi at an undisclosed location on Mindanao island. —AFP

The Maute group emerged as a small rag-tag group around 2012 from a decades-old Muslim separatist rebellion in Mindanao, which makes up one third of the predominantly Catholic Philippines. As

the main rebel organization - the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) - sought to broker peace with the government, the Maute and other small hardline groups filled a vacuum for fanatics as they took

inspiration from IS' atrocities in Iraq and Syria. "I think what transformed the Mautes from a small band of siblings to a real serious military threat was the emergence of ISIS in the Middle East," security analyst Sidney Jones told AFP, using an alternative acronym. But the brothers were radicalised much earlier: While pursuing studies in the Middle East after college, according to Jones and Rommel Banlaoi, head of the Manila-based Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research. Omarkhayam headed to Egypt's Al-Azhar University, while Abdullah went to Jordan. Banlaoi said they returned to Mindanao after about a decade away to be mentored by a fugitive Indonesian militant, Ustadz Sanussi, who in turn put them in touch with other Southeast Asian jihadists, notably the Malaysian bomb-maker Zulkifli bin Hir.

### Family affair

With an engineer father and a mother involved in construction and property development, the Mautes are part of Muslim Mindanao's elite. They also have blood ties to one of the top MILF leaders, according to Banlaoi. "These connections gave the group a measure of protection," Banlaoi said. Since the conflict erupted, the mother and father have been arrested. Authorities have said the arrest of the mother was particularly important, describing her as a financier of the group. All her seven sons are believed to be involved in the Marawi conflict, according to Banlaoi. —AFP



MARAWI, Philippines: A Philippine marine, resting after having been at the frontline, reads a letter sent by students in Marawi on the southern island of Mindanao yesterday. — AFP

## IS THREAT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA RAISES ALARM IN WASHINGTON

AREA BECOMING NEW HUB FOR LOCAL, FOREIGN FIGHTERS

**WASHINGTON:** Southeast Asia's jihadist who fought by the hundreds for the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria now have a different battle closer to home in the southern Philippines. It's a scenario raising significant alarm in Washington. The recent assault by IS-aligned fighters on the Philippine city of Marawi has left more than 300 people dead, exposing the shortcomings of local security forces and the extremist group's spreading reach in a region where counterterrorism gains are coming undone.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told Congress last week a long-running US military operation to help Philippine forces contain extremist fighters was canceled prematurely three years ago. Small numbers of US special forces remain in an "advise and assist" role, and the US is providing aerial surveillance to help the Philippines retake Marawi, an inland city of more than 200,000 people.

But lawmakers, including from President

Donald Trump's Republican Party, want a bigger US role, short of boots on the ground. They fear the area is becoming a new hub for Islamist fighters from Southeast Asia and beyond. "I don't know that ISIS are directing operations there but they are certainly trying to get fighters into that region," said Republican Sen Joni Ernst of Iowa, using another acronym for the group. "We need to address the situation. It should not get out of control."

US intelligence and counterterrorism officials note that IS has publicly accepted pledges from various groups in the Philippines. In a June 2016 video, it called on followers in Southeast Asia to go to the Philippines if they cannot reach Syria. About 40 foreigners, mostly from neighboring Indonesia and Malaysia, have been among 500 involved in fighting in Marawi, the Philippine military says. Reports indicate at least one Saudi, a Chechen and a Yemeni killed. In all, more than 200 militants

have died in the standoff, now in its fourth week. Video obtained by AP from the Philippine military indicates an alliance of local Muslim fighters, aligned with IS, are coordinating complex attacks. They include the Islamic State's purported leader in Southeast Asia: Isnilon Hapilon, a Filipino on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists, with a \$5 million bounty on his head. US officials are assessing whether any of the estimated 1,000 Southeast Asians who traveled to Iraq and Syria in recent years are fighting in Catholic-majority Philippines. They fear ungoverned areas in the mostly Muslim region around Marawi could make the area a terror hub as in the 1990s.

Then, the Philippines was a base of operations for Al-Qaeda leaders like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Ramzi Yousef, who plotted in 1994-95 to blow up airliners over the Pacific. The plot was foiled. But the same men were instrumental in the 9/11 attacks on the United States. Other nations share the fear. Singapore recently warned of IS exerting a radicalizing influence "well beyond" what that of al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah ever mustered. Jemaah Islamiyah carried out major terror attacks around the region in the 2000s. IS already has been linked to attacks in Indonesia and Malaysia, and foiled plots in Singapore, this past year.

This month, Mattis told the region's defense chiefs that "together we must act now to prevent this threat from growing." In Congress this past week, he stressed intelligence sharing and nations like Singapore sharing the burden, rather than deploying US troops. More than 500 US special forces were based in the Mindanao region from 2002 to 2014, advising and training Filipino forces against the Abu Sayyaf, a group notorious for bombings and kidnappings. When it ended, Philippine and US officials voiced concern the US withdrawal "could lead to a resurgence of a renewed terrorist threat," the RAND Corp. later reported. Months before the withdrawal, Abu Sayyaf pledged support to IS.

Supporting the Philippines isn't straightforward in Washington. President Rodrigo Duterte is accused of overlooking and even condoning indiscriminate killings by his forces in a war on drugs. Thousands have died. But that campaign has involved mainly police and anti-narcotic forces, not the military leading the anti-IS fight. Still, the Philippine government is partly to blame for Marawi's violence, said Zachary Abuza, a Southeast Asia expert at the National War College. He said the root cause was the government's failure to fulfill a 2014 peace agreement with the nation's largest Muslim insurgency, which fueled recruitment for IS-inspired groups. — AP

## ABE'S SUPPORT SLUMPS AMID DOUBTS ABOUT SCHOOL SCANDAL

**TOKYO:** Support for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe slumped more than 10 points to 44.9 percent in a public opinion poll published yesterday, amid opposition party suspicions he used his influence unfairly to help a friend set up a business. Abe has repeatedly denied abusing his authority to benefit his friend. His grip on power is not in danger, given his ruling coalition's huge majority in parliament, but the affair looks unlikely to fade away.

The education ministry unearthed documents last week that the opposition said suggested Abe wanted a new veterinary school run by a friend to be approved in a state-run special economic zone. The ministry had earlier said it could not find the documents but reopened the probe under public pressure. Opposition politicians and the media have identified Abe's friend as Kotaro Kake, the director of the Kake Educational Institution, which wants to open a veterinary department. The government has not approved new veterinary schools for decades because of concern about a glut of veterinarians.

Nearly 85 percent of voters responding to

a Kyodo news agency survey said they did not think the government probe had uncovered the truth of the affair and almost 74 percent were not persuaded by the government's insistence that there was nothing wrong with the approval process. The institution has said it had acted appropriately. Voters were split over last week's enactment by parliament of a controversial law that will penalize conspiracies to commit terrorism and other serious crimes, with 42.1 percent in favor and 44 percent against the legislation, Kyodo said.

The government says the new legislation is needed so Japan can ratify a UN treaty aimed at global organized crime and prevent terrorism in the run-up to the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Opponents say it will allow police to trample on civil liberties by expanding the scope for surveillance. The ruling coalition pushed the law through parliament last week, taking the rare step of skipping a vote in committee and going directly to a full session of parliament's upper house. Almost 68 percent of voters expressed dislike of that rarely used tactic, Kyodo said. — Reuters

## TWO PAKISTAN DIPLOMATS MISSING IN AFGHANISTAN

**ISLAMABAD:** Two Pakistani diplomats based in a consulate office in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad have been missing since Friday, when they set off by road back to their homeland, Pakistan's foreign office said yesterday. Islamabad did not speculate who may be behind the disappearances but various Afghanistan-based Islamist groups have targeted diplomats in the past. "Pakistan has requested the Afghan Government that all efforts may be made to ensure early recovery of our officials and bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Islamabad said Afghanistan had formed three different investigating groups to probe the incident. Relations between Islamabad and Kabul have been tense in recent years, with both countries

accusing each other of not doing enough to tackle Pakistani and Afghan Taliban militants. Afghanistan has accused Pakistan of turning a blind eye to Afghan Taliban commanders based within its borders and of supporting the militant group, something Islamabad denies.

Islamabad has claimed that Kabul is not doing enough to tackle Pakistani Taliban militants who have been driven out of Pakistan, but who still carry out attacks across the border. Jalalabad, the provincial capital of Nangarhar province, is a busy trading hub about 70 km from the main border crossing with Pakistan, from which landlocked Afghanistan imports much of its goods. The province is home to various Islamist groups, including Pakistani and Afghan Taliban. In recent years the Islamic State has also established a presence Nangarhar. — Reuters

## INDONESIA DEPLOYS JETS TO GUARD AGAINST MILITANTS

**TARAKAN, Indonesia:** Indonesia has deployed Sukhoi fighters at a base in northern Borneo to beef up security in case Islamist militants who overran a town in the Philippines try to flee southwards, an air force colonel told the Antara news agency. The head of the air base in Tarakan, a town in the Indonesian province of North Kalimantan on Borneo, said three Sukhoi jets that arrived on Friday would remain for a month in case radicals fighting the Philippine military in Marawi City sought to escape to Indonesia.

"The militants might flee the Philippines and be forced to cross the border to Indonesia," the Indonesian state news agency cited Colonel Didik Krisyanto as saying. The Philippine military said on Friday that some of the Islamist militants who stormed Marawi City in the south of the country last month may have mingled with evacuees to slip away during the battle that has raged for almost four weeks.

The military says that up to 200 fighters, most of them from local insurgent groups that have pledged allegiance to Islamic State but also some foreign fighters, are holding out, using civilians as human shields and mosques as safe havens. The devastating collapse in security has alarmed neighbors such as Indonesia and Malaysia, and defense and army

chiefs from the three countries are due to meet in Tarakan on Monday for a ceremony to mark the launch of patrols in the seas between the countries.

A port town, Tarakan is just south of the Malaysian side of Borneo and looks out across the sea to Mindanao in the southern Philippines, a sprawling island that has been plagued by insurgencies and banditry for decades. Indonesian naval authorities had also asked local people including fishermen in border areas facing the Philippines to report any suspicious people, Antara reported. A police mobile brigade corp had also been sent to northern areas on Sulawesi island to prevent militants from crossing the border, it said.

Today, Indonesia will inaugurate a maritime command center in Tarakan and also hold a ceremony on an Indonesian warship with Malaysian and Philippine officials to launch patrols. Singapore and Brunei will be attending as observers. The commander of Tarakan's naval base, First Admiral Ferial Fachroni, told Reuters the other countries would also establish command centres to help in the sharing of information. Fachroni said the army, navy and air forces would be involved in patrols but more discussions were needed to pin down whether they would be joint or coordinated. — Reuters



GARDEZ, Afghanistan: Afghan policemen gather at the site of a suicide bombing attack on the police headquarters in the capital of Paktia province yesterday. — AFP

## TALEBAN ATTACK KILLS FIVE AFGHAN POLICE, INJURES 18

**KABUL:** A Taliban suicide bomb and gun attack on a police headquarters in eastern Afghanistan killed at least five officers and injured 18 other people yesterday, authorities said. The attack - part of the Taliban's all-out assault during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan - was launched at 6:00 am and was still continuing more than six hours later, said the regional police commander, Asadullah Shirzad. In addition to the dead, nine police officers and nine civilians were wounded, he said.

The attack involved at least five Taliban, one of whom blew himself up at the entrance to the site in the city of Gardez to clear the way for the others. One was still holding out more than six hours later, said Shirzad, whose base in the city centre houses both regular policemen and police special forces. His description of the attack suggested a well-prepared and coordinated assault. "One (attacker) blew up his vehicle at the entrance of the headquarters, open-

ing the way for two others who opened fire on the security forces. Another suicide bomber was killed," he told AFP.

The head of the police hospital, Dr Shir Mohammad, confirmed the five fatalities. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the operation in a statement. "Around 6:20 this morning a martyr attack was conducted by our mujahideen against a special forces base in Gardez, Paktia," he wrote. "First a car bomb detonated then our mujahideen entered the building, opening fire on police."

Since they launched their spring offensive in late April, the Taliban have been mounting lethal assaults on positions of the Afghan army and police, who have lost several dozen men in recent weeks. About sixty soldiers were killed on their bases, mostly at night, in the southern province of Kandahar alone around the end of May. The insurgents are also targeting the international coalition supporting Afghan forces. — AFP

## BODIES OF US SAILORS FOUND

Continued from Page 1

There were 285 crew onboard, the spokesman said. Benson took command of the Fitzgerald on May 13. He had previously commanded a minesweeper based in Sasebo in western Japan.

Japanese authorities were looking into the possibility of "endangerment of traffic caused by professional negligence", Japanese media reported, but it was not clear whether that might apply to either or both of the vessels. The US Navy said the collision happened at about 2:30 a.m. local time, while the Japanese Coast Guard said it was 1:30 am local time. Japan's Nippon Yusen KK, which charters the container ship, ACX Crystal, said in a statement on Saturday it would "cooperate fully" with the Coast Guard's investigation of the incident.

At around 29,000 tons displacement, the ship dwarfs the 8,315-ton US warship. It was carrying 1,080 containers from the port of Nagoya to Tokyo. None of the 20 crew members aboard the container

ship, all Filipino, were injured, and the ship was not leaking oil, Nippon Yusen said. The ship arrived at Tokyo Bay later on Saturday. The waterways approaching Tokyo Bay are busy with commercial vessels sailing to and from Japan's two biggest container ports in Tokyo and Yokohama. But such collisions at sea are rare in an age of advanced navigational technology.

Naval historians recall possibly the last time a warship was hit by a larger vessel in peacetime was in 1964 off the coast of Australia's New South Wales. The HMAS Melbourne, an aircraft carrier, collided with the destroyer HMAS Voyager, shearing the much smaller vessel in half and killing 82 of the Voyager's crew. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent a message to US President Donald Trump yesterday saying he was "in deep sorrow" over the Fitzgerald incident. He added that he "highly respects people involved in the US military who every day make a big contribution for protecting peace for our nation and the region under the strong US-Japan alliance." — Reuters



PENELA: A wildfire is reflected in a stream at Penela, Coimbra, central Portugal yesterday. A wildfire in central Portugal killed at least 62 people and injured 16 others, most of them burning to death in their cars. — AFP

## HUGE FOREST FIRES KILL 62 IN PORTUGAL

Continued from Page 1

Portugal was sweltering under a severe heatwave over the weekend, with temperatures topping 40 degrees Celsius in several regions.

About 60 forest fires broke out across the country during the night, with around 1,700 firefighters battling to put them out. "The fire is still raging on four fronts," Gomes said, two spreading "violently". Dry thunderstorms were thought to have been the cause, according to the prime minister. A number of villages were affected by the main fire and homes were evacuated. Some were sheltered in neighboring areas. Officials were not immediately able to comment on the extent of the damage. Spain dispatched two water-bombing planes yesterday to aid the Portuguese fire service, Costa said.

Dozens of people who fled their homes were taken in by

residents of the nearby municipality of Ansiao. "There are people who arrived saying they didn't want to die in their homes, which were surrounded by flames," Ansiao resident Ricardo Tristao told reporters. President Marcelo Rebelo went to the Leiria region to meet families of the victims, saying he was "sharing their pain in the name of all the Portuguese people". Firefighters did "all they could" when faced with the blaze, he said.

Pope Francis began his Angelus prayer by invoking the tragedy. "I express my closeness to the beloved people of Portugal following the devastating fire," Francis said. "Let's pray in silence". Portugal was hit by a series of fires last year which devastated more than 100,000 hectares of the mainland. Fires on the tourist island of Madeira in August killed three people, while over the course of 2016 around 40 homes were destroyed and 5,400 hectares of land burned. — AFP

## AMIR ADDRESSES THE NATION, PRAYS FOR PEACE...

Continued from Page 1

He also called for maintaining the national consonants and elevated values that Kuwaitis inherited from their ancestors. He referred to the critical conditions sweeping the region, and the growing threat of terrorism worldwide.

Unprecedentedly, the phenomenon has been spreading under various slogans and names, constituting a threat to countries and communities, and innocent people. His Highness the Amir reiterated Kuwait's solidarity with the international community against all forms of terrorism, to eliminate the menacing phenomenon, hoping for realizing security and stability around the globe. The fears and risks referred to, require further caution and unity to maintain the security and safety of "our nation," His Highness the Amir noted.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir welcomed Kuwait's non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council for two years. "Kuwaiti diplomacy has recently realized a distinct achievement, gaining Kuwait further confidence from the international community, as the country has been elected as a non-permanent member at the UNSC, 2018-2019," His Highness the Amir said.

The election for the UNSC seat came in recognition of Kuwait's prominent status and respect on the regional and international scenes, thanks to the country's balanced and moderate foreign policy based on abiding by the UN Charter and the international law. "This has also rewarded Kuwait's remarkable humanitarian role and participation in maintaining the international security and peace, besides lessening tension in areas of conflict," he added. His Highness highly appreciated the dis-

tinct role played by the Foreign Ministry to realize that success, and congratulated the Kuwaiti people on the historical achievement.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir voiced hope for further fruitful and constructive cooperation between the Legislative and the Executive Powers for directing efforts and capabilities to promoting the nation and realize people's expectations. He expressed his pleasure for the inauguration of several vital development projects that contribute to improving the aspired public services.

His Highness the Amir reaffirmed the fact that "youth is the real wealth of the nation," saying they enjoy due attention from the state. He stressed the need to "protect the Kuwaiti youth against misleading ideas and deviant behavior," calling for capitalizing on their energy for serving the nation. His Highness the Amir stressed his belief in the powers of innovation of the Kuwaiti youth in all fields, scientific, sports, medical and sports.

He said it is a source of pride that Kuwait has been elected "Capital of Arab Youth 2017." His Highness urged the youth to benefit from the facilities and support the state offers to small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) through the National Fund for SMEs Development, for their own good and that of the nation.

Concluding, His Highness the Amir recalled the exploits of late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and late Father Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, praying to Allah Almighty to bless their souls for the honorable and great services they rendered to the nation. He also prayed for everlasting security and prosperity for Kuwait, recalling the country's martyrs who sacrificed their souls to defend their dear land. — KUNA

## COURT REDUCES DEATH ON PRO-IRAN CELL...

Continued from Page 1

The cases of the remaining three members were not reviewed by the court because they remain absconding. Under Kuwaiti law, fugitives receiving verdicts in absentia cannot have their appeals reviewed until they appear before court. One of the three fugitives is the only Iranian member of the cell, Abdulredha Haider, who was handed the death penalty in January last year for arranging for the travel of most of the members to go to Lebanon and undergo military training with Shiite militia Hezbollah. Apart from the Iranian, all the remaining 25 members are Kuwaiti Shiites.

The cell was busted in August 2015 when security forces uncovered large quantities of arms and ammunition hidden in underground depots in Abdali and other

areas. The arms included 19 tons of ammunition, RBGs, machineguns, hand grenades and about 140 kilograms of high explosives which were smuggled by sea from Iran with the help of the Revolutionary Guards. The ringleader was convicted of meeting officials at the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait and traveling to Iran where he met with officials from the Revolutionary Guards and later smuggled the explosives.

The cell members could receive additional sentences as the Criminal Court is trying some of them for undergoing military training with Hezbollah. Initially, the Criminal Court did not try them for this crime because the training took place outside the country. But the Appeals Court last year ordered the court to try them after ruling that this constitutes an offense. The convicts denied the charges during trial and claimed their confessions were extracted from them through torture.

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Focus

## 'MACRON-MANIA' PROMPTS TALK OF HERD MENTALITY

By Adam Plowright

The theory has been aired several times over the last week: French voters are so desperate for change and for new President Emmanuel Macron to succeed that they are blindly electing his party's candidates to parliament. Polls suggest that Macron's Republic on the Move (REM) party and its allies are set to win up to 470 seats out of 577 in parliamentary elections yesterday, one of the biggest majorities in decades.

Political analyst Christophe Barbier suggested after the first round of voting in parliamentary elections a week ago that "you could take a goat and give it Macron's endorsement and it would have a good chance of being elected." Senior left-wing journalist Edwy Plenel expressed the same sentiment, saying that even "donkeys" would be carried to power by the Macron wave such was its force. "Absolute power is a danger," he warned. In line with the 39-year-old's presidential campaign pledges, around half of REM's candidates are newcomers to politics drawn from diverse fields of academia, business or local activism. Around half are women. The result is likely to be a national assembly that is younger, more female and more ethnically diverse than ever before.

But also more inexperienced and perhaps less willing to stand up to the all-powerful president. Defeated candidates in last weekend's voting also took up the animal-themed commentary about the strength of anti-establishment feeling and support for Macron's candidates. Eduardo Rihan Cypel, a defeated Socialist from northern France, said a REM-sponsored "hippopotamus" would have beaten him in his constituency. Party colleague Alexis Bachelay sniffed that a Macron-aligned "field mouse" could get 40 percent in the current climate.

### Desire for change

In some areas in Paris, stickers of goats have been placed on the posters of REM candidates outside polling stations, while right-wing opponents online have taken up the theme on Twitter. One target this week was Olivia Gregoire who is standing for a seat from a constituency in wealthy southwest Paris and whose posters, like most REM candidates, feature Macron's face prominently.

The entrepreneur looks on course for victory yesterday after winning 47 percent in the first round of the parliamentary election last week against veteran rightwinger Philippe Goujon who has held the seat since 2007. "The desire for change is really strong, which means that people have less concern about voting for someone they don't know," said Romain Perron, a 33-year-old who works in finance, after casting his vote.

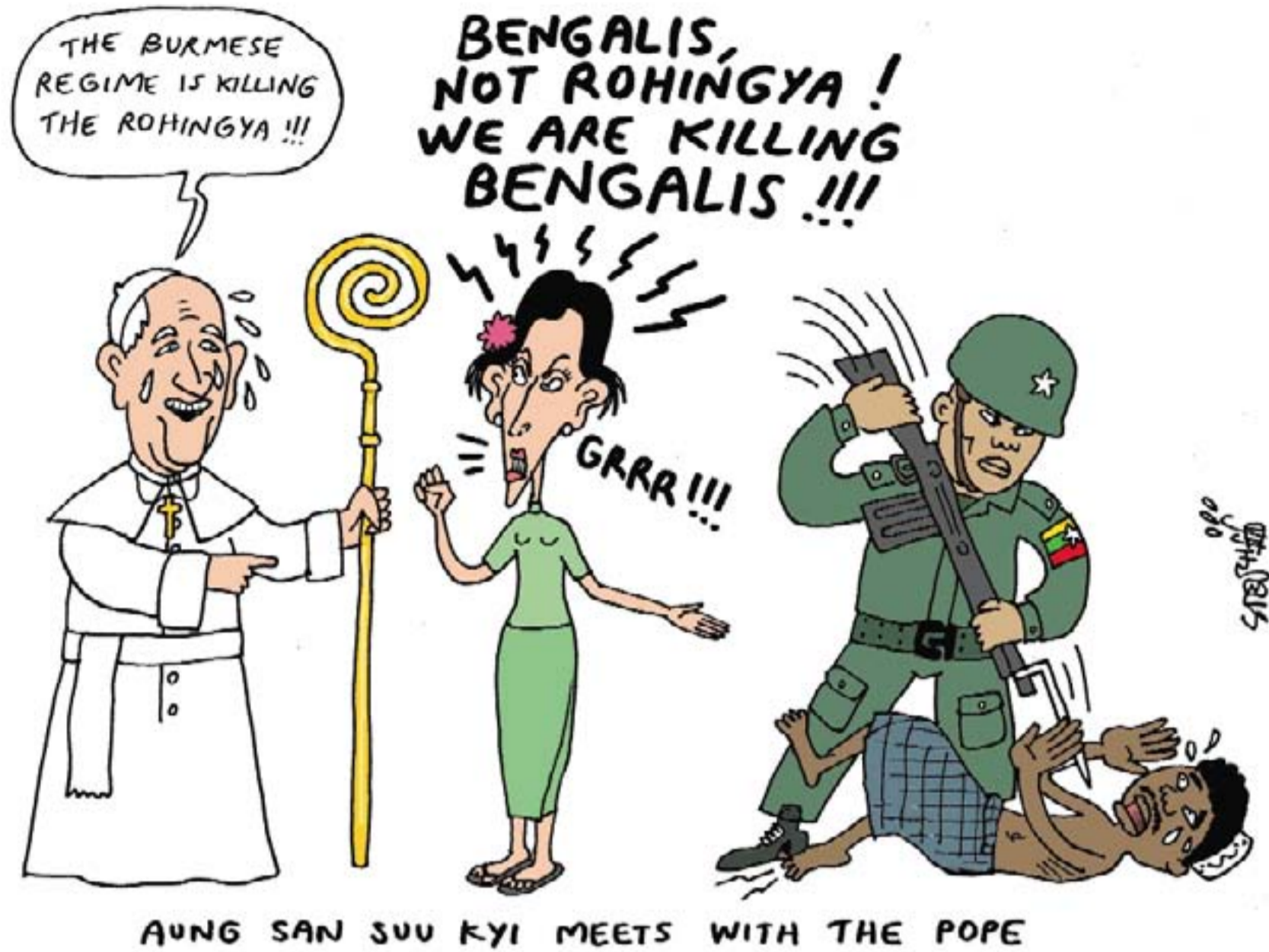
Macron's success has been partly built on the overwhelming desire of voters to cast out the familiar faces of France's political class who are blamed for years of low growth, corruption, social tensions and high unemployment. The former investment banker was unknown three years ago and only started his political movement in April last year, promising to modernize France's social security system and promote entrepreneurship. Other supporters said that the animal comparisons were condescending towards voters and ignored the fact that other presidents won huge majorities in 1968, 1981 or 2002.

"We are in a system that offers a majority to the president once he's elected," said Sandrine, a 48-year-old civil servant. Following a referendum in 2000, France's electoral calendar was modified to place the parliamentary polls immediately after the presidential one with the explicit aim of giving the new president a working majority. "It should give him the chance to reform and our country needs reforms," Sandrine added. Furthermore, many REM candidates—especially those in rural constituencies—are known locally, living in the area or working for local associations.

### Macron hegemony?

Others are not convinced, worried that Macron will have too much power and face no scrutiny from a parliament packed with loyalists who owe their election success to him. Samuel Sharifzadeh, a 66-year-old voting in southwest Paris, said he backed Macron in the presidential election but supported an opposition figure yesterday to encourage a counterweight in parliament. Retired businessman Patrick Depardon, 65, said he was dismayed at the prospect of sitting MPs with a good track record being voted, merely to fulfill the desire for renewal. "We're throwing the baby out with the bathwater," Depardon said. —AFP

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AUNG SAN SUU KYI MEETS WITH THE POPE

## 'SOMBER' BRITAIN PREPARES FOR HISTORIC BREXIT TALKS

By Dario Thuburn

Britain begins historic talks today on leaving the European Union while still mourning the victims of a devastating fire and reeling from an election that has badly weakened the government. Brexit minister David Davis will travel to Brussels to meet Michel Barnier, the EU's chief negotiator, to kick off hugely complex withdrawal negotiations that are expected to conclude within two years. Worried by immigration and loss of sovereignty, Britain last year voted to end its decades-old membership of the 28-country bloc—the first state ever to do so in a shock referendum result.

The government has developed a strategy of so-called "hard Brexit": Leaving the European single market and the customs union in order to control immigration from the EU. But that entire approach has come under question following the June 8 general election in which Prime Minister Theresa May lost her centre-right Conservative party's parliamentary majority. May has clung on to power but has so far failed to conclude an agreement with Northern Ireland's ultra-conservative Democratic Unionist Party that would bolster her ability to govern.

The Conservatives now have only 317 MPs in the 650-seat House of Commons and need the support of the DUP's 10 MPs to command a razor-thin majority. The government is due to present its legislative program at the opening of parliament on Wednesday, which will be followed by a key confidence vote several days later. Adding

to what Queen Elizabeth II called the "sombre national mood" have been three terrorist attacks in three months and a fire in a London tower block in which 58 people are presumed dead.

### Softer strategy on Brexit?

The government's current weakness has fuelled criticism of its approach to Brexit and given rise to notions that the government might pursue a softer tone. Some Conservatives have called for a more inclusive approach that would include opposition parties as well as stronger voices from Scotland and Northern Ireland, where a majority of voters backed Britain to stay in the EU. Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson, who is newly influential after winning a crucial 13 seats in Scotland, has said Britain should prioritize "freedom to trade and our economic growth".

But finance minister Philip Hammond confirmed Sunday that Britain would still be leaving the EU, the single market and the customs union. "We will leave the customs union when we leave the European Union. That's a statement of legal fact," he told BBC television. He said he wanted post-Brexit trade with the EU that was not just free from tariffs but also delays and bureaucracy. But Hammond said transitional arrangements would be necessary, to give business greater certainty. "If we're going to radically change the way we work together, we need to get there via a slope, not via a cliff edge," he said.

### 'Broadest possible consensus'

Today's negotiations are to start in Brussels at 11 am with 90 minutes of talks between Barnier and Davis, followed by a working lunch between the pair, and a press conference. Working groups will be set up to focus on three key areas—the status of EU citizens living in Britain and British citizens living in the EU; the divorce bill for Britain; and the future of the Northern Irish border with EU member Ireland. Britain and the EU are already at odds over the order of the talks, with London insisting future trade ties should be discussed at the same time as the divorce despite opposition from Brussels. And Hammond described the divorce bill figures being banded around in Brussels as "the most egregious pre-negotiation posturing". The negotiations have been called the most complex in Britain's history as it unravels 44 years of membership and its threat to walk out with no deal in place has worried European capitals.

No deal would be "very, very bad" for Britain, Hammond said, but worse would be a deal "deliberately structured to punish us, to suck the lifeblood out of our economy". The chancellor said he would reject any deal "designed to destroy us". The government on Saturday said parliament would hold a special two-year session starting this week, sitting for double the normal time to allow it to overhaul EU legislation. International Trade Minister Liam Fox will travel to Washington today to explore new trade ties—although no formal negotiations are possible until Britain has actually left the bloc. — AFP

## TABOO-BREAKING LIBERAL MOSQUE OPENS IN BERLIN

With a mission to spread a liberal form of Islam, a mosque where men and women pray side by side has opened its doors in Berlin, complete with female imams. The Arabic phrase "Allahu Akbar" ("God is greatest") resonated through the crowded Ibn-Rushd-Goethe-Mosque Friday as US-Malaysian Ani Zonneveld, one of the world's few female imams, launched the call to prayer. Then one of the founders of the new place of worship, lawyer and women's rights activist Seyran Ates, opened the event with words of welcome before Christian and Jewish guests and a large media contingent.

"We want to send a signal against Islamic terror and the misuse of our religion," said Turkish-born Ates, 54, dressed in a long white robe. "We want to practice our religion together." Ates—no stranger to breaking taboos, having called for a "sexual revolution" in the Muslim world—vowed she would not allow ultra-conservatives "to rob me of my right to be Muslim". Kneeling on green carpets, the faithful—men and women, side by side—bowed to Mecca for the traditional prayer as the imam spoke in German. Some of the women wore veils or head coverings, others did not.

### 'Depoliticise' Islam

The new mosque, the 88th in the German capital, is located in a rented room on the third floor of the Protestant Johanniskirche (St. John's Church) building. All Muslims—Sunni or Shia, Alawite or Sufi—are welcome in the mosque named after one of Germany's greatest writers, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and 12th century Islamic scholar Ibn Rushd, also known as Averroes. The seven founding members said they want to open their prayer hall to all groups, including gays and lesbians.

"This mosque allows Muslims to define themselves in a new way," said co-founder and German Islam scholar Abdel-Hakim Ourghi. He added that "we will try to depoliticize Islam", as the religion was being torn by rival political movements. "Because religion is a private matter." Police stood guard outside the entrance of the building. The founders said they had not received any threats or insults, but that they fully expected not everyone would be happy.

Germany, with some four million Muslims, has been the target of jihadist attacks, the deadliest last December when a truck tore through a Berlin Christmas market crowd killing 12 people. The arrival of more than one million refugees, most from mainly Muslim countries, since 2015 has worsened the fears of some Germans. Ates—who has

campaigns against forced marriages, domestic violence and so-called "honor killings" among Muslim migrants—said the project was eight years in the making.

"Many left along the way," she said. "They told us it was dangerous, that they were afraid." Elham Manea, a Swiss political scientist of Yemeni background, said the time had come for change, with other so-called

liberal mosques having also opened in the United States, Britain and Switzerland. The Berlin mosque, financed by private donations, is located in the Berlin district of Moabit, which has a large immigrant population. It was in this neighborhood that Tunisian Anis Amri, the Christmas market attacker, frequented a radical mosque that has since been closed. — AFP



COLOGNE: Two girls stand next to a banner citing the Quran and reading 'Make peace among the people' as they take part in a so-called 'Ramadan Peace March' of Muslims and friends against terrorism and violence in Cologne, western Germany yesterday. — AFP

## SPAIN MOURNS SLAIN MATADOR FANDINO

**MADRID:** Spain's royal family joined politicians and the bullfighting world yesterday in mourning matador Ivan Fandino, gored to death in a fight in France. The death of Fandino, a 36-year-old from the northern Basque region, was front page news in several newspapers in Spain, where interest in the controversial centuries-old tradition remains high.



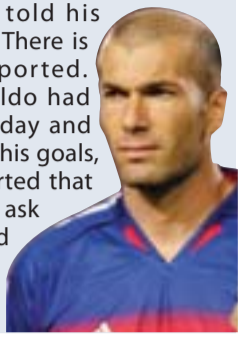
The royals paid homage on their official Twitter feed to "a great bullfighting figure" while Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy lamented the "sad news," as did his culture minister. Valencia torero Enrique Ponce also paid tribute to a fighter well-known for his daring. "Dear Ivan, 'Torero' (super torero), I shall always remember you ... those glorious afternoons. May God receive you in his glory." French fighter Sebastien Castella wrote in Spanish that "death has taken a friend and in a sense a part of our souls." Fandino died in hospital on Saturday after being gored in the ribs by a bull, whose horn punctured his lung, at the Aire-sur-l'Adour bullfighting festival in the south of France.—AFP

## GERMAN KURZ APPOINTED NEW ADELAIDE COACH

**ADELAIDE:** German Marco Kurz has been appointed the new head coach of Adelaide United for the next two Australian A-League seasons, the club said yesterday. Kurz, 48, replaces championship-winning Spanish coach Guillermo Amor at the Reds. Kurz made 299 Bundesliga appearances as a player with VfB Stuttgart, FC Nurnberg, Borussia Dortmund, Schalke 04 and 1860 Munich. His most successful coaching spell came in charge of FC Kaiserslautern, first guiding them to promotion to the Bundesliga and then finishing seventh in the 2010/11 Bundesliga season. "We're delighted, he's the man we have been pursuing relentlessly," Reds chairman Greg Griffin said. "For the last month we have left no stone unturned to convince him that Adelaide is a genuine football community. "He will be given the budget to spend on potential new players including three imports." Kurz said he was impressed by the club set-up. "I was impressed by their effort to convince me," Kurz said in a statement. "I've done a lot of research already about the A-League and I'm very proud to become a part of it." Kurz will arrive in Adelaide ahead of the club's first training session on June 28.—AFP

## ZIDANE PLEADS WITH RONALDO AFTER 'I QUIT' BOMBHELL

**MADRID:** Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane broke off his holiday to call Cristiano Ronaldo in a bid to persuade his unsettled star not to quit the club, Spanish sports daily Marca claimed yesterday. Ronaldo, on Confederations Cup duty in Russia with Portugal, is reportedly furious over a tax probe into the off shore accounts dealing with his image rights, and has reportedly vowed to leave Spain. "I am leaving Real Madrid," Marca claim Ronaldo told his Portuguese colleagues. "I have made a decision. There is no turning back," the daily sports paper reported. According to Marca when Zidane heard Ronaldo had sworn to quit he broke off from his family holiday and called his No7 to tell him Madrid "needed him for his goals, and also his winning mentality". Marca also reported that club captain Sergio Ramos had called Ronaldo to ask him to stay. In just 265 games for Real Madrid Ronaldo has scored 285 goals, winning three Champions League finals in four seasons.—AFP



## BEST CAPTAINS LIONS AGAINST CHIEFS

**ROTORUA:** Ireland's Rory Best will become the fifth captain in six games for the British and Irish Lions on their New Zealand tour when he leads the side against the Waikato Chiefs in Hamilton tomorrow.

Tour captain Sam Warburton, who has only led the side once, was not included in the side named yesterday, indicating he will be in the match-day 23, but not guaranteed to start against the All Blacks in the first Test on Saturday.

Coach Warren Gatland said issues to be resolved before naming the first XV included choosing between Warburton and Sean O'Brien, and the make up of the back three, the midfield and the second-row.

In-form fly-half Owen Farrell, also not required to play the Chiefs, was confirmed late Sunday as fit for the Test having recovered from a thigh strain.

Gatland said Farrell was only kept out of Saturday's match against the Maori All Blacks as a "precautionary" measure.

"I was always confident about Owen being fit for the weekend," Gatland said. "I was never unconfident about that." Fullback Leigh Halfpenny, who kicked six penalties in the 32-10 win over the Maori, was undergoing concussion tests but otherwise the Lions are largely injury free.

Liam Williams will play fullback against the Chiefs with the chance to fill the utility on the bench in the Test. "A number of those players in the back three are pretty versatile. It's an opportunity for Liam to go and impress there," Gatland said.

"Anthony Watson did a good job coming on there against the Crusaders and has looked dangerous. We're giving players a chance there from a counter-attack perspective."

Gatland said the Lions would be looking to build on the momentum gained from their win over the Maori. "We are five games into the Tour and there is still a lot to play for. Those involved on Tuesday will be playing not only for themselves in terms of further selection but also for the whole squad," he said.

"We are here to win a Test series and we have brought cover for the replacements bench so we can limit the number of players who need to double-up, which is tough to do at this level of rugby."

Dan Biggar will start at fly-half against the Chiefs with Scotland's Finn Russell, one of six reinforcements rushed in over the weekend, on the bench. The other five new call-ups—Scotland's Allan Dell along with Gareth Davies, Kristian Dacey, Cory Hill and Tomas Francis from Wales—were all named among the replacements and can expect to get game time.

