

**Jarallah: Stable environment for women crucial for development**



**Macron appoints center-right PM to widen appeal, meets Merkel**



**Government scientist from DC wins Miss USA title**



**Federer to skip Roland Garros to focus on grass/hardcourt**



## SECURITY KEY TO DEVELOPMENT, ARAB SPRING AN 'ILLUSION': PM

SHEIKH JABER TALKS ONE-VOTE SYSTEM, AUSTERITY, YOUTH, CONSCRIPTION, PAST POSTS



Min 28°  
Max 41°  
High Tide 08:59 & 21:08  
Low Tide 08:53 & 20:46

### TOP COURT UPHOLDS 5-YEAR JAIL TERM AGAINST 3 ROYALS

**KUWAIT:** The court of cassation yesterday upheld a five-year jail term against three members of the ruling family, including the former secret service chief, for insulting the judiciary. Dubbed the "Al-Fintas group", those convicted include Sheikh Athbi Al-Fahd Al-Sabah, former head of the secret service police, according to an official court verdict. He was one of three royals convicted, along with two other Kuwaiti citizens, of publishing posts on social media accusing judges of accepting bribes.

The five men were sentenced last year. An appeals court upheld the verdict in January. The supreme court also upheld a one-year jail term for a sixth defendant and acquitted six others, according to the verdict. Charges included posting fake footage on Twitter and WhatsApp. A thirteenth defendant, who allegedly posted online the footage, was sentenced to 10 years in jail by a lower court. He did not appeal the challenge and has since left Kuwait, according to the verdict. —AFP

### AMIR HONORS TALENTED YOUTH



**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is presented a memento during the Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth 2017 ceremony yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 3)

**KUWAIT:** HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday said security is a key challenge, and if it is restored, will lead to stability and consequently economic development. He was speaking in an interview with the National Assembly's TV station late yesterday.

Sheikh Jaber stressed that the waves of the so-called Arab Spring were an "illusion", as HH the Amir said during the Arab Summit in Jordan, adding that "our Arab world was in chaos, which affected nations". The so-called Arab Spring created several crises in many countries, in addition to the displacement of millions of people. Hundreds of thousands were killed and many others were wounded. Terrorism also spread intensively in the aftermath of the revolutions that broke out in the Arab countries.

The premier stressed that HH the Amir's vision of the "one person, one vote" system aims to provide equal opportunity to all the country's segments running for parliament. He noted that the system helped people from many tribes and categories be elected as MPs in the parliament. The National Assembly consists of 50 members who



**HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah**

represent five constituencies, ie 10 MPs from each district.

Sheikh Jaber said dealing with economic hardships should not be at the expense of citizens and is a core responsibility of the nation. In the interview, he said that wasted electricity and water is a serious issue and that "sacrifices should be made to put an end to the squander".

Continued on Page 13

## SAUDI KING HAILS TRUMP SUMMIT

**RIYADH:** Saudi King Salman yesterday expressed hope a "historic" summit to be held Sunday between Arab and Muslim nations and US President Donald Trump will enhance ties and promote tolerance. The summit will be one of three forums held during a visit by Trump, who is making Saudi Arabia his first overseas stop since assuming office in January. Trump has frequently been accused of fuelling Islamophobia but aides described his decision to visit Saudi Arabia as an effort to reset relations with the Muslim world.

Along with the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), at least 18 other Muslim nations have been invited to the summit, including Turkey, Azerbaijan,

Niger and Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population. Saudi Arabia's regional rival Iran is not invited. Salman told a cabinet meeting in the Red Sea city of Jeddah that the meeting "comes in light of the challenges and sensitive situations that the world is going through".

According to the official Saudi Press Agency, "he expressed his hope that this historic summit will establish a new partnership in the face of extremism and terrorism and spreading the values of tolerance and coexistence" while enhancing security. Trump is to also hold a bilateral summit with Saudi Arabia and talks with the GCC on Saturday.

Continued on Page 13

### PUTIN BLAMES US AS CYBER ATTACKS EASE

**LONDON:** The world's biggest ransomware attack leveled off yesterday after wreaking havoc in 150 countries, but Russian President Vladimir Putin called it payback for the US intelligence services. Microsoft's president and chief legal officer Brad Smith has said the US National Security Agency developed the original code used in the attack, which later leaked in a document dump.