**Lions (15-1):** Liam Williams (Scarlets/WAL); Jack Nowell (Exeter/ENG), Jared Payne (Ulster/IRL), Robbie Henshaw (Leinster/IRL), Elliot Daly (Wasps/ENG); Dan Biggar (Ospreys/WAL), Greig Laidlaw (Gloucester/SCO); CJ Stander (Munster/IRL), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys/WAL), James Haskell (Wasps/ENG); Courtney Lawes (Northampton/ENG), Iain Henderson (Ulster/IRL); Dan Cole (Leicester/ENG), Rory Best (capt, Ulster/IRL), Joe Marler (Harlequins/ENG).

**Replacements:** Kristian Dacey (Cardiff/WAL), Allan Dell (Edinburgh/SCO), Tomas Francis (Exeter/WAL), Cory Hill (Newport/WAL), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys/WAL), Gareth Davies (Scarlets/WAL), Finn Russell (Glasgow/SCO), Tommy Seymour (Glasgow/SCO).—AFP

## SPRINGBOKS AND 'MONSTROUS' KOLISI HAILED BY MEDIA

**DURBAN:** The South African media applauded the resurgent national rugby team yesterday after they clinched a series victory over France in Durban, with special praise reserved for flanker Siya Kolisi.

A 37-15 second Test victory at Kings Park stadium Saturday gave the Springboks a winning 2-0 lead in the three-match series, which concludes in Johannesburg next weekend.

The triumph, coupled with a 37-14 first Test success in Pretoria, have renewed faith in the team after a record eight losses during a calamitous 2016 season.

Simnikwe Xabanisa wrote in the City Press that official man of the match and try-scorer Kolisi delivered a "monstrous performance" in front of a 42,000 crowd in Durban.

"The game had the fingerprints of Kolisi all over it in a monstrous performance not seen in a while from a player in the green and gold jersey. "Kolisi made two try-scoring passes, tackled everything that moved and was all over the ball on the ground like a cheap suit.

"And (Kolisi) still found time to score an intercept try of his own in a performance for the ages. "A performance big on physicality, defence and composure meant South Africa not only won the game, but the series with a match to spare." Mike Greenaway in The Sunday Independent drew a comparison between the victory over France and the previous Test in

Durban—a humiliating 57-15 loss to arch foes New Zealand.

"Who would have thought that eight months after the Boks were booted off the field, the same crowd would be doing the Mexican wave and singing 'ole, ole, ole'. "The celebration was mostly because the vibrant Boks of 2017 have given their supporters reason to believe again. Last year was a terrible car crash in slow motion.

"More than anything, South Africans want to see a Springbok team play with pride and enthusiasm, and we have seen that in abundance over the last fortnight.

"The Springbok team looks hungry, focused and energetic when last year they were lazy, dazed and confused." Mahlatse Mphahlele wrote in the Sunday Times that skipper and No. 8 Warren Whiteley and coach Allister Coetzee may be on to something special. "At the rate these youthful and inexperienced Springboks are going, South Africans can start dreaming again.

"Allister Coetzee said the painful chapter of last season was closed and pleaded with the South African public to take a leap of faith in this new beginning.

"In their thorough demolition of a significantly bolstered France from the first Test, the Boks showed unity, fighting spirit and determination.

"Siya Kolisi was the standout performer, but every Bok put his body behind the wheel and pushed hard with a roaring performance of few mistakes."—AFP



**SYDNEY:** Australia's Richard Hardwick, right, is pulled over by Scotland's Allan Dell during their rugby union test match in Sydney, Saturday.—AP

RUGBY

## CHEIKA VOWS CHANGES TO BUMBLING WALLABIES

**SYDNEY:** Wallabies coach Michael Cheika has demanded greater urgency from his players and vowed team changes in the wake of their spluttering Test defeat to Scotland.

The Australians gave away two tries and could not make up the leeway despite dominating territory and possession to go down 24-19 to the resilient Scots in Sydney on Saturday. The loss will have ramifications with an imminent slump to sixth in the next world rankings — behind Ireland, Scotland and South Africa—the Wallabies' lowest position since early 2015.

The Scottish defeat comes against the backdrop of a demoralising Super Rugby season for Australian teams and the negativity over the drawn-out SANZAAR saga to cull three teams from next year's competition.

Cheika has signalled changes following the chastening defeat for the next Test against Six Nations strugglers Italy in Brisbane on Saturday. "I'd say so, I'd say there'd be a few," Cheika told reporters after Saturday's loss. "It's about being more urgent to the game, you've got to make it happen—it's not just going to happen for you.

"You've got to have guys with that attitude. You eliminate all the excuses and you just stay at it and make the team come there."

Cheika, who cut a frustrated figure watching the game from the coach's box in the stands, said the Wallabies were "half-a-yard away all the match". Compounding the loss was the Wallabies' self-inflicted wounds during a dreadful opening half.

The Scots led 17-12 at half-time with both their tries coming off Australian mistakes. Centre Duncan Taylor swooped on a poor Will Genia pass and fly-half Finn Russell charged down Genia's clearing kick for another try.

### 'WILL' POWER LACKING

Only two tries from Israel Folau—one from a long ball from Bernard Foley and the other when the athletic fullback soared spectacularly to snatch Foley's pinpoint crossfield kick—kept the Wallabies in the first half.

Yet despite the intensity ratcheting up after half-time and Australia hitting the front at 19-17 midway through the second half, Scotland roared back with a magnificent try by openside flanker Hamish Watson.

Winger Lee Jones hurdled a tackler and linked with Taylor to give Watson clear passage to the try-line and the Scots held on to their advantage to the final whistle.

"We made so many breaks. We didn't have enough guys there to will the ball over the line," Cheika said. "That's something that we've got to get sorted out because otherwise we'll always be in these battles when we maybe shouldn't be. "There wasn't a huge amount of dropped balls, or we didn't have a lot of missed tackles or anything like that.

"But in some of the key moments, you need to have that focus of like, 'I'm going to step up and make this happen.'" Skipper Michael Hooper admitted after the game he had erred in not tak-

ing kicks for goal with a couple of penalties in the final stages.

"I really thought we had the momentum. I'm the ultimate believer in our guys to do the job and maybe too much so tonight," Hooper said. "In hindsight, maybe we could have gone to the goal just to mount up a bit of pressure.

"However, I was feeling that we were starting to get some really good pressure built on them with the amount of time we were spending in their 22, and I was waiting on a try to happen.

"I thought it would. It got very close a couple of times. Look, yeah, frustrating but plenty to look at on Monday."—AFP

## JONES HAILS ENGLAND VETERANS AND ROOKIES

**SANTA FE:** England coach Eddie Jones hailed his Test veterans and international rookies yesterday after a 2-0 Test series triumph in Argentina achieved without many unavailable stars. A drop goal from outstanding fly-half George Ford with six minutes left sealed a thrilling 35-25 second-Test victory in north-eastern city Santa Fe.

Last weekend, England won an epic first Test 38-34 in San Juan thanks to a try by debutant winger Denny Solomona 100 seconds from time. British and Irish Lions call-ups for the tour of New Zealand and injuries robbed Jones of 30 candidates for the end-of-season visit to South America.

"I thought Chris Robshaw and Mike Brown were absolutely exceptional," said 57-year-old Australian Jones, referring to two of the few "old hands" in the Santa Fe line-up.

"Both of them demonstrated why they have represented their country more than 50 times," he told reporters. Flanker Robshaw, back after shoulder and ankle injuries ruled him out of the Six Nations Championship and the first Test in Argentina, foraged tirelessly.

Full-back Brown engineered the pick of the four England tries by leaping to intercept a

cross-field kick from Argentina fly-half Nicolas Sanchez during the opening half.

He then darted down the field and cleverly cut inside to draw defenders before passing out to centre Piers Francis, who scored. Jones also lauded Ford, labelling his performance behind an often battling pack as "brilliant".

"It was not a great attacking game from him—he had to find another way given the circumstances. "We did not have much ball, but kicking that field (drop) goal at the end was tactically brilliant."

Jones warned his rookies before the second Test that it might be the last chance to impress before a 45-man training squad is named during August with the World Cup in mind. "A few of the new guys have done really well," said the architect of a sensational 2015 Rugby World Cup triumph by minnows Japan over twice former champions South Africa.

Among the forwards, Jones praised prop Harry Williams, lock Charlie Ewels and flankers Mark Wilson, Sam Underhill and Tom Curry, a teenager. Williams, try-scorer Ewels and Underhill started in Santa Fe, Wilson came off the bench and Curry was rested after a superb first Test display.—AFP



**SANTA FE:** Argentina's Ramiro Moyano, left, tries to tackle England's Mike Brown during a rugby test match against Argentina in Santa Fe, Argentina, Saturday.—AP



**DURBAN:** France's Scott Spedding, right, is challenged by South Africa's Jan Serfontein, left, during their international rugby union Test match between South Africa and France in Durban, South Africa, Saturday.—AP

## RIGONDEAUX BEATS FLORES IN CONTROVERSIAL FIRST ROUND KO

**LAS VEGAS:** Two-time Olympic gold medalist Guillermo Rigondeaux defeated Moises Flores with a controversial fight-ending punch at the close of the first round Saturday to retain his WBA junior featherweight title in Las Vegas. The victory was controversial as tele-

vision replays showed Rigondeaux landed a left hand after the round-ending bell had rang. He also landed three punches while holding Flores' head from behind just before the knockout.

The fight was on the undercard of the Sergey Kovalev-Andre Ward world title

light heavyweight bout at the Mandalay Bay hotel and casino. Rigondeaux improved to 18-0 with 12 knockouts, while Flores, of Mexico, dropped to 25-1, with 17 KOs.

The Cuban-born Rigondeaux was announced the winner, but after the

fight Nevada Athletic Commission executive director Bob Bennett told broadcaster HBO that they might have to review the decision.

"We will take a look at it. If the punch landed after the bell it is a disqualification," Bennett said. "We want the right

fighter to win. Anything is possible. We could take a look at it and do the right thing." Flores stayed down for several minutes and had to be helped back to his corner where he sat during a lengthy review that eventually resulted in Rigondeaux being crowned the winner. —AFP

## FOWLER READY TO BREAK MAJOR DUCK

**ERIN:** Rickie Fowler is confident of "getting the job done" after resurrecting his hopes of a maiden major at the US Open on Saturday.

The 28-year-old number nine got off to a flying start on Thursday with a seven-under-par 65 but saw his momentum falter on Friday with one-over-par 73. On Saturday, Fowler exploited the benign conditions at Erin Hills to haul himself back into the frame.

A four-under-par 68 left him at 10 under heading into the final Sunday, two behind the lead. While Fowler still has ground to make up, he was pleased with a strong finish that saw him pick up strokes with three birdies on the 14th, 15th and 16th.

"It's going to be a really cool day for someone tomorrow," said Fowler, who has posted six top-10 finishes in majors during his career, including a second place finish at the 2014 US Open.

"I'm looking forward to my shot at it, I know it's not going to be an easy day, for

sure," Fowler said.

"I've been there a handful of times and had some good finishes. But I'm looking forward to getting the job done."

Fowler agreed that the wide open leaderboard—none of the top 16 players have won a major—made it anyone's title to win. "A lot of young guys, lot of great players," he said. "Someone has a very good chance of ending up with their first major tomorrow."

Fowler is also buoyed by the knowledge that his biggest tournament wins have usually come when he has emerged from the field—even though that can increase the pressure to pick up shots. "My wins have been from behind," he said. "It's sometimes nice being out front because you can afford to make a mistake. "But I'll take exactly where I'm at. This was the goal going into the week to put ourselves in position to be in contention on Sunday. Whether that was two back, two up front or tied for the lead—let's go." —AFP

### GOLF

## HARMAN EDGES CLEAR, THOMAS DAZZLES IN US OPEN BLITZ

**ERIN:** Brian Harman opened up a one-shot lead at the 117th US Open on Saturday in a dramatic third round lit up by a record-equalling 63 from Justin Thomas.

Torrential rain that doused the 7,818-yard layout at Erin Hills overnight presented the field with a feast of birdie chances, transforming the leaderboard into a sea of red as dusk fell.

Harman, who had begun the day in a four-way tie for the lead, carded a five-under-par 67 which included six birdies and one bogey. The 30-year-old from Georgia had never gone past the second round in a US Open before this year, missing the cut on his two previous visits in 2012 and 2015.

"We're breaking down all kinds of barriers," Harman quipped. "I'm proud of the way I hung in there today. I got off to a pretty good start, which I really haven't done yet, so that was nice. "Struck it well, hit a bunch of greens, and that's what you've got to do to play well around here."

The world number 50 headed to the clubhouse on 12 under, one ahead of Thomas, Brooks Koepka and England's Tommy Fleetwood.

### FORGIVING CONDITIONS

The soft, forgiving conditions created opportunity for major movement up the leaderboard for those players willing to take it. And the prime beneficiary was Thomas, who catapulted up the leaderboard with his record-breaking nine-under-par 63. The 24-year-old world number 13 produced a magnificent eagle three on the 600-yard 18th hole to crown a spellbinding display that was the lowest to par score in US Open history.

The previous lowest score in relation to par was the eight-under 63 shot by Johnny Miller in the final round of the 1973 Open. Thomas was already on course for a share of the lead as he stepped up to the 18th having carded nine birdies against two bogeys in a spectacular round. He then drilled a 300-yard second shot to around eight feet before rolling in his eagle putt to roars from the galleries.

"I feel comfortable. Being in con-

tention in a major is new and I'm excited," said Thomas. "I hope the moment will come as soon as possible. I know I'm going to be nervous, I just need to harness that as best I can."

### FOWLER CONFIDENT

Rickie Fowler was two behind Harman on 10 under after a four-under-par 68 which kept him firmly in contention. Fowler likes his chances of breaking his major duck on Sunday. "It's going to be a really cool day for someone tomorrow," the world number nine said. "I'm looking forward to my shot at it. It's not going to be an easy day, for sure. I've been there a handful of times and had some good finishes. But I'm looking forward to getting the job done."

South Korea's Kim Si-Woo was one behind Fowler on nine under after also shooting 68, while three players—Patrick Reed, Russell Henley and Charley Hoffman were on eight under.

Reed was one of the biggest movers, powering up the board with a dazzling seven-under-par 65 that included four birdies on the front nine against one bogey.

The American Ryder Cup star then bagged a trio of birdies on the 14th, 15th and 16th holes to finish at eight under.

The low-scoring sets up a wide open final Sunday, with the world's top three ranked players—No.1 Dustin Johnson, No.2 Rory McIlroy and No.3 Jason Day—all missing the cut on Friday.

None of the leading 16 players have won a major before, making it likely that a run of six consecutive victories by first-timers will extend to seven this weekend.

South Korea's Kim will lead the Asian quest for a major yesterday after Hideki Matsuyama was unable to build on his second round 65. Matsuyama, the world number four, had to settle for a one-under-par 71 which left him on six under, six off the pace. Elsewhere, Masters champion Sergio Garcia finished with a 71 to stay on six under, six behind Harman. China's Li Haotong, who on Friday became the first player from mainland China to make the cut at a major, bombed out of contention with a 10-over-par 82. — AFP



**LAS VEGAS:** Andre Ward (L) and Sergey Kovalev battle it out during their light heavyweight championship bout at the Mandalay Bay Events Center on Saturday in Las Vegas, Nevada. Ward retained his WBA/IBF/WBO titles with a TKO in the eighth round. —AFP

### BOXING

## WARD STOPS SERGEY KOVALEV TO WIN LIGHT HEAVY REMATCH

**LAS VEGAS:** Andre Ward vowed he would leave no doubt this time around. He didn't, turning the tables on a big puncher and stopping Sergey Kovalev in the eighth round Saturday night to win their light heavyweight title rematch.

The undefeated Ward turned the fight around with a big right hand that wobbled Kovalev, then swarmed all over him. Kovalev was in the neutral corner and Ward was landing shots to the body when the Russian sat on the ring rope and referee Tony Weeks signaled an end to the bout at 2:29 of the eighth.

"I knew this time it was going to be different," Ward said. In a lot of ways it was the same, until Ward - who was knocked down in the first fight - showed he was a big puncher, too, with a right hand that made Kovalev's right leg wobble and signaled the beginning of the end to the bout.

The fight had been close, with Kovalev (30-2-1) winning the early rounds before Ward (32-0) began making adjustments and Kovalev began tiring. Both fighters complained of dirty tactics and Weeks spent a lot of his time breaking up clinches.

Ward won the first fight in November, coming back from a second round knockdown to get a controversial decision. The rematch seemed just as close until Ward landed the right hand that caused Kovalev's legs to wobble.

"He's a great fighter," Ward said. "You've got to raise your game to the next level and thankfully that's what we did tonight." Kovalev complained that Ward hit him with two low blows in the final exchange, forcing him to sit on the first rope.

"Why stop the fight?" he said. "I could have continued to fight." The fight was rough and tumble from the beginning, much like when the two met the first time when both were unbeaten. But while Kovalev was supposed to be the puncher it was a big right hand by Ward that landed midway through the eighth.

"I could tell he was reacting to my body shots and I knew I had him then," Ward said. "I knew he was hurt." Ward was up by a point on two scorecards and down three points on the third going into the final round.

"I don't know, I can't explain it," Kovalev said. "I thought I was doing very good. I was better and he was better this fight. I didn't feel like I was getting knocked down by the power of his punches."

Ward, who won an Olympic gold in 2004 and hasn't lost a fight since he was 12, took a few rounds to find his mark but once he did the two engaged in close rounds that were difficult to score. The crowd at Mandalay Bay thought otherwise, roaring at every punch landed by Ward and chanting his nickname.

There was genuine dislike between the two fighters, born largely out of their first fight. Neither made any effort to touch gloves when given their final instructions, and once the bell rang, they both went after each other.

The fight itself played out early somewhat like the first one, with Kovalev starting out aggressively and Ward trying to find his rhythm. Weeks, meanwhile, was working hard to keep control as the two fighters clinched and hit each other behind the head, with Ward landing a low blow in the second round that doubled Kovalev over and caused Weeks to pause the bout.

Ward vowed before the fight to leave no doubt this time, after escaping with a win that many at ringside questioned in the first fight. He appeared confident he would do just that, coming into the ring doing a little dance before turn-

ing to salute the crowd.

Kovalev, a Russian who lives in Los Angeles, had complained bitterly about the scoring in the first fight, though he appeared to run out of gas as the fight went on. Ward was paid \$6.5 million for the rematch, while Kovalev got a percentage of the gate and the pay-per-view.

In another fight, two-time Olympic gold medalist Guillermo Rigondeaux retained his super batamweight title on a first-round knockout over Moises Flores when he landed a punch after the bell.

Rigondeaux and Flores were trading punches when the bell rang to end the first round and both threw after the bell. Rigondeaux's punch landed, and Flores dropped to the canvas where he was counted out.

Nevada boxing officials huddled for several minutes and watched the replay before ruling the punch was legal.

Rigondeaux, who won his gold medals for his native Cuba, improved to 18-0 with 12 knockouts as a pro, while Flores, from Mexico, fell to 25-1. — AP

## LEXI THOMPSON TAKES ONE-SHOT LEAD IN MEIJER LPGA CLASSIC

**GRAND RAPIDS:** Lexi Thompson shot a 64 on Saturday on the Blytheheld layout reduced to a par of 69 because of flooding, giving her a one-stroke lead in the Meijer LPGA Classic.

The fifth hole was played as a 111-yard par 3 instead of a par 5 because of the flooding from overnight rain. Coming off a playoff loss to Ariya Jutanugarn last week in Canada, Thompson had six birdies four on the back nine - and a bogey to reach 15-under 196.

"It was just a matter of staying patient," Thompson said. "I knew I was hitting it well on the front nine, I just wasn't making the birdies. But I hit it well all day, so it was all a matter of hitting the shots closer and I guess just taking advantage of like No. 11, reaching that one in two, and making a few putts for birdie."

Her only bogey was on the par-4 seventh. "It was just a stupid club coming in," she said. "I should have just played short of the green, that's where you have to miss it, and I hit it long. Just a bad miss, stupid mistake." Brooke Henderson, the leader after each of the first two rounds, had a 67 to drop into a tie for second with Lee-Anne Pace (61), Sung Hyun Park (62) and Jenny Shin (63). Thompson won the Kingsmill Championship last month in Virginia for her eighth LPGA Tour title after losing the ANA Inspiration in a playoff after being penalized four strokes for a rules violation reported by a television viewer.

At Rancho Mirage in early April, Thompson was given the four-shot penalty with six holes to play in the final round. She had a 15-inch putt on 17 in the third round when she stooped to mark

the ball, and quickly replaced it about an inch away. The television viewer contacted the LPGA Tour the next day, and officials determined it was a clear violation.

Thompson was assessed a two-shot penalty for where she replaced the ball, and because it happened the day before, she received a two-shot penalty for signing an incorrect scorecard. She went from a three-shot lead to one shot behind, and eventually lost to So Yeon Ryu in the playoff.

Henderson birdied Nos. 12 and 13 and closed with five pars. "I made that long one from off the green on 12 that wasn't really expected and that kind of gave me some energy," the 19-year-old Canadian said.

Pace had two eagles and five birdies. "My irons were really good," the South African player said. "Obviously, all the par 3s, that helps. I was looking at birdie almost every hole, which is quite nice. I was never really in trouble except on 10, I missed the drive left, but that was really the only thing. There were a couple of long putts I made, unexpected putts actually."

Shin made a long putt on No. 14 for her fifth straight birdie. But on 17, she pushed her approach shot and wound up on the bottom of the green, and took her only bogey of the round.

Hyo Joo Kim (65) was 12 under, and Lydia Ko (64), Michelle Wie (64), Moriya Jutanugarn (67) and Carlota Ciganda (68) followed at 11 under. Ko dropped to No. 2 in the world Monday after an 85-week run at the top. The top-ranked Ariya Jutanugarn, Moriya Jutanugarn's younger sister, was 9 under after a 64. — AP



Lexi Thompson



**ERIN:** Brian Harman hits on the 18th hole during the third round of the US Open golf tournament Saturday, at Erin Hills in Erin, Wis. — AP





HOUSTON: Houston Astros' Yuli Gurriel, left, falls over after sliding into second for a double, as Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia looks to apply the tag during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, in Houston. — AP photos

BASEBALL

# RAMIREZ HITS 2 HOMERS, CLEVELAND PULLS LEVEL WITH TWINS

**MINNEAPOLIS:** Lonnie Chisenhall hit two home runs for Cleveland in the second game after Jose Ramirez went deep twice in the opener, helping Cleveland take over first place in the AL Central by sweeping a doubleheader from the Minnesota Twins with 9-3 and 6-2 victories on Saturday. Austin Jackson hit a solo shot in the nightcap against Twins starter Adalberto Mejia (1-3) in the fourth inning, before Chisenhall homered to put Cleveland in front. Following a 75-minute rain delay, Chisenhall crushed a three-run drive against Tyler Duffey for his 10th home run of the season and a 5-1 lead in the fifth. Francisco Lindor went deep in the eighth, too, giving the Indians six home runs for the day against a depleted Twins pitching staff that forced rookies into starting roles for the first three games of this pivotal midseason series. The rain stopped Mike Clevinger's start in the second game after four innings, so reliever Nick Goody (1-1) was credited instead with the win, the first of his career after 56 appearances. Zach McAllister (1-0) pitched two hitless innings in the first game for the victory. He worked in relief of starter Ryan Merritt, who made his season debut before being sent back to Triple-A. He had a big lead before he even stepped on the mound.

**ATHLETICS 5, YANKEES 2**

Ryon Healy went deep twice for his third multihomer game in two weeks and Matt Joyce also hit a long ball as Oakland beat New York. Joyce reached base five times, Jesse Hahn (3-4) pitched five innings to defeat New York for the first time in his career and Jed Lowrie had an RBI single to keep the A's rolling at home. Oakland has won six of its last eight at the Coliseum, including three straight against the Yankees. Austin Romine and Brett Gardner drove in runs for New York, which has lost a season-high five straight. The Yankees entered the day with a one-game lead over Boston in the AL East. Joyce homered leading off the game against Masahiro Tanaka (5-7). Sean Doolittle retired three batters for his second save.

**NATIONALS 7, METS 4**

Trea Turner hit a leadoff homer and Washington backed Stephen Strasburg (8-2) with three long balls, beating New York to stay undefeated at Citi Field this season. Adam Lind added a two-run shot and Jose Lobaton also went deep for the NL East leaders, who can finish a four-game sweep Sunday afternoon. Washington is 6-0 in

Queens this year - part of an impressive 24-12 mark on the road - and has won 12 of 16 at the Mets' home ballpark since the start of last season. Yoenis Cespedes homered and had four hits for third-place New York, which dropped 11 1/2 games out of first. Seth Lugo (1-1) allowed four runs in 6 2/3 innings. Strasburg (8-2) permitted two runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings, rebounding from his worst start of the season. He struck out five and walked two.

**PADRES 7, BREWERS 5, 11 INNINGS**

Cory Spangenberg and Chase d'Arnaud each hit solo home runs in the 11th inning, lifting San Diego over Milwaukee in yet another slugfest. The teams have combined for 15 home runs in the first two games of the three-game series. The Padres totaled a season-best five home runs Saturday, including two by Yangervis Solarte and one by Wil Myers, while Milwaukee got a homer each from Orlando Arcia, Eric Thames and Keon Broxton. On Friday night, Thames' game-ending shot in the 10th was the seventh home run of the game. Spangenberg hit the first pitch from reliever Oliver Drake (2-2) leading off, and two outs later, d'Arnaud followed with his first homer of the season. Jose Torres (4-2) picked up the win in relief. Phil Maton pitched the 11th for his first career save.

**PIRATES 4, CUBS 3**

Gregory Polanco broke out of a slump with a two-run homer, Andrew McCutchen hit his 12th home run of the season and Pittsburgh edged Chicago. Ivan Nova (7-4) pitched seven strong innings and Pittsburgh's bullpen made it stand up a night after collapsing late in a 9-5 loss. Felipe Rivero got the final five outs for his third save. Jake Arrieta (6-5) hit the fifth home run of his career but struggled with his command late. He is winless in his last five starts against the Pirates. Arrieta was removed in the fifth inning following a sequence in which he uncorked two wild pitches and hit a batter. The defending World Series champion Cubs dipped back below .500 (33-34).

**ASTROS 7, RED SOX 1**

Jose Altuve hit a solo homer, Carlos Beltran had a two-run shot and three RBIs, and Houston beat Boston. Altuve led off the third with his homer off the train tracks above the left-center field facade, and Beltran followed three batters later with his ninth home run of the season to put Houston ahead 6-0.

Houston jumped on Boston starter Rick Porcello (3-9) for three runs in the first. Altuve had an RBI double, and Brian McCann and Beltran followed with sacrifice flies. David Paulino (1-0) allowed one run and three hits with four strikeouts in six innings for his first career win.

**ORIOLES 15, CARDINALS 7**

Jonathan Schoop homered twice and drove in four runs, Manny Machado went deep in a seven-run second inning against Adam Wainwright and Baltimore beat St. Louis. Adam Jones and Mark Trumbo got Baltimore started with successive first-inning shots, and Schoop finished the long-ball display with drives in the fourth and seventh. Wade Miley (3-4) picked up his second win since April 14 despite allowing six runs, five earned, in 5 2/3 innings. Wainwright (7-5) gave up nine runs and seven hits, including three home runs, over 1 2/3 innings - the shortest of his 268 career starts. The nine runs and three homers matched the most he's allowed in any outing.

**DODGERS 10, REDS 2**

Yasiel Puig hit two of the Dodgers' four homers, powering Los Angeles to a victory that took the edge off Cincinnati's latest honor for its banned hits king. Pete Rose unveiled a bronze sculpture of his headfirst slide in front of Great American Ball Park before the game. Thousands of packed-in fans cheered when he said, "Let's get those Reds in high gear." Instead, the Dodgers flexed their muscle and added to their domination of Cincinnati, beating the Reds for the seventh straight time. Cody Bellinger had three hits, including a homer, and drove in three runs. Joc Pederson homered for the second straight game as the Dodgers piled up seven extra-base hits. Hyun-Jin Ryu (3-6) allowed two runs in five innings for Los Angeles. Asher Wojciechowski (1-1) took the loss.

**ROCKIES 5, GIANTS 1**

Kyle Freeland tossed six solid innings, Tony Wolters drove in two runs and Colorado beat San Francisco again. The Rockies are 9-1 against San Francisco this season and have won the last eight against the Giants. Freeland (8-4) pitched with runners on base in every inning but held the Giants to one run and eight hits. The rookie left-hander exited with a 2-1 lead and pumped his fist after striking out pinch-hitter Brandon Belt to end the sixth with a runner on second. Matt Cain (3-6) lost for the fifth time in six starts.

**RANGERS 10, MARINERS 4**

Mike Napoli hit two home runs, connecting along with Rougned Odor and Shin-Soo Choo in the sixth inning to power Texas past Seattle. Napoli's two-run drive capped a five-run first that sent the Rangers to their seventh win in eight games. Seattle lost its third in a row. Martin Perez (3-6) won for the first time since May 18. He left with a 5-4 lead with one out in the sixth after giving up a 463-foot, three-run homer to straightaway center by Mike Zunino. Yovani Gallardo (3-7) retired the first two batters in the opening inning before giving up five straight hits.

**DIAMONDBACKS 5, PHILLIES 1**

Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run double and also made a key catch, boosting Arizona over Philadelphia for its sixth straight victory. The Diamondbacks improved to 43-26, matching the best 69-game start in team history. Jorge De La Rosa (3-1) won in relief of Zack Godley, who struck out a career-high eight in 5 2/3 innings. Edubray Ramos (0-4) relieved Jerad Eickhoff and gave up the first three runs of Arizona's four-run seventh.

**RAYS 3, TIGERS 2**

Chris Archer pitched six strong innings, Daniel Robertson drove in two runs and scored a third, and Tampa Bay bounced back

to beat Detroit. Detroit had won the first two games of the series, outscoring the Rays 18-7. Archer (5-4) gave up two runs, six hits and a walk, striking out eight. Two relievers finished, with Jesus Colome getting five outs for his 19th save. Mikie Mahtook led off the Detroit ninth with an infield single and took second on Jose Iglesias's sacrifice, but Colome retired the next two batters. Michael Fulmer (6-5) allowed three runs on six hits and four walks in 6 2/3 innings. He made his first start since receiving a cortisone shot to reduce inflammation in his pitching shoulder.

**WHITE SOX 5, BLUE JAYS 2**

Todd Frazier and Matt Davidson hit consecutive home runs to lead Chicago over Toronto. Jose Abreu also went deep to help the White Sox win their fourth straight series against the Blue Jays, beating them for the ninth time in the in the last 10 games. Mike Pelfrey (3-5) earned his second road win of the season, limiting Toronto to one run and four hits in six innings. He retired 10 straight batters between the second and sixth innings. David Robertson worked the ninth for his 11th save in 12 chances. Blue Jays starter Marcus Stroman (7-3) gave up six hits and three runs - all on the solo homers - in seven innings. He walked one and struck out five.

**BRAVES 8, MARLINS 7, 10 INNINGS**

Brandon Phillips drove in the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning, Matt Adams had four RBIs and Atlanta rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Miami. Johan Camargo led off the 10th with a single, advanced on a sacrifice and scored when Phillips lined a ball up the middle off A.J. Ramos (1-3). Nick Markakis' RBI double in the ninth sent the game into extra innings. Arody Vizcaino (3-2), the seventh Atlanta pitcher, faced four batters in the 10th to get the win. — AP

BASEBALL RESULTS/STANDINGS

Houston 7, Boston 1; Pittsburgh 4, Chicago Cubs 3; La Angels 9, Kansas City 0; Cleveland 6, Minnesota 2; Texas 10, Seattle 4; LA Dodgers 10, Cincinnati 2; Atlanta 8, Miami 7 (10 innings); San Diego 7, Milwaukee 5 (11 innings); Tampa Bay 3, Detroit 2; Washington 7, NY Mets 4; Arizona 5, Philadelphia 1; Oakland 5, NY Yankees 2; Baltimore 15, St. Louis 7; Colorado 5, San Francisco 1; Cleveland 9, Minnesota 3; Chicago White Sox 5, Toronto 2.

American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB	
NY Yankees	38	28	.576	-	Washington	42	26	.618	-
Boston	38	30	.559	1	Miami	30	36	.455	11
Tampa Bay	36	35	.507	4.5	NY Mets	30	37	.448	11.5
Baltimore	33	34	.493	5.5	Atlanta	30	37	.448	11.5
Toronto	32	35	.478	6.5	Philadelphia	22	45	.328	19.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	35	31	.530	-	Milwaukee	37	33	.529	-
Minnesota	34	32	.515	1	Chicago Cubs	33	34	.493	2.5
Kansas City	32	35	.478	3.5	St. Louis	31	36	.463	4.5
Detroit	32	35	.478	3.5	Pittsburgh	31	37	.456	5
Chicago White Sox	31	36	.463	4.5	Cincinnati	29	38	.433	6.5
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	46	23	.667	-	Colorado	45	26	.634	-
Texas	34	33	.507	11	LA Dodgers	43	26	.623	1
LA Angels	36	36	.500	11.5	Arizona	43	26	.623	1
Seattle	33	37	.471	13.5	San Diego	28	41	.406	16
Oakland	30	38	.441	15.5	San Francisco	26	44	.371	18.5



MINNEAPOLIS: Cleveland Indians second baseman Jose Ramirez, top, reaches for an errant throw and collides with Minnesota Twins' Byron Buxton who advanced to third base on the play in the third inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader Saturday, in Minneapolis.

## ALL TALK, FEW TRADES BEFORE NHL'S EXPANSION ROSTER FREEZE

**LAS VEGAS:** Mike Smith went from Arizona to Calgary and a couple of defensemen traded places as NHL teams made last-minute moves before the Vegas expansion draft roster freeze.

None of those defensemen came from the Minnesota Wild, Ottawa Senators or Anaheim Ducks, leaving big questions with the Vegas Golden Knights poised to acquire some serious talent in their expansion draft window from Sunday through Wednesday. General manager George McPhee's phone was already ringing Saturday afternoon as his 30 colleagues did their best to shuffle the deck and protect themselves.

"With the expansion process upcoming, it forces you to make some decisions," Coyotes GM John Chayka said. From Saturday afternoon through Thursday morning, after Vegas makes its picks, the rest of the teams can't make trades with each other. The freeze and submission of protected lists, which

are released Sunday morning at 10 am EDT, created something of a trade-deadline situation as GMs had a lot of discussions and looked to make the pieces work.

"It had all the feelings of a trade deadline, but there was conditions," Flames GM Brad Treliving said by phone. "There's lots of chatter, but there's lots of teams in the bucket of not being able to do anything without impacting what their list is."

The Flames solidified their goaltending situation by getting the 35-year-old Smith from the Coyotes for a conditional pick and a prospect, taking advantage of their ability to protect a goalie that most other teams in the market didn't have the luxury of doing.

### ADVANTAGE

"That's really one of the things we wanted to leverage," Treliving said. "Having the ability to have a

spot to protect someone, if all the other boxes were checked, there certainly was an advantage."

The Montreal Canadiens recouped a third-round pick from the Buffalo Sabres for 24-year-old defenseman Nathan Beaulieu, who has a connection to Vegas coach Gerard Gallant and would've been left exposed in the expansion draft. The San Jose Sharks got second- and fourth-round picks for Mirco Mueller and a fifth-rounder, a safeguard against losing a 22-year-old defenseman for nothing.

But trades that didn't happen before the freeze stood out even more, most notably the Wild not dealing Matt Dumba, Marco Scandella or Jonas Brodin, and the Senators not moving Marc Methot or Dion Phaneuf. That puts those teams and the Anaheim Ducks in position to work out a deal with Vegas, which could prove costly.

"It was a rigid market," Treliving said. "You had a number of teams that had expansion issues that

they were trying to deal with." The Winnipeg Jets solved an expansion issue even as they didn't make a trade as Toby Enstrom agreed to waive his no-movement clause before the deadline Friday, allowing them to protect their other three top defensemen: Dustin Byfuglien, Jacob Trouba and Tyler Myers. Enstrom's Sweden-based agent, Kalle Boden, said in an email that his client waived his no-move as a favor to the Jets and "wants to stay" in Winnipeg.

The Golden Knights said Saturday night they were very pleased with the expansion draft process so far and have "indicated that they will give all 30 clubs every opportunity to keep their rosters intact if they'd like." McPhee is willing to negotiate with any and all teams willing to give up something to keep a certain player.

That means even though the rest of the league is on a freeze, the trade talk is just heating up with Vegas. —AP

### TENNIS

## KERBER SCRAMBLES FOR WIMBLEDON BOOST

**BIRMINGHAM:** Angelique Kerber's chances of clinging to a small lead at the top of the world rankings may hinge on the quality of her performances at the Birmingham WTA grass court event starting today.

They may also have a crucial bearing on Kerber's ability to challenge for the title at Wimbledon which begins in a fortnight's time, as she makes the often tricky transition from clay to grass courts at the \$800,000 Premier level event.

The signs do not appear good for the 29-year-old Poland-born German, even though she has been number one much of the time since September.

She has yet to capture a title this year and

none of her 21 wins in 11 tournaments have been against a top 20 opponent.

Nevertheless Kerber is significantly more effective on grass than on clay, and won her first title on the speedier, lower-bouncing surface in Birmingham two years ago. She went on to reach the Wimbledon final last year.

Another good run at the tranquil, tree-lined Edgbaston Priory Club, with its leafy affluence and well-manicured courts, may be within her capacity, and if so it could work wonders for wavering confidence.

Although Kerber often says that protecting a ranking and coping with pressure are issues she tries to keep from her mind, there is little doubt that a few wins and some lengthy court

time would be very timely. "I always look forward to grass," she emphasises. "And I really like playing here."

Kerber comes into the event still smarting from becoming the first top seed to lose in the opening round at Roland Garros. She has also landed a potentially difficult draw.

Her opener is against Lucie Safarova, the 2015 French Open finalist from the Czech Republic, and there is a possible quarter-final against the fifth seeded Kristina Mladenovic, the French woman who spectacularly halted Garbine Muguruza's French Open title defence.

If Kerber does make the final her opponent, according to the seedings, should be Elina Svitolina, who captured the Italian Open title last month and has prevailed in both her encounters with Kerber this year.

However two notable withdrawals after their French Open exertions are Simona Halep and Karolina Pliskova, and they are Kerber's closest rivals for the number one ranking.

Her capacity for taking advantage of these absences may depend on how well her fitness holds up, for adaptations in shot-making on grass which require a lower centre of gravity, can bring new physical stresses.

Kerber retired with a thigh strain against Eugenie Bouchard in the third round in Madrid last month. Meanwhile there will also be focus on Petra Kvitova, the trenchant left-hander who has twice been the champion at Wimbledon.

Grass is by far Kvitova's best surface and she should enjoy returning to it. However the most she will probably aspire to is continued rehabilitation from career-threatening hand injuries suffered during a horrendous knife attack by an intruder at her home last year.

The likeable Czech has been able to play only two matches this year, and even modest progress this week may earn sympathetic acclaim and hopes that, at the age of 27, she might yet resurrect her career. — AFP



Angelique Kerber

## POUILLE BOUNCES BACK TO WIN STUTTGART TITLE

**STUTTGART:** Frenchman Lucas Pouille came from a set down and needed a second set tie-break to beat Spain's Feliciano Lopez 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, to claim the grass-court title at Stuttgart yesterday.

"That's my first title on grass," said the 23-year-old, who has now won three ATP Tour titles and sits 16th in the world rankings. "I had a tight match in the first round and from there I took it one match at a time," he added, looking back to his win over Jan-Lennard Struff in which he saved a match point.

Pouille suffered from the power of Lopez's serve early on but gradually got the measure of the 35-year-old, who faded towards the end of the third set.

It was his third final of the season after a

defeat to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga at Marseille and a victory over Aljaz Bedene in Budapest.

Meanwhile, Luxembourg's Gilles Muller downed towering Croat Ivo Karlovic yesterday to claim the title in 's-Hertogenbosch in a final with the oldest combined age for two players since 1976. Muller, 34, beat 38-year-old Karlovic 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/4) in a showdown of two of the game's biggest servers to lift his second tour-level trophy, following January's triumph in Sydney.

It was the oldest men's singles final since Ken Rosewall (42) and Ilie Nastase (30) went head-to-head in Hong Kong 41 years ago.

Muller smacked 22 aces to Karlovic's 19 with not a single break point for either player as the Luxembourger atoned for last year's final defeat in the Netherlands to Nicolas Mahut.

He next heads to Queen's where he faces Georgia's Nikoloz Basilashvili in the opening round of the Wimbledon warm-up event.

Estonia's Anett Kontaveit scooped up her first WTA title after beating Natalia Vikhlyantseva of Russia 6-2, 6-3 in the women's final.

The 21-year-old from Tallinn, ranked 49th in the world, routed Vikhlyantseva, 20, in just 73 minutes to continue her strong 2017 form.

Kontaveit finished runner-up on clay in Biel in April and has also recorded wins over world number one Angelique Kerber and 2016 French Open champion Garbine Muguruza this season.

"I'm just so excited!" said Kontaveit. "It's been amazing for me, I had really tough matches and I'm so happy to be through them - to win the final, it's amazing." — AFP



STUTTGART: France's Lucas Pouille poses next to the winner's car, a Mercedes-Benz E 400 Cabrio 4 Matic, after defeating Spain's Feliciano Lopez (not in picture) in the final match at the ATP Mercedes Cup tennis tournament in Stuttgart, southwestern Germany, yesterday. — AFP



Andy Murray

## MURRAY IN SPOTLIGHT AS WIMBLEDON LOOMS

**LONDON:** Andy Murray says he has only a couple of years left at the top of men's tennis, but the world number one has no intention of relaxing just yet as he sets his sights on a third Wimbledon title.

While Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have defied the ageing process to win Grand Slams into their 30s, Murray believes that is the exception rather than the norm.

With that in mind, the 30-year-old knows he must maximise his chances of adding to his haul of three Grand Slam crowns while he is at his peak. "My coach, Ivan Lendl, was still competitive at the top until he was about 32 but, generally, over the past 20 to 30 years, normally by early 30s is when players have struggled to stay at the top," Murray told the BBC.

"I know some of the players have been doing really well until their mid-30s recently, but that might not be the case with me. "Maybe the next couple of years are the last few where I have a chance to compete for the majors and the biggest tournaments."

Fortunately for Murray's hopes of more silverware, he heads into the grass-court campaign back in form after his run to the French Open semi-finals ended a frustrating period marred by problems with injuries and illness.

The Scot, who has battled shingles, an elbow injury and the flu in 2017, was beaten by Stan Wawrinka in five sets on the clay at Roland Garros. But Murray is confident he has rediscovered his rhythm in time to mount a strong defence of the Wimbledon crown he won for a second time last year.

The road to Wimbledon begins across west London at the Queen's Club next week, when Murray will be aiming to win the grass-court event for a third successive year and sixth time in total.

First up for Murray in the opening round is British number four Aljaz Bedene.

### POUNDING

Murray beat Bedene in the second round at Queen's last year and if he wins again he will face either 2010 Queen's champion Sam Querrey or another Briton-wild card Cameron Norrie in the last 16.

He is seeded to face France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the quarter-finals and former US Open champion Marin Cilic in the semi-finals, with a potential final against second seed Stan Wawrinka.

Winning at Queen's would be the ideal Wimbledon preparation for Murray, but he knows he must find a way to avoid the fitness issues that have troubled him this year.

"Most of the players are travelling with physios now, spending a lot more time working in the gym to protect their bodies from the kind of pounding you give it on the court as well," he said.

"I don't know how long I'm going to be playing for any more. I want to make the most of every tournament I compete in."

"If I'm going to be away from my family, I'm not going to do that and not do my best."

Wawrinka opens his Queen's campaign against Spanish veteran Feliciano Lopez, while Milos Raonic, beaten by Murray in the Queen's and Wimbledon finals last year, starts against Australia's Thanasi Kokkinakis.

Grigor Dimitrov, the 2014 Queen's champion, is the only player other than Murray to have won the tournament in the last four years and the Bulgarian takes on Ryan Harrison of the United States in the first round.

Former Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych will look to pull out of his current slump against Steve Darcis.

Cilic, who won Queen's in 2013 and was runner-up a year later, opens against big-serving American John Isner. — AFP

## 76ERS, CELTICS AGREE ON TRADE FOR NUMBER ONE PICK

**BOSTON:** Philadelphia and Boston have agreed in principle on a trade where the 76ers would acquire the chance to take Markelle Fultz with the No. 1 pick in Thursday's NBA Draft, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The Celtics will get the No. 3 pick, plus an additional first-rounder in either 2018 or 2019, according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity Saturday night because the trade has not been formally approved by the league. The agreement between the Celtics and 76ers was struck not long after Fultz worked out for Philadelphia on Saturday evening.

Once the trade goes through, Philadelphia will own the NBA's No. 1 selection for the second straight season. Fultz - donning a Philadelphia cap as he arrived at the team's practice facility - visited the 76ers in a hastily arranged get-to-know-you session, with the workout and meeting with team officials on his itinerary. That visit was essentially the final hurdle to clear before Boston and Philadelphia could decide to actually consummate the trade.

"I don't really pay attention to everything that's going on," Fultz said. "I'm truly blessed to be in this position. Whatever happens, I'm looking forward to taking my talents to wherever I go." Barring any other changes before Thursday, the first four spots in this year's draft order would mirror the first-four from last year: Philadelphia at No. 1, the Los Angeles Lakers at No. 2, Boston at No. 3 and Phoenix at No. 4.

Fultz's rise to stardom has been rapid. In 2014, he was playing junior varsity basketball in high school. Barely three years later, he's almost certainly going to become the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft - and if he gets to

start his pro career by calling Philadelphia his new home, he'll be living roughly a 2 1/2-hour drive from his hometown of Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

"It would be pretty cool. Just being with a young team," Fultz said. "The upside of it would be crazy. I'm close to home, so a lot of my family can come out and just show love. This city has great fans."

The 6-foot-4 guard averaged 23.2 points, 5.7 rebounds and 5.9 assists in 25 games during his lone college season at Washington, excelling on a team that finished 9-22 and lost its final 13 games. Fultz led the Pac-12 in scoring and finished No. 6 among all Division I players, and was the top freshman scorer in the country. Over the past 10 seasons, only two other freshmen had a better scoring average in college: Kevin Durant for Texas in 2006-07, and Michael Beasley for Kansas State in 2007-08.

Durant and Beasley were both No. 2 draft picks. Fultz is apparently going to get taken one spot better. "I'll do whatever it takes to help any team I go to win," Fultz said.

Philadelphia had the No. 1 draft spot three previous times, taking Doug Collins in 1973, Allen Iverson in 1996 and Ben Simmons a year ago.

The 76ers have a top-three pick for the fourth straight year: No. 3 Joel Embiid in 2014, No. 3 Jahliil Okafor in 2015 and Simmons in 2016. But with Fultz, Philadelphia - which has asked its fans to endure some very dismal stretches and "Trust The Process" for the past few years - would likely expect to turn a real corner toward respectability again.

Philadelphia went 28-54 this past season, after winning 19, 18 and 10 games respectively in the previous three seasons. — AP

## FOOTBALLERS' ADVISERS UNDER SCRUTINY OVER TAX EVASION

**MADRID:** Cristiano Ronaldo under suspicion, Radamel Falcao investigated, Lionel Messi sentenced... Spain's courts have been busy tackling the alleged and real multi-million-euro tax evasion of football's greatest stars.

But while they may be aware of what they are doing, footballers rely on expert go-betweens like big banks to help them manage their finances, and the European Commission is looking into measures that would dissuade these intermediaries from assisting wealthy individuals in avoiding tax.

On top of their mammoth salaries and victory bonuses, the world's leading footballers earn millions by loaning their name and image for ad campaigns-be it sports equipment, underwear or yoghurt.

### AGENTS, ADVISERS UNDER SCRUTINY

FC Barcelona's Argentine forward Messi was handed a 2.1-million-euro (\$2.3 million) fine last year for avoiding paying taxes on part of the income he earned from image rights via companies

in Belize, Britain, Switzerland and Uruguay.

When it confirmed the sentence last month, Spain's Supreme Court rejected Messi's argument that he ignored how his wealth was managed but still expressed surprise at the fact that his tax advisors were not prosecuted. Monaco's Colombian forward Falcao, meanwhile, is suspected of having hidden 5.6 million euros in image rights from Spain's taxman when he played for Atletico Madrid in 2012 and 2013.

His Portuguese agent Jorge Mendes has been put under formal investigation in the case, and will be questioned by a judge on June 27.

Mendes, one of the most influential personalities in the football world, is also the agent of Ronaldo, who risks legal proceedings in Spain after prosecutors alleged this week that he evaded more than 14 million euros in tax through offshore companies.

If the Real Madrid star "is finally put under formal investigation, the judge will also have to ask how guilty the advisors and agents are," says Carlos

Cruzado, head of the Gestha union of civil servants who work for tax authorities.

### EU TO FIGHT BACK

In a bid to avoid specialised go-betweens from exploiting legal loopholes to pay as little tax as possible, EU Economics Commissioner Pierre Moscovici will on Wednesday unveil a new directive against "fiscal optimisation."

"So far little has been done to introduce disincentives for those intermediaries that help clients avoid paying their fair share of tax," a spokesman for the commission told AFP.

The directive aims to force those who advise people with lots of money or companies to declare the transborder products they propose to their clients to the taxman.

"Tax authorities will then be able to better and much earlier-identify the regulatory weaknesses that allow some companies and individuals to substantially reduce their taxes," he said.

The commission is not targeting just sportspeo-

ple. But these often resort to tax experts to manage their wealth-be they individuals, private practices or international banks. "We're not talking about an adviser who helps you fill in your income tax return, but offices that are specialised in setting up opaque structures, and many are international banks," says Jose Mari Pelaez, a tax inspector who specialises in tax havens.

These offices can offer "made to measure" services, he adds. Last year, it was revealed that many of the 175,000 offshore companies registered in the Bahamas, a tax haven, between 1959 and 2016 were created by banks, according to information leaked to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

Without these intermediaries, it would be very difficult to access a tax haven. "But with a phone call and 500 to 800 euros, such an office can set up one or two shell companies with a bank account in Switzerland or in another tax haven," says Pelaez.

"It takes two or three days and hardly costs a thing." — AFP

## TIME RIGHT FOR SOCCEROOS AT CONFED CUP: CAHILL

**SOCHI:** Socceroos veteran Tim Cahill says the time is right for Australia to shock inexperienced Germany today and prove themselves at the Confederations Cup.

The ex-Everton midfielder, 37, is just three short of winning his 100th cap — a milestone he could reach in the three Group B games against Germany, Cameroon and Chile.

Cahill, who scored one of the best goals at the 2014 World Cup finals with a cracking volley against the Dutch, could also break the 50-goal mark for Australia in Russia. Despite the Socceroos' 4-0 thumping by Brazil in last week's friendly, Cahill sees this Confed Cup as Australia's great chance to build on their 2015 Asian Cup win - starting with the Germans in today's Group B match in Sochi. "The belief for me comes from over a decade with the Socceroos," he said. "As one of the elder statesman, I've seen it-three World Cups, three Asian Cups, second time at the Confederations Cup. "In the last two and a half years with this group, I've seen up to 60 players buy into a philosophy.

"We've gone onto the world stage and competed, not just going there and being physical. "The last World Cup in Brazil, we outplayed some of the best teams in the world for long stretches.

"Yes, we didn't win the games, but we evolved to the Asian Cup where we won it, a competition we weren't supposed to win. "Tomorrow is a big game for them as much as us, they'll need the points just as badly," added Cahill, who now plays for Melbourne City in the A-League. Germany's head coach Joachim Loew has left all of his stars at home and Paris St-Germain's attacking

midfielder Julian Draxler will captain the world champions. Cahill says this is a great opportunity for Australia to beat the Germans for the first time at a major tournament. "I know there is the thought of them coming in as underdogs, but Draxler is no small name," said Cahill.

"They know they have to produce. If we play the style (that) we know, we can definitely beat them." With an average age of just 24 years, four months, and a combined total of 179 international appearances, Germany have the most youthful squad of the eight Confed Cup teams.

However, Socceroos head coach Ange Postecoglou refuses to believe the Germans can be considered as inexperienced underdogs. "Let's dispell one myth-when the teams walk out tomorrow, if I had to guess, I reckon we'd be younger," he said.

"I don't buy into any of that stuff. "It's a great opening game for us, against the world champions, who want to win the World Cup next year.

"They have faultless during their qualifying. "It's a great test for us, but I am not buying into the idea we are playing a weakened team-I think that's a bit of a myth. "Do the maths. Look at their starting line-up and ours before kick-off." Being on the verge of 100 caps and 50 goals, Cahill can make history at this Confed Cup-whether he starts or not against Germany. "It's about contributing to the squad whether you start, come off the bench or don't even play," said Cahill.

"Being able to have the chance to get to either mark would be a massive honour in my career, but I would prefer to take success in this competition." — AFP



**KAZAN:** FIFA president Gianni Infantino (L) speaks with Colombia's former midfielder Carlos Valderrama (C) ahead of the 2017 Confederations Cup group A football match between Portugal and Mexico at the Kazan Arena in Kazan yesterday. — AFP

### SOCCER

## FIFA PANEL INVITES DEBATE ON 'RADICAL' 60-MINUTE GAME CLOCK

**ST PETERSBURG:** Football's rule-making panel wants debate on moving to 60-minute games and stopping the clock when the ball is not in play. Playing two halves each of 30 minutes' actual playing time would be a "radical change" to the Laws of Football, the FIFA-supported International Football Association Board acknowledged.

It features in a five-year strategy document of talking points and proposals with three goals - to increase respect, playing time and attractiveness of the game.

"The aim of this document is to generate discussion and take a 'fresh' look at how the Laws could make the game better," IFAB said in the document called "Play Fair!" Any changes would take years to enact after discussions and trials overseen by IFAB, which revises football's laws annually and comprises officials from FIFA and the four British football federations.

Fans have become frustrated that games of 90 regulation minutes plus time added for stoppages at referees' discretion typically produce "fewer than 60 minutes of effective (actual) playing time," IFAB said. On Saturday, there were

just 47 minutes of actual playing time in Russia's 2-0 win over New Zealand to open the Confederations Cup, according to FIFA. The game in St. Petersburg took less than 1 hour, 50 minutes from first whistle to last, which suggests a 60-minute, stop-start clock would take more than two hours to complete as football adapted.

The 60-minute, stop-start game clock proposal would take away the incentive for time-wasting by players, IFAB suggested. A stadium clock could show spectators and TV viewers when the referee accounted for play having stopped. A second idea is for referees to stop their watch as play pauses when time-wasting is most likely - the final five minutes of the first half and the last 10 minutes of the second half.

Other talking points in "Fair Play!" to make games faster and fairer include: Letting players pass to themselves from a free kick or corner. Award penalty kicks for defenders using their hands or arms to stop a goal-bound ball. Abolish encroachment at penalty kicks by ordering play to stop after it is saved or rebounds from the post or bar. Pre-match hand-

shakes in technical area for the two coaches and referee "as a sign of respect. FIFA showed its determination to increase playing time and fairness by reminding Confederations Cup referees to enforce existing rules on time-wasting. Referees in Russia also must monitor stoppages - including goal celebrations - more strictly by adding more additional time.

Marco van Basten, the former Netherlands and AC Milan great now leading FIFA's technical department, said on Thursday that referees typically add only one minute to the first half and three minutes to the second half.

Still, those were exactly the amounts of stoppage time added to the Russia-New Zealand game by referee Wilmar Roldan of Colombia.

FIFA has already signaled openness to radical change by Van Basten's suggestion this year that the offside rule could be abolished.

That idea was mostly met with confusion and derision, and Van Basten declined to discuss it when asked at a briefing in St Petersburg on the eve of the Confederations Cup.

"What is going to be in the future, that's not the point at the moment," he said. — AP



**KAZAN:** Mexico supporters pose ahead of the 2017 Confederations Cup group A football match between Portugal and Mexico at the Kazan Arena in Kazan yesterday. — AFP

## VILLA SCORES TWICE, NEW YORK CITY BEATS SEATTLE

**NEW YORK:** David Villa didn't let the rain bother him Saturday, scoring twice in leading New York City FC to 2-1 win over defending MLS champion Seattle. The Spanish striker scored his 50th and 51st MLS career goals in the second half as New York rallied for a win to move into third place in the Eastern Conference.

Seattle led at half time after Cristian Roldan's 40th-minute goal. But Villa tied it with a penalty kick in the 52nd. And 25 minutes later, he volleyed home Jack Harrison's cross.

At Toronto, Jozy Altidore and Jordan Hamilton scored second-half goals as league-leading Toronto FC beat D.C. United 2-0 to stretch its home unbeaten streak to nine games.

Sebastian Giovinco assisted on both goals. The game marked captain Michael Bradley's 100th in all competitions for Toronto. It also was the first opportunity for coach Greg Vanney to field all three designated players - Bradley, Altidore and Giovinco - since May 3 due to injuries and international duty.

And the three stars engineered the breakthrough goal in the 60th minute after Bradley broke up a D.C. United attack. He fed the ball to Giovinco, who split the defense with a perfect pass to Altidore. The US international pushed the ball ahead with a fine first touch and then calmly beat Hamid from the edge of the box for his seventh of the season.

Hamilton made it 2-0 on glancing

header in the 85th. In other games, Chicago retained second spot with a 2-1 win over New England, while the top three teams in the Western Conference had to share the points: Sporting Kansas City finished 0-0 with San Jose, FC Dallas was held 1-1 by Vancouver and Houston was held 2-2 by Los Angeles.

At Foxborough, Nemanja Nikolic and Luis Solignac scored as Chicago handed New England its first home loss of the season. Nikolic scored his MLS-leading 13th goal in the 18th minute, beating an off-side trap and, after having his initial shot blocked, firing in the rebound. Three quick passes found Solignac in front of the goal as he finished from close range in the 61st.

Alan Gordon went on in the 80th minute and scored nine minutes later to give Colorado a comeback 2-1 victory over Portland. Gordon headed in a cross over a defender for his second straight late winner in MLS play.

He ripped off his jersey and went into the crowd to celebrate, for which he was given a yellow card. On June 3, Gordon entered late and scored in the 86th in a 2-1 victory over the Columbus Crew.

Atlanta United had a 3-1 win over Columbus in a game delayed 22 minutes because of lightning, and Jonathan Spector scored in the fourth minute of stoppage time for his first MLS goal to give Orlando City a 3-3 draw with Montreal. — AP

### PREVIEW

## GREEN GERMANY EXPECT TOUGH CONFED CUP START

**SOCHI:** World champions Germany will pit an inexperienced line-up against Australia in their Confederations Cup opener today with striker Timo Werner anticipating a robust challenge from the Socceroos.

With an average age of just 24 years, four months, and a combined total of 179 international appearances, Germany have the most youthful squad of the eight Confed Cup teams.

Only three of the squad-Arsenal's Shkodran Mustafi, Matthias Ginter and Julian Draxler-lifted the World Cup in Brazil three years ago, but none of the trio played in the Rio de Janeiro final.

With the likes of Thomas Mueller, Manuel Neuer, Mats Hummels and Jerome Boateng all left at home, Joshua Kimmich is the only Bayern Munich star in the Germany squad.

On the back of his breakthrough season with RB Leipzig, striker Timo Werner, 21, expects a fiery start in Sochi for the untested, green Germans. "We don't all know how fit we are after a long and hard season," admitted Werner.

"Now comes an unpleasant game in which the Australians will try, with their physiques and toughness, to take us on. "But we have a duty to win the three points. We need to get a quick goal and then exert some dominance."

A year out from the World Cup in Russia, there has never been a better time for the Socceroos to poach a first win over Germany at a major competition at the fourth attempt. The world champions have made no secret of the fact their goal is not to win the Confederations Cup, but to blood their next generation of stars.

"The first priority is to develop the team, the

second to win here," said team manager Oliver Bierhoff bluntly.

### PRESSURE ON DRAXLER

With the likes of key midfielders Mesut Ozil and Toni Kroos rested, the pressure falls on 23-year-old captain Draxler. With 30 caps,

the Paris St-Germain star has the most experience and is expected to lead by example in the attacking midfield role. World-class goalkeeper Neuer is recovering from foot surgery, so Bayer Leverkusen's shot-stopper Bernd Leno is tasked with keeping Australia's attack at bay. — AFP



**SOCHI:** Germany's midfielder Julian Draxler (L) and Germany's defender Jonas Hector attend a training session during the Russia 2017 Confederation Cup football tournament in Sochi yesterday. — AFP

# Sports

Lexi Thompson takes one-shot lead in Meijer LPGA Classic



Ward stops Sergey Kovalev to win light heavy rematch



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LONDON: Pakistan's Sarfraz Ahmed lifts the trophy as Pakistan players celebrate their win at the presentation after the ICC Champions Trophy final cricket match between India and Pakistan at The Oval in London yesterday. Pakistan thrashed title-holders India by 180 runs to win the Champions Trophy final at The Oval yesterday. — AFP

## SCOREBOARD

LONDON: Scoreboard yesterday in the Champions Trophy final between Pakistan and India at The Oval:

Pakistan		India	
Azhar Ali run out	59	Shikhar Dhawan c Ahmed b Amir	21
Fakhar Zaman c Jadeja b Pandya	114	Virat Kohli c Shadab b Amir	5
Babar Azam c Singh b Jadhav	46	Yuvraj Singh lbw b Shadab	22
Shoaib Malik c Jadhav b Kumar	12	Mahendra Singh Dhoni c Wasim b Hasan	4
Mohammad Hafeez not out	57	Kedar Jadhav c Ahmed b Shadab	9
Imad Wasim not out	25	Hardik Pandya run out	76
Extras: (9lb, 13w, 3nb)	25	Ravindra Jadeja c Azam b Junaid	15
TOTAL: (for 4 wickets)	338	Ravichandran Ashwin s Ahmed b Hasan	1
Overs:	50	Bhuvneshwar Kumar not out	1
Did not bat: Sarfraz Ahmed, Mohammad Amir, Shadab Khan, Hasan Ali, Junaid Khan.		Jasprit Bumrah c Ahmed b Hasan	1
Fall of wickets: 1-128, 2-200, 3-247, 4-267		Extras: (2lb, 1w)	3
Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 10-2-44-1, Jasprit Bumrah 9-0-68-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 10-0-70-0, Hardik Pandya 10-0-53-1, Ravindra Jadeja 8-0-67-0, Kedar Jadhav 3-0-27-1.		Total: (all out)	158
		Overs: 30.3	
		Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-6, 3-33, 4-54, 5-54, 6-72, 7-152, 8-156, 9-156, 10-158	
		Bowling: Mohammad Amir 6-2-16-3, Junaid Khan 6-1-20-1, Mohammad Hafeez 1-0-13-0, Hasan Ali 6.3-1-19-3, Shadab Khan 7-0-60-2, Imad Wasim 0.3-0-3-0, Fakhar Zaman 3.3-0-25-0.	
		Result: Pakistan wins by 180 runs	

## PAKISTAN CRUSHES INDIA TO WIN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

LONDON: Mohammad Hafeez hailed Pakistan's team spirit as the key to their stunning Champions Trophy final triumph against India. Just two weeks ago, Pakistan were at a low ebb after crashing to a humiliating 124-run defeat against India in the group stage.

But Pakistan batsman Hafeez says his team-mates vowed to stick together despite the avalanche of criticism and they reaped the rewards in memorable fashion yesterday.

Gaining sweet revenge over India, Pakistan thrashed their arch rivals by 180 runs at The Oval to win the Champions Trophy for the first time.

"It's a great team effort. After losing the first game, we had no chance to lose again," said Hafeez, who played an important role in the win with a classy 57

out. "We showed great character. I'm so happy for the nation of Pakistan who have been waiting for this for a long time." Fakhar Zaman's maiden one-day international hundred laid the foundations for Pakistan's formidable total of 338-4.

After man of the match Fakhar finished on 114, Pakistan pace bowler Mohammad Amir ripped the heart out of the India batting line-up with the wickets of Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and Virat Kohli.

India, looking to retain the Champions Trophy, went down without a fight as they collapsed to 158 all out and Amir felt his spell was crucial.

"Rohit, Dhawan and Kohli have been in tremendous form so I was looking for early wickets and I did it," he said. Pakistan's first global 50-over title since the 1992

World Cup reflected well on their Australian coach Mickey Arthur, who kept his squad from losing focus after their dismal display against the Indians earlier in the tournament. Arthur admitted Pakistan were desperate to prove they could go toe to toe with tournament favourites India with the title up for grabs.

### CHAMPION BATSMAN

"It's been an up and down ride for us but I'm so proud of the boys," Arthur said. "The whole group kept believing, we knew we were better than what we showed in the first game against India.

"That was an aberration. We want to be more consistent as a team." Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed added: "After the India match in the group stage, I told the

players the tournament hadn't finished yet. Credit goes to my boys." Fakhar is a great impact player, he played like a champion batsman. Amir bowled brilliantly but all my bowlers bowled really well."

India captain Kohli conceded Pakistan were worthy winners and, while he claimed to be proud of his players, his admission that the new champions played with more passion was a damning indictment.

"I want to congratulate Pakistan first, they had an amazing tournament. The way they turned things around speaks volumes for the talent they have in their side," Kohli said. "They were more intense and passionate today, they deserved to win. I'm disappointed but I have a smile on my face because I'm proud of how my team has performed in the tournament overall." — AFP

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## FED RAISES INTEREST RATES DESPITE DECLINING INFLATION

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DOHA: A general view of the Qatari Hamad port in the capital. — AFP

## QATAR CRISIS 'BLESSING IN DISGUISE' FOR SEAPORT

### DIPLOMATIC ISSUES MAY CREATE NEW TRANSPORT DEALS

**HAMAD PORT, Qatar:** Qatar's main seaport shows all the signs of having weathered the storm. Workers in hard hats monitor as giant yellow cranes lift hundreds of containers off cargo ships onto lorries waiting ashore. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain severed diplomatic, trade and transport ties with import-dependent Qatar 10 days ago, accusing it of supporting Iran and funding Islamist groups, charges Doha denies.

The spat initially halted much traffic to its Hamad Port and raised fears of food and other shortages. But after launching new direct shipping routes to cope with the crisis, port officials say the worst is over and the episode may even help gas-rich Qatar seal new transport deals that do not rely on Gulf neighbors. "It's a blessing in disguise," a port official said as cargo was unloaded on Wednesday. "We're looking at signing agreements with shipping companies that can improve direct services instead of having to come through Jebel Ali" in Dubai.

The first ship on a new direct weekly service from India's Mundra Port was expected to arrive on Friday. Another

route to India's Nhava Sheva Port was announced late on Wednesday, after two new services opened this week from Oman, which has remained neutral during the crisis. Earlier this week the world's biggest container line, Maersk of Denmark, said it would accept new bookings for container shipments to Qatar from Oman. Several Maersk containers could be seen parked among rows of shipments at Hamad Port. Operations manager Omar El-Khayat said another deal with Maersk was being discussed.

#### Some services hit

Mediation efforts to end the crisis have intensified, including by the United States, which has strong military ties with Qatar, host of the largest U.S. air base in the Middle East. Two US Navy ships went through Hamad Port on Wednesday for a joint exercise with Qatar. Port officials said the cutting of transport links by Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain with Qatar continues to affect some services.

Ships from China's Shanghai, which normally go through Jebel Ali, have to be re-routed via Iraq, adding

seven days to a normally 20-day voyage, one official said. Not all lines have resumed shipping services. China's COSCO Shipping Lines Co Ltd, Taiwan's Evergreen and Hong Kong Kong's OOCL suspended container services to and from Qatar.

The closure of land borders is also likely to put pressure on Qatar to ensure continuity of supplies. Trade sources say sugar imports remain frozen given the country's main suppliers are Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Hamad Port's general cargo terminal can handle 1.7 million tons of goods per year, according to Qatar's transport ministry, but it is not a bulk cargo port. Officials would not say at what capacity Hamad Port was operating compared to before the crisis, or whether it could handle increased demand. The Qatar Ports Management Company, Mwani, gave no import figures for June. But it hoped new services would help make up the shortfall.

#### Livestock and Gabbro rock

Mwani's Hamad Al-Ansar said ties with Turkey and

Iran, which have flown goods into Doha since the boycott, might expand, with Turkish vessels already on their way. "We'll open a relationship with anyone who can bring cargo." For now, port employees have their work cut out. As one large ship took back empty containers later in the day, a second one arrived bringing livestock from Australia.

"The first five days of the crisis there were fewer shipments. Now it's back to normal. I've seen the schedule and it looks packed," said a Kenyan supervisor. Hamad Port's imports include large quantities of food and building materials for construction projects including stadiums for the 2022 soccer World Cup, and a metro line running alongside highways that stretch out of Doha.

The boycott raised concerns that projects could be delayed if building material including from the Far East and South Asia is choked. But at the nearby Mesaeid stockyard, vast dunes of gabbro rock, around 10 million tons' worth according to officials, lay stockpiled for construction. "It's business as usual," the port official said. — Reuters

## KANSAS, WHERE TRUMP'S FAVORED TAX DOCTRINE HAS ALREADY FAILED

**WASHINGTON:** Cut taxes to boost growth: Long before Donald Trump became president, Kansas conducted a real-world experiment with this formula in the hopes of reviving its economy. But today the Midwestern state is beating a hasty retreat after the demonstrable failure of the ideas that have been embraced by the White House. In 2012, staunchly conservative Governor Sam Brownback rolled out what he promised would be "a shot of adrenaline into the heart of the Kansas economy," which depends heavily on agriculture and aerospace.

Similar in many ways to the Trump administration's fiscal plans, the shock therapy cut local income taxes for the very wealthy and eliminated certain taxes on small business revenue, particularly for the self-employed. Brownback promised the strategy would create thousands of jobs, encourage Americans to move to the state and help make it "the best place in America to start and grow a small business."

Five years later, the party is over. Growth has plummeted to below one percent, from three percent in 2012, falling well below the national average, according to the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank. As a result, tax revenues dried up, blowing a \$900-million hole in the state's budget in two years, creating a crisis in which the government is struggling to provide basic services.

"The revenue loss was much larger than anticipated because people took advantage of the cuts by turning themselves into small businesses or independents to avoid paying any taxes," said Alan Cole of the Tax Foundation in

Washington. In March, the state Supreme Court ruled the education system in Kansas failed to meet minimum standards guaranteed under the state constitution.

#### Rejecting the governor

"This plan was an absolute disaster. It caused economic destruction," said Jim Ward, leader of the opposition Democrats in the Kansas House of Representatives. "There was just nowhere you could point to where it was successful in terms of providing core services." But even Republicans now repudiate the Brownback tax plan.

After losing 12 seats in the 2016 elections, the large Republican majority has approved a \$1.2 billion tax hike over two years—overriding a veto this week to do so, in a show of determined opposition to the governor. Brownback deplored the vote, saying "it's wrong for the long-term view of the state of Kansas, it's wrong for growth." But even supporters of low taxes are finding it hard to defend him.

"It was a good idea that was poorly implemented," said Dave Trabert of the Kansas Policy Institute, a think tank that promotes free market economics and "personal freedom for all Kansans." "There was success but the governor made the classic mistake of over-promising and displayed political exuberance," he added. Such warnings could reverberate well beyond the state's borders, all the way to Washington, where Trump has vowed to double economic growth to three percent while slashing corporate taxes by 20 percentage points, and providing tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. — AFP

## DUTCH FIRM AIMS TO DELIVER FIRST FLYING CAR NEXT YEAR

**RAAMSDONKSVEER:** From "The Jetsons" to "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang", flying cars have long captured the imagination. While several futuristic projects are under way in different countries, a Dutch design may be the first one sold and soaring into the skies. After years of testing, the PAL-V company aims to pip its competitors to the post. It is poised to start production on what they bill as a world first: a three-wheeled gyrocopter-type vehicle which can carry two people and will be certified for use on the roads and in the skies.

"This kind of dream has been around for 100 years now. When the first airplane was invented people already thought 'How can I make that driveable on the road?'" chief marketing officer Markus Hess told AFP. The PAL-V (Personal Air and Land Vehicle) firm, based in Raamsdonksveer in the Netherlands, is aiming to deliver its first flying car to its first customer by the end of 2018.

The lucky owner will need both a driving licence and a pilot's licence. But with the keys in hand, the owner will be able to drive to an airfield for the short take-off, and after landing elsewhere drive to the destination in a "door-to-door" experience. Different versions of a flying car are being developed in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Japan, China and the United States. But final assembly on the PAL-V will start in October, with the company seeking to be the first to go into commercial production.

#### 'No falling from sky'

The PAL-V uses normal unleaded petrol for its two 100-horsepower engines, and can fly 400 to 500 kilometers (248 to 310 miles) at an altitude of up to 3,500 meters (11,500 feet). On the road it has a top speed of around 170 kilometers an hour. In 2019, the company expects to produce

between 50 and 100 vehicles, before ramping up to "quite a few hundred" in 2020.

It won't be cheap. The first edition, the PAL-V Liberty, costs 499,000 euros (\$599,000), while the slightly cheaper PAL-V Liberty Sport, to be made next, has a price tag of 299,000 euros. PAL-V was founded in 2007 by Robert Dingemans and pilot John Bakker. "In the beginning it was, let's make a gyrocopter drivable," said Hess. But the company, which has some 40 to 50 employees, realised the weight and length of a gyrocopter's blades gave the vehicle a high centre of gravity when driving, especially taking corners.

They have designed the car so at the flick of a button the blades fold down and gather like a bat's wings on the top. And they have incorporated into the car a 2005 breakthrough when the Dutch company Carver invented a tilting system for three-wheelers to counter the high centre of gravity and make it roadworthy.

The company insists the PAL-V is not a helicopter, in which the blades are powered by an engine. It is a gyroplane, in which the blades rotate thanks to airflow. Even if both engines cut out, the blades will still turn, so "even if you go at zero speed it still keeps rotating and you are not going to drop out of the sky," said Hess. — AFP



Concept art for the PAL-V

# FED RAISES INTEREST RATES DESPITE DECLINING INFLATION

## NBK MONEY MARKET REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Last week, the Federal Reserve decided to keep its plans for the gradual normalization of monetary policy unchanged, despite recent weakness in both activity and inflation. The Fed also continued to signal that it plans to raise rates one more time later this year followed by a further three hikes in 2018 and ultimately towards their longer-run 3.0% estimate. Additionally, members outlined the plan towards balance sheet normalization, stating that it intends to start the unwinding process this year if the economy evolves as anticipated.

Meanwhile, US 10-year treasury yields dropped following the Fed's announcement as recent weak inflation data left investors wondering if the Federal Reserve would be able to hike once more this year. As a result, Fed fund futures are pricing a 16% chance of rate hike in September, indicating doubts over a third hike, which might limit the recent strength in the greenback.

At its latest MPC meeting, the Bank of England provided hawkish policy signal that they have moved closer to raising interest rates, stating that the bank has become less tolerant towards above-target inflation. The move has surprised the market on the UK policy front and added further to the Sterling's volatility in the near-term. The BoE's signal comes as a surprise in the aftermath of the UK's general election result. The move indicates that the central bank is not overly concerned by the recent political developments.

Meanwhile, recent data in the UK have shown inflation accelerating faster than the central bank projected just last month, with the rate now at 2.9 percent. Citing the pound's recent decline, the BOE said inflation could overshoot the 2 percent target by more than previously thought. In Asia, the Bank of Japan kept its monetary policy unchanged and has upgraded its economic assessment and signaled that growth is shifting into higher gear in its latest meeting. However, Governor Haruhiko Kurod reassured markets that the BOJ will maintain its massive stimulus program with inflation far from reaching the BOJ's 2 percent target, despite other central bank's moving towards gradual monetary policy tightening.

On the currency front, the US Dollar initially gained across the board after the Federal Reserve raised its interest rates. The currency then gained more momentum as initial jobless claims and the Philly-Fed manufacturing index positively exceeded expectations. However, the greenback's strength was short lived as concerns over subdued inflation combined with disappointing consumer confidence and housing data curbed expectations of a further rate hike, pushing the dollar lower.

The Euro opened the week at 1.1193 and reached a high of 1.1295 against US Dollar. However, the pair dropped as the Federal Reserve increased interest rates for the second time this year and managed to reach a low of 1.1130. The currency closed the week at 1.1197.

The Sterling Pound managed to reach a short lived high at 1.2817 at the beginning of the week. However, weak wages combined with political uncertainty pushed the currency to lose its early gains. However, the currency managed to regain its strong footing amid expectations that the Bank of England could increase rates in the near future. The currency closed the week at 1.2780.