"Microsoft's leadership stated this directly, they said the source of the virus was the special services of the United States," Putin said on the sidelines of a summit in Beijing. "A genie let out of a bottle of this kind, especially created by secret services, can then cause damage to its authors and creators." Russia has recently been accused of cyber meddling in several countries, but Putin said they had nothing to do with the attack, which hit hundreds of thousands of computers. "A protection system... needs to be worked out," he said.

Smith earlier said he hoped the attacks would serve as "a wake-up call", warning governments against stockpiling code that could be misused if it fell into the wrong hands. And vulnerabilities should be pointed out to manufacturers, he said. "An equivalent scenario with conventional weapons would be the US military having some of its Tomahawk missiles stolen," Smith wrote.

There had been concern that yesterday's start of the working week would see an upsurge in attacks but the number of incidents reported leveled off. The cross-border police agency Europol said the situation was "stable", after attacks that struck computers in British hospital wards, European car factories and Russian banks. "The number of victims appears not to have gone up," a senior spokesman for Europol, Jan Op Gen Oorth, told AFP.

Continued on Page 13



**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan of Abu Dhabi during a meeting in the Oval Office of the White House yesterday. — AFP

## ISRAELI NAVY KILLS GAZA FISHERMAN

### CONTROVERSIAL NEW US ENVOY ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

**GAZA:** An Israeli patrol boat fired at Palestinian fishermen accused of breaching the blockade off the northern Gaza Strip yesterday, leaving one of them dead, officials said. Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza have fought three wars since 2008 and the territory has been under an Israeli blockade for 10 years. Fishing off the northern part of the strip, adjacent to Israel, is limited to six nautical miles offshore and the Israeli navy regularly fires at Palestinians at the zone's outer limit. Such incidents rarely result in deaths, however.

Fishermen's union chief Nizar Ayash said the shooting and the arrest of four other crewmen happened in one incident, and two more arrests were made when the military boarded another Gaza boat overnight. The dead man's family identified him as Mohammed Majed

Bakr, 25. His body was transferred to a morgue in Gaza ahead of his funeral later yesterday. Ayash told AFP his union was suspending fishing until the end of Thursday.

An Israeli military spokeswoman confirmed the shooting but did not speak of additional arrests. "A vessel deviated from the designated fishing zone in the northern Gaza Strip," the spokeswoman told AFP. "Naval forces in the area called upon the vessel to halt and fired warning shots into the air." She said the boat ignored the warning and the navy then fired at it. "As a result of the fire a Palestinian was injured and was evacuated to an Israeli hospital for immediate medical treatment," she added.

The military later confirmed that the man had died. Gazan fishing official Zacharia Bakr also confirmed the death. UN officials have

called for the blockade to be lifted, citing deteriorating humanitarian conditions, but Israel says it is needed to keep Hamas, which runs the strip, from importing weapons or materials used to make them. The size of the fishing zone has varied over the years, having been set at 20 nautical miles by the Oslo accords of the 1990s before being reduced by Israeli authorities. About 4,000 fishermen work off the coastal strip, more than half of whom live below the poverty line.

Meanwhile, controversial new US ambassador to Israel David Friedman arrived in the country yesterday to take up his post, days ahead of a visit by US President Donald Trump. Friedman, due to present his credentials to President Reuven Rivlin today, has

Continued on Page 13



**KUWAIT:** A Kuwaiti man looks at fishing vessels docked next to the central fish market in Kuwait City in front of the new building of the Central Bank of Kuwait (right) yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

### MP CALLS TO REDUCE EXPAT STUDENTS IN GOVT SCHOOLS

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Islamist opposition MP Osama Al-Shaheen criticized the government's policy aimed at dealing with the demographic imbalance and called for reducing the number of expatriate students in public schools as part of the solution. He said reforming the demographic imbalance in the country requires a strong will by the government, but this will is not there. Shaheen said based on official statistics in April, the number of expatriates reached 3.054 million, or 69.5 percent of the population. Kuwaitis number about 1.35 million, just 30.5 percent.

The lawmaker said there are 71,000 teachers in the country including 46,000 Kuwaiti teachers, which means that there are 25,000 Arab and foreign teachers, adding that some of these jobs should be given to Kuwaitis. According to education ministry statistics, about 51,400 expatriate students are studying in public schools, with each student costing the government nearly KD 5,000. This amounts to KD 253.6 million being spent on the education of non-Kuwaitis.