The Japanese Yen closed the week as the weakest major currency as other major central banks start to move towards normalizing their monetary loose policies. The pair opened the week at 110.35 and dropped to low of 108.83 as disappointing inflation data pushed the dollar lower. However, the widening divergence in monetary policy between the Fed and the BoJ pushed the pair to a high of 1.1142. The USDJPY lost some momentum and closed the week at

110.91. On the commodities side, oil prices came off their highs and ended the week in negative territory, as investors continued to doubt whether Opec and its allies' global agreement to cut production would be able to overcome the glut in supply amid rising US output. West Texas and Brent Crude closed the week at \$44.74 and \$47.37 respectively.

### Fed hikes interest rates as widely expected

The Federal Reserve raised interest rates last week for the second time in three months and said it would begin cutting its holdings of bonds and other securities this year, signaling its confidence in a growing US economy and strengthening job market. In lifting its benchmark lending rate by a quarter percentage point to a target range of 1.00 percent to 1.25 percent and forecasting one more hike this year, the Fed seemed to largely brush off a recent run of mixed economic data. The US central bank's rate-setting committee said the economy had continued to strengthen, job gains remained solid and indicated it viewed a recent softness in inflation as largely transitory.

The Fed also gave a first clear outline on its plan to reduce its \$4.2 trillion portfolio of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities, most of which were purchased in the wake of the 2007-2009 financial crisis and recession. "What I can tell you is that we anticipate reducing reserve balances and our overall balance sheet to levels appreciably below those seen in recent years but larger than before the financial crisis," Fed Chair Janet Yellen said in a press conference following the release of the Fed's policy statement. She added that the balance sheet



**NEW YORK:** A Snapchat banner hangs on the facade of the New York Stock Exchange.—AP photos

0.4 percent rise. Core producer prices rose at an annualized rate of 2.1 percent last month, compared to forecasts for a 2.0 percent increase and a gain of 1.9 percent in April. Core prices are viewed by the Federal Reserve as a better measure of longer-term inflationary pressure because they exclude the volatile food and energy categories. Moreover, when producers pay more for goods, they are more likely to pass price increases on to the consumer, so PPI could be considered a leading indicator of inflation.

**US consumer price index dropped**  
Consumer inflation unexpectedly declined in May, pressured by lower prices of gasoline and goods. The Consumer

recorded their biggest decline since March 2010.

### EUROPE & UK

#### Euro Area inflation fell

Euro area annual inflation was 1.4% in May, down from 1.9% in previous month. In May 2016 the rate was -0.1%. European Union annual inflation was 1.6% in May, down from 2.0% in April. A year earlier the rate was -0.1%. These figures come from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. The largest upward impacts to euro area annual inflation came from fuels for transport, accommodation services and heating oil, while telecommunications, garments and social protection had the biggest downward impacts.

#### The Swiss National Bank leaves policy unchanged

The Swiss National Bank left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at record-low levels and reiterated that it is still prepared to take further action to weaken the franc. In a statement, the SNB said it was keeping its benchmark interest rate unchanged at -0.75%, in line with expectations. The central bank also left the target range for the three-month Libor unchanged at between -1.25% and -0.25%. Furthermore, the accompanying rate statement released after the announcement said that "the Swiss franc is still significantly overvalued." The SNB added that it will "remain active in the foreign exchange market, as necessary," while taking the overall currency situation into consideration.

#### Bank of England shocked markets

The Bank of England shocked financial markets on Thursday when it said three of its policymakers voted for an interest rate increase, the closest it has come to hiking rates since 2007, even with signs of a slowdown in Britain's economy. The surprisingly tight 5-3 vote adds questions over monetary policy to doubt over Britain's political outlook since Prime Minister Theresa May failed to win a parliamentary majority in an election last week. BoE policymakers Ian McCafferty and Michael Saunders joined previous rate rise advocate Kristin Forbes in voting to reverse the BoE's decision last August to cut rates to a record-low 0.25 percent.

Financial markets were pricing in a roughly 50 percent chance of an interest rate hike by next June, compared with 20 percent earlier this week. However, many economists said they still saw no rate hike on the horizon possibly for another two years. Britain's economy slowed sharply in early 2017 as consumers felt the pinch from higher inflation and slowing wage growth. That had led most investors to think it was unlikely that the BoE would quickly follow the lead of the U.S. Federal Reserve which raised interest rates for the second time in three months on Wednesday.

## GLOBAL ECONOMY CREATING AN IMBALANCE IN ASSET CLASSES

By Hayder Tawfik

There are strong signs that global economic activities are picking up nicely. The pick-up in economic growth is spreading widely and evenly. Starting from the biggest economy in the world, US economy is still growing albeit not accelerating but still growing and helping pull the rest of the world with it. However, there is a great concern among investors not about the actual global economic growth but about where to invest safely. The problem is to find a new asset class that is safe and gives good return for global investors. There is an imbalance in all asset classes regardless which economy to look at.



Some nations keep accumulating wealth and saving such as Japan and China and Germany but their economies and capital markets lack the sophistication to create local risk free instruments for at least their own savers. As for professional investors, there are diversified investments assets that they can tap into when it is needed. For those economies and some other rich nations, the reliance on the most developed economies to offer them different asset classes continues and this is where the risk to the global economy can happen.

Here I am talking about increase in volatility either in the foreign Exchange, fixed income or the commodity markets. Most of the world's savings and wealth are still parked in the US Treasury market. This can easily be explained by just looking the US yield curve and the very low yield on long term US Treasury. US treasury is the safest asset class in the world but investors can't avoid volatility when the global economy still not synchronized.

### Savings glut

The world economy is still facing a savings glut that refuses to go away. This is simply savings that are eating away from accelerating global economic growth and job creations for those nations that faces saving glut. One of the consequences of this is the record low of yield on most developed government bonds even as the Federal Reserve hikes interest rates.

These days, current account imbalances among the US, China and Japan have come down, and Asia's biggest economies are carrying higher debt loads, undermining the idea that there's too much savings. Instead, the problem is that emerging economies haven't yet been able to develop assets that investors are willing to hold as stores of value and collateral when times get tough. Doing that requires strong levels of confidence in the rule of law, equitable regulation and belief that money can be withdrawn by the investor whenever needed.

This problem not only apply to the emerging markets but some others that have huge savings and wealth such as Japan, China and Germany. They still do not have a sophisticated and diversified capital markets that match the real sectors that reflect their economies. The imbalance of a growing economy and underdeveloped capital market, make their savers and investors target the safe-haven assets such as the US Treasuries, German bunds, and the British gilts. These fixed income assets are becoming increasingly rare and in short supply. Obviously offering those savers miserable low yields.

### Overseas investors

Purchases by central banks in the developed economies of their own government bonds have made the situation worse for overseas investors. It also made the supply of such government bonds limited. The Federal Reserve is trying to unwind this unusual situation by normalizing its interest rates by raising rates with its attention on plans to dial back its \$4.5 trillion balance sheet.

China, as the world's second-largest economy, offers the best gamble to develop a substitute to the US Treasuries market, though its capital controls have left foreign investors wary to take full advantage of new avenues to invest in its government bonds. China's unpredictable and volatile foreign policy against its neighbors and the US, discourages its domestic and foreign investors to accept Chinese assets haven at least for now. Very strong and dynamic demands have also contributed to the shortage of haven assets. International investors are scared to purchase what was perceived to be haven government bonds in some developed economies that turned out to be less than safe in the global crises. Investing in a world with a more subdued growth path since, investors have piled into assets seen as low risk such as US treasury, Japanese government and German bonds.

China can create an alternative to US Treasury but that is if the Chinese government is serious and able to do so. That will take a long time. The European central bank is giving and encouraging the Chinese government to do so by shifting a small portion of its dollar reserves into the Chinese Yuan. But that's one drop in an ocean of official holdings that's on the rise again. In the meantime, international investors and savers are still chasing haven assets and the worry about the unusual configuration of asset prices and their volatility and reaction to shocks or any bad news goes on.



**TOKYO:** People look at an electronic stock board of a securities firm.

normalization could be put into effect "relatively soon." The initial cap for the reduction of the Fed's Treasuries holdings would be set at \$6 billion per month, increasing by \$6 billion increments every three months over a 12-month period until it reached \$30 billion per month. Meanwhile for agency debt and mortgage-backed securities, the cap will be \$4 billion per month initially, rising by \$4 billion at quarterly intervals over a year until it reached \$20 billion per month.

### US producer price index stayed unchanged

Producer Price Index for final demand remained unchanged in May. Final demand prices rose 0.5 percent in April and edged down 0.1 percent in March. Year-over-year, the producer price index rose 2.4 percent in May, compared to market expectations for a gain of 2.3 percent and following a 2.5 percent increase in the preceding month.

Meanwhile, the core producer price index, that excludes food and energy, increased by 0.3 percent in May, more than forecasts for a gain of 0.2 percent and compared to the previous month's

Price Index fell by 0.1 percent for the month versus an expectation of a 0.2 percent rise. On a yearly basis, the index rose 1.9 percent in May against a 2.0 percent consensus, while core CPI rose 1.7 percent versus 1.9 consensus. In the retail sector, the industry recorded its largest drop in 16 months as US citizens cut spending at gas stations, department stores, electronics shops and fewer Americans are buying new cars.

### US retail sales fell sharply

Retail sales recorded their biggest drop in more than a year in May amid declining purchases of motor vehicles and discretionary spending, which could temper expectations for a sharp acceleration in economic growth in the second quarter. Retail sales fell 0.3 percent last month after an unrevised 0.4 percent increase in April. May's decline was the largest since January 2016 and confounded economists' expectation for a 0.1 percent gain. Year-on-year basis retail sales increased 3.8 percent in May. While some of the drop in monthly retail sales reflected lower gasoline prices, which weighed on receipts at service stations, sales at electronics and appliance stores

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.744
Indian Rupees	4.723
Pakistani Rupees	2.898
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.985
Nepali Rupees	2.945
Singapore Dollar	221.570
Hongkong Dollar	38.988
Bangladesh Taka	3.763
Philippine Peso	6.100
Thai Baht	8.968

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.147
Qatari Riyal	83.578
Omani Riyal	790.281
Bahraini Dinar	808.020
UAE Dirham	82.850

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.050
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.737
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.221
Tunisian Dinar	124.890
Jordanian Dinar	428.970
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.027
Syrian Lira	2.168
Morocco Dirham	31.513

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.100
Euro	343.630
Sterling Pound	391.960
Canadian dollar	231.960
Turkish Lira	87.260

Swiss Franc	315.620
Australian Dollar	234.770
US Dollar Buying	302.900

20 Gram	257.580
10 Gram	131.710
5 Gram	66.700

### 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
British Pound	0.382807	0.392807
Czech Korune	0.004999	0.016999
Danish Krone	0.041708	0.046708
Euro	0.335870	0.344870
Norwegian Krone	0.031969	0.037169
Romanian Leu	0.084278	0.084278
Slovakia	0.009085	0.019085
Swedish Krona	0.030929	0.035929
Swiss Franc	0.305531	0.316531
Turkish Lira	0.081635	0.091935
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.223343	0.235343
New Zealand Dollar	0.214724	0.224224
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.225110	0.234140
Georgina Lari	0.137347	0.137347
US Dollars	0.300000	0.304400
US Dollars Mint	0.300500	0.304400
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003384	0.003968
Chinese Yuan	0.043216	0.046718
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037098	0.039648

Indian Rupee	0.004250	0.004938
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002663	0.002843
Kenyan Shilling	0.002994	0.002994
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067304	0.073304
Nepalese Rupee	0.002974	0.003144
Pakistan Rupee	0.002705	0.002995
Philippine Peso	0.006020	0.006320
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.214855	0.224855
South African Rand	0.017726	0.026226
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001607	0.002187
Taiwan	0.009735	0.009915
Thai Baht	0.008626	0.009176

Bahraini Dinar	0.799209	0.807709
Egyptian Pound	0.014441	0.020349
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423553	0.432553
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019770	0.043770
Nigerian Naira	0.001257	0.001892
Omani Riyal	0.783450	0.789130
Qatar Riyal	0.079239	0.084179
Saudi Riyal	0.080007	0.081307
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.120372	0.128372
Turkish Lira	0.081635	0.091935
UAE Dirhams	0.081370	0.083070
Yemeni Riyal	0.000988	0.001068

## US FARMERS SLAM CUBA CLAMPDOWN

**CHICAGO:** US farm groups criticized President Donald Trump's decision to retreat from his predecessor's opening toward Cuba, saying it could derail huge increases in farm exports that totaled \$221 million last year. A trade delegation from Minnesota, one of the largest US agriculture states, vowed to carry on with its planned visit to Cuba next week. "We're going to continue to beat the drum and let them (the Trump administration) know that trade is good for agriculture," said Kevin Paap, a farmer in the delegation.

Trump signed a presidential directive on Friday rolling back parts of former President Barack

Obama's opening to the Communist-ruled country after a 2014 diplomatic breakthrough between the two former Cold War foes. Farm groups saw the move as a step backward in what had been an improving trade relationship between the two countries which are just 90 miles apart, even though agriculture is not directly targeted.

US law exempts food from a decades-old embargo on US trade with Cuba, but cumbersome rules on how transactions were executed have made deals difficult and costly. Since Obama's detente, substantial headway has been made, however, with shipments of US corn and soybeans to Cuba soaring 420

percent in 2016 from a year earlier to 268,360 tons, US Department of Agriculture data shows. Through the first four months of 2017, total shipments of US grain and soy were 142,860 tons, up from 49,090 tons during the same period of 2016. While the quantities are dwarfed by total US exports-nearly 56 million tonnes of corn alone last year-the added volumes were welcome as farmers face a fourth year of languishing grain prices and cramped incomes.

"At a time when the farm economy is struggling, we ask our leaders in Washington not to close doors on market opportunities for American agriculture," Wesley Spurlock, president of the National

Corn Growers Association, said in a statement. The group sees an opportunity for \$125 million more a year in trade to Cuba. Trump's move could cut off near-term sales and stymie economic development that would drive longer-term demand growth, said Tom Sleight, president of the US Grains Council, a grain trade development organization, in a statement. "Neither of those outcomes is favorable for the US ag sector or the Cuban people," he added. Paap said the United States should be doing more to encourage exports. "It's frustrating because we've made some advances and built those relationships," he said. — Reuters

## THE 'BREAD KING' OF TOGO RISES UP

**LOME:** Clad in the apron of his trade, Bonaventure Boma chides employees while they take steaming baguettes out of the hot ovens that have helped make him "the king of bread" in Togo. From a modest background, Boma has spent 30 years kneading dough and now has two large modern bakeries in Lome, capital of the West African country.

"I'm curious, I travel a lot," Boma, 57, said reflecting on his success. "When I stayed in Senegal 30 years ago, I saw that people already ate a lot of bread and thought, 'Why not in Togo?'" French bread used to be a rare commodity in Togo, not surprising as wheat is not grown in the country and must be imported. But Boma has led the push to widen its appeal, making his flour from sorghum, cassava and yams, all cultivated in northern Togo, where he introduced his baguettes last month.

"Today, bread has become a breakfast habit, and they are even eaten at tea-time," Boma said. Fifty bakeries in Lome now compete in an increasingly competitive market place, with vendors on three-wheeled auto-rickshaws also selling fresh loaves to office staff in the city. A further 100 bakeries are estimated to have opened across the country. It reflects the rising popularity of bread among the urban middle classes in West Africa, with even big French retailers such as La Brioche Doree and Paul opening shops in Dakar and Abidjan.

### 'Secret for kneading bread'

Boma knows all about hard work. As a 13 year old, he worked in groundnut and millet fields for the equivalent of 0.38 euro cents a day (\$0.42), roughly the price of one of his baguettes today. After opening a small grocery store, he founded his first bakery in 1992 with a 45,000 euro bank loan (\$51,100). He said he "learned on the job with a very experienced, elderly baker."

In the 1990s, he sought to improve his baking methods by travelling to Switzerland to take a training course.

"Every baker has his secret for kneading

the bread. I learned several techniques. I quickly introduced different methods once I came back to Lome," he said. The business expanded to two bakeries and his company, Bomaco, is now a household name, employing about 80 people.

He has also invested in a small hotel, two restaurants and a nightclub, which he runs with his daughter, although he says "above all, I stick to my bread. The early days were very difficult because it was a real adventure. But business progressively picked up because of the quality of my loaves," Boma said.

### 'Most in demand'

Boma's bakeries now sell about 5,000 baguettes a day, including to supermarkets, military barracks and the international airport. Despite the colonial legacy of the product, bread sales have risen and Boma has more plans for expanding his business. "The loaves from the Bomaco company have an exceptional flavor," said Albert Djinou, owner of a supermarket in the capital that buys Boma's bread. "It's the bread most in demand among my clients. Mr Boma is the king of bread." The success of Boma's bread even earned him an invitation to represent Togo at a bread fair in Milan two years ago, where a key theme was "feeding the planet."

Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole imported more than 23 million tons of wheat in 2015, according to the US Department of Agriculture, and Boma believes the demand for wheat will continue to grow. An optimist, Boma is now thinking and talking big, with plans to open his own national bakery chain and even a large seafaring hotel. "In the hotel business, in gastronomy, I'm betting on an African clientele. I've just come back from Accra and I noticed that there are almost no white people today in the grand hotels, there are only Africans," he said. "This is my final project," he declares. "If I manage to pull it off, that will be an end to my dreams." — AFP



**PORTLAND:** This file photo taken on October 4, 2015 shows a marijuana plant at the first annual DOPE Cup, a cannabis competition. —AFP

## THE US MARIJUANA RUSH AND WHITE-COLLAR CANNABIS CEOS

### MEGABUCKS IN A GROWING US INDUSTRY

**NEW YORK:** They are bankers, accountants and computer engineers-mainstream in every way but for one respect: Their love of cannabis and the desire to make megabucks in a growing US industry. This week in New York, around 120 people took part in workshops on where and how to invest in cannabis, currently an estimated \$7 billion industry, on the sidelines of the fourth annual World Cannabis Congress.

Mark Giannone and his son Justin, who traveled in from neighboring New Jersey, were among the wannabe cannabis CEOs. "Both of us love the plant. We want to get involved with the industry, we feel that there is more than just the recreational benefits," explained 31-year-old cybersecurity engineer Justin. "We came on a fact-finding mission. There is lots of uncertainty," said his 60-year-old accountant father Mark. "I am not quite ready to roll the dice."

Patricia, currently an auditor and unwilling to give her last name because she works for the federal government, is further down the road with her plans — to open a cannabis dispensary this year in Connecticut with her banker husband. Connecticut, like New Jersey and New York, have legalized the medicinal use of cannabis. But authorities in the two states neighboring the Big Apple have only dispensed a handful of licenses in an industry that is still in its infancy. Convinced of the virtues of cannabis and users themselves, Mark, Justin and Patricia represent a new wave of professionals wanting to invest in the sector before it

is taken over by what Mark calls "Wall Street and the hedge funds."

### Like Silicon Valley

Colorado became the first to legalize marijuana for recreational use in 2012. Now, a total of eight US states-including California and Massachusetts — and the federal capital Washington have such expansive laws. Twenty-nine states and the city of Washington have authorized the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes. Despite the presence of ultra-conservatives in the Trump administration such as Attorney General Jeff Sessions, these budding entrepreneurs hope the sector will continue its path of rapid growth-projected to reach \$23 billion by 2020. They also hope that in the coming years a majority of states will legalize recreational use, pushing the federal government to review its position and do likewise, following other countries, particularly in Europe. "We have seen an increasing number of mainstream individuals, from the finance world, large-scale companies from the agricultural world, the science world, very interested in getting involved," said Karson Humiston, CEO of cannabis industry placement agency Vangst who traveled from Denver for the workshop.

"We are receiving 500 resumes a day," said the 24-year-old entrepreneur, comparing the buzz to "being in the Silicon Valley when the tech industry was just taking off." But one of the speakers, Nichole West, is upfront about the difficulties of making it work in a nascent industry.

A cannabis pioneer, she talks openly about bouncing back from bankruptcy to become, at age 32, vice president of Sweet Leaf, a company of more than 400 people that grows and sells cannabis and offshoot products.

### Confusing laws

The laws in different states are different and often confusing, creating huge uncertainty for companies, she explains. "Stay away from kids!" If the proportion of Americans favorable to legalization is growing-a record 61 percent in April according to a poll carried out by CBS News-a significant number still consider cannabis a dangerous drug. To succeed, you must respect the hostility, West advises.

"Stay away from the kids!" she said. "All it takes is for a mom to get angry at you and then you are the devil!" she tells the class. "Give money to rehab centers... it's really a good thing because it shows that you are aware drugs are a problem even though cannabis is not," she said. Lots of her students, all of whom grew up thinking that smoking a joint is no big deal, seem convinced that cannabis going mainstream is only a matter of time.

They also cite latest studies showing benefits for those with certain illnesses, such as epilepsy. "There is still some stigma, but if you look at the difference between now and five years ago, or 10 years ago when people were totally against it, it has flipped around," says Patricia. "Once you start educating people, they start changing their minds." — AFP



**LOME:** Bonaventure Boma prepares bread in his bakery. — AFP

## SENEGAL'S CORNER SHOPS GO DIGITAL TO TRACK TRADE

**DAKAR:** Corner shops, markets and street traders are still the traditional way most Senegalese do their shopping, but micro-businesses are turning to digital means of tracking clients in the west African nation's informal economy. Amadou Bawol Bah, like many owners of the corner "boutiques" in Senegal, used to have a large ledger he filled in each day with purchases and credit offered to his customers.

"One day I was filling in some details and some cooking oil tipped onto the ledger," he recalled of the moment in 2015 that wiped out years of careful bookkeeping. Bawol Bah's disaster became the inspiration for a locally-designed app called "Weebi", meaning "easy" in the local Pulaar language, and the trader hasn't looked back since downloading it. "Weebi simplifies sales and my invoices. The tablet and smartphone replaces the notebook and pen," explained Weebi's co-founder Cheikh Sene, who began his start-up with two other Senegalese and a Frenchman. A micro-printer for receipts completes the mix, Sene added.

### App ambitions

Around half of Senegal's registered businesses are one-man traders like Bawol Bah, according to government statistics, and operate at thin margins with clients often reliant on credit paid back at the end of the month. In the case of accidents like Bawol Bah's, the app comes with confidential backup for each user, according to Weebi, so data remains safe in case of loss or damage to a device.

After winning a prize for digital innovation at the Africa-France summit held in Bamako in January, Weebi's ambitions are growing in the capital. Although just 40 users so far have the app, which is a standalone download or can be

bought for 118,000 FCFA (\$200) preloaded onto a tablet, 300 clients have shown an interest in the product in the Dakar area.

Marieme Assietou Diagne, who manages a health food delivery business, says she has gained "more free time and better sales" since using the software. "It helps us to follow clients-who are the regulars, the number of orders, and how many meals we are selling per day," she told AFP. "We can reward loyal customers at the end of the month."

### Overcoming illiteracy

Other small business owners have begun using "Somtou", a console launched in May with

an interface specifically designed for Senegal's majority illiterate population that works with icons and voice commands. The upfront costs of buying a laptop and the electricity required to run it all day are prohibitive for most, and training in accountancy programmes or software such as Microsoft Excel hard to come by without paying for classes.

With sturdy casing and bright graphics, Somtou is aimed squarely at market traders and small businesses, said its Cameroonian creator Ted Boulou. "It allows those in the informal sector to manage their work more effectively, and gives them more precise estimates of income, revenue and clients," Boulou said. — AFP



**DAKAR:** Senegalese co-founder of the Weebi start-up Cheikh Sene, poses with digital tablets at his office. — AFP

## CZECH DEMOCRATS PLEDGE TO CUT TAX FOR WORKERS

**PRAGUE:** The Social Democrats, the senior partner in the Czech Republic's ruling coalition but trailing in the polls, will try to lure back voters before the October elections by offering tax cuts for workers while tightening control of big business. The party unveiled its election program days after Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka said he would step down as leader of the country's oldest party in an attempt to reverse its slide in opinion polls.

In its program, the party promised to cut taxes for employees, extend holidays to five weeks, raise the minimum wage to at least 16,000 crowns (\$685) a month by 2022 and other incentives. It also repeated a pledge from previous elections to introduce progressive taxation on big banks' assets and to clamp down on tax evasion

by big business conglomerates. In an attempt to shake things up, Sobotka proposed this week that his more popular and eloquent foreign minister, Lubomir Zaoralek, should lead the party's campaign into the Oct. 20-21 general election.

Zaoralek said on Saturday that the country needed consensus at home to make progress. "The Left will not be convincing if it will not honor national interests," he said, adding that the party could also borrow the slogan "to help and to protect" from police cars. Although the government has presided over a growing economy that helped it deliver the first balanced budget in two decades, the Social Democrats have slipped in the polls behind their main rival and coalition partner ANO. — Reuters

## NEW ZEALAND OPTIMISTIC OF US FREE TRADE DEAL

**SYDNEY:** The United States has indicated it is open to a free trade agreement (FTA) with New Zealand, New Zealand's trade minister said yesterday. Todd McClay visited Washington for high-level trade talks with the administration of US President Donald Trump this week, meeting with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, newly appointed US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and other advisors to the president.

"I've welcomed their interest in an FTA as a demonstration of the good shape our

trading relationship is in," McClay said in a statement. McClay said his center right government wants free-trade agreements to cover 90 percent of goods exported by 2030, up from just over half currently, and the US will be an important part of achieving that. Two-way trade between the two countries reached \$16 billion in 2016, making the United States New Zealand's third-largest individual trading partner, according to New Zealand's ministry of foreign affairs and trade. — Reuters

# US STOCKS END FLAT THOUGH AMAZON DEAL WEIGHS

**NEW YORK:** US stocks mostly edged lower on Friday as Amazon.com's \$13.7 billion deal to buy upscale grocer Whole Foods roiled the retail sector and wounded shares of an array of companies including Wal-Mart and Target. The deal by Amazon, a proven retail disruptor, marked a major step by the internet retailer into the brick-and-mortar retail sector.

Wal-Mart shares sank 5 percent, weighing the most on the S&P 500 and the Dow. Shares of Target, CVS Health and Costco fell between 4 percent and 7 percent. "It's disrupting a number of industries here, and that's what's causing the market problems," said Bruce Bittles, chief investment strategist at Robert W. Baird & Co in

Sarasota, Florida. Amazon shares gained 3.6 percent, making the stock the biggest boost to the S&P 500. Whole Foods shares surged 30 percent.

The S&P consumer staples sector fell 1.3 percent, by far the worst performing major sector. The S&P 500 food and staples retailing index dropped 4.7 percent. Grocery chain Kroger was the biggest loser on the S&P 500, down 11.3 percent, while Supervalu dropped 12.8 percent. "I would not like to be somebody playing in the grocery space right now," said Jan Rogers Kniffen, chief executive of retail consultancy firm J Rogers Kniffen WWE in New York.

### Moving money

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 6.71

points, or 0.03 percent, to 21,366.61, the S&P 500 lost 1.65 points, or 0.07 percent, to 2,430.81 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 9.45 points, or 0.15 percent, to 6,156.06. The technology sector fell 0.2 percent, continuing its recent slump. Tech has led the S&P 500's 8.5 percent rally this year, but is on track for its second week of declines, prompting questions over whether investors are moving money into other sectors.

"I think we need to see more of a pullback to say there is a serious rotation going on as opposed to just some profits coming off the top," said Chuck Carlson, chief executive officer at Horizon Investment Services in Hammond, Indiana. Energy shares rose 1.1 percent, prop-

ping up the S&P 500. Oil prices edged up from 2017 lows as some producers cut back on exports.

US homebuilding fell for a third month in May to the lowest in eight months as construction activity declined broadly, while the University of Michigan said its barometer of US consumer sentiment unexpectedly fell in early June. The Japanese yen rose against the dollar, reversing course after sliding to a two-week low, when the Bank of Japan left its mass money printing program unchanged, maintaining the contrast with the Federal Reserve, which signaled further tightening this week.

The weaker-than-expected US data also weighed on US Treasury yields as it fueled

uncertainty about the US rate outlook. Benchmark 10-year Treasuries were last up 2/32 in price to yield 2.155 percent, compared with 2.162 percent late Thursday. "There are some very serious concerns about the Fed tightening right now and about the Fed reducing their balance sheet right now. We're potentially prompting a recession here," said Stephen Massocca, senior vice president at Wedbush Securities in San Francisco. Oil prices staged a modest rebound as some producers reduced exports and US rig additions slowed.

Brent crude futures rose 45 cents to settle at \$47.37 per barrel, while US crude settled at \$44.74, up 28 cents. Both benchmarks notched a weekly loss exceeding 1.6 percent. —Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Sunday 18 June 2017						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing			
Price Index	▲ 42.41	6,853.09	6,810.68			
Weighted Index	▲ 5.93	405.72	399.79			
KSX 15	▲ 18.70	919.97	901.27			

Volume	45,478,430
Value (KWD)	12,204,019
Number of Trades	1,986

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KDI)	Trades	Last Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90 ▲ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	349 ▲ 0.0
NAFESCO	1.510	1.400	9,088	12,775	6	1,510 ▲ 2.0
ENERGIYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	49.0 ▲ 0.0
GPI	37.5	36.5	1,038,950	38,468	40	37.5 ▲ 1.1
ASAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87 ▲ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>1,048,878</b>	<b>51,243</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1050.77 ▲ 8.90</b>
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290 ▲ 0.0
BPCO	579	570	210,141	120,682	12	579 ▲ 0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	590 ▲ 0.0
ALGOURAN	332	332	72,402	24,057	6	332 ▼ -1.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>282,633</b>	<b>144,749</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1241.99 ▼ -1.40</b>
KCEM	494	430	20,907	9,237	9	470 ▼ -30.0
CABLE	415	415	18,650	7,740	1	415 ▼ -5.0
SHP	216	216	20	4	1	216 ▲ 0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960 ▲ 0.0
PAPER	270	270	2	1	1	270 ▲ 0.0
MRC	95	73	21,207	1,951	7	90 ▲ 0.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	265 ▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208 ▲ 0.0
KBMAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136 ▲ 0.0
NICBM	190	190	34,916	6,634	2	190 ▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51 ▲ 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	108 ▲ 0.0
GYPSSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95 ▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	58	58	30,000	1,740	1	58 ▲ 0.0
AGLYT	780	742	3,895,215	2,961,938	184	780 ▲ 40.0
EDU	374	360	365,741	132,746	71	350 ▲ 0.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	43.3 ▲ 0.0
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60 ▲ 0.0
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160 ▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	4,040	4,000	59,914	240,027	15	4,040 ▲ 40.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150 ▲ 0.0
GFC	64	64	1,500	96	2	64 ▲ 4.0
MAYADEEN	27.1	27.0	227	6	4	27.1 ▼ -0.5
GGC	604	577	13,030	7,869	5	604 ▲ 4.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56 ▲ 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	740 ▲ 0.0
ALAFCO	320	315	327,210	104,171	21	315 ▼ -7.0
MUBARRAD	78	78	5,000	388	1	78 ▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51 ▲ 0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83 ▲ 0.0
GCEM	75	75	38,650	2,730	2	75 ▲ 0.0
QIC	78	78	1,336	104	1	78 ▲ 0.0
FCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84 ▲ 0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90 ▲ 0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90 ▲ 0.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>4,831,525</b>	<b>3,477,382</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>1827.32 ▲ 6.80</b>
PAPCO	100	100	20,574	2,057	2	100 ▲ 0.0
CATTL	220	220	1,200	264	1	220 ▲ 0.0
DANAH	77	71	1,450	104	2	77 ▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,520	2,481	37,464	93,098	16	2,500 ▲ 0.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>60,688</b>	<b>96,123</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1104.96 ▲ 4.70</b>
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	378 ▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100 ▲ 0.0
YACO	180	170	66,091	11,237	5	180 ▲ 16
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>66,091</b>	<b>11,237</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1467.80 ▲ 16.20</b>
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,290 ▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250 ▲ 0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67 ▲ 0.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.5 ▲ 0.0
EYAS	1,580	1,400	190	289	3	1,479 ▲ 79
IFAHF	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192 ▲ 0.0
OULAFUEL	119	119	2,968	352	4	119 ▲ 0.0
MUNTAAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82 ▲ 0.0
JAZEERA	469	445	46,972	22,959	9	469 ▼ -1
SOOR	118	117	8,652	1,017	8	118 ▼ -4
FUTUREXO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106 ▲ 0.0
ALRAI	116	116	5	1	1	116 ▼ -3
ZMAH	52	52	11,800	614	3	52 ▲ 0.0
Mezzan	950	940	117,040	110,763	7	950 ▲ 20
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>190,617</b>	<b>135,994</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1224.50 ▲ 23.30</b>
ZAIN	428	415	704,214	299,366	29	428 ▲ 14
OOREDOO	1,160	1,150	4,575	5,263	3	1,150 ▲ 0.0
VITSTELEC	41.8	40.7	791,410	32,282	17	41.0 ▼ -1
VIVA	844	826	7,051	5,837	12	828 ▼ -20
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>1,507,250</b>	<b>342,748</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>601.81 ▼ -4.20</b>
NBK	698	677	4,803,652	3,382,576	235	697 ▲ 25
GBK	244	244	82,500	20,130	5	244 ▲ 6
CBK	315	306	10,213	3,136	11	310 ▼ -5
ARBK	340	310	13,010	4,033	2	340 ▲ 0.0
ALMUTAHED	442	430	614	270	3	442 ▲ 12
KIB	252	245	788,870	196,873	24	252 ▲ 2
BURG	330	323	201,316	65,295	15	329 ▲ 5
KFIN	493	484	3,075,413	1,504,143	133	493 ▲ 10
BOUBYAN	411	408	237,659	97,395	23	410 ▲ 4
AUB	211	209	850,409	178,529	39	211 ▲ 3
ITHMR	47.0	44.6	4,926,573	228,314	108	46.7 ▲ 1
WARISBANK	258	247	1,336,425	338,973	87	251 ▲ 5
<b>Banks</b>			<b>16,419,654</b>	<b>6,019,668</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>933.50 ▲ 14.70</b>
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	262 ▲ 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500 ▲ 0.0
AINS	480	480	100	48	1	480 ▼ -15.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102 ▲ 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196 ▲ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60 ▲ 0.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	57 ▲ 0.0
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355 ▲ 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>100</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1076.75 ▼ -6.40</b>

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KDI)	Trades	Last Change
SOKOLK	49.0	48.1	252,000	12,035	5	48.1 ▲ 0.1
KRE	55	54	202,855	11,109	7	55 ▲ 1.0
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85 ▲ 0.0
NRE	114	111	2,481,602	277,692	68	114 ▲ 3.0
SRE	380	380	10,500	3,990	2	380 ▲ 0.0
TAM	400	395	15,000	5,950	2	400 ▲ 30.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	165 ▲ 0.0
MASSALEH	45.0	40.0	100,000	4,003	2	45.0 ▲ 0.0
ARABREC	32.0	31.7	174,626	5,540	4	32.0 ▼ -0.4
ERESCO	38.4	37.5	1,316,076	49,411	34	37.5 ▲ 0.0
MABANEE	799	775	108,930	85,213	17	783 ▲ 4.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	92 ▲ 0.0
INVESTORS	22.6	22.5	145,000	3,264	5	22.5 ▲ 0.3
IRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.8 ▲ 0.0
ALTUJARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75 ▲ 0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50 ▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	85	85	5,000	427	1	85 ▲ 0.4
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82 ▲ 0.0
ALAGARIA	39.0	34.0	270,600	9,757	8	39.0 ▲ 4.0
MAZAYA	111	110	221,450	24,360	10	111 ▼ -1.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0 ▲ 0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70 ▲ 0.0
TUARA	57	54	75,050	4,053	4	57 ▲ 0.0
TAAMEER	33.5	33.3	489,800	16,359	14	33.4 ▼ -0.1
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84 ▲ 0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186 ▲ 0.0
ABYAAH	22.9	22.7	455,000	10,375	20	22.9 ▲ 0.1
MUNSHAAT	56	53	10,050	533	2	53 ▲ 0.0
FIRSTDOUBAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	48.5 ▲ 0.0
KBT	49.0	48.0	160,000	7,716	9	48.5 ▲ 0.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390 ▲ 0.0
MENA	22.5	21.0	940,495	20,746	24	22.0 ▼ -0.2
ALMUDJON	35.8	35.8	3,000	107	1	35.8 ▼ -0.1
MARAKEZ	46.5	44.0	16,000	707	4	46.5 ▼ -3.2
REMAL	65	63	100,786	6,349	4	65 ▲ 2.0
AWJ	75	75	64,535	4,840	2	75 ▼ -1.2
<b>Real Estate</b>			<b>7,618,615</b>	<b>564,534</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>952.40 ▲ 5.00</b>



## THREE TOOLS TO ORGANIZE YOUR HIRING ACTIVITIES

As a recruiter, a hiring manager, or an HR professional, it does not have to be such a dreadful task to look for one - or even 500 - employees. There is no need to stretch out your muscles beyond the maximum or get lost between a million candidates.

Technology is the closest thing to magic, and if you use leading online job sites, such as Bayt.com, for your talent sourcing and acquisition needs, then you already know this much! You can put the powerful tools to use and let technology search, filter, navigate, sort, organize, share, save, print, or perform any other essential command you can think of to help you hire efficiently and whenever you have a vacancy.

Time is precious and we are aware of that. But when you are working against deadlines, running

hundreds of search queries, and trying to manage piles of applicants for different positions at your company, things can become quite messy! Consequently, Bayt.com has developed and introduced even more solutions that help companies find and hire talent as smoothly as possible.

### 1 Saved Searches

Supposing that you want a candidate for a digital marketing position who is located in Kuwait city, with 3 to 5 years of experience, speaks English and Arabic fluently, is a citizen or holds a work permit in Kuwait, has a bachelor's in marketing or a related field, and within 26 and 35 years old. Don't be scared! This can all be specified in your search. By inputting the data, you will be able to retrieve highly relevant results. What's even better is that you can

save your searches to avoid spending your precious hours next time you look for a candidate with the same qualifications. Just name your saved search and access it a week later - or even years later!

### 2 Email Alerts

Besides being able to save your search criteria and running it whenever you need, you can also choose to use Auto Search. This feature allows you to receive emails whenever there are new posted CVs that match your criteria. How convenient is it to have the latest CVs delivered right to your inbox? Of course, you can choose the frequency of such emails; whether daily, weekly, monthly, or none.

### 3. CV Folders

Between different positions, departments, and

candidate files, your hiring activity can easily lose organization. You have the option of using CV folders for organizing the search results. Using the CV search platform, you can export, mark, print, and save CVs into folders for later use. CV searches are smoothly saved into folders and can be re-accessed at any time. Employers have the option of creating the folders and sorting CVs based on position, relevance, or any other criteria. This can further simplify the process of selecting the right person to hire among many candidates. - Courtesy of Bayt.com

With access to more than 28 million CVs in the Middle East and North Africa, this powerful CV Search tool relieves every recruiter's nightmare and gives companies the highest number of relevant CVs in the entire region - no matter what field they're searching! — Courtesy of Bayt.com

## CHINA 'BACKYARD' PIG FARMERS SQUEEZED AS SECTOR SCALES UP

BEIJING: Walking through swarms of flies at his piggery on the outskirts of Beijing, Liu Jin shows off 1,500 hormone-free black hogs raised for China's growing organic meat market. Liu employs a dozen people to look after the swine that are kept in indoor sties and outdoor pens-the type of large-scale operation China hopes will one day replace the millions of "backyard" farms across the country. "Even ordinary people care a lot about whether their food has hormones," said Liu, describing his pigs as "green".

About 90 percent of China's estimated 40 million pig farmers raise fewer than 50 hogs and account for about one third of supply, according to Dan Wang, an analyst at The Economist Intelligence Unit. Poorly educated and lacking an understanding of market cycles, they often buy and sell their pigs at the wrong time, triggering supply disruptions and price volatility.

To stabilise the industry and encourage cleaner large-scale production, Beijing has been cutting back subsidies for smaller farmers and rolling out stricter environmental regulations to force backyard producers to expand or get out. "The larger farmers have a very steady production cycle but the smaller ones don't," Wang said. "The government wants to commercialise the entire pork industry-they don't want small farmers."

### Farmers disappearing

China consumes more pork than any other country, with the average person gobbling 20-40 kilograms a year, according to analyst estimates, and its farmers are struggling to keep up with demand. The country's world-beating output fell in the last two years as authorities ordered farmers to install waste disposal

systems, properly dispose of carcasses and move foul-smelling piggeries away from drinking water sources and urban areas.

But many backyard farmers cannot afford the additional costs and an estimated 10 million left the sector last year, contributing to a doubling of China's pork imports. Wang Landong, 52, has been losing money on his 100 hogs for the past two years due to price swings and government subsidy cuts for vaccinations. "The pig industry is hard and miserable," said Wang, who, despite the difficulties, feels he has invested too much money in his farm in eastern Shandong province to quit. The decision may eventually be out of his control.

"Many of them will disappear in the next five years," said Chenjun Pan, a senior analyst at Rabobank. China's move towards industrial-scale pork production is part of a broader plan to develop a more modern and efficient agricultural sector that it hopes will lead to improved productivity and-importantly-food safety. High-profile pork scandals in recent years have exposed some of the unsavoury practices in the industry, including the dumping of thousands of dead pigs in a river near Shanghai and the sale of meat from diseased swine.

Some pig farmers, like Liu, are exploiting the growing demand among Chinese consumers for higher quality produce that is safe and free of chemicals. The Beijing restaurant owner spotted an opportunity to make money from hormone-free pig farming five years ago. He chose black hogs instead of the more common white variety because the market was relatively stable and the meat attracted significantly higher prices in the market. After starting with 10 piglets he now has a herd of 1,500 pigs and makes as much money from them as his restaurant. —AFP



VILANOVA: This file photo taken on June 7, 2017 shows a man operating at the ATM as customers exit a Banco Popular branch in Vilanova i la Geltru near Barcelona. — AFP

## WHO KILLED BANCO POPULAR? SPAIN PUZZLES OVER RESCUE 'HOW DID A 'ZOMBIE' BANK KEEP AFLOAT FOR FIVE YEARS?'

MADRID: Is there something fishy behind the rescue of Spain's Banco Popular? Questions are swirling over the last-minute buyout of the country's sixth largest bank by its bigger rival Santander. On June 7, the European Central Bank (ECB) announced Banco Popular was "failing or likely to fail" and would be sold to Santander, the eurozone's largest bank, for a symbolic euro.

This was the first time that such a decision had been taken by the ECB since it took over as Europe's banking supervisory authority in 2014. Keen to explain the operation, Spain's Economy Minister Luis de Guindos told parliament this week that, by June 6, Popular no longer had any liquidity and would not have been able to open its agencies the next day if it hadn't been bought. People's 60-billion-euro (\$67-billion) savings were preserved and "not one euro of public funds" was spent in the rescue, he pointed out.

### 'Zombie' bank?

But this did not pacify critics. The Expansion financial daily revealed that local authorities who had money in the bank had taken out their cash before the buyout, as had investment funds, adding to the liquidity crisis. These withdrawals "coincided with the moment when national financial authorities were saying that Popular fulfilled regulation requirements... and were trying to reassure savers," the daily said.

More generally, "how did a 'zombie' bank keep

afloat for five years? What was the role of the government and supervision authorities?", asked Socialist lawmaker Pedro Saura in parliament. He was referring to the period since the 2012 EU rescue of Spanish banks, which Popular refused, believing it could struggle through and survive by raising more capital.

Then on Tuesday, the central bank's inspectors expressed surprise at estimates provided by a base by European authorities to fix the sale at one euro. These estimated the value of Popular "between minus two billion and plus eight billion"-a huge discrepancy that left experts scratching their heads. "Either the scenarios were extremely diverse, or the 'expert' was not such an expert, or he was not independent," the inspectors wrote. They also pointed out that Popular passed stress tests aimed at measuring its financial mettle last year, saying this showed the "futility" of such evaluations.

### Short selling

On another note, would it have been possible to prevent the flight of liquidity by banning rampant short selling on Popular-the practice of selling a security in the belief its value will decline and buying it back at a lower price? By the time Popular was bought out, its shares had fallen so dramatically they were just worth 32 cents. "If short selling had been banned for three months,

Banco Popular would still be alive," says Robert Tornabell, a banking expert at Spain's Esade business school. But it would still likely have needed saving in the long run, which could have entailed a public bailout.

And Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, at the head of a minority government, could not afford such a scandal as he faced a vote of no confidence over rampant corruption brought by far-left opposition party Podemos, says Tornabell. This could have given Podemos further ammunition for the vote this week, which eventually failed, as the bailout of banks during the crisis caused controversy. On Friday, the central bank said the state may only ever retrieve just over a quarter of the multi-billion-euro aid it granted.

### Lawsuits

In parallel, Banco Santander is considering compensating some small shareholders who lost all their investment in the buyout of Popular. The bank could face thousands of legal challenges over this. Two official complaints have already been filed in Spain, and others are reportedly in the works in the United States. If their lawsuits are accepted and they win them, "taxpayers may have to pay" as Popular's bonds-which were sold to many investors-were guaranteed by the state, says Tornabell, meaning it promised to take responsibility if the bank could not meet its obligation. — AFP



BEIJING: In this picture taken on June 5, 2017 farmers looks out on their pigs at a pig farm on the outskirts of Beijing. —AFP

## TAXIFY HOPES TO LURE UBER DRIVERS WITH A LARGER SHARE OF THE FARE

TALLINN: The key to success for ride-hailing providers like Uber is keeping drivers happy so they run their app, ensuring that enough cars respond to passenger demand. Estonia upstart Taxify is hoping to win over drivers and take on Uber Technologies Inc, the industry leader, by offering a larger share of the profit. Upstarts across the world, such as Lyft Inc and Ola, are trying to catch Uber in the on-demand car-ride market by securing brand loyalty.

But Uber has gathered critical mass and reached a valuation of over £60 billion in just eight years, despite a lack of profits. It has kept rivals at bay, partly by offering incentives to drivers to stay online. Taxify, a minnow compared to Uber, cannot afford these perks but believes that by taking a smaller share of fares - 15-20 percent compared to Uber's 20-25 percent - it can steal market share from its San Francisco-based rival.

It also hopes that allowing drivers to take cash as well as credit card fares will also help it attract more passengers. "Taxify's biggest advantage is the focus on good service by treating the drivers and riders better than other platforms. This means having higher pay for drivers, thanks to lower fees," Chief Executive Markus Villig told Reuters at Taxify's headquarters in Estonia. "By the end of the year, I think we will be No 1 in about 10 countries in Europe and Africa."

### Incumbent cab companies

An Uber spokeswoman declined to comment but the company has said it had fare revenue of around \$20 billion last year. Villig said Taxify generated fares worth "tens of millions of euros" each month. Taxify runs in just 25 cities in Europe and Africa, while Uber operates in nearly 600 cities world-

wide. Its basic business model is identical - both hook up passengers with self-employed drivers. Many incumbent cab companies in Europe have developed apps to operate in a similar manner but most have focused on their domestic markets. But Taxify is unusual in launching in about 18 countries, mainly smaller markets in Eastern Europe and Africa, where Uber is absent or not yet dominant.

Uber usually takes market share by giving drivers money to sign on to its app, paying them even if they are not driving passengers. Then, as it becomes more popular with passengers, it withdraws the inducements. Analysts say Uber aims to build a customer franchise and stable of drivers to dominate the market.

"The way I see it, Taxify is cheaper than Uber," said Tumelo Malatjie, 33, a former truck driver for a logistics firm turned full-time Taxify driver in Johannesburg. "Taxify takes 15 percent and Uber about 25 percent or 30 percent," said Malatjie, who nonetheless is on a waiting list to become an Uber driver. Taxify has avoided expensive head-to-head battles with its much larger rival but its model will soon be tested as Villig plans to launch in London - Uber's biggest European market in the coming months. "We are coming in as a second wave," Villig said.

Founded 3-1/2 years ago, Taxify has 140 staff worldwide, a third of whom are based in Estonia. It says it has 2.5 million active passengers in 18 countries. Uber says it has more than 12,000 people across the world and millions of passengers in 70 countries. In Africa, Villig said Taxify has hired away 20 former Uber executives, helping its expansion in cities like Lagos, Cairo and Johannesburg. — Reuters

## ACTIVISTS MARCH ON BEN & JERRY'S

MONTPELIER: Scores of dairy farm workers and activists marched Saturday to a Ben & Jerry's factory to push for better pay and living conditions on farms that provide milk for the ice cream maker that takes pride in its social activism. Protesters said Ben & Jerry's agreed two years ago to participate in the so-called Milk with Dignity program, but the company and worker representatives have yet to reach an agreement. "We can't wait any more. We are going to pressure them and see what happens," said Victor Diaz, a Mexican immigrant now working on a farm in Vergennes.

The march that began Saturday morning in Montpelier ended mid-afternoon at the plant in Waterbury, about 14 miles away. Organized Will Lambek said the marchers presented a letter to company CEO Jostein Solheim who said the company was committed to joining the program. Ben & Jerry's spokesman Sean Greenwood said before Saturday's march from the Statehouse to the Waterbury factory that the company was eager to reach an agreement and negotiations were underway. "We are a values-led business. We frame ourselves as an aspiring social justice company," said Greenwood. "We try to do good with everything we can with our business. Dairy has definitely been one of those issues we have done a ton of work on for decades." Ben & Jerry's touts its social activism as much as its quirky ice-cream flavors such as Cherry Garcia, Chunky Monkey and Phish Food. Many of its raw materials, like sugar, cocoa, vanilla, bananas and coffee come from producers across the world that subscribe to the Fairtrade program, which promotes higher prices and better working conditions for farmers.

About 85 percent of the milk Ben & Jerry's uses in its ice cream made in North America comes from about 80 Vermont dairy farms. Its Caring Dairy program promotes sustainable farming by offering farmers cash incentives for keeping up with best management practices. The Milk with Dignity program was developed in 2014 by farm workers and the Vermont group Migrant Justice to ensure that farms provide them fair wages and working conditions and decent housing. In 2015, Ben & Jerry's agreed to join the program. Since then, the two sides have been negotiating over

the details. "We've been negotiating in good faith," said Lambek. "It's an unacceptable delay." Greenwood said Ben & Jerry's didn't get the first details from the workers until a year ago and the two sides have been working since then to reach an agreement. "It has to work for the farmers, the farm owners, and it has to work for the businesses involved and that's the complex piece," Greenwood said. "How do you make sure that it will be operationalized so it's a win-win across the board and that's what we've been working on for well over a year now."



MONTPELIER: Scores of dairy farm workers and activists march. — AP



Batumi, Georgia



Qabala River



Tivat

## MAKE THE MOST OF SUMMER WITH FLYDUBAI

**KUWAIT:** With more than 90 destinations in 44 countries, flydubai's diverse network provides numerous opportunities to experience culture, history, beautiful surroundings and adventure during the upcoming summer season. For the first time, flydubai has launched three seasonal routes in addition to its popular summer destinations for passengers from Dubai and across the region.

Batumi in Georgia, Qabala in Azerbaijan and Tivat in Montenegro will operate from June to September 2017, offering popular seaside resorts, beautiful mountain vistas and mild climates. flydubai will be the first carrier to offer direct flights from the UAE to Qabala and Tivat, and the first from Dubai to Batumi. UAE nationals and residents entering Batumi and Tivat will receive a Visa on Arrival, while GCC residents entering Batumi will receive a Visa on Arrival.

"Everyone looks forward to their summer holidays and with a wide range of destinations to choose from, flydubai remains committed to providing passengers with more choices and opportunities to travel," said Hamad Obaidalla,

Chief Commercial Officer at flydubai. "There is strong demand for affordable and off-the-beaten track holiday destinations and we look forward to offering our passengers a variety of unique and exciting options," he added.

In addition to its seasonal offerings, flydubai offers passengers a variety of popular leisure destinations that reflects the diversity of its network. For those seeking a city break, flydubai offers passengers a variety of popular leisure destinations such as Baku, Bratislava, Istanbul, Prague, Sarajevo, Tbilisi and Yerevan. UAE Nationals and Indian Nationals with a UAE residence visa visiting Yerevan are eligible to receive a Visa on Arrival.

"The decision to launch our summer seasonal routes is a direct response to customer feedback," said Jayhun Efendi, Senior Vice President Commercial (UAE, EU, ME, CIS) at flydubai. "With facilitated visa requirements for the residents of the UAE and GCC, it's a great opportunity for our passengers to enjoy these hidden gems and experience what they have to

offer." Along with city breaks, the summer season is the ideal time to escape to the beach. flydubai's flights to Bangkok, Colombo, Maldives and Zanzibar give passengers the chance to experience some of the best beaches and tropical hotspots in the world.

"With the variety of destinations available for passengers, there has never been a better time to explore the flydubai network this summer," said Sudhir Sreedharan, Senior Vice President Commercial (GCC, Subcontinent and Africa) at flydubai. "We continue to offer flexible options for travel, especially for the 62 previously underserved markets we operate to. Along with our product offerings in the air and on the ground, we look forward to more passengers discovering what flydubai has to offer."

flydubai continues to enhance its product offerings for passengers. 48 out of flydubai's 58 aircraft are now equipped with WiFi and Live TV services, providing passengers with greater connectivity throughout their journey. flydubai's Business Class continues to offer passengers a personalized travel experience with

increased comfort and added convenience. OPEN, flydubai's new rewards program, has been well received across the region since its launch in October 2016 and has been designed to make earning and spending reward points simple and straightforward.

### SEASONAL ROUTES

#### Batumi, Georgia

flydubai will operate three weekly flights between Dubai and Batumi from 22 June to 30 September 2017 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Known as the 'Pearl of the Black Sea', Batumi is the second largest city in Georgia, located in the country's southwest region. Batumi is a popular tourist destination known for its bustling seaside resorts during the summer that are lined with restaurants, cafes, dancing fountains and its popular Ferris Wheel. The historical part of the city is spread between its famous seaport and the Boulevard, which features numerous historical buildings that represent the architectural forms of Asia and Europe.

#### Qabala, Azerbaijan

flydubai will operate two weekly flights between Dubai and Qabala from 29 June to 17 September 2017 on Thursdays and Sundays. Qabala, also known as Gabala, is the capital of the Qabala District, known for its rich history and is one of the most beautiful regions of Azerbaijan. Qabala is considered a popular tourist destination due to its mild climate, chestnut forests, excellent wildlife and recreational resorts.

#### Tivat, Montenegro

flydubai will operate two weekly flights between Dubai and Tivat from 23 June to 25 September 2017 on Mondays and Fridays. Tivat is located in the central part of Kotor Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and is renowned for its pleasant climate and natural beauty. Along with its beautiful beaches and numerous cafes and restaurants, Tivat has everything you need for your summer holiday and is conveniently located a short drive away from Dubrovnik in Croatia and Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

## YOUR FORD COULD BECOME VIRTUAL PERSONAL ASSISTANT

**KUWAIT:** We are now used to cars that understand what we say. Experts predict that in future they may also know how we feel - sometimes without us having to say a word. Nearly 90 per cent\* of all new cars are expected to offer voice recognition capability by 2022. The next step for the cars of tomorrow could be to pick up on tiny changes in our facial expression as well as modulations and inflections in our speaking voice, easing the driving experience for consumers.

Advanced systems - equipped with sophisticated microphones and in-car cameras - could learn which songs we like to hear when we are stressed and

those occasions we prefer to simply enjoy silence. Interior lighting could also complement our mood. "We're well on the road to developing the empathetic car which might tell you a joke to cheer you up, offer advice when you need it, remind you of birthdays and keep you alert on a long drive," said Fatima Vital, senior director, Marketing Automotive, Nuance Communications, which helped Ford develop voice recognition of the SYNC in-car connectivity system.

Cloud-based voice control is anticipated to be available on 75 per cent\* of new cars by 2022, and it is predicted future systems would evolve into personal assistants that shuffle appointments and order

takeaways when drivers are held up in traffic jams. Movie fans will recall in the film Her, Scarlett Johansson's character Samantha catered to Theodore Twombly's every command, as a voice recognition system, which with uncanny accuracy, learned his mood, needs and wants - just from the sound of his voice. Someday soon, your car could do something similar.

A research project Ford is currently running with RWTH Aachen University includes using multiple microphones to improve speech processing and reduce the effect of external noise and potential disruptions. Within the next two years, voice control systems could prompt us with: "Would you like to order flowers for your mum for Mothers' Day?" "Shall I choose a less congested but slower route home?" and "You're running low on your favourite chocolate and your favourite store has some in stock. Want to stop by and pick some up?"

### Eye control

Future gesture and eye control would enable drivers to answer calls by nodding their head, adjust the volume with short twisting motions, and set the navigation with a quick glance at their destination on a map. So your car may learn to know and read you better than your spouse, but is there a danger that, as in the movie Her, you might fall for your advanced voice recognition systems?

"Lots of people already love their cars, but with new in-car systems that learn and adapt, we can expect some seriously strong relationships to form," said Dominic Watt, senior lecturer, Department of Language and Linguistic Science, University of York. "The car will soon be our assistant, travel companion and sympathetic ear, and you'll be able to discuss everything and ask anything, to the point many of us might forget we're even talking to a machine."

SYNC 3 already offers unique features for the Middle East and North Africa, like user ability to control media and climate, via their Bluetooth-connected phone, just by speaking to SYNC. Of considerable importance to the region's customers is the language choices for SYNC 3 navigation, which includes Arabic for the very first time, while customers will also have the opportunity to update their maps - one free per year for five years - from the comfort of their own homes.

Navigation on the latest generation of Ford's innovative communications and entertainment system also includes more than 3.5 million "points of interest", and over 3.5 million kilometers of road, throughout the MENA region. SYNC 3 Apple Car Play also now fully supports Anghami streaming, meaning you can listen to your favorite artists, from Nancy Ajram to Ed Sheeran, through Ford's in-car connectivity system. Anghami is the first legal music streaming platform and digital distribution company in the Arab region, providing unlimited Arabic and international music to stream and download for offline listening.

## HUSSEIN M DAJANI APPOINTED GM OF NISSAN MIDDLE EAST

**DUBAI:** Hussein M Dajani has joined Nissan as General Manager, Digital Marketing, for Africa, the Middle East and India. He will lead Nissan's digital and social media strategy in the region, which is becoming ever more significant for Nissan's global business. Working with teams in local markets, his role will be to ensure that the company delivers an innovative experience online for customers,



Hussein M Dajani

matching the innovation in Nissan's cars. He will also take the lead on digital and content for Nissan's regional Communications function, working on strategies to support the company's business goals. Hussein, who has a BS in Business Administration from the American University in Beirut said: "I am delighted to be joining Nissan and I am looking forward to further strengthening

Nissan's digital footprint in Africa, the Middle East and India. "This region is dynamic and includes some the fastest-growing, most promising economies in the world. Nissan is committed to offering our customers the best cars and customer service whether they are a first-time car-owner buying a Datsun redi-GO in India, or the latest generation of their family to purchase a Nissan Patrol in the Middle East."

Nissan already has a strong and growing presence with more than 15,000 employees across 87 countries in Africa, the Middle East and India. Four major regional hubs control Marketing and Sales, and related functions, in the United Arab Emirates, India, Egypt and South Africa - as well as satellite offices in other key markets including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. There are factories building Nissan cars in India, Egypt, South Africa and Nigeria with a combined annual production capacity of more than half a million units.

Hussein has more than 15 years of experience in marketing and communications. Previously he was Head of Online Communities & Communications for Virgin Mobile in Qatar and Area Digital Manager for the MEA region for Red Bull. "We are very pleased Hussein has joined our team as he brings to Nissan a wealth of knowledge in the field of digital marketing which has been gained working for some of the most respected brands in the world," said Peter Clissold, General Manager of Marketing for Nissan's Africa, Middle East and India region. "His experience will be invaluable in a region where the digital landscape is fast-moving, diverse and among the most sophisticated in the world."



## AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr Abdulaziz Ashkanani. The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are :-

Sulphikar Basheer KD 7000/-, Sumayya Jassem Al Asfoor KD 7000/-, Ibrahim Naseeb Abdulsalam Al Batrawy KD 7000/-,

Mainuddin Shafiq Al Rahman KD 7000/-, Mohammad Arafat Hussain Mursi KD 7000/-

Al Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

## BURGAN BANK AWARDED 2017 'BEST QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM' BY INSIGHTS MIDEAST

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank was recently awarded 'Best Quality Assurance Program' and 'Best Service Assurance Program' in recognition of the high quality performance by its dedicated Call Center in 2017. Committed to providing world-class services to its customers and setting the benchmark for service standards in the industry, Burgan Bank was presented the prestigious accolades by INSIGHTS Middle East during a ceremony that took place in Dubai on the 15th of May, 2017.

INSIGHTS Middle East, a Dubai based enterprise is the only Call Centre dedicated professional Services organization in the Middle East. Now in its twelfth year, the INSIGHTS Middle East Call Center Awards competition is the undisputed regional indicator for remote customer interaction success and widely acclaimed as having the most comprehensive selection and awards criteria of its type in the world.

Burgan Bank's Call Center staff was commended for their highest level of dedication to swift turnaround time and efficient methods of accommodating customers' needs. Channeling the most adept personnel in Kuwait, the Center ensured all requests were attended to with excellent quality

service. The 'Best Quality Assurance program' award, under the category of Service and Support recognizes Burgan Bank's unique approach to effective problem solving and customer retention. The Awards were presented to Munther Al Saleh, Burgan Bank Contact Center Manager by Mr. Dominick Keenaghan, CEO and President of INSIGHTS Middle East.

Commenting on the award, Raed Al-Haqhaq, Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Kuwait, said: "We are extremely proud of our hardworking teams that reflect the overall character of Burgan Bank. Driven by a deep commitment to excellence, we strive to attract the best talent available and provide world class training programs for our staff, empowering them to deliver superior customer support. These high achievers serve on the front-lines and represent our combined ambition to serve in alignment with international best practices and our brand values."

Burgan Bank participated amidst international nominees from sectors varying from financial to telecommunications, airlines, system solutions companies, governmental and private sector companies. The bank was recognized based on a

stringent judging procedure adopted. The winners were chosen based on decisions of two judging panels. First panel belonging to INSIGHTS international judges followed by the second round of judging panelists from Middle East Heads and Managers of regional call centers invited by INSIGHTS. The submission process is proven to enhance outcomes and performance in areas such as customer data analysis, process re-assessment and re-development, and employee teamwork.

Consistently re-inventing itself and bringing innovative solutions to the market, Burgan Bank established its call Center in April 1999 as a delivery channel to facilitate customer service and reduce the pressure on branches. Over the years, Burgan Bank Call Center has evolved into a powerful tool in building and developing business to fulfill the growing objectives of the bank effectively, while ensuring maximum customer satisfaction. Regional and international acknowledgments of the kind are testament to Burgan Bank's overarching objective to enhance the banking experience through its customer centricity and personalized approach.



# FACEBOOK DEPLOYS AI TO FIGHT 'TERRORIST CONTENT'

## TECHNOLOGY BLOCKS CHILD PORNOGRAPHY FROM FACEBOOK

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Facebook has started deploying its artificial intelligence capabilities to help combat terrorists' use of its service. Company officials said in a blog post Thursday that Facebook will use AI in conjunction with human reviewers to find and remove "terrorist content" immediately, before other users see it. Such technology is already used to block child pornography from Facebook and other services such as YouTube, but Facebook had been reluctant about applying it to other potentially less clear-cut uses.

In most cases, Facebook only removes objectionable material if users first report it. Facebook and other internet companies face growing government pressure to identify and prevent the spread of terrorist propaganda and recruiting messages on their services. Earlier this month, British Prime Minister Theresa May called on governments to form international agreements to prevent the spread of extremism online. Some proposed measures would hold companies legally accountable for the material posted on their sites.

The Facebook post - by Monika Bickert, director of global policy management, and Brian Fishman, counterterrorism policy manager - did not specifically mention May's calls. But it acknowledged that "in the wake of recent terror attacks, people have questioned the role of tech companies in fighting terrorism online." "We want to answer those questions head on. We agree with those who say that social media should not be a place where terrorists have a voice," they wrote. Among the AI techniques used in this effort are image matching, which compares photos and videos people upload to Facebook to "known" terrorism images or video.

Matches generally mean that either that Facebook had previously removed that material, or that it had ended up in a database of such images that Facebook shares with Microsoft, Twitter and YouTube. Facebook is also developing "text-based signals" from previously removed posts that praised or supported terrorist organizations. It will feed those signals into a machine-learning system, over time, will learn how to detect similar posts. Bickert and Fishman said that when Facebook receives reports of potential "terrorism posts," it reviews those reports urgently.

In addition, it says that in the rare cases when it uncovers evidence of imminent harm, it promptly informs authorities. But AI is just part of the process. The technology is not yet at the point where it can understand nuances of language and context, so humans are still in the loop. Facebook says it employs more than 150 people who are "exclusively or primarily focused on countering terrorism as their core responsibility." This includes academic experts on counterterrorism, former prosecutors, former law enforcement agents and analysts and engineers, according to the blog post.—AP



PHILADELPHIA: In this file photo, the Facebook logo is displayed on an iPad in Philadelphia.—AP



SAN FRANCISCO: Two phones show the old version of the Twitter app, right, and the new version, left, in San Francisco.—AP

## TWITTER UNVEILS NEW LOOK, WHICH USERS QUICKLY MOCK

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Twitter has unveiled a new look, and much like some previous changes the company has made to its short-messaging service, it's not going over so well with the Twitterati. The San Francisco company says the new design emphasizes simplicity, making it faster and easier to use, with bolder headlines and more intuitive icons. It also changed users' profile images from square-shaped to round. The company said the new user interface will roll out on twitter.com, Twitter for iOS, Twitter for Android, TweetDeck, and Twitter Lite in the coming days and weeks.

Twitter users immediately responded Thursday by tweeting jokes and memes critical of the changes. There were almost 30,000 tweets about the new user interface, or UI, within hours of the change,

the vast majority of them either complaining about the new look or mocking it. A popular image was a suddenly round SpongeBob SquarePants. Twitter also took heat from users last year when it changed its algorithm that orders the tweets users see.

Users also tweeted their dismay when the company rolled out its "Moments" feature, and when it got rid of its star icon signifying a "favorite" tweet, in favor of a heart icon, similar to Facebook's "like" button. The redesign is Twitter's latest attempt to freshen the messaging service, which has struggled to attract new users at the same pace as Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat. Twitter revenue growth has stalled for years, and the company has cut costs and shuffled executives while still never posting a quarter of profit.—AP

# AI AND HEALTH REVOLUTION

**WASHINGTON:** Your next doctor could very well be a bot. And bots, or automated programs, are likely to play a key role in finding cures for some of the most difficult-to-treat diseases and conditions. Artificial intelligence is rapidly moving into health care, led by some of the biggest technology companies and emerging startups using it to diagnose and respond to a raft of conditions. Consider these examples:

California researchers detected cardiac arrhythmia with 97 percent accuracy on wearers of an Apple Watch with the AI-based Cariogram application, opening up early treatment options to avert strokes. Scientists from Harvard and the University of Vermont developed a machine learning tool-a type of AI that enables computers to learn without being explicitly programmed-to better identify depression by studying Instagram posts, suggesting "new avenues for early screening and detection of mental illness."

Researchers from Britain's University of Nottingham created an algorithm that predicted heart attacks better than doctors using conventional guidelines. While technology has always played a role in medical care, a wave of investment from Silicon Valley and a flood of data from connected devices appear to be spurring innovation.

"I think a tipping point was when Apple released its Research Kit," said Forrester Research analyst Kate McCarthy, referring to a program letting Apple users enable data from their daily activities to be used in medical studies. McCarthy said advances in artificial intelligence has opened up new possibilities for "personalized medicine" adapted to individual genetics. "We now have an environment where people can weave through clinical research at a speed you could never do before," she said.

### Predictive analytics

AI is better known in the tech field for uses such as autonomous driving, or defeating experts in the board game Go. But it can also be used to glean new insights from existing data such as electronic health records and lab tests, says Narges Razavian, a professor at New York University's Langone School of Medicine who led a research project on predictive analytics for more than 100 medical conditions.

"Our work is looking at trends and trying to predict (disease) six months into the future, to be able to act before things get worse," Razavian said. NYU researchers analyzed medical and lab records to accurately predict the onset of dozens

of diseases and conditions including type 2 diabetes, heart or kidney failure and stroke. The project developed software now used at NYU which may be deployed at other medical facilities. Google's DeepMind division is using artificial intelligence to help doctors analyze tissue samples to determine the likelihood that breast and other cancers will spread, and develop the best radiotherapy treatments.

Microsoft, Intel and other tech giants are also working with researchers to sort through data with AI to better understand and treat lung, breast and other types of cancer. Google parent Alphabet's life sciences unit Verily has joined Apple in releasing a smart watch for studies including one to identify patterns in the progression of Parkinson's disease. Amazon meanwhile offers medical advice through applications on its voice-activated artificial assistant Alexa. IBM has been focusing on these issues with its Watson Health unit, which uses "cognitive computing" to help understand cancer and other diseases.

When IBM's Watson computing system won the TV game show Jeopardy in 2011, "there were a lot of folks in health care who said that is the same process doctors use when they try to understand health care," said Anil Jain, chief medical officer of Watson Health. Systems like Watson, he said, "are able to connect all the disparate pieces of information" from medical journals and other sources "in a much more accelerated way." "Cognitive computing may not find a cure on day one, but it can help understand people's behavior and habits" and their impact on disease, Jain said. It's not just major tech companies moving into health.

Research firm CB Insights this year identified 106 digital health startups applying machine learning and predictive analytics "to reduce drug discovery times, provide virtual assistance to patients, and diagnose ailments by processing medical images." Maryland-based startup Insilico Medicine uses so-called "deep learning" to shorten drug testing and approval times, down from the current 10 to 15 years. "We can take 10,000 compounds and narrow that down to 10 to find the most promising ones," said Insilico's Qingsong Zhu. Insilico is working on drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), cancer and age-related diseases, aiming to develop personalized treatments.

### Finding depression

Artificial intelligence is also increasingly seen as a means for detecting depression and other mental illnesses, by spotting patterns that may not be obvious, even to professionals. A research paper by Florida State University's Jessica Ribeiro found it can predict with 80 to 90 percent accuracy whether someone will attempt suicide as far off as two years into the future. Facebook uses AI as part of a test project to prevent suicides by analyzing social network posts.

And San Francisco's Woebot Labs this month debuted on Facebook Messenger what it dubs the first chatbot offering "cognitive behavioral therapy" online partly as a way to reach people wary of the social stigma of seeking mental health care. New technologies are also offering hope for rare diseases. Boston-based startup FDNA uses facial recognition technology matched against a database associated with over 8,000 rare diseases and genetic disorders, sharing data and insights with medical centers in 129 countries via its Face2Gene application.

### Cautious optimism

Lynda Chin, vice chancellor and chief innovation officer at the University of Texas System, said she sees "a lot of excitement around these tools" but that technology alone is unlikely to translate into wide-scale health benefits. One problem, Chin said, is that data from sources as disparate as medical records and Fitbits is difficult to access due to privacy and other regulations. More important, she said, is integrating data in health care delivery where doctors may be unaware of what's available or how to use new tools. "Just having the analytics and data get you to step one," said Chin. "It's not just about putting an app on the app store.—AFP



CAMBRIDGE: In this photo, the entrance to Watson Health is seen in Cambridge, Massachusetts.—AFP



COTONOU: This file photo shows Benin's security forces at a busy intersection during an evacuation in downtown Cotonou.—AFP photos

## FREE MAPPING: PLOTTING DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

**COTONOU:** In Benin's economic capital of Cotonou, as in many other African cities, finding a house, office or restaurant is often like a treasure hunt. Luck, if not a miracle, is required as easy clues such as street names, even where they exist, are usually not posted and address numbers are rarely marked. Most people in Cotonou formulate complex combinations of landmarks and directions to navigate around town. Typical directions might be: "My office is after the big market, past the apartment block on the right with the mobile phone mast, and it's the third road on the left, tiled building."

Can't see the apartment block with the mobile phone mast? Game over, back to square one. Sam Agbadonou, a 34-year-old former medical technician, knows how frustrating it can be to get around and describes Cotonou as a "navigation challenge." "I was called when there were breakdowns and went to health centers to repair machines that save lives," he said. "But some centers are really in the middle of outlying neighborhoods and it is difficult to get there." Now, to put an end to the hassle and quickly find their destination, locals are turning to crowdsourced mapping applications adapted for use in Africa that are challenging Google Maps for dominance on the continent.

### Map party

In 2013, when Agbadonou heard about OpenStreetMap, an international project founded in 2004 to create a free world map, he knew it was a good idea. Agbadonou founded the Benin branch of the project, which today boasts 30 members. With his

friend Saliou Abdou, a trained geographer, Agbadonou regularly organizes "map parties"-field trips to identify the city's geographical data. They start with the basic-street names and address numbers-and move on to other details that set their maps apart from the Silicon Valley competition.

"We write down everything: the trees, the water points, the vulcaniser (tyre repairer) on the street corner, the tailor's shop... You don't see that on Google Maps!" Agbadonou said with pride. Thanks to his work over the last four years, Cotonou is slowly revealing itself. For example, the Ladjji district, which never used to feature on most maps, is now included. Armelle Choplin, an urban planner at the Institute of Research for Development (IRD) in Cotonou, has no choice but to use Google Maps for her work.

But she is relying more and more on the crowdsourced maps which are more adapted to an African context. "IGN France (the French national institute of geographic and forest information) carried out an aerial mapping of Benin between 2015 and 2016 and it should be available in September," Choplin said. "But we don't know if we will have access or the terms."

### Social inclusion

Rapid population growth, lack of regulation in real estate and haphazard urbanization are a headache for most big cities in Africa. Along the coast in Ghana, Sesinam Dagadu created a similar mobile app called SnocCode, which targets the poorest in society and the illiterate. His goal is to give "an address for every man, woman and child" by issuing an individual "location code" as a substitute address.—AFP



COTONOU: This file photo shows motorcyclists driving on a major road in Cotonou.

## APPLE SEES AUTONOMOUS CARS AS CORE TECHNOLOGY

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Apple views autonomous driving systems as a "core technology" for the future, chief executive Tim Cook said in an interview aired Tuesday. Cook told Bloomberg television that Apple wants to move into the automotive sector because "there is a major disruption looming" from new technologies. The auto sector, Cook said, is being transformed by artificial intelligence and autonomous driving technology as well as by the development of better electric cars and the growth of ridesharing.

"We are focusing on autonomous sys-

tems," he told Bloomberg. He said Apple sees this as "the mother of all AI projects" and that this is "a core technology that we view as very important." While Apple has given no indication of specific projects for autonomous vehicles, it has joined the list of companies with permits to test self-driving cars in California, according to state records. The California-based tech giant is expected to focus on software systems, letting partners manufacture vehicles, but would understandably want to be able to test its navigation technology in cars.—AFP

## SHOTS FIRED IN AUSTRALIA'S WAR ON FOOD WASTE

**SYDNEY:** Australia's first recycled supermarket is giving food destined for landfills a second chance, as the government embarks on a major push to cut down on waste costing the economy Aus\$20 billion a year. The outlet run by food rescue organization OzHarvest in Sydney takes surplus products normally thrown out by major supermarkets, airlines and other suppliers, and gives them away for free.

It is an attempt to tackle the mounting waste problem in Australia, home to 24 million people, where consumers toss out some 20 percent of food they buy with more than four million tons ending up as rubbish each year. "It is simply remarkable that in prosperous, modern-day Australia we produce enough food to feed 60 million people a year but every month more than 600,000 people—one-third of them children—seek food relief from relevant charities," Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg said in April.

The government is drawing up an ambitious plan to halve food waste by 2030 and is convening a national summit later this year involving the private sector and non-profit organizations. Globally, one-third of food produced for humans—about 1.3 billion tons costing around US\$1 trillion—is lost or wasted annually, according to the Food and

Agriculture Organization (FAO). Such wastage is particularly conspicuous in retail, where "large quantities" of food are thrown away "due to quality standards that over-emphasize appearance", the UN body added.

That's where supermarkets like OzHarvest come in, said founder Ronni Kahn, a leading voice in Australia's food rescue community, who hopes the pop-up store will raise awareness about sustainable living. Besides the needy, "there are people (at the supermarket) who want to take part in this sharing economy... taking produce and understanding why this produce was rejected, why is this here, why is this surplus", she said as she pointed to bread donated by a bakery. Long queues have formed outside the shop since it opened in late April, with the unemployed, single mothers, and students among those who leave with bulging bags of groceries.