Expat students are in general not allowed to join public schools, but the ministry has exempted several

Continued on Page 13



**GAZA CITY:** Palestinian mourners carry the body of fisherman Mohammed Majed Bakr, 25, outside a hospital morgue yesterday. — AFP



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with head of the Iraqi jurisprudence authority for senior scholars Ahmad Hassan Taha, and other officials.—Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a souvenir from Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan.**

# AMIR MEETS SENIOR IRAQI SCHOLAR

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipality Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri, and visiting head of the Iraqi jurisprudence authority for senior scholars, Ahmad Hassan Taha. His Highness the Amir also received Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on the occasion of winning France's highest medal, the knights of the Legion of Honor. Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received the Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met yesterday Falah Eid bin Jamea at Bayan Palace. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Bandar Al-Duwaihi. In addition, His Highness the Crown Prince received Chairman of the National Security Apparatus (NSA) Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-

Sabah. His Highness also met with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah, as well as Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Sabah on the occasion of winning France's highest medal. Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince received at Bayan Palace Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan, Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Undersecretary Al-Zain Sabah Al-Naser Al-Sabah and a number of Ministry of State for Youth Affairs officials. During the meeting, they presented to His Highness the Crown Prince a souvenir on the occasion of Kuwait winning Youth Excellence and Creativity Award, and choosing Kuwait 'Capital of Arab Youth 2017.' His Highness Sheikh Nawaf hailed the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs for encouraging youth creativity and promoting Arab identity. His Highness said these efforts would achieve sustainable development in all fields. The meeting was

attended by Head of His Highness the Crown Prince's Protocols Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a congratulatory cable to Lulwa Saleh Al-Mulla on the occasion of having been conferred a French order of civilian distinction. This honoring came in recognition of her contributions to social and women's issues and human rights. His Highness also sent a similar cable to Aisha Mishari Al-Fares on the occasion of her honoring by receiving the National Order of Merit with the rank of Knight from the French Republic in recognition of her contributions to enhancing ties between Kuwait and France in the cultural and social fields. His Highness the Amir praised this honoring, and wished her everlasting progress and success. Mulla and Fares received similar cables from His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — KUNA



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Falah Eid bin Jamea.**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Bandar Al-Duwaihi.**

# RIYADH SUMMITS TO HELP COUNTER TERROR: JARALLAH

'KUWAIT CLOSELY FOLLOWING ISSUE OF KUWAITI KILLED IN TURKEY'

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister of Kuwait Khaled Al-Jarallah said yesterday that Kuwait hopes the three forthcoming summits due in the Saudi capital of Riyadh next week would help in the fight against terrorism. Jarallah made the statement to the press on the sidelines of the opening session of a symposium organized at the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute under the theme 'evolution of women rights in the State of Kuwait.' The first summit will be held between Saudi King Salman and the visiting US President Donald Trump. A second one will follow for Trump and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, coinciding with the bi-annual consultative meeting of the bloc's leaders. A third one will bring together Trump and the heads of state and leaders from Arab and Islamic states of the Islamic Alliance to combat terrorism. Jarallah said that the US President's visit to the Kingdom is 'historic,' adding that the US-GCC summit reflects the interaction of the bloc's member states with allies to face the 'abnormal conditions in the region.'

Referring to the GCC leaders' consultative meeting, the senior diplomat said that it "manifests vitality of the member states," pointing to "developments that prompt coordination and consultation." A major topic on the agenda will be the deteriorating security conditions in the region, especially the tragic ones in Yemen, Syria and Iraq. On the recent visit by the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to Kuwait, Jarallah said it was a chance for consultation and coordination. He said that bilateral relations are historical and deep-rooted, noting that Egypt is the cornerstone of the Arab World.

as "advanced" saying that the bloc welcomes Khartoum's openness to the world. He pointed to positive developments on Sudan's relations with the world, especially the US. The senior diplomat spoke of the forthcoming visit by the US President Trump to Saudi Arabia, saying it constitutes a message on the depth of the strategic political, economic, and security ties between the US and the GCC. Meanwhile, Jarallah hoped that GCC-Iran strategic dialogue would advance. He said that dialogue is the channel to remove the "congestion" in the relations between the GCC and Iran. Basic require-



**Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah**

ments of this dialogue are refraining from interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, respect of sovereignty and good neighborliness.

### Kuwaiti citizens

Separately, Jarallah said that Kuwait is eagerly and closely following up developments of the issue of a Kuwaiti citizen killed in Istanbul weeks ago, adding that they are coordinating with the Turkish authorities on the issue.