### Tip of the waste iceberg

What we eat or throw away is just the tip of the iceberg in the production process, conservation experts say, with huge amounts of resources such as fertilizers, fuel, land and water used to grow and package food. "When food's wasted, and all of those resources are wasted as



**SYDNEY:** This picture shows a customer putting money into a donation box at the counter after shopping at OzHarvest Market, a recycled food supermarket, in Sydney.—AFP

well, what's incumbent upon us is to make the most of the food that we produce in those instances, rather than producing more and more," said Marcus Godinho of charity FareShare.

FareShare tackles waste by cooking large quantities of food that farmers and

manufacturers struggle to offload, or which is due to expire, in a 500-square-metre kitchen in Melbourne before freezing and storing it for distribution to the disadvantaged at a later date. Also reducing waste at a wholesale level is Yume, an online platform connecting

suppliers and buyers for hard-to-sell surplus produce at significantly discounted prices, chief Katy Barfield said.

"It (the unwanted food) can be cancelled orders, it can be mislabeled, it can be brand refresh, it can be export orders that get cancelled, it can be specifications... that are not what the retailers want," Melbourne-based Barfield said. Barfield, who previously headed up food rescue charity SecondBite, wants to take the platform global as she develops it to handle millions of transactions. "Because it's a piece of technology, there are no barriers to scaling it," she said.

With Canberra stepping into the fray, waste warriors are optimistic that incentives including tax breaks could reduce excess in supply chains and encourage businesses to keep surplus food still fit for consumption away from landfills. Even public institutions such as schools, hospitals and prisons could make their procurement of food more sustainable by buying surplus products through platforms like Yume, Barfield added. "It would save food going to waste, it would be good for the environment, it would be very good for the taxpayers' pockets because we would be paying less for the food, and I think it's a win, win, win," she said.—AFP



**PORT-AU-PRINCE:** Judith cleans used soap collected from a hotel in Port-au-Prince.—AFP

## FROM LUXURY HOTELS TO SLUMS, HAITI RECYCLES USED SOAP

**PORT-AU-PRINCE:** A Haitian program to recycle used soap bars from luxury hotels has proven a win-win-win proposition, reducing waste, helping fight water-borne disease and giving employees like Magoiana Fremont the chance to send her kids to school and let them "eat every day." The project, simple but effective, has had a remarkable impact.

Laure Bottinelli discovered the idea of soap-recycling while spending time in Southeast Asia. Inspired to try something similar in Haiti, she and two associates in January 2016 created the Anacaona company, Haiti's first and only soap-recycling enterprise. They have already enlisted 25 hotels in the plan, in both Port-au-Prince and Jacmel, a weekend destination for many foreigners living in the capital.

### 'Nothing is wasted'

"In Haiti, nothing is ever wasted: Poverty is such that everything is recovered, reused in one way or another," said Mai Cardozo Stefanson, part of the management team at Montana, a luxury hotel in Port-au-Prince. "Normally, the staff saves the soap for their own use. But now they collect used bars and give them to Laure. In return, they receive clean, reconditioned soap bars." Plus, she added, "with the cholera crisis we're facing, there is the aspect of hygiene education," another part of the work done by Anacaona.

Used soap bars collected from hotel rooms are shredded and melted before being reconditioned, jobs Anacaona's three employees divide among themselves. "I didn't come back to Haiti to set up just one more NGO," said Bottinelli, a company head at the tender age of 28. While some employees do not know how to read the contracts Anacaona gives them, "we have explained to them what a work contract means, that there are rules to be respected but also rights protecting them." In a country where informality is the norm, she likes to point out that her company is properly registered with commercial and tax authorities.

### Local, environmentally friendly

The new soaps are made using only natural Haitian products and are wrapped in biodegradable paper: The small company aspires to social responsibility and prefers hiring single mothers. "I can't deny it, the Good Lord brought us this job," said Magoiana Fremont, carefully wrapping a soap bar. Before, she couldn't afford to send her five kids to school, provide them food and pay the rent. And now? "Anacaona helps the country, and me, a lot: my children are in school, they eat every day. Before, I rented an apartment, but now I've started building a house," she added with a proud smile.

While the first orders for Haitian soaps were sent to french beauty label Yves Rocher, the recycling project now is able to distribute part of its own production to partner schools in Jacmel. The small company, still in the development stage, is also playing a part in reducing water-borne disease in Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas. With 72 percent of Haitians lacking indoor toilets, the cholera epidemic that started in 2010 has spread across the country, killing nearly 10,000 people. The lack of potable water has made diarrheal diseases a leading cause of infant mortality, according to the World Health Organization. Anacaona works with its partner schools to be sure they teach basic hygiene rules to their students.

And in the Cite Soleil, the Caribbean's most densely populated slum, the company pays community workers to spread that message. With questionnaires in hand, these "hygiene ambassadors" criss-cross their neighborhoods, knocking on the doors of every rusty sheet-metal shanty they encounter to first assess the inhabitants' sanitary habits and then share the essential rules of good health.

"Now, every time people see me in the neighborhood, they think about the advice I gave them," said Judeline Joseph, 25, with a laugh. "Sometimes they don't have the money to buy what you need to treat the water. But some of them simply forget to take precautions—so we are really doing something useful!"—AFP

## SURROGACY REMAINS A LURE FOR CAMBODIA'S POOREST DESPITE BAN

ILLEGAL SURROGACY SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON RENTED WOMB TRADE

**TAKEO, Cambodia:** Peeling a mango inside her rickety wooden shack, Chhum Long explains how her daughter's decision to nurture a Western couple's baby in her womb helped her family buy two desperately needed items: A metal roof and a motorbike. Last year a broker appeared outside the 60-year-old's house in Cambodia's southern Takeo province and offered her daughter \$10,000 to be a surrogate mother for a wealthy foreign couple.

"My daughter immediately agreed with the offer because we are very poor," she said. "They took the baby away as soon as he was born, she did not even see his face." An ongoing trial in Phnom Penh of Australian nurse Tammy Davis-Charles on charges of running an illegal surrogacy business has shone a spotlight on Cambodia's role in the rented womb trade. It is a little-regulated industry that pairs wealthy foreign couples desperate for a child-paying as much as \$50,000 — with some of the world's most vulnerable women.

The enterprise has sparked a regulatory game of cat and mouse as poorer nations move to halt the trade only to see it resurface or appear across their borders. One-by-one countries that had been popular surrogacy destinations like India, Nepal and Thailand have banned the trade. Cambodia did the same in November. But interviews conducted by AFP suggest the industry remains, albeit in the shadows. Cambodia is one of Asia's poorest countries with an average annual income of just \$1,150. Nine months of surrogacy might bring in as much as nine years salary.

### Keeping it quiet

The village of Puth Sar, where Chhum Long and her daughter hail from, is a typical target. Its bucolic charm-wooden houses surrounded by green paddy fields an hour south of the capital-belies an entrenched poverty. Village chief Ouk Savouen said brokers first appeared two years ago. At least 13 women have agreed to be surrogates since then, some after the ban came in.

"There are now four surrogates who are currently pregnant but they keep it quiet," he said. "They were recruited in February and March."

The village chief dislikes the trade, saying it is exploitative and rarely provides families with the kind of riches they think will free them because the payments are mostly frittered away. But he also recognizes it is hard for women to turn down the offer of such large sums. "I just want them to be fully paid and cared for," he said, sug-



**CAMBODIA:** This photo shows Chhum Long, whose daughter was a surrogate mother, sitting in her kitchen in the village of Puth Sar in Takeo province.—AFP

gesting careful regulation is better than an outright ban. No surrogate mother in Puth Sar was willing to speak when AFP visited.

But two recent surrogates from other Cambodian villages agreed to talk on the condition that only their nicknames were used. Both were driven by poverty but said they had broadly positive experiences. Champei got pregnant before the ban, giving birth in April to a boy for a Dutch couple. She was paid \$10,000, which was used to purchase a plot of land. "This is a lot of money for me," she said. "I want to be a surrogate mother again so I can build a home," she said, adding that other women from her village were also surrogates.

### 'I miss her'

Romduol, 35, makes just \$200 a month as a garment factory worker in Kampong Speu province. She heard about surrogacy through her colleagues and gave birth to a baby girl for a gay Australian couple before the ban. "The Australians were so happy with the baby," she said. "I still consider her my child. I miss her because she had been in my womb for more than nine months." She used the money to pay

off debts. "But I have not fulfilled my dream yet. If possible I want to be a surrogate mother again because I need a house," she said.

Cambodian government officials, however, say the ban was necessary. "Cambodia is still poor but we don't want to use surrogacy to reduce poverty among our people," Chou Bun Eng, who heads an anti-human trafficking committee at the Ministry of Interior, said. "Otherwise Cambodia will become a factory to produce babies for sale." The November ban came in the form of a government edict. But there has yet to be a law passed specifically outlawing the trade, leaving it in a legal grey area.

Chou Bun Eng said the government was drafting legislation but provided no timeframe. Back at Puth Sar, Chhum Long admits the money from her daughter's surrogacy has not rescued them from poverty. After burning through monthly cash installments dealt out during the pregnancy and spending much of the remaining money on paying off debts, there wasn't enough to buy the new house they had hoped for. "We are still poor," she shrugs and then grins. "But if they selected older women, I'd want to be a surrogate too."—AFP

## CYPRUS STRUGGLES TO TACKLE INDUSTRIAL SONGBIRD POACHING

**NICOSIA:** Volunteers and police in Cyprus are struggling to tackle illegal songbird trapping operations that kill millions of birds a year and net huge profits for poaching gangs. Migrating birds, snared with nets or limesticks-glue-covered wooden perches—are served secretly at restaurants on the island as a traditional dish called ambelopoulia. Volunteer Keziah Conroy of the Bonn-based Committee Against Bird Slaughter scours scrubland near the resort of Paralimni, using a mobile phone app to locate poaching hotspots.

She climbs a tree to free a blackcap, a small grey warbler, stuck to a limestick. After it flies off she removes another 23 of the traps from nearby vegetation. "We're saving thousands and thousands of birds this way just by removing these traps," she says. Trappers can catch thousands of birds a season, selling a dozen for up to \$45 to restaurants which serve the dish for nearly twice the price. It's a tempting prospect on an island still suffering 13 percent unemployment after a 2012-13 debt crisis.

But campaign group BirdLife Cyprus calls poaching, banned under Cypriot and European Union law, an "ecological disaster". In a

study with Britain's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), it said trappers killed 2.3 million birds in autumn 2016, up from 1.4 million in 2010. Size for size, that makes Cyprus the second-most deadly bird destination in the Mediterranean, after Malta.

"Ambelopoulia" refers to the blackcap, but the dish of the same name can include several species of songbirds that are grilled, pickled or boiled. Nets also catch dozens of

inedible species as big as owls, which trappers usually throw away, says BirdLife Cyprus campaigns coordinator Tassos Shialis. "The biggest problem is that illegal bird-trapping now has become a large-scale, illegal business," he says. "An organized trapper is making tens of thousands of euros every year, tax free."

### Killing hotspot

Of the 280 bird species regularly seen in Cyprus, some 200 are



**LARNACA:** A picture taken shows a police-installed speaker similar to those used by trappers to mimic bird sounds to attract migrating Eurasian blackcap birds and to lure them into mist nets.—AFP

migrants, including everything from songbirds to waterfowl and raptors. Millions use the island as a stopping-off point on their spring migration from Africa and the Middle East to Europe. In autumn they return, fatter and accompanied by their offspring—a trapper's dream. One poaching hotspot is Cape Pyla, a once-barren group of hills on the island's southeastern coast, a popular resting place for migrating birds.

Trappers have introduced acacia trees to attract birds seeking a safe perch for the night. The cape lies within the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area (SBA) where former colonial power Britain retains sovereignty, a military base and responsibility for policing. The RSPB in March labeled the base area the "worst bird killing hotspot" in Cyprus. Sergeant Andy Adamou of the SBA police says that during peak trapping seasons his force uses more resources to combat wildlife crime than any other British police force. He shows AFP a confiscated 12-metre mist net strung between poles stuck in concrete-filled tyres.

Trappers play recorded birdsong to entice birds into bushes overnight, then throw gravel at them around dawn, startling them into nearby nets.—AFP

## BIG SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH AT SUB-ATOMIC LEVEL PROMISES SECURE COMMS

**WASHINGTON:** Chinese scientists have pulled off a major feat with one of the sub-atomic world's weirdest phenomena: photons that behave like twins and experience the same things simultaneously, even over great distances. The space-based technique developed by the researchers and reported Thursday in the journal Science holds potential for revolutionizing telecommunications and perhaps someday developing a hack-proof internet.

The principle is called quantum entanglement, in which photons or neutrons are created in such a way that they are linked and behave as if they were one entity, even if they are physically separated. In a groundbreaking experiment led by Professor Jian-Wei Pan of

Hefei University in China, a laser on a satellite orbiting 300 miles above the earth produced entangled photons. They were then transmitted to two different ground-based stations 750 miles apart, without breaking the link between the photons, the researchers said.

That distance is 10 times greater than the previous record for entanglement. The experiment also marked the first time entangled photons were generated in space. Both stations are in the mountains of Tibet, at a height that reduced the amount of air the fragile photons had to traverse. "It's a huge, major achievement," Thomas Jennewein, physicist at the University of Waterloo in Canada, told Science. "They started with this bold idea and managed to do it."—AFP

# GOSH DOCTORS TALK ABOUT THE IMPACT OF DEPRESSION

**LONDON:** According to World Health Organization, depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide, with a substantial impact on individuals and their loved ones. Depression can have a substantial impact on the societal level, with it being recognized as a major contributor to the overall burden of disease. So Clinical Psychologists, Dr Eve McAllister and Dr Daniel Stark from Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH) are calling for parents to be aware of the signs and symptoms of depression in children.



**Q: Why do you think WHO chose depression as its focus this year?**

**A:** The importance of mental-health in people's day-to-day lives is being increasingly recognized. The World Health Organization has demonstrated that depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide, with a substantial impact on individuals and their loved ones. Depression can also have a substantial impact on the societal level, with it being recognized as a major contributor to the overall burden of disease. Encouragingly, there are good treatments for depression. However, despite having a substantial impact on individuals, families and society in general, not many of those with depression actually receive effective treatment. Hopefully, raising the profile of depression will help reduce the impact it has.

**Q: Can you describe what depression is like?**

**A:** Depression can present in a variety of ways. It normally involves a depressed mood, no enjoyment in activities, even a lack of enjoyment for activities the person used to enjoy. It can also include irritability, a lack of interest in activities and reduced levels of energy. Depression can result in large amounts of suffering, as well as problems with basic day-to-day activities like eating, sleeping and self-care. As a result, it has substantial impact on the affected person, their friendships and relationships with others, wider home-life as well as work, or in the case of children, their schooling.



**Q: What are the root causes and symptoms of depression? Also, is depression genetic?**

**A:** Depression in both children and adults can be the result of a variety of factors. The current best scientific evidence indicates that depression is the combined result of a person's genetics, as well as other factors, over the course of a person's life. In children, these might include friendship difficulties, challenges in school, family factors or stressful life events. Whilst understanding the genetics of depression is important in terms of understanding and possibly in reducing risk of depression in individuals in the future, it is not the sole cause. It is also important to recognize that for the affected individual, working on and modifying the more environmental factors, as well as treating the symptoms of depression will result in the best outcome.

**Q: People often confuse sadness with depression. Can you tell our readers how to differentiate?**

**A:** This is a really good question. Sadness and depression are very different things. Sadness is a normal emotional response that we all have. It typically involves short-term feelings of low-mood, normally in response to challenges faced in day-to-day life. These periods might last for a few hours up to a few days, and are typically quite mild. On the other

hand, depression is a more serious condition that affects the way people think, feel and act over a prolonged period of time. It might include periods of low-mood becoming more serious, or lasting for two weeks or more. These episodes might be hard to cope with.

**Q: As Clinical Psychologists, what are your thoughts on research/ reports currently being done on the effects of neural activity specifically related to depression?**

**A:** Again, this is another really important area, and understanding the neural and neurobiological factors in depression is an important area of research. The hope here is that it might help us prevent depression in people in the future, or possibly lead to new ways of understanding and treating depression. However, for individuals and families affected by depression, the most important aspect is identifying difficulties as soon as possible and accessing existing, good and scientifically-proven treatments.

**Q: Major depression is on the rise in youth, what will help young people today in maintaining their mental health?**

**A:** Having good mental-health depends on a wide range of factors, including how well they perceive things to be going at home, in the family, with friends and school, in addition to other activities they may be engaged in. Supporting young-people in making sure these are going as well as possible is an important first-step, as is making sure they are eating, sleeping and exercising regularly.

It is also important to build young-people's confidence and self-esteem, typically by identifying successes in the course of day-to-day life, and finding activities they are good at. This can be something as simple as highlighting something that the young-person did well every-day. Practicing this on a long-term basis can help protect against low-mood or depression for when difficulties occur.

**Q: How does one support someone with depression?**

**A:** Supporting someone with depression can be challenging, and the first step would be raising concerns with the most appropriate health-professional. This might be the child's general practitioner or pediatrician, who will be well placed to explore concerns in more detail and help the parent identify suitable means of support and effective, evidence-based treatments. It is important to take a kind and compassionate approach with children who are depressed. It might also be helpful to support the child undertake activities that they used to find enjoyable to prevent things worsening.

**Q: Could you outline some tips for the parents worried that their child has depression or a mental health condition?**

**A:** If you have suspicions that your child has mental-health difficulties, we would strongly encourage parents to raise this with health-professionals. In many ways, having a mental-health condition - they can have a substantial impact on children's day-to-day wellbeing, can cause substantial problems in day-to-day life as well as other health-related difficulties and typically have good treatments for them. In the same way you would raise concerns about a possible physical illness with your child's healthcare providers, raising concerns about their mental-health is likely to lead to the best outcome in the long-run.



# SOUTHWEST US PREPS FOR 120 DEGREES

**LOS ANGELES:** When bracing for 120 degrees, it's all about the water. Drinking it, splashing in it to stay cool, and drinking it some more. A lot more. That's what officials were urging and residents were planning Friday as a potentially record-shattering heat wave started enveloping the Southwest United States and threatened to bring temperatures of more than 120 degrees to parts of Arizona and California next week. People in places like Palm Springs and Phoenix are used to seriously high temperatures, but 120 degrees becomes all the talk around the water cooler.

And with the health dangers of heat and dehydration, that's where authorities hope they keep coming back. Teresa Flores in Phoenix said she will make sure her two sons and daughter stay hydrated. "Water, water, water, water," Flores said. "So even when they think they're not thirsty, they're drinking water." Jennifer Vollmann brought her 2-year-old daughter to a public pool in downtown Phoenix, where the temperature

hit 108 Thursday. With 121 degrees predicted Tuesday, "we'll be here, she'll be in the pool," Vollmann said as her daughter ate a blue ice pop. Strong high pressure building over Western states is bringing the hot onslaught. Officials warned of excessive heat across southern portions of Arizona and Nevada, and throughout the 450-mile length of California's Central Valley. Almost the entire Golden State was predicted to simmer above normal temperatures, easing just short of the coast.

### Stay hydrated

With up to 122 on the horizon, Palm Springs will have cooling centers in community centers and libraries, and Phoenix and nonprofit groups are planning water stations to help the homeless and others. Palm Springs has soared above 120 several times, most recently hitting 122 on June 29, 2013. The National Weather Service in Phoenix said the last time the temperature topped 120 was 1995, at 121. The record high is 122

degrees, set on June 26, 1990. In the Arizona desert near the US-Mexico border, the heat can be so deadly that the Border Patrol reassigns agents and resources to areas that are especially dangerous for immigrants. "It is physically impossible for the average person to carry enough water to survive several days of walking through the desert," the agency said in a statement. The area saw more than 1,400 rescues and 84 deaths last fiscal year, according to statistics provided by the agency.

Through April, agents in the Tucson Sector have rescued 160 people and reported 14 deaths. Las Vegas and nearby cities also are preparing for the first heat wave of the season with extra cooling stations. Tuesday's high was expected to hit 115. With the three-day outdoor Electric Daisy Carnival music festival kicking off Friday, organizers used social media to encourage attendees to stay hydrated. It was providing free water during the nighttime event, which has drawn more than 130,000 people in past years.

In California, forecasters said prolonged heat would make snow melt faster in the Sierra Nevada, where massive winter storms coated towering peaks after years of drought. Waterways could flood, with vacationers warned to be cautious near water and avoid camping close to streams. Camp counselor Sabrina Chu, 17, said she and others in San Francisco were having kids drink lots of water while playing outdoors. The city was expected to have a high of 82 Sunday, well above the normal upper 60s.

"Compared to other places in California, the Bay has pretty consistent weather, so this is unusually hot for the area," Chu said. In Southern California, inland valleys, mountains and deserts would likely bear the brunt of the heat wave. Cities such as Redlands and Fontana east of Los Angeles planned to use community facilities as cooling centers. Back at the pool in Phoenix, Vollmann sounded a note of optimism about temperatures "cooling down." "It'll be 110 soon," she said.—AP



**PHOENIX:** A couple runs through section of South Mountain Park at sunrise to avoid the excessive heat in Phoenix.—AP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
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استشاري أطفال  
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# TSC SHAAB LAUNCHES COOKING SESSIONS WITH DEERA CHEFS

As part of its Ramadan campaign the Sultan Center is hosting live cooking sessions at TSC Shaab in conjunction with Deera Chefs throughout the Holy month of Ramadan. TSC cooking sessions which started the first weekend of Ramadan features top chefs from Kuwait preparing delicious yet easy Ramadan dishes. TSC aims to show guests the "how to cook" skills that could be translated into extraordinary meals.

The chefs provide rich insight on cooking and techniques that will help them in preparing delicious recipes and meals for the entire family. The interactive lessons are being held in an atmosphere of

friendly competition between participants aiming at acquiring the right cooking skills. Elite chefs hosting the cooking sessions at TSC are; Chef Mohammed Al-Kalha, Chef Jameela Al-Lenqawi, Chef Tasneem Al-Nasrallah and last but not least Chef Wafa's Al-Kindari. All recipe ingredients are available along with recipe cards for added convenience TSC has prepared the complete ingredient packages for pick-up.

Commenting on TSC initiative, Lisa Al-Gharib/ Marketing Manager at TSC said: "Our cooking sessions are about more than a list of ingredients and how to cook them, alternatively, they are about shar-

ing the generosity of the month with the Kuwaiti community while educating the participants on preparing dishes that are healthy and delicious. We wish to introduce this philosophy into the cooking experience at TSC for a memorable and valuable cooking lesson."

For those who want to sharpen their cooking skills, TSC invites customers to join the sessions every Thursday and Friday during Ramadan from 9-11pm at TSC Shaab. In addition to the cooking sessions, TSC is hosting a variety of events and activities across its store for family members of all ages.



## BABY WORLD NURSERY HOLDS ANNUAL GERGIAN

The Baby World Nursery recently held its annual gergian ceremony for kids and their families. The ceremony included cultural and folkloric shows with the Kuwaiti Sailors Band. The kids were dressed in traditional clothes and received special gifts from the owner, Narjis Al-Shatti.



From left, Abdul Hameed Al-Qattan, South Korean ambassador and Dr. Nael.



Sheikh Duaij Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah, left, with Abdul Hameed Al-Qattan



**D**r. Eng. Nael Abdul Hameed Ali Al-Qattan hosted a reception at Al-Qattan diwaniya in Surra. It was attended by remarkable number of Sheikhs, ambassadors, dignitaries and other guests. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayad

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 01:00 DCU: Justice League vs Teen Titans
- 02:30 Attila
- 04:00 Hard Target 2
- 05:45 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
- 08:00 DCU: Justice League vs Teen Titans
- 09:30 Bermuda Tentacles
- 11:15 Hard Target 2
- 13:00 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
- 15:15 Age Of Tomorrow
- 17:00 Forbidden Empire
- 19:00 Licence To Kill
- 21:15 Spooks: The Greater Good
- 23:00 Star Wars: The Force Awakens

OSN MOVIES HD THRILLER

- 01:00 A Kind Of Murder
- 02:45 The Stranger
- 04:15 Snake Eyes
- 06:00 Backstabbed
- 07:30 Extracted
- 09:00 The Stranger
- 10:45 Snake Eyes
- 12:30 The Village
- 14:30 Inside
- 16:00 Panic Room
- 18:00 Dying Of The Light
- 19:45 The Gift
- 21:45 The Hand That Rocks The Cradle
- 23:45 Dark Was The Night

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 00:05 Race To Witch Mountain
- 01:45 Tom And Huck
- 03:20 James And The Giant Peach
- 04:40 Race To Witch Mountain
- 06:20 Tom And Huck
- 07:55 Atlantis: The Lost Empire
- 09:35 Kim Possible: So The Drama
- 10:55 Atlantis: Milo's Return
- 12:20 James And The Giant Peach
- 13:40 Kim Possible: So The Drama
- 15:00 Treasure Planet
- 16:40 Tinker Bell And The Lost Treasure
- 18:05 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen
- 19:40 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
- 22:05 Treasure Planet
- 23:50 Kim Possible: So The Drama

OSN MOVIES HD FIRST

- 01:15 The Last Witch Hunter
- 03:15 Center Stage: On Pointe
- 05:15 Term Life
- 07:00 Spare Parts
- 09:00 Center Stage: On Pointe
- 10:45 Spectre
- 13:15 Alvin And The Chipmunks: The Road Chip
- 15:00 Hello, My Name Is Doris
- 16:45 The Choice
- 18:45 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
- 21:00 Creed
- 23:15 Take Down

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 01:45 Mr. Popper's Penguins
- 03:30 Life
- 05:15 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
- 07:00 Oscar
- 09:00 Life
- 11:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
- 12:45 Oscar
- 14:40 Hard Promises
- 16:20 The Butcher's Wife
- 18:05 Overboard
- 20:00 Father Of The Bride
- 22:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
- 23:45 The Out Of Towners

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 01:15 The Selfish Giant
- 03:00 Of Mice And Men
- 05:00 Ironweed
- 07:30 Trash
- 09:30 East Side Sushi
- 11:30 Of Mice And Men
- 13:30 I Believe In Miracles
- 15:15 I Am Bolt
- 17:00 The Help
- 19:30 Manglehorn
- 21:15 Still Alice
- 23:00 I Am Bolt

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:30 The Tale Of Despereaux
- 03:15 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
- 04:45 Pooch's Heffalump Movie
- 06:00 Worms
- 07:30 Three Wishes
- 09:45 Frog Kingdom

OSN MOVIES HD

- 11:30 Mune
- 13:15 The Tale Of Despereaux
- 15:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 16:45 Frog Kingdom
- 18:15 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 20:00 Thumbelina
- 21:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 23:00 Three Wishes

OSN MOVIES HD

- 00:15 The Hurricane
- 02:45 Beaches
- 05:00 Amelia
- 07:00 The Bucket List
- 08:45 X-Men: First Class
- 11:00 Big
- 12:45 The Walk
- 14:45 Amelia
- 16:45 The Invention Of Lying
- 18:30 The Guardian
- 20:45 Seventh Son
- 22:30 The Woman In Black 2: Angel Of Death

OSN MOVIES HD

- 00:45 The Talented Mr. Ripley
- 03:00 The Woman In Black
- 04:45 The Conspirator
- 06:45 Million Dollar Arm
- 08:45 Mighty Fine
- 10:10 Cold Creek Manor
- 12:05 The Conspirator
- 14:00 Million Dollar Baby
- 16:10 The Talented Mr. Ripley
- 18:25 The Woman In Black
- 20:00 Closed Circuit
- 21:45 Cold Mountain

SUNDANCE TV

- 01:05 Theater Of War
- 02:45 Radio Bikini
- 03:45 Finding Neverland
- 05:25 Cloro (Chlorine)
- 07:00 Hopscotch
- 08:45 Tiny Furniture
- 10:25 Welcome To Happiness
- 12:15 Discovering: Duran Duran
- 13:05 Fatima
- 18:45 White Lies
- 19:45 Movie Talk Legends: Walter Matthau
- 21:00 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
- 22:00 Hopscotch
- 23:00 Tiny Furniture
- 24:00 The Music Of Strangers
- 25:00 Flex Is Kings
- 26:00 Discovering: Duran Duran

OSN SERIES HD COMEDY

- 00:15 The Middle
- 00:40 The Middle
- 01:05 Kevin Can Wait
- 01:55 The Mindy Project
- 02:20 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 04:50 Til Death
- 05:15 Bettel
- 05:40 Trial & Error
- 06:05 Superstore
- 06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
- 06:55 The Mindy Project
- 07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 09:50 Til Death
- 10:15 Bettel
- 10:40 The Bernie Mac Show
- 11:05 Brothers
- 11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 12:20 Seinfeld
- 13:10 The Middle
- 13:35 The Middle
- 14:00 Til Death
- 14:25 Bettel
- 14:50 The Bernie Mac Show
- 15:15 Trial & Error
- 15:40 Superstore
- 16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 17:00 Seinfeld
- 17:30 Seinfeld
- 18:00 The Middle
- 19:00 Speechless
- 20:00 The Goldbergs
- 21:00 Seinfeld
- 21:30 Seinfeld
- 22:00 Kevin Can Wait
- 23:00 The Mindy Project
- 23:25 The Goldbergs
- 23:50 The Goldbergs

OSN SERIES HD FIRST

- 00:40 Chicago Med
- 01:30 The Catch
- 02:20 House Of Cards
- 03:20 Supergirl
- 04:10 Drop Dead Diva
- 05:00 Pitch
- 06:00 Good Morning America - Weekend

- 07:00 The View
- 07:45 The Chew
- 08:30 Chicago Med
- 09:20 Supergirl
- 10:10 Drop Dead Diva
- 11:00 The Blacklist
- 11:45 Chicago Fire
- 12:30 The View
- 13:15 The Chew
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Drop Dead Diva
- 17:00 Supergirl
- 18:00 Bones
- 19:00 Rosewood
- 20:00 Chicago P.D.
- 21:00 Chicago Justice
- 22:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
- 23:00 House Of Cards
- 23:50 The Blacklist

OSN FIRST HD Home of HBO

- 00:00 In Treatment
- 00:25 In Treatment
- 00:50 Queen Sugar
- 01:35 Imposters
- 02:20 King's Point
- 03:00 The Jinx: Life And Death Of Robert Durst
- 03:50 Habla Men
- 04:50 A Private Matter
- 06:50 Dancing In September
- 08:35 The Cheshire Murders
- 10:35 Game Change
- 12:30 Dying To Be Perfect
- 14:00 For Love Or Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story
- 16:00 Path To War
- 18:40 Saving My Tomorrow
- 19:15 In Treatment
- 19:45 In Treatment
- 20:10 Queen Sugar
- 21:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
- 21:30 Divorce
- 22:05 Mildred Pierce
- 23:10 Silicon Valley
- 23:40 Veep

OSN SERIES HD

- 00:00 The Catch
- 01:00 House Of Cards
- 01:50 The Blacklist
- 02:40 Chicago Med
- 03:30 The Catch
- 04:20 House Of Cards
- 05:20 Supergirl
- 06:10 Drop Dead Diva
- 07:00 Pitch
- 08:00 Good Morning America - Weekend
- 09:00 The View
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- 10:30 Chicago Med
- 11:20 Supergirl
- 12:10 Drop Dead Diva
- 13:00 The Blacklist
- 13:45 Chicago Fire
- 14:30 The View
- 15:15 The Chew
- 16:00 Live Good Morning America
- 18:00 Drop Dead Diva
- 19:00 Supergirl
- 20:00 Bones
- 21:00 Rosewood
- 22:00 Chicago P.D.
- 23:00 Chicago Justice

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 00:05 Disaster Date
- 00:30 Disaster Date
- 00:55 Tosh.0
- 01:20 Tosh.0
- 01:45 Lip Sync Battle
- 02:10 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 03:25 Life Or Debt
- 04:15 Disaster Date
- 04:40 Disaster Date
- 05:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 05:55 Bondi Ink
- 06:50 Catch A Contractor
- 07:40 Lip Sync Battle
- 08:05 Lip Sync Battle
- 08:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 09:20 Sweat Inc.
- 10:10 Hungry Investors
- 11:00 Life Or Debt
- 11:50 Bondi Ink
- 12:45 Disaster Date
- 13:10 Disaster Date
- 13:35 Lip Sync Battle
- 14:00 Lip Sync Battle
- 14:25 Hungry Investors
- 15:15 Catch A Contractor
- 16:05 Tattoo Disasters
- 16:30 Tattoo Disasters
- 16:55 Disaster Date
- 17:20 Disaster Date
- 17:45 Ridiculousness Arabia
- 18:10 Ridiculousness Arabia
- 18:34 Impractical Jokers
- 18:58 Disaster Date
- 19:22 Bondi Ink
- 20:12 Tattoo Disasters
- 20:36 Tattoo Disasters
- 21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 21:30 Frankenfood
- 22:00 Frankenfood
- 22:25 The Jim Gaffigan Show
- 22:50 The Jim Gaffigan Show
- 23:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 23:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition

FOOD NETWORK

- 00:00 Kids BBQ Championship
- 01:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 01:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 02:00 Private Chef
- 02:30 Private Chef
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 Kids BBQ Championship
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 06:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 07:00 The Kitchen
- 08:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 08:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:00 Siba's Table
- 09:30 Siba's Table
- 10:00 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 Restaurant: Impossible
- 21:00 Mystery Diners
- 21:30 Mystery Diners
- 22:30 The Big Eat - Middle East
- 23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:00 Chopped

Syfy HD

- 00:55 Face Off
- 01:45 Sanctuary
- 02:40 Stargate SG-1
- 03:30 Fishtales
- 05:05 Sanctuary
- 06:00 Stargate SG-1
- 06:50 Sanctuary



HARD TARGET 2 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 07:40 The Shannara Chronicles
- 08:30 The Shannara Chronicles
- 09:20 Hunters
- 10:10 Sanctuary
- 11:00 Stargate SG-1
- 11:50 Face Off
- 12:40 The Shannara Chronicles
- 13:30 Sanctuary
- 14:20 Highlander III: The Final Dimension
- 16:00 Hunters
- 16:50 The Shannara Chronicles
- 17:40 Sanctuary
- 18:30 Stargate SG-1
- 19:20 The Shannara Chronicles
- 20:10 The Shannara Chronicles
- 21:00 Killjoys
- 21:50 Killjoys
- 22:40 Blood Lake

Discovery Family

- 00:05 What Happened Next?
- 00:30 Nextworld
- 01:20 Nextworld
- 02:10 Storm Chasers
- 03:00 Storm Chasers
- 03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 04:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 05:30 Ultimate Survival
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 06:40 How It's Made
- 07:00 Kenny The Shark
- 07:25 Bear Grylls Survival School
- 07:50 America's Cutest Pets
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:30 How It's Made
- 10:20 Nextworld
- 10:30 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 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 14:30 Kenny The Shark
- 14:55 Bear Grylls Survival School
- 15:20 America's Cutest Pets
- 16:10 Nextworld
- 17:00 Quax
- 17:25 Quax
- 17:50 Dirty Jobs
- 18:40 What Happened Next?
- 19:05 What Happened Next?
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 19:55 How It's Made
- 20:20 Mythbusters
- 21:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 21:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 22:00 Dirty Jobs
- 22:50 What Happened Next?
- 23:15 What Happened Next?
- 23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Animal Fight Club 4.5
- 01:10 Australia's Deadly Monsters
- 02:00 Lion Warrior
- 02:50 Hunter Hunted
- 03:45 Extreme Animals
- 04:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 05:35 Lion Warrior
- 06:30 Hunter Hunted
- 07:25 Extreme Animals
- 08:20 1000 Days For The Planet
- 09:15 World's Weirdest
- 10:10 Safari Brothers
- 11:05 Savage Kingdom
- 12:00 Catching Giants
- 12:55 Swamp Lions
- 13:50 Hunter Hunted
- 14:45 Extreme Animals
- 15:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 16:35 World's Weirdest (2015)
- 17:30 Safari Brothers
- 18:25 Savage Kingdom
- 19:20 Extreme Animals
- 20:10 1000 Days For The Planet
- 21:00 World's Weirdest (2015)
- 21:50 Safari Brothers
- 22:40 Savage Kingdom
- 23:30 Catching Giants