He noted that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah manifested concern over the issue when he received Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan here last week. He also expressed hope that the Turkish authorities would identify the full circumstances of the crime and find the perpetrators.

On Kuwaiti Mohammad Al-Baghli who went missing in Romania, Jarallah said that search is still on, lauding cooperation on the side of the Romanian authorities. Contacts with the Romania will continue until a result is reached.

### Stable environment

During the opening session of the symposium, Jarallah proclaimed that comprehensive development is not likely to be achieved without providing a stable environment for women in all fields, particularly human, social and economic security, as strategic partners in building the society. Most countries have witnessed a shift regarding women's rights on the social, economic and political scenes, Jarallah said. The senior diplomat stressed Kuwait's commitment to the 'Beijing Declaration' and keenness on implementing its goals for empowering women, and eradicating discrimination and violence against them. Kuwait has been eager that women should be always present in fields of administrative and investment development and education, as well as the political, judicial and voluntary work, besides their contributions to culture, and arts, he said. Jarallah emphasized Kuwait's commitment to gender equality, saying that women's empowerment "springs from the spirit of the Kuwaiti Constitution" with several provisions securing their rights. Kuwaiti women have proved themselves and have been playing a leading role in decision-making, occupying key posts in the government, parliament, the diplomatic corps, the judiciary and the police.

### Kuwaiti Women's Day

Setting May 16 as the "Kuwaiti Women's Day" was prompted by a strong belief on the side of the State of Kuwait in the prime importance of their role in the society, as well as keenness on investing their capabilities in the current march of renaissance, the Deputy Foreign Minister said.

The Kuwaiti woman has had a basic, effective and honorable role through the decades, Assistant Foreign Minister for Americas Ambassador Reem Al-Khaled told the event. Since the Foreign Ministry was established in 1962, neither the diplomatic nor the consular corps has differentiated between men and women, Khaled stressed. She also highlighted His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's support to women's rights and equality with men at work.

Khaled said that the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah appointed the first women in a leading post at the ministry in 2015, an Assistant Foreign Minister.—KUNA

# CABINET SATISFIED WITH INTERPELLATION FINDINGS

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti cabinet yesterday voiced satisfaction with the findings of recent interpellations against His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. During the recent parliamentary session on the grilling, the National Assembly showed eagerness to have constructive cooperation with His Highness the Prime Minister, the cabinet said in a statement following its routine weekly meeting held at Bayan Palace. The cabinet hoped that the latest development could indicate a fresh stage of cooperation between both government and parliament in order to address development challenges and to fulfill the hopes of citizens in various domains, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a press statement following the meeting.

It emphasized that legislative-executive cooperation would undoubtedly act as a catalyst for more achievements in the country, said Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who doubles as acting Minister of Information.

Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Service Affairs Yasser Abul expressed thanks and gratitude to members of parliament for the democratic atmosphere during the inter-

pellation filed against him.

He vowed at the cabinet's customary meeting that he would do his utmost to serve the nation, and appreciated his colleagues' backing during the parliamentary session. Also during today's meeting, the ministers remembered the great deeds and sacrifices of the late Father Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah as well as his role in the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi invasion.

Afterwards, Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the cabinet on the outcomes of the recent visit by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the State of Kuwait and his talks with His Highness the Amir on bilateral relations and ways of further promoting and developing them in all fields. Internationally, the Kuwaiti cabinet congratulated South Korean's President-elect Moon Jae-In, wishing him best of luck and a further development of bilateral relations. It finally condemned a recent shooting in Al-Qatif in Saudi Arabia, which left scores of people dead or wounded. The cabinet emphasized that Kuwait stands side by side with Saudi Arabia and supports all measures it is taking to maintain its security and stability.—KUNA



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



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and top state officials attend the Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth 2017 ceremony. —Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah officially inaugurates the ceremony.



Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan delivers his speech.



Some of the winners stand on stage.

# AMIR ATTENDS 'ARAB YOUTH CAPITAL' CEREMONY

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended and patronized the Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth 2017 ceremony, which featured honoring the winners of the Kuwait Youth Excellence and Creativity Award at Bayan Palace yesterday. Upon arrival, His Highness the Amir was received by Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan and ceremony organizers.

The ceremony was attended by His

Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Faisal Al-Saud Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, Acting Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Khaled Boudai and other senior officials.

In his speech at the event, Minister Roudhan affirmed that Kuwait pays great attention to the rights of youth and developing their talents and skills, following the terms of its constitution. In this matter, he quoted His Highness the Amir as previously saying that caring for the needs of youth starts with-

in their families, moving on to schools and the whole society.