NAT GEO people

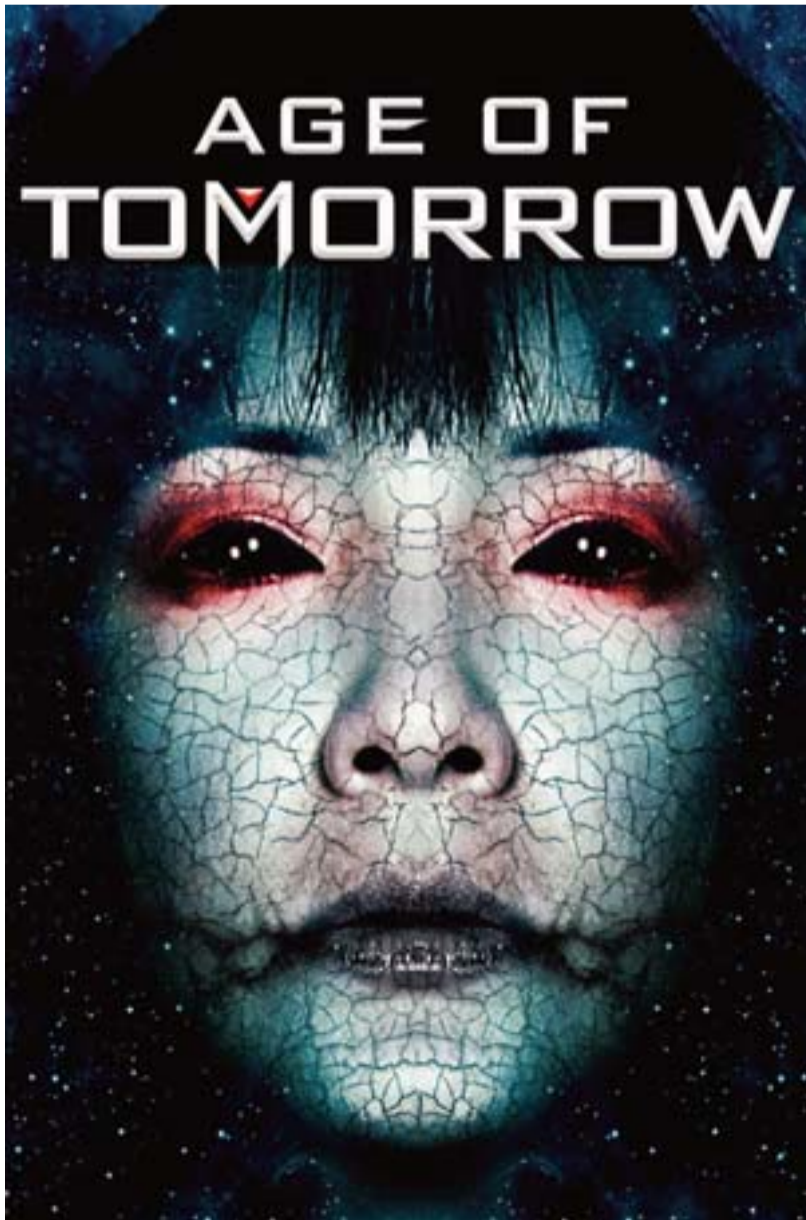
- 00:20 Street Outlaws
- 01:10 Heavy Rescue
- 02:00 Our Guy In Latvia
- 02:50 What On Earth?
- 03:40 Misfit Garage
- 04:30 Container Wars
- 05:00 How Do They Do It?
- 05:30 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Gold Divers
- 06:50 Street Outlaws
- 07:40 Misfit Garage
- 08:30 What On Earth?
- 09:20 Container Wars
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Fast N' Loud
- 11:25 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 11:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 12:15 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
- 13:05 How Do They Do It?
- 13:30 Container Wars
- 13:55 Container Wars
- 14:20 Gold Rush
- 16:00 Gold Divers
- 16:50 Misfit Garage
- 17:40 Wheeler Dealers
- 18:30 How Do They Do It?
- 18:55 How Do They Do It?
- 19:20 What On Earth?
- 20:10 Container Wars
- 20:35 Container Wars
- 21:00 Gold Divers
- 21:50 Shipwreck Men
- 22:40 Outback Truckers
- 23:30 Misfit Garage

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 The Lion Queen
- 01:40 Killer IQ: Lion vs Hyena
- 02:35 Killer IQ: Lion vs Hyena
- 03:25 Blood Lions - Bred For The Bullet
- 04:15 The Lion Queen
- 05:02 Killer IQ: Lion vs Hyena
- 05:49 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
- 06:36 Gorilla School
- 07:00 Gorilla School
- 07:25 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 08:15 Wildest Africa
- 09:10 The Lion Queen
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 11:55 America's Cutest Pets
- 12:50 Wildest Africa
- 13:45 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
- 14:40 The Lion Queen
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
- 17:25 Animal Cops Houston
- 18:20 Lone Star Law
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 21:05 Animal Cops Houston
- 22:00 Lone Star Law
- 22:55 The Lion Man
- 23:20 The Lion Man
- 23:50 Untamed China With Nigel Marven

NAT GEO people

- 00:15 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
- 00:45 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
- 01:10 Food School
- 01:40 The Food Files
- 02:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 02:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 03:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 03:30 Street Food Around The World
- 03:55 Glamour Puds
- 04:25 Eat: The Story Of Food
- 05:20 Ariana's Persian Kitchen



AGE-OF-TOMORROW ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 05:45 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 06:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 06:40 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 07:10 The Food Files
- 07:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 08:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 08:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 09:00 Street Food Around The World
- 09:25 Glamour Puds
- 09:55 Eat: The Story Of Food
- 10:50 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 11:15 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 11:45 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 12:10 A Is For Apple
- 12:40 A Is For Apple
- 13:05 Food School
- 13:35 The Food Files
- 14:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 14:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 14:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 15:25 Street Food Around The World
- 15:50 Eat: The Story Of Food
- 16:45 Glamour Puds
- 17:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 17:40 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 18:10 Bad Trip
- 19:05 Street Food Around The World
- 19:30 Glamour Puds
- 20:00 Eat: The Story Of Food
- 21:00 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 21:30 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 22:00 Bad Trip
- 22:55 Food School
- 23:20 The Food Files
- 23:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 00:30 Race To Escape
- 02:10 Mythbusters
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Nextworld
- 08:14 Mythbusters
- 09:02 Redesign My Brain
- 09:50 How Do They Do It?
- 10:14 Food Factory
- 10:38 You Have Been Warned
- 11:26 Nextworld
- 12:14 Mythbusters
- 13:02 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Food Factory
- 13:50 Race To Escape
- 14:38 Nextworld
- 15:26 You Have Been Warned
- 16:14 Mythbusters
- 17:02 Race To Escape
- 17:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 18:40 Mythbusters
- 19:30 How The Universe Works
- 20:20 How Do They Do It?
- 20:45 Food Factory
- 21:10 Race To Escape
- 22:00 How The Universe Works
- 22:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 23:40 Mythbusters

OSN KIDS ZONE TV

- 00:03 Boj
- 00:15 Barney And Friends
- 00:40 What's The Big Idea?
- 00:50 My Little Pony
- 01:13 Qumi Qumi
- 01:25 Transformers: Rescue Bots
- 01:48 Pound Puppies
- 02:10 Chuck And Friends
- 02:33 Bali
- 02:47 Kit 'n' Kate
- 03:00 Littlest Pet Shop
- 03:22 Heroes Of The City
- 03:38 Heroes Of The City
- 03:53 My Little Pony
- 04:16 What's The Big Idea?
- 04:22 Qumi Qumi
- 04:35 Barney And Friends
- 05:03 Transformers: Rescue Bots
- 05:25 Boj
- 05:38 Pound Puppies
- 06:00 Chuck And Friends
- 06:23 Bali
- 06:37 Kit 'n' Kate
- 06:43 Kit 'n' Kate
- 06:50 Thomas And Friends
- 07:01 Littlest Pet Shop
- 07:24 Heroes Of The City
- 07:39 Heroes Of The City
- 07:55 Barney And Friends
- 08:23 My Little Pony
- 08:45 Qumi Qumi
- 08:58 Transformers: Rescue Bots
- 09:21 Boj
- 09:33 Pound Puppies
- 09:56 Chuck And Friends
- 10:18 Barney And Friends
- 10:46 What's The Big Idea?
- 10:53 Kit 'n' Kate
- 10:59 Bali
- 11:13 Thomas And Friends
- 11:25 Littlest Pet Shop
- 11:47 Heroes Of The City
- 12:03 Heroes Of The City
- 12:18 My Little Pony
- 12:41 What's The Big Idea?
- 12:47 Qumi Qumi
- 13:00 Transformers: Rescue Bots
- 13:23 Barney And Friends
- 13:50 Boj
- 14:03 Pound Puppies
- 14:26 Chuck And Friends
- 14:48 Kit 'n' Kate
- 14:55 Thomas And Friends
- 15:01 Littlest Pet Shop
- 15:13 Littlest Pet Shop
- 15:35 Heroes Of The City
- 15:51 Heroes Of The City
- 16:06 My Little Pony
- 16:29 What's The Big Idea?
- 16:35 Qumi Qumi
- 16:48 Transformers: Rescue Bots
- 17:11 Boj
- 17:23 Kit 'n' Kate
- 17:30 Barney And Friends
- 17:58 Chuck And Friends
- 18:20 Bali
- 18:34 Pound Puppies
- 18:56 Thomas And Friends
- 19:08 Littlest Pet Shop
- 19:31 Heroes Of The City
- 19:46 Heroes Of The City
- 20:02 Barney And Friends



# CLASSIFIEDS



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## PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO FRIDAY

### NOW SHOWING

\*Late shows highlighted in orange are available on Thursday and Friday only

**HACKSAW RIDGE** (EXCLUSIVE) **RERUN** GATE MALL 2:45, 9:00, 11:30  
 GRANDCLAS 3:30, 9:00

**CAST:** Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington  
 In a remote mountain village in World War II, a group of American soldiers are stranded on a mountain peak and must fight their way through a series of brutal battles to survive.

**AL HAMRA LUXURY CENTER**  
 2:45, 9:00, 11:45  
 GRANDCLAS 3:30, 9:15, 12:00

**DON'T BREATHE** (EXCLUSIVE) **RERUN** GATE MALL 2:30, 4:30, 8:15, 11:15

**CAST:** Stephen Lang, Jane Levy, Dylan McDermott  
 A family of three is trapped in their home by a group of masked intruders who are hunting for a hidden treasure.

**AL HAMRA LUXURY CENTER**  
 2:30, 4:30, 10:00, 11:45

**THE EXCEPTION** GATE MALL 2:00, 4:15, 8:30, 11:45

**CAST:** Lily James, Jay Coombes  
 A German soldier tries to deliver a message to the Dutch resistance during the invasion of the Netherlands.

**AL HAMRA LUXURY CENTER**  
 2:15, 4:15, 8:30, 11:30

**DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL** GATE MALL 2:15, 4:15, 8:30, 11:30

**CAST:** Jason Drucker, Alicia Silverstone  
 A family goes on a road trip to attend a wedding, but the trip turns into a chaotic adventure.

**AL HAMRA LUXURY CENTER**  
 2:15, 4:15, 8:45, 11:45

**ALIEN: COVENANT** GATE MALL 3:15, 8:15, 11:45

**CAST:** Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston  
 A group of astronauts on a remote planet discover a terrifying new alien species.

**AL HAMRA LUXURY CENTER**  
 2:30, 8:15, 11:30

**KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 3D** GATE MALL 3:30, 8:45

**CAST:** Charlie Hunnam, Aidan Turner  
 A young knight embarks on a quest to become King Arthur.

**AL HAMRA LUXURY CENTER**  
 3:00, 10:30  
 MAND 4:45, 12:00

**GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 3D** GATE MALL 2:30, 9:30

**CAST:** Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista  
 The Guardians of the Galaxy return to save the universe.

**AL HAMRA LUXURY CENTER**  
 2:30, 9:30

**THE CIRCLE** GATE MALL 3:00, 8:00, 11:45

**CAST:** Emma Watson, Tom Hanks, John Boyega  
 A woman works for a powerful tech company that tracks every move she makes.

**AL HAMRA LUXURY CENTER**  
 3:00, 8:00, 11:45

EXCLUSIVE: MOVIES SHOWING ONLY AT GRAND CINEMAS GATE MALL AND AL HAMRA LUXURY CENTER

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
 I, Pappu Lal S/o Mohan Lal, holder of Indian Passport No. L3465187 & Civil ID No. 277070902896 has changed my name to Praful Dewra, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5322) 18-6-2017

**LOST**  
 I, Ayesha Jaffar, Eshbelia Block 4 street 429 building no. 48, hereby inviting to the notice of the public that my certificate of BCOM examination 2014 with registration no. FFALBS0003 of Calicut University have been irrecoverably lost during transit from India to Kuwait as such I intend to apply for the duplicate certificate. If anybody happens to get the originals may kindly send the same or intimate the undersigned or the university. Ayesha Jaffar S/d. (C 5321) 14-6-2017

**ACCOMMODATION**  
 Sharing accommodation For Filipino Bachelor ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near gulf-mart. Available on June 25, Contact 94418396 or 94033908 (12-6-2017)

**Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988**  
**EMERGENCY 112**

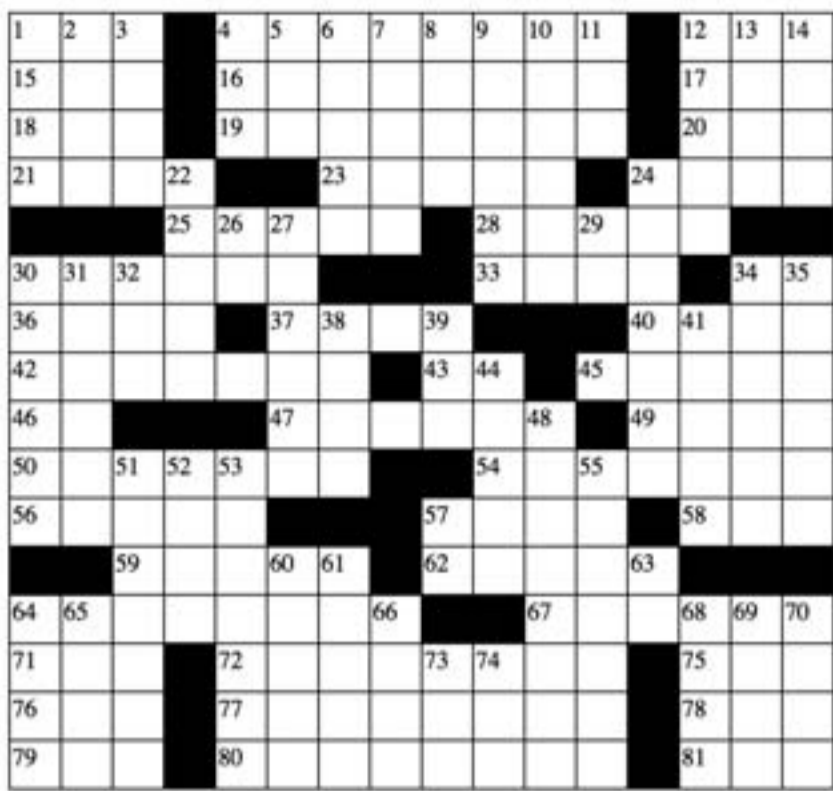
**REQUIRED URGENTLY WAITERS For Restaurant Male & Female**  
 Contact No.: **99221756**

**EMERGENCY 112**  
**PRAYER TIMINGS**  
 Fajr: 03:13  
 Shorook: 04:49  
 Duhr: 11:49  
 Asr: 15:23  
 Maghrib: 18:50  
 Isha: 20:22

**Kuwait Times**  
 Get your news any way you want it  
 Kuwait Times is the first daily in the Arabian Gulf providing all the news and information on business, politics, local sports and entertainment in Kuwait.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)											
Flight Schedule					DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION						
Arrival Flights on Monday 19/6/2017					Departure Flights on Monday 19/6/2017						
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time			
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05	KAC 512	Mashhad			14:25	KAC 673	Dubai	15:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC 414	Bangkok			14:35	KNE 382	Taif	15:00
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	SVL 500	Jeddah			14:45	GFA 222	Bahrain	15:00
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC 692	Muscat			14:55	QTR 1079	Doha	15:15
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC 304	Jeddah			14:55	SVL 501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	ETD 303	Mumbai			14:55	KAC 775	Riyadh	15:50
KAC	102	London	00:55	OMA 645	Abu Dhabi			15:05	KAC 661	Abu Dhabi	15:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC 562	Muscat			15:10	KNE 530	Jeddah	15:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC 502	Amman			15:25	KAC 619	Doha	16:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	ABY 127	Beirut			15:35	KAC 743	Dammam	16:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	UAE 857	Sharjah			15:45	OMA 646	Muscat	16:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	SAW 705	Dubai			15:50	ABY 128	Sharjah	16:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05	RJA 640	Damascus			16:00	ETD 304	Dhabi	16:20
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	FDK 801	Amman			16:00	KAC 563	Amman	16:25
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	FDB 051	Damascus			16:15	KAC 615	Bahrain	16:30
KAC	418	Manila	02:25	QTR 1072	Dubai			16:15	SAW 706	Damascus	16:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETH 621	Doha			16:15	RJA 641	Amman	16:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	UAE 854	Cairo			16:20	FDB 052	Dubai	17:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA 644	New York			16:25	JZR 266	Beirut	17:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	QTR 1087	Jeddah			16:35	KAC 283	Dhaka	17:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40	ETD 306	Alexandria			16:50	KAC 283	Dhaka	17:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	MSR 613	Cairo			17:05	JZR 552	Alexandria	17:25
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:20	KAC 417	Riyadh			17:15	QTR 1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR 560	Bahrain			17:30	JZR 240	Amman	17:30
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	QTR 077	Jeddah			17:35	KAC 357	Kochi	17:40
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC 303	Dubai			17:45	UAE 858	Dubai	17:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	FEG 954	Doha			18:05	KAC 381	Delhi	17:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	RJA 643	Cairo			18:30	NIA 362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	THY 771	GYD 1900			19:00	KAC 331	Trivandrum	17:55
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	GFA 212	Bahrain			19:05	SVL 511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	KAC 167	Dammam			19:05	KAC 216	Bahrain	18:20
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC 156	Sharjah			19:20	JZR 538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	KAC 773	Istanbul			19:30	KAC 785	Jeddah	18:45
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC 511	Bahrain			19:40	QTR 1081	Doha	19:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC 161	Dubai			19:45	KAC 345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC 671	Geneva			19:50	MSR 621	airo	19:30
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC 117	Dubai			19:50	GFA 218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KAC 787	New York			19:50	ABY 124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC 165	Doha			20:05	Rome 0920	Dubai	20:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	JZR 534	Jeddah			20:10	Cairo 0930	Bangalore	20:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC 691	Rome			20:15	AZQ 4566	L76GYD	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	ABY 126	Muscat			20:15	KAC 543	Cairo	21:00
ABY 125	Sharjah		09:00	KAC 101	Sharjah			09:40	DLH 634	Doha	21:00
IRA 667	Esfahan		09:15	KAC 101	London			09:45	OMA 648	Muscat	21:05
QTR 1070	Doha		09:20	UAE 856	Doha			09:50	KNE 232	Riyadh	21:10
FDB 055	Dubai		09:40	KAC 561	Amman			09:55	MEA 403	Beirut	21:15
GFA 213	Bahrain		10:40	KAC 541	Cairo			10:00	KAC 301	Mumbai	21:40
MEA 404	Beirut		10:55	ETD 302	Abu Dhabi			10:00	QTR 1089	Doha	21:45
AXB 889	Mangalore/Bahrain		11:05	KAC 617	Doha			10:15	KAC 301	Mumbai	21:40
JZR 561	Sohag		11:10	KAC 617	Esfahan			10:15	DHX 171	Bahrain	21:50
MSC 401	Alexandria		12:30	IRA 666	Istanbul			10:30	KAC 205	Islamabad	21:55
KAC 774	Riyadh		12:45	KA C153	Istanbul			10:30	ETD 308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
THY 766	Istanbul		12:50	QTR 1071	Doha			10:35	ETD 919	Bahrain/Abu Dhabi	22:10
FEG 953	Asyut		12:55	FDB 056	Dubai			10:35	ALK 230	Colombo	22:20
MSR 610	Cairo		13:00	JZR 1772	Jeddah			11:00	KLM 445	Bahrain	22:25
KNE 529	Jeddah		13:40	GFA 214	Bahrain			11:35	UAE 860	Dubai	22:35
KAC 672	Dubai		13:55	MEA 405	Beirut			11:55	KAC 383	Delhi	22:35
QTR 1078	Doha		14:05	VIZ 201	TQD			12:00	GFA 220	Bahrain	22:50
KNE 231	Riyadh		14:10	JZR 776	Jeddah			12:00	ETD 310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
KAC 364	Colombo		14:15	AXB 890	Mangalore			12:05	JZR 528	Asyut	23:05
GFA 221	Bahrain		14:15	JZR 176	Dubai			13:10	KAC 783	Jeddah	23:10
KAC 352	Kochi		14:20	MSC 402	Alexandria			13:30	QTR 1083	Doha	23:20
KAC 618	Doha		14:20	THY 767	Istanbul			13:45	KAC 411	Bangkok	23:35
				FEG 938	Sohag			13:55			
				MSR 611	Cairo			14:00			

CROSSWORD 1640



ACROSS

1. Type genus of the family Myacidae.
4. A weak soluble dibasic acid (the parent acid of cyanamide salts).
12. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
15. The habitation of wild animals.
16. Wandering aimlessly without ties to a place or community.
17. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
18. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
19. Type genus of the Ameiuridae.
20. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
21. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
23. Relating to or accompanying birth.
25. Lacking leadership.
28. A small faint zodiacal constellation in the southern hemisphere.
30. Basic principles of the cosmos.
33. (prefix) Within.
36. Earn on some commercial or business transaction.
37. One thousandth of a second.
40. Fallow deer.
42. Characteristic of the classical artistic and literary traditions.
43. A heavy precious metallic element.
45. The brightest star in Cygnus.
46. A public promotion of some product or service.
47. Scottish mathematician who invented logarithms.
49. A Bantu language spoken in southern Zaire.
50. A resident of Nevada.
54. (used with count nouns) Of an indefinite number more than 2 or 3 but not many.
56. A city in southeastern South Korea.
58. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
59. Reconnaissance (by shortening).
62. A native-born Israeli.
64. A device used for easing the foot into a shoe.
67. A midnight meeting of witches to practice witchcraft and sorcery.
71. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc.
72. The outermost point of the spine of the shoulder blade.
75. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
76. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
77. Reddish-brown grouse of upland moors of Great Britain.
78. The basic unit of money in Albania.
79. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity equal to 10 decibels.
80. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
81. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.

DOWN

1. Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
2. Not only so, but.
3. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
4. A sudden loss of consciousness resulting when the rupture or occlusion of a blood vessel leads to oxygen lack in the brain.
5. Edible tuber of any of several yams.
6. A yellow pungent volatile oil (trade name Agene) formerly used for bleaching and aging flour.
7. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
8. Lie adjacent to another.
9. A state of individual psychological well-being based upon a sense of confidence and usefulness and purpose.
10. Used to manufacture fructose and in assessing kidney function.
11. A doctor's degree in dental surgery.
12. God of wealth and love.
13. A barrier consisting of a horizontal bar and supports.
14. God of fire.
22. United States comedian and film actor (1896-1996).
24. Amphibians that resemble lizards.
26. A metric unit of length equal to one billionth of a meter.
27. A thin plate or layer (especially of bone or mineral).
29. A bachelor's degree in religion.
31. Ground snakes.
32. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
34. Pertaining to or resembling amoebae.
35. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
38. The act of scanning.
39. An index of the cost of all goods and services to a typical consumer.
41. Frogs, toads, tree toads.
44. A unit of magnetic flux density equal to one weber per square meter.
48. Undergo resorption.
51. A barbiturate used as a hypnotic.
52. American novelist (1909-1955).
53. French artist who immigrated to the United States.
55. A porch along the outside of a building (sometimes partly enclosed).
57. A bachelor's degree in science.
60. Made from baking chocolate or cocoa powder and milk and sugar.
61. A wrong action attributable to bad judgment or ignorance or inattention.
63. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
65. Exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health.
66. Any of the three Fates or goddesses of destiny.
68. An island in Indonesia east of Java.
69. In bed.
70. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
73. A master's degree in business.
74. Being one more than two.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Family members may want to talk to you about family business matters. It would be wise to listen and take notes. This is nothing serious—just preventative measures for future safety and a good feeling of completion and belonging. Break up the sober moment and open up the discussion to praise and encouragement for others. Some may think you are older than you are, for you can step in and offer wonderful advice and insight. You may even enjoy the thought of being older and probably treat authority, the elderly and your teachers with great respect. Life seems to be working with rather than against you so do not hold back. This may include anything from repairs on the house to some serious hobby involvement. Whistle!



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This day may be the beginning of a long dreamy time when you find it easy to lose yourself in one flight of fancy or another. Normally clear in your thinking, ideas temporarily become fuzzy, and it is hard to be logical or consistent. Let yourself dream today. Work will go well but it is the quiet moments that make thinking difficult. A little writing may help. Busy yourself in new projects that show your bent for beautification, perhaps planting a vegetable garden or putting in a fish tank. This would be a great time to treat your kids or the neighbor's kids to a visit to the zoo. Perhaps you will enjoy a good book or movie later today. Consider the stars tonight. Being more closely involved with another person may well become your highest priority.



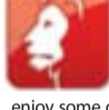
Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may have the opportunity to play the role of guardian angel or mentor to someone in need today. You can demonstrate a great deal of understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others and you are in a good position to communicate and promote a healing. A very young relative might not want to wait on the next vacation to enjoy those children's books that you have accumulated over the years. Consider mailing a few fun books so they can receive something special in the mail. They will love whatever you send because you thought of them. Breakthrough thinking is available today and may come through your immediate surroundings, home and environment—your support system. You will receive monetary rewards today.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

In a word, it is your emotions and inner strength that holds your innermost self together. Your feelings are not just important—they are central to knowing more about you. A strong devotional nature becomes apparent to anyone who takes time to know you. Everything else is centered upon this inner drive and energy. The search for a mate and marriage in particular are crucial for you. Communication with those in a place of worship is possible, enjoyable and uplifting at this time. You are driven to unite and find out what togetherness means. Cleaning, health-awareness, shopping and cooperation from each member of the family or from friends make your day move along easily.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There will be less of an impulse now for recognition. There is a growing need to enjoy some quality time this day. Perhaps you like to listen to teaching tapes or a hobby has taken up space in your creative sector. This time will be less outward and may call for a change of action. This is not a time of outreach and not necessarily the best point to start any great projects. There is introspection, and you may find yourself letting go of plans and projects started in a more outward phase. You may take an interest in your own psyche, religion and spiritual ideas. You take in new impressions. With all of this desire for productive time alone, you will still find time to enjoy your friends from time to time, especially today.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You could find that you are appreciated and valued for your feelings and your ability to get things done. You can always find the resources you require, plus the necessary instruction in how to use them. You have an inner vision and you are able to understand the true picture. This often finds you working as a go-between with others. Today you might use your special gift for spanning the generation gap by bringing older and younger people together. Your wisdom can be shared as you may find yourself involved in settling disputes. Because you love animals so very much, this evening may become your special time to work in finding homes for lost animals.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Interaction with others is the focus of this day. Neighbors, friends and family members may take on more importance. Outdoor activity through, perhaps, a tour of a nearby park, zoo or group garage or yard sale can be enjoyed by many. You have a lot of energy and tend to be impatient with those who slow your pace-careful. You soak up what you need to see quickly and are ready to go forward with new experiences. You could be awed as you may find yourself unexpectedly involved with some influential individuals. This may be a great time to suggest a future meeting that will give you time to communicate some of your ideas. Keep your composure and you will do fine. Many of your friends wish they had thought of your ideas; you are spontaneous.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You will often find yourself choosing between comfort and progress. Progress is occasionally comfortable, but only when you are looking at where you have been. Today you choose to improve or enhance your surroundings with trees, flowers and perhaps a vegetable garden. Designate a little area for the younger members of the family and you could help teach the importance of helping things grow. Perhaps radishes and onions will be on your table this summer. This afternoon you may decide to watch a car race, participate in team sports or enjoy some trendy pastime with a friend. Your sense of mission makes for impulsive, sometimes rash, but always brave actions. A restful evening will help you be prepared for the busy week ahead.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Increasing inner confidence helps you emerge from a long period of doubt. Finances are better and you can now pay more attention to the needs you have been pushing aside. There is much to accomplish today. Perhaps some repair work or catch-up work needs your attention. You push hard and much energy can be wasted if you do not stop to plan for the end result you want to achieve. You seem to choose friends that plan well, and today would be a good time to toss around a few ideas with them. This afternoon you can balance all this hard work with some fun activity. You will be pleased to discover that somebody who opposed you in the past is now more understanding of your viewpoint. It is most important to set aside time for family tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Immediate needs are where your attention is today. Shopping and tending to chores are high on your to-do list. You have learned to prioritize and this is good. You have the patience that is necessary for helping friends this afternoon. This could mean a move or perhaps watching the kids while the parents tend to some difficult project. You are good at communicating and conveying yourself to others. You have a lot of energy and come across as assertive and in control of whatever is set before you now. You pursue your obligations with much emotion and obvious enthusiasm. You are conventional when it comes to your needs and surroundings. Small and less are okay with you.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

A lazy morning may consist of updating a scrapbook or photograph album. A cycle of nostalgia and domesticity begins now emphasizing a need for security and a sense of roots. Family, home and relatives play big parts in your life. This mood may promote a frenzy of phone calls to out-of-touch loved ones or friends. You want to belong on a private, intimate and personal level. A hobby is most fun when it is shared, and that is where a friend might find you this afternoon, playing with a hobby. You may enjoy some time in a park with a friend later today. Helping others is what you do best; you attract more people to you than you believe possible. Others learn from your diplomatic ways. You are wise to listen first and ask questions later.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You always seem to say just what you mean. You will be right-on when it comes to questions of feelings—you may be more interested in matters of psychology, different cultures and history. You can find support from all sides when it comes to any sort of mental activity. A new game or an interesting movie may be the goal for the afternoon. You communicate with accomplished skill and it is stimulating just being with you. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student, able to excel in speaking, writing and all types of communication skills. Your ambitions go hand-in-hand with communication and using the mind and the two should never be far apart. The evening has romantic possibilities—a time you may look back on fondly.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Fish 2

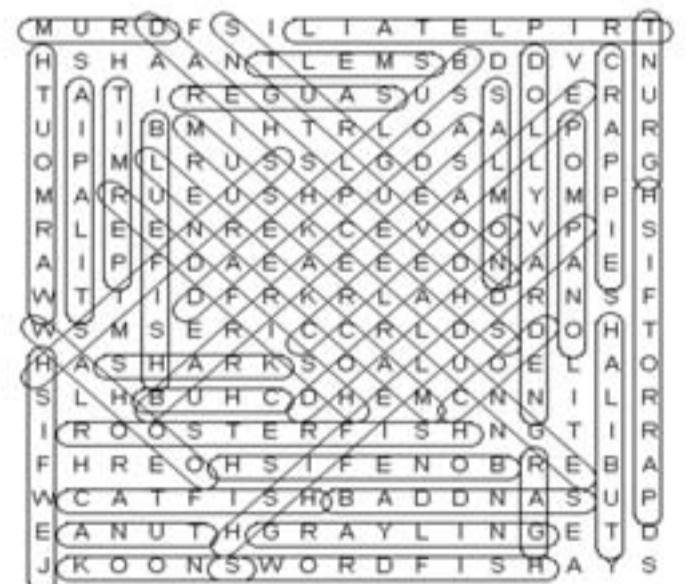
Find and circle all of the fish that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Benjamin Franklin quotation.



- |              |             |             |            |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| AMBERJACK    | CROAKER     | PICKEREL    | SOLE       |
| BASS         | DOLPHIN     | PIKE        | SPEARFISH  |
| BONEFISH     | FLUNDER     | POLLOCK     | STEELHEAD  |
| BULLHEAD     | GOLDFISH    | PORGY       | TARPON     |
| CATFISH      | GRUNTER     | ROOSTERFISH | SWORDFISH  |
| CHUB         | HALIBUT     | SALMON      | TILAPIA    |
| COD          | JEWFISH     | SAND DAB    | TRIPLETAIL |
| CRAPPIE      | MACKEREL    | SAUGER      | TUNA       |
| CREVALLE     | MUSKELLUNGE | SHARK       | WAHOO      |
| DOLLY VARDEN | PADDLEFISH  | SHEEPSHEAD  | WARMOUTH   |
| CISCO        | PERCH       | SNAPPER     | YELLOWTAIL |
| COBIA        |             |             |            |

Yesterday's Solution

Fish 1



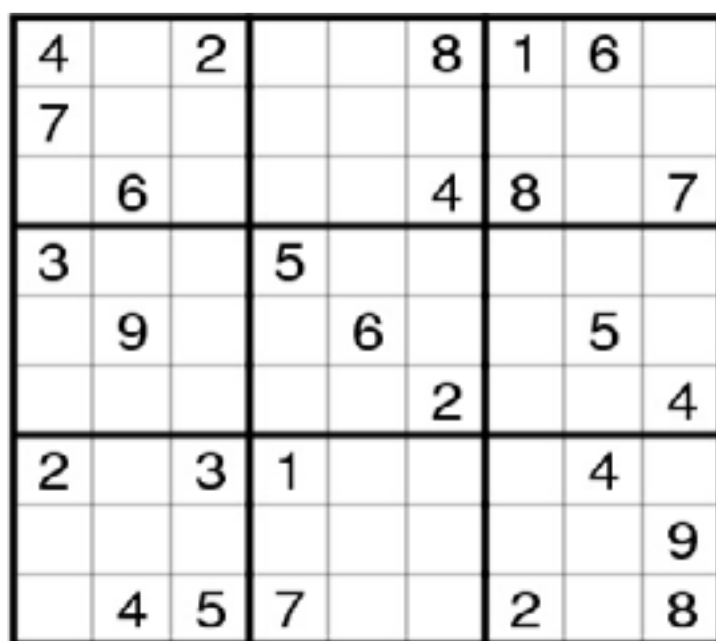
- |              |             |             |            |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| BARRACUDA    | DORADO      | PARROTFISH  | SMELT      |
| BLUEFISH     | DRUM        | PERMIT      | SNOOK      |
| BONEFISH     | GAR         | POMPANO     | STURGEON   |
| BULLHEAD     | GRAYLING    | REDFISH     | SUNFISH    |
| CATFISH      | GRUNT       | ROOSTERFISH | SWORDFISH  |
| CHUB         | HALIBUT     | SALMON      | TILAPIA    |
| COD          | JEWFISH     | SAND DAB    | TRIPLETAIL |
| CRAPPIE      | MACKEREL    | SAUGER      | TUNA       |
| CREVALLE     | MUSKELLUNGE | SHARK       | WAHOO      |
| DOLLY VARDEN | PADDLEFISH  | SHEEPSHEAD  | WARMOUTH   |

The hidden sentence is: FISH AND VISITORS SMELL IN THREE DAYS

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



hard

Yesterday's Solution



very hard

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
Khaldiya	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	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

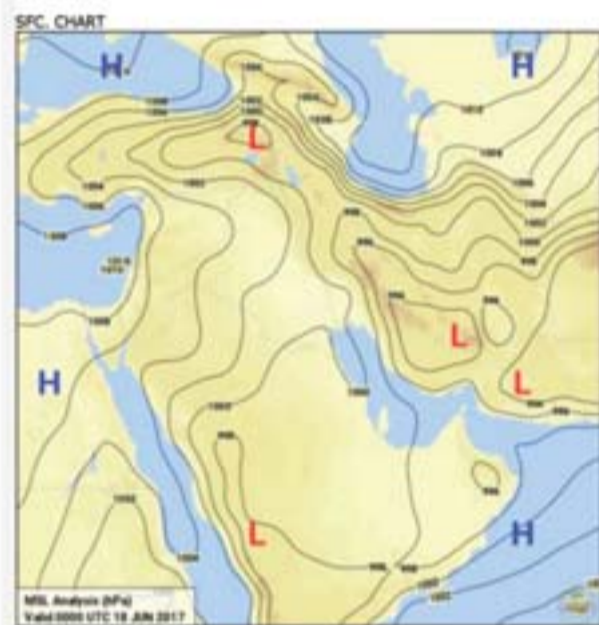


### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 18/06/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 47 °C

**By Day :** Very hot with light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 22 km/h .  
**By Night :** Relatively hot with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h .



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	Very hot + causing rising dust over open areas	Very hot + causing rising dust over open areas	Very hot + causing rising dust	Hot + causing rising dust over open areas
Min Temp °C	31	32	33	33
Max Temp °C	48	48	47	46
Wind Direction	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly
Wind Speed km/h	20 - 45	15 - 45	25 - 50	25 - 45

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	36		47	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	29		47	
ABOALY	30		47	
BUBYAN	31		45	
JAHRA	33		47	
FAILAKA ISLAND	30		46	
SALMIYAH	34		41	
AHMADI	36		44	
JAL ALIYAH	32		47	
QAROH ISLAND	32		34	
UMM AL-MARADEM	31		36	
MUWAISIB	32		45	
WAFRA	30		46	
SALMY	30		46	
MUTRIBA	30		49	

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	47
Min Temp (°C)	33
Max Rel Hum (%)	27
Min Rel Hum (%)	08
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:49
Sunset	18:50

#### Prayer Times

Fajr	03:13
Sunrise	04:49
Zuhr	11:49
Aar	15:23
Sunset	18:50
Isha	20:22

## INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina Faso	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



## PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons	Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444	Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272	Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222	Dr. Abdul-Redha Lari 22617700	Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888
Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171	Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60	Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999	<b>Family Doctor</b>	Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099	<b>Physiotherapists &amp; VD</b>
Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700	Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581	Dr. Snaa Maarroof 25713514	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223	<b>Psychiatrists</b>	Dr. Pradip Gujare 23713100	Dr. Musesad Faraj Khamees 22666288
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223	Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047	Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282	<b>Rheumatologists:</b>
<b>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat (ENT)</b>	Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0	<b>Dermatology</b>	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510	<b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b>	Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660	Dr. Adrian arbe 23729596/23729581	<b>Dentists</b>	<b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b>
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel 25646478	Dr. Verginia s. Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321	Dr. Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581	DR. Mohammed Akkad 24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah 25311996	Dr. Fozeyia Ali Al-Qatan 22655539	Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2	<b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory 25731988	Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami 25343406	Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166	Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272	Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444	Assistant Professor Of Medicine
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426	Dr. Salem soso 22618787	Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557	Head, Division of Cardiology
<b>General Practitioners</b>	<b>General Surgeons</b>	Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123	Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044	Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755	
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312	Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148	Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111	
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem 23926920	<b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b>	<b>Neurologists</b>	
Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465	Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939	Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324	
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah 25655528	Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300	Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875	
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoubi 24577781	Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004	<b>Gastrologists</b>	
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Refae 25333501	Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515	Dr. Sami Aman 22636464	
<b>Urologists</b>	Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446	Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy 22641534	Dr. Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3	Dr. Foaid Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135	
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul 22639955			
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi 22616660			
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) 25313120			
Dr. Leons Joseph 66703427			

Psychologists  
/Psychotherapists

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William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677  
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677



## MCCUTCHEON WAS WORRIED SHE'D NEVER MAKE MUSIC AGAIN

**M**artine McCutcheon didn't think she'd ever be "well enough" to return to music. The 'Perfect Moment' hitmaker is gearing up for the release of her comeback album 'Lost and Found' but is convinced people will think she's a "nutter" because the songs she's penned reflect her battles with depression, ME, Lyme disease and miscarriages. Speaking to the Daily Star newspaper, she said: "I never felt I would be well enough to return to music after all my health problems. It killed me not being able to do what I loved so I just started writing music for my own happiness and wellbeing. "I never thought anyone would ever hear it. It was initially just for me and that's why it is so raw and brutally honest. Now everyone's going to hear what a nutter I am. "Writing is really cathartic. It's basically therapy and helps to save you from yourself and your own destructive thoughts." And asked about the album title, she added: "In my life I have had it all, lost it all and I think you have to be a survivor. One lyric is, 'Lost my hope and all my dignity.' And that's how I felt. It's hard to keep your dignity when you make mistakes and have no privacy." The 41-year-old actress made a name for herself playing Tiffany Mitchell in the long-running soap 'EastEnders' and now has a regular panellist gig on 'Loose Women'. But she said: "I hate the pressure - being judged, being scrutinised. I have always found that side of things so stressful. Having no privacy is tough physically and mentally. It's not a normal job. I haven't got the hate as much this time and I think that's because I'm a happier person. I have a lovely family, which I adore. It's no longer a lonely existence. First time around I felt ostracised and lonely. I was known for being the 'real' girl that everyone could identify with and relate to. But I didn't feel like I could relate to anyone."