"It is our responsibility to teach youth the values of tolerance, loyalty to their country and abiding by the law," Roudhan also quoted His Highness as saying. Meanwhile, the minister hailed His Highness Sheikh Sabah's efforts to support youth and boost their skills. He mentioned His Highness' initiative to provide \$2 billion for youth's small and medium-sized enterprises during the Arab Economic, Social and Development Summit 2009.

Roudhan said that despite the unstable situation in the Arab World caused by war and conflicts, youth can play a big role in creating peace and stability. He called on governments to exert great efforts to support this vital category of society and resolve issues preventing them from being successful in all fields. The ceremony also included honoring of the youth creativity winners by His Highness Sheikh Sabah, while His Highness was presented with a souvenir for the occasion. —KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honors winners of the Kuwait Youth Excellence and Creativity Award.



In Brief

KUWAITI AID TO BASRA

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait yesterday launched an aid campaign for the second consecutive year to lift displaced families in the southern Iraqi city of Basra out of misery. In a statement, Kuwait's Consul General in Iraq's third largest city Yousef Al-Sabagh said that the aid is part of Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) 'Kuwait is by Your Side' campaign. — KUNA



NEW WARD IN IRBIL HOSPITAL

**IRBIL:** Kuwait's Consul-General in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kandari and Health Minister of Kurdistan Regional Government Rekwat Hama Rasheed have inaugurated a Kuwait-financed new ward at Irbil Emergency Hospital. He added that the new ward, which comprises 36 beds, would help the hospital cope with the growing influx of victims of the ongoing military operation to liberate Mosul from the so-called Islamic State (IS) group. — KUNA



WATER PROJECTS IN KYRGYZSTAN

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Peace Society for Humanitarian and Charitable Works continued to deliver humanitarian aid to people in need in Kyrgyzstan. Director General of Kuwait's Peace Society for Humanitarian and Charitable Works Dr Nabil Al-Oun said yesterday that the 35th Kuwaiti expedition launched three major projects to provide fresh drinking water in three villages in the capital city of Bishkek. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A photo showing Kuwait City landmark buildings taken from a bridge at the Jamal Abdul-Nasser Road. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ICRC ORGANIZES GCC, ASIAN NATIONAL SOCIETIES' MEETING

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** A three-day trans-regional meeting between national societies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and several countries from South Asia and Southeast Asia kicked off yesterday at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Salwa. The event is being held to discuss the Red Cross and Red Crescent movements' humanitarian activities to support migrants in the GCC. Ralph Wehbe, Protection Coordinator-ICRC Regional Delegation Kuwait, said the event was organized to benefit migrant workers.

"This conference is organized to better help migrant workers. The people involved here are mostly national societies and groups that care for migration issues. But in order to help migration cases, we need to hear from everyone from Asia, GCC and South Asia, especially our counterparts on what their programs are; we want to explore policies and probabilities," Wehbe told Kuwait Times on the sidelines of the conference. "By talking together, we can enhance policies and hear everyone's concerns, making sure that issues on migration are tackled towards a better outcome," he said.

Organized by the GCC Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Deputy Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society Anwar Al-Hasawi welcomed this step in his opening speech and stressed on the importance of assessing the needs of migrant workers and their families in the GCC in order to ensure that the movement's activities, which fall within the purview of national

societies, and their response, are in favor of migrants.

"Migration is a very important topic that needs more attention from the Red Cross and Red Crescent," said Deputy Head of the GCC Regional Delegation of ICRC Rania Machlab. She also stressed on the importance of facilitating communication between the GCC and Asian national societies to tackle such issues. She added that the regional delegation organized this meeting with an aim of further developing communication channels between both sides to eventually benefit migrants.

The meeting's outcomes included practical recommendations that were agreed upon by the national societies in both regions to develop the resources needed for disseminating family link restoration services provided by the Red Cross and Red Crescent to the migrants before they leave their country of origin. Such recommendations include ways to prevent the loss of contact between migrants and their families, improving communication channels between national societies to address any challenges facing them in this field and assessing the needs of the movement's family restoration link services in situations of disaster.

The meeting was attended by national societies from countries in the GCC and Asia including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Pakistan and India. The ICRC has been operating in Kuwait since the 1990-91 Gulf War. It focuses on humanitarian needs remaining from that war or arising from current armed conflicts and other situations of violence in



KUWAIT: Officials from societies in GCC, South Asian and Southeast Asian countries pose for a group photo on the sidelines of the meeting. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

the wider region. The regional delegation in Kuwait covers the six countries belonging to the Gulf Cooperation Council.