## Springsteen to make Broadway debut

**B**ruce Springsteen is set to make his debut on Broadway later this year. The 67-year-old singer-songwriter will kick off his eight-week residency at the Walter Kerr Theatre in New York City in November, although dates are yet to be finalized. According to the New York Post newspaper's Page Six column, Bruce's set will be "a pared-down version of what he usually performs in huge arenas and stadiums." A source told the publication: "He wants to play a smaller house. He wants to try something more intimate, and he likes the idea of being on Broadway." Bruce's new gig in the big apple comes just months after more than 300 pieces of his memorabilia were put up for auction for \$7.5 million. The Ultimate Springsteen collection, as it has been dubbed by dealer Moments in Time, features an impressive collection of items from the musician's legendary career, including guitars, lyrics and clothing. Moments in Time CEO Gary Zimet told Billboard: "It's extraordinary that one person could assemble such a truly unbelievable collection." Among the items set to go under the hammer are Bruce's 4F card, which excused him from service in the Vietnam War, as well as various drafts of the lyrics of 'Born to Run'. Each item carries a set price, but Zimet has already confirmed he would consider



selling the pieces on an individual basis. Meanwhile, despite being among the best-selling musicians of all time, Bruce admitted earlier this year that he still suffers from stage fright. The icon has played in front of sold out crowds all over the globe, but Bruce revealed he is still bothered by last-minute nerves. He previously explained: "It varies from night to night but whenever you're going out in front of a crowd of any size, your body knows it. "This is what I do. This is the only thing I do. This is the only thing I'm qualified to do. So it matters how I do it at night. "There's a lot of anticipatory anxiety which then translates into a raw shot of adrenaline once you're out there. We come out to press our case very hard, about what we think about everything, I suppose, and life itself. And so it's challenging nightly."

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## Wonder Woman inspired by The Little Mermaid

**W**onder Woman's screenwriter got a lot of his inspiration for the film from 'The Little Mermaid'. Allan Heinberg has admitted the scenes from the fantasy melodrama influenced a lot of the decisions he made about the new DC Comics movie starring Gal Gadot as the titular superhero. Speaking to Entertainment Weekly, he said: "The story as I see it is 'The Little Mermaid', specifically Disney's incarnation. This is a woman who has been raised in a very protective, sheltered life, she's curious about what life is like outside and she wants to have her own experience. She wants to be where the people are." Meanwhile, the 32-year-old former soldier and Miss Israel recently admitted she was toying with the idea of giving up acting altogether but she's thinks the role in 'Wonder Woman' suits her down to the ground because she can be an example of a "true woman" for young girls. She said: "I feel I was born to play Wonder Woman. Boys have always had a figure to look up to, whether it's Superman, Batman or Spider-Man. For girls it was always the princess being saved. "Now we have Wonder Woman - she's fearless, proactive, she believes in herself and she believes she can do everything. That's a true woman for me." While she was shooting the movie, the brunette beauty was actually pregnant with her now-newborn daughter Maya and, although they had to work hard to hide the bump, she loves the fact her little one was indirectly part of the blockbuster. She said: "I was pregnant and



showing for some of the additional scenes we shot but they did some clever stuff with special effects to hide my bump. It didn't hinder the process, I could still do the action stuff and the physical scenes. And now, it's nice to look at the movie and know that Maya is in the movie with me in some way. I love that. She has an entry on movie database IMDB. It took me years to get mine."



## MAY TEASES UNHEARD RECORDINGS FEATURING BOWIE AND QUEEN

**B**rian May has teased there are still unheard recordings featuring David Bowie and Queen. The 69-year-old guitarist has recalled how the late 'Golden Years' hitmaker and his bandmate, the late Freddie Mercury, "locked horns" during the recording of 'Under Pressure', the biggest hit from 1982 LP 'Hot Space', but now he tries to focus only on the "wonderful" memories he has of that time, and revealed there is still music that hasn't "come to light" yet. He said: "It wasn't easy because we were all precocious boys and David was very... forceful, yes. "Freddie and David locked horns, without a doubt. But those are the things that happen in a studio, that's when the sparks fly and that's why it turned out so great. "[They locked horns] in subtle ways, like who would arrive last at the studio. So it was sort of wonderful and terrible. But in my mind, I remember the wonderful now, more than the terrible. "And not all of what we did in those sessions has ever come to light, so there's a thought..." After Freddie died in 1991, Queen were advised to hire George Michael as a replacement frontman, but despite the late 'Careless Whisper' hitmaker's powerful duet with them on 'Somebody To Love' at the Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert for AIDS Awareness in 1992, Brian insists it would "never have worked" with the singer. He told Mojo magazine: "George was fantastic [at the gig]. I remember hearing his voice sizzling out on our monitors, and it was very close to the way Freddie sounded. "A lot of people said we should have taken George on as singer for the band after that, but it never would have worked. George was headed in a very different direction." The 'We Will Rock You' hitmaker was distraught when George passed away in December at the age of just 53. He said: "I never thought we'd be losing George so soon. It was such a shock, and so very sad. He was a great guy."



## Bananarama: We should have reunited sooner

**B**ananarama think it is "tragic" they have waited until now to reunite. The 'Venus' hitmakers - Sara Dallin, Keren Woodward and Siobhan Fahey - are preparing to tour for the first time ever, almost 30 years after Siobhan quit the band, and they regret that it's taken so long as they've retained their friendship for some time. Keren told Glamour magazine: "We've seen each other a few times over the past few years and we had a lot of fun." Siobhan added: "It's been just like the old days. It's tragic, really, that we never got it together until

now." But the 'Love in the First Degree' singers think their gigs will be worth the wait. Sara said: "We've never actually been on tour together so it's going to be really special." Bananarama believe they "paved the way" for other successful girl groups, such as Spice Girls and Little Mix. Keren said: "I definitely think we paved the way for other girl groups. "We did it very much on our own terms without kowtowing to all the men in the business or being told what to do by anyone. For that we feel very proud."

## Amy Poehler stalked Will Ferrell on SNL set

**A**my Poehler used to "follow" Will Ferrell around on the set of 'Saturday Night Live' in the hope he'd work with her. The 45-year-old actress is delighted to reunite with her former 'SNL' co-star on new movie 'The House' because she has always loved working with him as he's so funny. She said: "I love performing with him, and when we were on 'SNL' I followed him around, hoping he would want to write something with me." Amy has been enjoying working more behind the camera recently, but she is still happy to return to acting when she finds a project she loves. She said: "I've been getting most of my joy from producing, directing, writing, but I like to act too, and have the flexibility to do all those things when I want." And the former 'Parks and Recreation' star is proud to nurture other women via her Paper Kite production company. She told Glamour magazine: "It's all women in the office and we try to cultivate female show-runners, diverse voices and female-driven stories. "One is a very selfish reason, which is that those are stories I enjoy watching. There are a lot of stories that haven't been told from the female perspective and I think there's just a lot more unmined territory. "So as a storyteller, I think that's exciting. But the bigger picture is that I just enjoy working with women, I always have done. "I find, especially right now, in the US, there's a real pull for making sure that people are represented..." Also, I know so many funny women and I just want to fool around with them and make funny stories."



## SAM TAYLOR-JOHNSON FOUGHT WITH E.L. JAMES

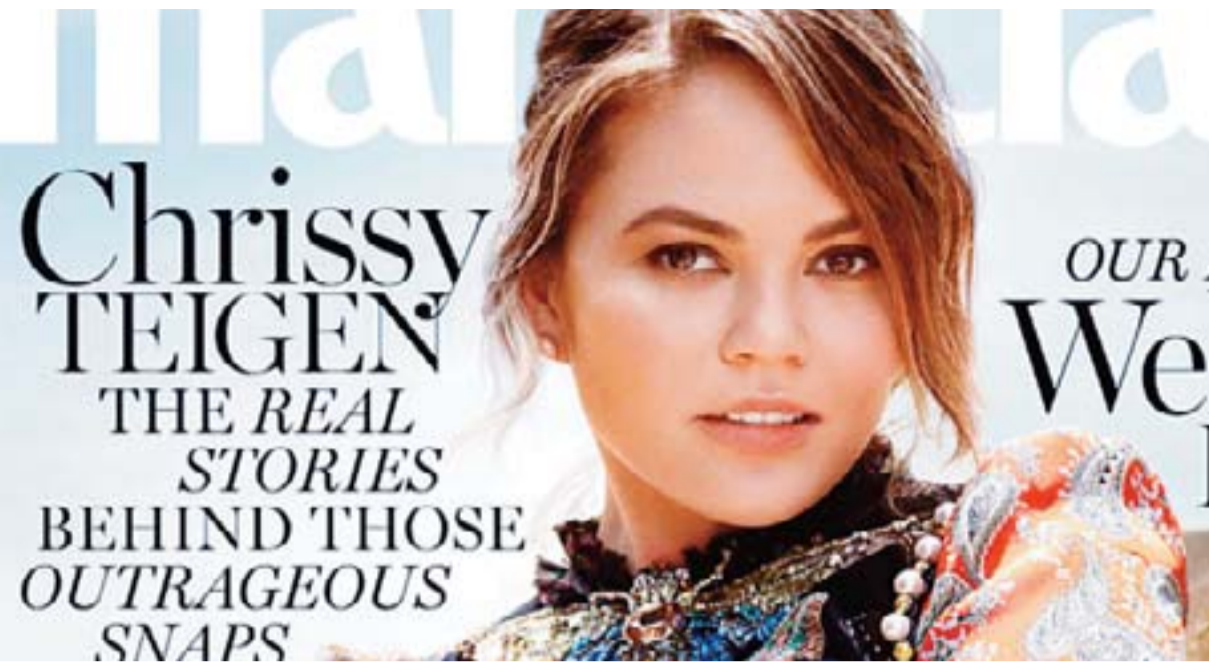


**S**am Taylor-Johnson "fought over every scene" with E.L. James while she was making 'Fifty Shades of Grey' two years ago. The 50-year-old filmmaker has made no secret of the fact she didn't enjoy directing the raunchy film, based on the novels penned by the author in 2011, but has now admitted she and James, 54, had "two different creative visions" for the movie. Speaking to 'The Hollywood Reporter', she said: "Her vision versus mine... they were polar opposite. Every scene was fought over. It was tough. It was like wading uphill through sticky tar. Her thing was, 'This is what the fans expect.' I'd be like, 'Well, let's try and hit those marks but create a new universe at the same time.' And she has admitted being in charge of the film, which received a lot of criticism, did no

favours for her career and she had a period without any work afterwards. She explained: "There weren't any flat-out [job] offers straight away," she said. "It was ego-denting, which may not have been a bad thing. At the same time, I was like, 'Oh, I still have to keep fighting for stuff.' I just thought it was going to come a lot easier." Meanwhile, Sam decided not to return for the sequel to the movie and recently insisted she is completely done with the franchise and won't be watching them. She said: "I'm not going to ever watch them. I have literally zero interest. I can never say I regret it because that would just finish me off. [But] with the benefit of hindsight would I go through it again? Of course I wouldn't. I'd be mad."

## CHRISSEY TEIGEN STRUGGLES TO WORK OUT

Chrissy Teigen has hinted she struggles to work out. The 31-year-old model - who has 14-month-old daughter Luna with her husband John Legend - is aware she should exercise more for "mental reasons" as well as physical, and while she thinks she "needs" to attend fitness classes with health guru Simone De La Rue she finds parking a problem, which easily puts her off the idea of exercising. Speaking in the new issue of Marie Claire magazine about her fitness plan, the brunette beauty - who confessed to having previously battled with postpartum depression - said: "I know I should exercise for mental reasons ... I need to see Simone De La Rue; I always feel great after I see her. In LA, there's never any parking. So for someone who doesn't already love working out, nothing's selling you on it." And the 'Lip Sync Battle USA' co-host - who is joined on the program by LL Cool J - has hinted she will not partake in any dance sessions to help her tone up because she has claimed she "can't dance" and doesn't take to difficult choreography well, although she can twerk. She added: "I can't dance. I don't take choreography very well. I will twerk." Chrissy has recently joined forces with beauty brand BECCA on her own cosmetic product titled BECCA x Chrissy Teigen Glow Face Palette earlier this year, and the star has admitted she will let her child experiment with "everything crazy under the sun" when she is older, to make her appreciate her natural beauty. Speaking previously about if she will guide Luna with fashion and beauty advice, she said: "I want her to appreciate her natural beauty. She's going to want to test everything crazy under the sun. I'm going to try to be like my mom and let her try anything she wants, but hopefully she'll come back around just like I did, and appreciate a natural, fuller brow and the natural texture of her hair. I hope she sees her own beauty."



## Dion debuts new lifestyle collection with Nordstrom

Celine Dion is set to launch her new lifestyle collection with Nordstrom this year. The 49-year-old singer has teamed up with the department store company to release her "affordable and luxury" Autumn/Winter 2017 capsule for the American department store, which is due for release in-store and online in August. Speaking about her foray into the fashion industry, the powerhouse said: "I'm excited at this opportunity to launch my collection with Nordstrom. They're a wonderful company with great stores, and I'm proud to be associated with them along with my partners at The Bugatti Group, Epic Rights and Prominent Brand + Talent. My collection is all about affordable luxury, and we've created beautiful designs with excellent quality and I can't wait for everyone to discover all of this at Nordstrom." The 'My Heart Will Go On' hitmaker recently launched a 200-piece range, which included clutch bags, backpacks, luggage holders and totes, earlier in the year at the Project Women's Trade Show in Las Vegas, and ever since the release she has been working on her new line. And it is believed the golden-haired vocalist's drew inspiration from her 90-year-old mother ThErÈse for her latest creations, which she hopes will be suitable for business women. And the company are excited to be able to join forces with the artist because they are "always interested" in collaborating with new partners to bring "exciting products" to their customers. Nordstrom's executive vice president and general merchandise manager for accessories, at home and beauty, Gemma Lionello, told WWD.com: "We are always interested in bringing new and exciting product to our customers." And Celine's upcoming project has allowed her to keep her mind busy and help her "cope" as best as she can following the tragic death of her husband RenÈ AngÈlil, who passed away in January 2016. She recently said: "We're coping very well. It's like I'm a duo. I'm always going to be CÈline and RenÈ and I don't want that to ever change."



## Jasmine Tookes teams up with chef to make a gold pizza worth \$3,000

Jasmine Tookes made a pizza worth almost \$3,000. The 26-year-old model joined forces with Chef Braulio Bunay at his restaurant Industry Kitchen yesterday to create the Italian feast, which was decorated with 24 karat gold detailing on the top. And the brunette beauty shared the news about her culinary collaboration on her personal Instagram account. Alongside a picture of her with the food expert holding the decadent masterpiece, she wrote: "I just got to make a \$2,700 pizza @chefbraulio @ipictheaters #comingsoon See more on Snapchat : jastookes (sic)." The Victoria's Secret Angel also shared a picture of the handmade creation up close to showcase it to her followers in all its glory. The post read: "Pizza Goals! 24k Pizza in the airrrrrrrr @chefbraulio @ipictheaters (sic)." Bunay has also taken to his photo-sharing site to thank the fashion and beauty icon for teaming up with him to make the pizza. He wrote: "Thanks @jastookes for teach me how to make 24k @industrykitchen #industrykitchen #jasmintookes #chefbraulio #24k #goldpizza #film #nyc #southstreetseaport #financialdistrictnyc #ecuador #statenland #ipictheater #gooddaynewyork #goodtimes #wallstreet #food #pizzalover #pizza #unicorppizza (sic)." Although Jasmine has recently enjoyed rustling up a storm in the kitchen, she has revealed she regularly undergoes a grueling work out session four to five times a week to help her maintain her slender frame after tucking into indulgent treats. Speaking previously, she said: "I try to work out like four to five times a week. And [Romee Strijd and I] actually work out together in New York." Meanwhile, Jasmine has revealed she is desperate to create a cosmetics collection, because she struggles to find make-up to suit her unique skin tone. Speaking about her goal for the future, Jasmine said: "My goal has always been to create my own beauty line. I have such a unique skin tone - when I go on set, make-up artists have to use all different mixes of make-up to match my skin."



## Pixie Geldof gets married

Pixie Geldof has got married - but she was over two hours late to the ceremony. The 26-year-old singer - the daughter of Bob Geldof and the late Paula Yates - tied the knot with her partner George Barnett in a romantic arrangement on the coast of Majorca, Spain, on Saturday but not before she kept her family and friends - including Harry Styles and Daisy Lowe - waiting for her in 30-degree heat. According to the Daily Mirror newspaper, the model kept things traditional with a long veil and train, while her bridesmaids were dressed in pink off-the-shoulder frocks. As well as her celebrity friends, Pixie's sister Fif, 34, also watched her younger sibling exchange vows, as did her late sister Peaches' widow Thomas Cohen. Pixie's wedding comes just over three years since Peaches passed away from a heroin overdose - the same way her mother Paula died 17 years before. Despite the grief she has experienced, Pixie doesn't fear death herself and just accepts it will come to her and whatever is next is the great unknown. She said recently: "I don't think I'm scared [of death]; I don't want to die. We don't know what happens so there's no point in being scared." When asked if there's one thing she wants to know before she passes away, Pixie added: "It's a really hard question. Maybe there's nothing I want to know. Some things should remain a mystery." The tragedy-hit singer - who released her debut album 'I'm Yours' late last year - has spent time contemplating the meaning of life and believes the most important thing is to surround yourself with loving people. Musing on the meaning of life, she said: "Having really good friends who share their lives with you." Pixie and George first started dating in 2013.



## Rob Kardashian's daughter can sit up on her own

The 30-year-old reality TV star was every inch the proud father on Saturday after his seven-month-old little girl Dream, who he has with his on/off girlfriend Blac Chyna, managed to support her own body weight for the first time. Taking to his Instagram account, the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star uploaded a photograph of the little one gazing into the camera and accompanied it with the caption: "Lol my baby. She is sitting up on her own. (sic)" The once-reclusive sock designer split from Chyna earlier this year following a series of blazing rows but he raised eyebrows last month when he gushed over his former partner in a series of adorable Instagram posts. Sharing a picture of the model when she was a teenager on the photo-sharing app, Rob wrote: "On my first episode of Rob's Random Cornball Thoughts is This young lady who grew up to be the woman I love and the mother of my child. She is beautiful and gave me my first child @blacchyna (sic)" The star shared another picture of the 29-year-old beauty - whose real name is Angela White - in Spongebob Squarepants shorts when she was just 14 years old. He captioned the photo: "Awww look at my little Angela at 14!!!!!! Hahahaha I LOVE YOU!!!! @blacchyna (sic)" Although the pair have been seen looking more cosy on social media in recent weeks, insiders insist the pair are not back together, and are merely acting civil for the sake



of their daughter. A source claimed: "They are co-parenting and independently working on themselves but they're more cordial now than they have been, which is why they hung out recently. But by no means are they back together."



## ONE DIRECTION TO REUNITE FOR GRENFELL TOWER CHARITY SINGLE

One Direction could reunite for the Grenfell Tower charity single. The boy band are currently on an extended hiatus while they work on their solo careers, but it looks like a reunion could be happening sooner than expected as Liam Payne and Louis Tomlinson have already agreed to appear on the track, while Niall Horan and Harry Styles are desperately trying to clear their schedules for the gig. A source told The Sun newspaper: "If all four [One Direction] came on board, it would be as solo acts as Liam has to record in the US." It's thought Rita Ora, Robbie Williams, Louisa Johnson, James Arthur, Emeli Sande, Craig David, urban grime artists Stormzy and Skepta, and sixties legends The Who have agreed to feature on the single after Simon Cowell reached out to them. The 57-year-old music mogul - who lives close to the tower block in west London which was destroyed in an inferno on Wednesday (14.06.17) leaving at least 17 residents dead and dozens more injured - contacted numerous record labels the day after the horrific blaze to compile a list of artists to record on the single in a bid to raise money to help anyone affected by the disaster. Simon plans to have the song - which has not yet been chosen - ready for release at the start of next week with all proceeds going to the families. He said: "We will record it hopefully and finish it today. We already started to get a lot of people calling in saying, 'of course we would love to do it.' I do genuinely believe this will make a difference." The 'X Factor' judge - who has three-year-old son Eric with his partner Lauren Silverman - would be appalled with himself if he didn't do anything to try and help the victims of the devastating incident which has left hundreds of people homeless. Artists who could be involved in the charity record include those signed to his Syco label, such as Little Mix, Camila Cabello, Labrinth, and Noah Cyrus.

## Amy Lee struggled to get work as movie score writer

Evanescence singer Amy Lee struggled to get into the movie songwriting business. The 35-year-old singer recently penned the song called 'Speak to Me' for 'Game of Thrones' star Emilia Clarke's upcoming thriller 'Voice from the Stone', but it has taken the 'Everybody's Fool' hitmaker a long time to get her work noticed and she has had a lot of her work rejected. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, she said: "I felt like [movie song writing] was a very hard wall to knock down. I've been trying to write music for film for some time and it's very difficult. I've been trying for a long time. I've written for many a film and the song didn't get used. But it's happening more for me now." Amy doesn't want to name the films that said no to her just in case gets offered something further down the line. She said: "I kinda hate to say what ones [didn't] because I don't want to burn the bridges for next time." Amy - who has two-year-old son Jack with her husband Josh Hartzler - also admitted that women are "over-sexualized" in Hollywood, however, she feels proud that more and more "strong" females are becoming powerful due to their success in the workplace and not just for their looks. She said: "Yes, women are over-sexualized. Everything is over-sexualized. But we're in an era where a strong woman is seen as a powerful thing and they don't have to look like something specific to have success. We're actually able to get in the news, see more strong females rising, and that makes me proud." Evanescence are currently working on a new project called 'Synthesis' featuring an orchestra.



## George and Amal clooney are 'natural' parents

George and Amal Clooney have taken to parenthood like "ducks to water". The 39-year-old human rights lawyer gave birth to twins, a son called Alexander and a daughter called Ella, earlier this month and the high-profile couple are reportedly relishing the challenges of becoming parents for the first time. A source said: "You'd think that twins would be overwhelming for anyone but they seem to have taken to this like ducks to water, all in their stride. They're both attentive, warm, loving parents. You could see that even in the run up to having the kids ... even months ago, in the way George would fuss and fret over making sure security at the house was safe and the nursery was perfect." And the couple - who married in Venice, Italy, in September 2014 - are said to be happier than ever following the births of their children. The insider told E! News: "They're elated. I don't think you've ever seen a happier pair. There's a positive energy in the house and everyone around them, including all staff, who are in great spirits too." George and Amal's joy has been equaled by that of their friends and family, who have helped to give their home a "florist"-like appearance. The source explained: "You've never seen as many flowers that have been delivered to the house recently. It's like a florist! And the number of gifts continue to grow. There are going to be a lot of thank you cards going out!" This come shortly after George's mother-in-law revealed she hopes his twins bring "harmony and human rights" to the world. Baria Alamuddin is convinced the "beautiful" tots will grow up to work on humanitarian causes, much like their parents. She recently said: "The babies are so beautiful and our family is complete. They are going to bring so much joy and I hope they will be as good as their parents at bringing harmony and human rights to the world. Myself and my husband are thrilled. Amal is doing very well and they are extremely happy and overjoyed." —Bang Showbiz





Fashion designer Giorgio Armani is flanked by models at the end of the Emporio Armani men's Spring-Summer 2018 collection show, that was presented in Milan, Italy, Saturday.—AP/AFP photos

# Milan

## menswear designers focus shows on millennials



Models present creations for fashion house Emporio Armani.

**D**esigners are resizing Milan Fashion Week for menswear, condensing previews for next spring and summer into just over three days. While New York and London's commitment to menswear has waned, Milan remains true to the segment that fuels Italian exports. Of the 9 billion euros (\$10 billion) in menswear revenues last year, 64 percent were cashed in abroad - a higher percentage than womenswear at 61 percent of 13 billion euros (\$14.5 billion).

Just the format is shifting. More designers are showing menswear alongside womenswear, with many like Gucci and Bottega Veneta waiting for the September round. And a number of fashion houses, including Missoni and Etro, have opted for presentations, while yet others are in a creative transition.

Highlights from the first day of menswear previews in Milan for next spring and summer on Saturday:

### Millennials rule on the runway

Singer Shawn Mendes took a turn on the Emporio Armani runway, showing off the brand's new smart watch line dubbed Connected. Designers see their future in Millennials, a generation that has unprecedented power to influence and be influenced, thanks to ubiquitous social media. They migrate seamlessly from platform to platform, even from brand to brand. Mendes

appeared in a video promoting the watch at the end of the show, and then appeared in life to show it off and take in the fashion crowd as much as it did him. The touchscreen watch is both Android and Apple compatible.

Armani described Mendes as 'a singer of true talent who touches the hearts of his fans. Shawn embodies and conveys the values in which I believe: Professionalism, commitment and innovation,' the designer said in a note.

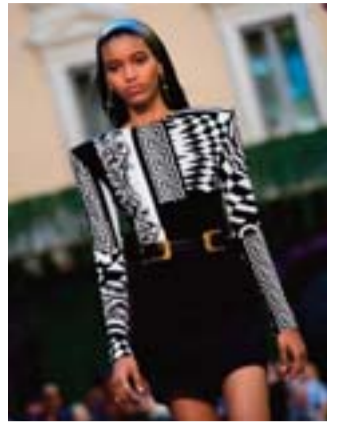
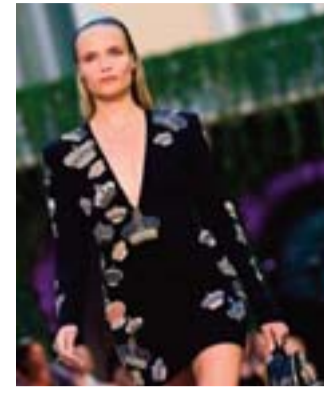
Martial arts at Emporio Armani

Giorgio Armani's latest collection for his Emporio Armani line proposes a dialogue with Japan, no simple cultural appropriation, mixing trademark tailoring with a flourish of martial arts. Dark blue urban suits had a long billowing under jacket, the first hint of the exotic and a clear statement that this not your salary man's workaday wardrobe. Suits were worn with either button-down striped shirts or asymmetrical collarless shirts, both paired with leather cords instead of ties. Notched lapel jackets were belted, or not. A clutch of silken printed jackets, including one with a flock of silvery birds, won a round of appreciative applause. Armani has long played with volumes. For this collection he incorporated martial arts-style Hakama trousers, pleated split pants that have a skirt-like appearance. To demonstrate its versatility, a model performed a series of karate-style kicks.





Models present creations for fashion house Versace.



The Hakama-style trousers, sometimes silken, sometimes plaid, were worn with baseball jackets or short-sleeved sweaters with Koi detailing. Hair was pushed from the face with crisscrossing headbands, creating a cartoon Magna-style look of spiking locks.

**Versace tribute**

Donatella Versace's collection for next spring and summer is meant as a tribute to her late brother, Gianni Versace, who was the creative force behind the brand. In a few weeks, it will be 20 years that my brother is dead. I wanted to return home, creating an homage to him, Versace told the news agency ANSA. It is not only me who wants to make an homage, it is also the Millennials, who ask for the iconic printed shirts. Actor Armie Hammer was among the star guests for the cocktail party-themed runway show, with guests seated at small round tables in the fashion house's Via Gesu garden courtyard, sipping champagne and nibbling on hors d'oeuvres.

Versace created looks for both men and women, including complementary pinstriped overcoats with Bermudas for him and tight-fitting pin-striped dresses with off-shoulder asymmetrical detailing for her. And she took the pinstripes from day to night, with sexy, sequined versions closing out the show. Versace reached into the archives and



Italian fashion designers Stefano Gabbana, left, and Domenico Dolce acknowledge the applause at the end of Dolce&Gabbana's men's Spring-Summer 2018 collection.

retrieved the brand's iconic Greek border, which trimmed men's shirts, while a more ornate floral version finished dresses. They merged and popped into bold black and

white optical illusion prints in a series of evening dress-up looks for both him and her. Loose fit high-waist jeans in pastel colors worn with matching color Versace embla-

zoned T-shirts completed the journey back to the 1990s. Gianni Versace was shot dead outside his Miami home on July 15, 1997, leaving Donatella to take over the creative side of the fashion house.

**King of hearts**

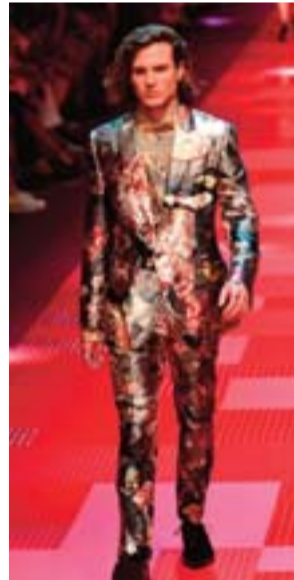
At Dolce&Gabbana, it was a game of name that Millennial. The designers again invited a cadre of young influencers from show business and social media to strut their latest collection, 106 for this season, from all corners of the globe. They included Chinese singer Junkai Karry Wang, whose fans gathered outside the Metropolitan theater waiting for a glimpse; the American comedian Andrew Bachelor; the Mexican actor and singer Diego Boneta; and the French-Polynesian model Tuki Brando, the grandson of Marlon Brando.

Ever the romantics, Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana dubbed the collection King of Hearts, and many of the looks included hashtag-able slogans about love, from Amore Per Sempre (Love Forever) to Amore Sacro (Sacred Love). The collection ranged from silky lounge wear inspired by pajamas to upscale athletic wear, including baseball shirts and basketball jerseys with the new team DG logo, to the designing duo's tightly tailored suits. The social media-savvy designers even got in a hashtag on their tote bags in the form of handles.

**Grease lightning**

Philipp Plein is back. After announcing he was decamping to New York last summer, Philipp Plein has brought his main line back to its native Milan after just a one season hiatus, showing a mix of looks for men and women. The German designer maintained his sense of showmanship with a cast performing tunes from the 1970s film Grease followed by fire-spitting hot rods. There were bumper cars just off-stage and a barker saying something very unrepresentative over the PA system. The looks were fitting of the drag race setting, with leggings and jeans updated with swaths of crystals and studded tigers and cobras. Women's hair was teased, men's greased back.

A crop top sweater with a hissing cobra paired with leggings and a bomber jacket was the perfect look for Sandy, at summer's end, while Danny wore a hot rod T-shirt while flame motifs licked at his calves, seemingly out of his red sneakers. Don't expect Plein to be politically correct. Models walked down the runway puffing what looked like real cigarettes, with familiar box shape rolled up in T-shirt short sleeves James Dean-style.—AP



Models present creations for fashion house Dolce Gabbana.



Models present creations for fashion house Philippe Plein .



Indian Muslim students practice yoga ahead of International Yoga Day celebrations, at a school in Ahmadabad, India, Saturday. International Yoga Day will be celebrated on June 21.—AP

## Pop superstar Beyonce gives birth to twins: Reports

Pop diva Beyonce and her rap mogul husband Jay Z have welcomed twins, according to US media reports on the two new members of music's royal family that already includes five-year-old Blue Ivy. News that the songstress had given birth, reported by entertainment outlets including People magazine and US Weekly, ignited social media, with the so-called "Bey hive" fan group buzzing

tographed Friday carrying a large bouquet of pink, blue and purple flowers complete with a card that appeared to read "B + J"—along with twin pink and blue balloons in the shape of feet that read "Baby Girl" and "Baby Boy."

A representative for Beyonce did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment. Superstar Beyonce in February made the blockbuster reveal that she was expecting. Clad in panties

you for all your well wishes," she added, signing with Jay Z.

### Guessing games

Speculation that Beyonce's due date had approached was fueled earlier this week when husband Jay Z, 47, was absent at the Songwriters Hall of Fame. The rapper, who grew up as Shawn Carter, took to Twitter to thank artists who had influenced him as well as former US president Barack Obama. Obama hailed the hip-hop mogul-who campaigned actively with Beyonce for the first African-American president-as a kindred spirit at the event in a surprise appearance by video. "Jay and I are also fools for our daughters, although he's going to have me beat once those twins show up," the former president and father of two joked.

Some fans clamoring for details on the twins took Obama's aside as a hint that the babies might be girls. But despite rumblings and guessing games no concrete details regarding sexes or names of the babies have been revealed. Beyonce and Jay Z are among the most commercially successful figures in music, with a combined net worth estimated at \$1 billion.

### Big sister Blue Ivy

As an expectant mother Beyonce made a New Age celebration of women at the Grammy Awards earlier this year—putting on an extravagant, abstract performance while proudly displaying her baby bump cloaked in a flowing gold gown. She pulled out of her headlining spot at April's Coachella music festival in southern California, however, on the advice of her doctors. She still made a number of red carpet appearances while carrying the twins and documented her pregnancy via social media—to the joy of her adoring fans. Beyonce's mic-drop pregnancy announcement had triggered intrigue over the fact that it came a little more than nine months after her last album "Lemonade"—in which she strongly hinted that Jay Z was unfaithful.

One lyric warns an unfaithful man of a "final warning" that he's "gonna lose your wife" if his behavior doesn't change. A sullen Jay Z appears at the end of the film to embrace her, suggesting reconciliation. And on the couple's ninth wedding anniversary in April, Beyonce released an updated video for her romantic ballad "Die With You." It features home video-esque footage of tender moments between the couple as well as clips from Blue Ivy's birth and toddler years, ending with a scene of the new big sister of the family kissing her mother's pregnant belly.—AFP



Beyonce (left) and Jay Z perform during a Get Out the Vote (GOTV) performance in Cleveland, Ohio. —AP/AFP photos



This file photo shows US singer Beyonce (left) and her husband US rapper Jay Z (right) sitting in the players box to watch Serena Williams play against Germany's Angelique Kerber during the women's singles final of the 2016 Wimbledon Championships in Wimbledon, southwest London.

over the yet unrevealed sexes and names of the latest additions to the Carter Clan. US Weekly cited multiple unidentified sources as saying that the twins were born earlier this week. Entertainment news outlet E!, also citing unidentified sources, said the couple had been spotted at a Los Angeles area hospital on Thursday. Speculation grew when an unidentified woman was pho-

and a bra under a flowing veil, she commanded control of the internet by posting a picture of herself kneeling beside a human-size floral arrangement, her hands cradling her rounded belly. "We would like to share our love and happiness. We have been blessed two times over," the 35-year-old singer wrote. "We are incredibly grateful that our family will be growing by two, and we thank



Bill Cosby, center, gestures while exiting the Montgomery County Courthouse with his publicist Andrew Wyatt, second from left, after a mistrial was declared in his sexual assault trial in Norristown.—AP photos

## Bill Cosby faces 2nd sex assault trial after jury deadlocks

Prosecutors found themselves back to square one Saturday after the jury in Bill Cosby's sexual assault case declared itself hopelessly deadlocked, resulting in a mistrial for the 79-year-old TV star facing accusations he first drugged then molested a woman more than a decade ago. Cosby's team declared victory, however temporary, as the comedian and actor once known as "America's Dad" for his TV role as paternal Dr Cliff Huxtable avoided a conviction on Father's Day weekend.

Excoriated by the defense for charging Cosby in the first place, District Attorney Kevin Steele vowed to put him on trial a second time, saying accuser Andrea Constand supported the decision. "She has shown such courage through this, and we are in awe of what she has done," Steele said. "She's entitled to a verdict in this case." By sowing doubt among one or more jurors, Cosby's lawyers managed to overcome two years of unrelenting bad publicity for their client after the public release of his damaging testimony about drugs and sex, as well as a barrage of accusations from 60 women who came forward to accuse him of sexual assault.

### A very spiritual woman

Constand's 2004 encounter with Cosby at his suburban Philadelphia estate was the only one to result in criminal charges. She told jurors that Cosby gave her pills that made her woozy and then penetrated her with his fingers as she lay paralyzed on a couch, unable to tell him to stop. "She's ready to go again," said her lawyer, Dolores Troiani, of a retrial. "She's a very spiritual woman, she believes things happen for a purpose, and I think the purpose is ... it should encourage other women to come forward and have their day in court."

Troiani acknowledged the difficulty of the case, given the passage of time and the impact of the alleged drugging on Constand's ability to recall details. The jury deliberated more than 52 hours over six days before telling a judge they couldn't reach a unanimous decision on any of the three counts against the comedian, ending the trial without a verdict. Cosby's team immediately went on the attack. The entertainer's wife of 53 years, Camille, slammed prosecutors for bringing the case to court, calling Steele "heinously and exploitively ambitious" in a statement released after the trial. She also criticized the judge, the accuser's lawyers and the media. "How do I describe the judge? Overtly arrogant, col-

laborating with the district attorney," said her statement, which was tweeted by her husband and read by an associate of the public relations firm representing Cosby.

Cosby himself didn't comment, remaining stoic as the judge declared a mistrial, but Wyatt declared the star's "power is back. It has been restored." That seemed debatable. Cosby's career and good-guy image were already in tatters by the time his chief accuser took the witness stand, and the prosecution's decision to pursue a second trial keeps him in legal limbo.

Cosby had broken barriers as the first black actor to star in a network show, "I Spy," in the 1960s and, two decades later, created the top-ranked "Cosby Show." He also found success with his "Fat Albert" animated TV show and starred in commercials for Jell-O pudding. But it was Cosby's reputation as a public moralist who urged young people to pull up their saggy pants and start acting responsibly that prompted a federal judge to unseal portions of an explosive deposition he gave more than a decade ago as part of Constand's civil lawsuit against him.—AP



Bill Cosby listens to his wife Camille's statement being read aloud by Ebonee M. Benson outside the Montgomery County Courthouse after a mistrial in his sexual assault case.