The meeting in progress.

BURGAN BANK CELEBRATES HEALTH AND FITNESS MONTH

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank is celebrating 'Employee Health and Fitness Month', aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle through work-site wellness and fitness programs. Dedicated entirely to the wellbeing of the staff, the 'Employee Health and Fitness Month' will be rolled out throughout May and represents yet another value-adding Burgan Bank initiative.

'Employee Health and Fitness Month', a global event that started nearly three decades ago, is a pioneering undertaking for Burgan Bank that reflects its true commitment to providing a healthy, dynamic and stimulating work environment. It also reflects its commitment to being a catalyst for positive change in society, starting with its employees, who are the bank's greatest asset. The 30-year old tradition has exhibited evidence of the values of investing in employee health and fitness and how it serves as a powerful strategic component of any organization, which puts people first.

On this topic, Halah El-Sherbini, Group Chief Human Resources and Development Officer said: "By addressing current health and fitness topics among its employees, Burgan Bank aims to drive lasting behav-

ioral change and incorporate a culture of robust wellbeing that will inspire the wider community. Through these innovative initiatives that convey socially impactful messages, Burgan Bank seeks to inject new thinking around health and fitness and make small advancements within the society it thrives in as often ground-breaking progress starts with a small step."

As part of the program, Burgan Bank employees will be offered creative incentives and discounts to health and fitness venues, and will be reminded of the importance and long-term benefits of opting for nutrition and healthy eating through the distribution of health tips and snacks followed by the importance of exercise and maintaining proper posture in the office work space by a renowned international chiropractor.

Wholesome wellness is imperative for both the employees and the employer as it strengthens performance and productivity, boosts cognitive skills, motivation and mental strength, sparks creativity and innovation, while reducing stress, absenteeism and health care costs. Investing in health is proven to have wide-spread benefits for individuals and the society as a whole.

# REWARD TO IRAQIS WITH INFO ABOUT MISSING KUWAITIS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Iraqi defense ministry issued a humanitarian call urging Iraqi citizens who have any information about the whereabouts of the remains of Iraqis or Kuwaitis who were declared missing in the aftermath of the former Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 to come forward, promising them generous rewards in return for verified pieces of information.

The ministry's statement also urged citizens to report any information about missing documents from Kuwait's Amiri Diwan archive and Kuwaiti possessions to the media, moral guidance directorate or the ministry's human rights directorate.

### Colleges' transfer

Kuwait University's deputy rector for plan-

ning and development Dr Adel Al-Husseinin said that coordination is in progress with the constructional program of the Sabah Al-Salem University City (Al-Shedadiya University) to transfer six colleges from their present campus to Shedadiya by 2019.

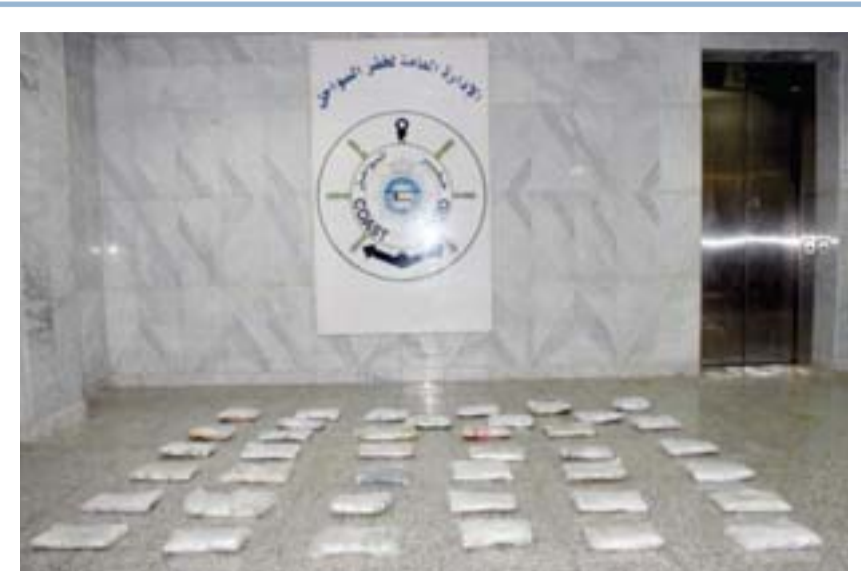
Husseinin added that special teams were formed to facilitate the transition. He also explained that the colleges likely to be transferred are likely to include the colleges of education, sharia and Islamic studies, arts, business administration, life sciences, social sciences and probably the college of engineering and petroleum.

### New sports bill

The parliament's youth and sports committee is scheduled to convene this afternoon in the presence of Minister of Commerce and Industry

and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan to discuss the new sports bill, said parliamentary sources. The sources added that the meeting's agenda also includes discussing a bill on establishing an anti-doping authority and other proposals on amending decree law number 42/1978 pertaining with sports organizations and law number 5/2007 pertaining with the activities of Kuwait Olympic Committee, sports unions and clubs.

Meanwhile, the parliament's public facilities committee is set to discuss the problem of traffic congestions and debate short, medium and long term possible solutions. In addition, the sources added that the committee entrusted with investigating the disappearance of containers from Shuwaikh Port will meet today to prepare its final report's draft to be referred to the parliament.



**KUWAIT:** Drugs found with two suspects who were caught yesterday trying to smuggle them into Kuwait.

## OFFICER USED FORCE TO ARREST POTENTIALLY ARMED SUSPECT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Relations and Security Information General Department at the Interior Ministry commented on a video that appeared on social media showing an officer attempting to arrest a suspect. The statement said that a sports car driver ignored patrol police orders to pull over in Ardhiya, so the patrol officers chased him until he stopped. The suspect resisted arrest, so a police officer used force as he assumed the motorist had a sharp object. He was brought under control and drugs were found on him. Information revealed he is a Kuwaiti ex-convict jailed for drugs-related offenses. He was sent to concerned authorities.



**Smoke coming out from a burning house in Oyoun.**

### Drug smuggling foiled

Coastguards foiled an attempt to smuggle hashish into the country, as radars spotted a boat attempting to enter Kuwait's territorial waters illegally. It was intercepted and two expats were found on it. When the boat was searched, a substance suspected to be hashish was found. The men said they were supposed to deliver the contraband to a person on the beach, so the area was put under surveillance. Two men - a Gulf national and a bedoon - were arrested.

### Diwaniya fire

A diwaniya in Oyoun caught fire, prompting Jahra vocational fire center

to respond. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported.

### Security campaigns

Security campaigns from May 1 to 13 resulted in carrying out 26,546 missions including 8,051 calls, arresting 98 persons on felony charges, 291 on civil charges, 410 absconders, 330 residency violators, 1,036 without proof of identity, 129 in possession of drugs, 30 in possession of liquor, 11 for thefts, 48 loose laborers and 33 roaming vendors, while 55 vehicles were impounded, 4,195 tickets were issued and 108 disabled parking violations were found, in addition to other offences.

## COUNCIL MEMBER THANKFUL FOR FOOD SAFETY INSPECTORS' 'RELENTLESS EFFORTS'

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Municipal Council member Ali Al-Moussa thanked Kuwait Municipality inspectors for their 'relentless efforts' during crackdowns held before the holy month of Ramadan, which resulted in confiscating tons of inedible and expired food items. Speaking during the council's

weekly session yesterday, he further demanded that inspectors are rewarded for such efforts. Fellow member Ahmed Al-Fadhalah meanwhile called for strict control over some markets selling or storing bad food items.

Commenting on the same issue, Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi stressed that municipality inspectors have been

tracking street vendors' violations, especially those related to selling expired food items, promising to get rid of peddlers before Ramadan. Manfouhi added that coordination with the Ministry of Health (MOH) was in progress concerning possible food poisoning cases, and highlighted that Kuwait had the least number of such cases worldwide.

Dr Hassan Kamal wished that the council would finish forming a specialized committee to name various streets, squares, areas and cities as recommended by the cabinet. The council's Vice Chairman Meshaal Al-Jowaisri said that the process of naming streets in Kuwait has become very chaotic.

### Iftar banquets

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Undersecretary Dr Mutar Al-Mutairi said that upon instructions from minister Hind Al-Sabeeh, a decision was made to open all community ceremonial halls for citizens to hold iftar banquets for free during Ramadan. Mutairi also explained that reservation dates and registry will have to be made at the Community Development Department in Yarmouk during official working hours.

### Doctor transferred

Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi yesterday issued a ministerial decision to transfer and appoint Dr Nadya Ahmed Ismail as the Amiri Hospital's deputy director.



**KUWAIT:** Municipal Council members pose for a group photo before yesterday's session. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh



# Best Overall Company of the Year

Arabian Business recognizes Zain as "Best Overall Company of the Year" for its leadership role in Kuwait



kw.zain.com A Wonderful World

Crime

Report

NO IDENTITY FOR DEAD NEWBORN

**KUWAIT:** A newborn found dead at a mosque has yet to be identified. The baby's corpse was inside a bag discovered by a muezzin at a Salmiya mosque. A determination regarding the cause of death has yet to be made and detectives are investigating.

Car theft ring busted

A ring of car thieves were busted at the scrap yard after one of the men, a 50-year-old Lebanese national, stole a car from Nugra and drove it to the scrap yard for dismantling. The man's brother and an Egyptian tow truck driver were arrested along with the car thief after detectives found the car, which had been reported stolen, at a scrap yard. The scrap yard's Lebanese owner denied involvement in the theft. Instead, he said that his twin brother sent the vehicle on a tow truck driven by an Egyptian. The driver said he received a call from the Lebanese who told him to take the car to his brother's scrap yard and was paid his fees. Detectives went to the alleged thief's house and arrested him and all three were detained for further action.

Fight in Nugra

Hawally detectives arrested a Syrian man for stabbing a compatriot five times during a fight in Nugra. Policemen responded to a call regarding the fight and the injured man was taken to Mubarak hospital while the other man was detained.

Traffic tickets leads to fight

An Egyptian man beat a traffic police officer who issued him a traffic ticket on the Fourth Ring Road. The policeman stopped the man near Jabriya and gave him a ticket. The driver grew angry, so he assaulted the police officer and then fled. The policeman was treated at Mubarak Hospital. A complaint has been lodged and detectives are searching for the man.

Kidnap bid foiled

A woman was saved from a kidnapping attempt by her relatives in Sabah Al-Salem area. The woman, Syrian, was leaving her house when she was approached by a citizen she knew. The man tried to grab her and kidnap her but she screamed and her mother and brother-in-law rushed to save her. The victim filed a police report and the citizen has been called for questioning.

Car damaged in revenge

A Kuwaiti woman who had a dispute with her husband damaged his car in revenge. The husband lodged a complaint at the Salwa police station and the woman was summoned. She confessed to damaging the car and was detained for further legal action. — *Translated from the Arabic press*



الجريدة Al-Jarida

WHEN CROWS TAKE OFF

By Hassan Al-Essa

In Hollywood-like scenes including mafia-like demonstration of power and defiance of the law, a short man, playing the role of someone guarding a private investment company's warehouses, has very sharp teeth implanted by authority dentists. He stands firmly, while authority representatives watch him helplessly, because a very vicious watchdog stands behind him ready to charge and attack on a 24/7 basis, biting both the state and the dreams of generations.

Another scene shows an intimate hug between a

*Such cases are not new in this country, and have been ongoing for so many years*

blonde Russian show star who had been entrusted with public funds and the star of companies that had been expanding across the country and out of Sabah Al-Ahmad City to reach the Philippines. The same scene shows an ex-lawmaker who had always been seen starring as a defender of his tenure in parliament and how he protected public funds, while lecturing a 'Hear No Evil, See No Evil, Say No Evil' audience about major investment dreams in a country from which Kuwait only imports domestic laborers.

Very exciting scenes about the guards of investments in state ports, who are being entrusted with investing social security and insurance funds. But instead of depositing the amounts in public accounts, they deposit them into personal ones. Such cases are not new in this country, and have been ongoing for so many years. One of those stars got control of the funds and transferred them to his blond swan-like girlfriend, allowing her to fly away with a bundle of millions she had stolen from an open public fund safe in her bill. A huge wealth fell on her out of the blue, making her 'master' careless about a theft here or another there. They all made a fortune by coincidence by looting a fund often looted by Kuwait Hollywood stars as they wish.

So many such crows have flown away carrying assurances for them and for long generations of their descendants. Some laws hold accountable and pursuit, while others only allow and facilitate so that the state's 'runways' remain readily paved for the 'crows' entrusted with public funds to 'take off' carrying away well-laundered astronomical fortunes. In the meantime, we are left asking ourselves one key question: How were such miserable stars entrusted with our money and on what standards did political decision-makers entrust them? — *Translated by Kuwait Times*

القلم Al-Qabas

THE HONORABLE POLICEMAN

Al-Qabas

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

**O**n my way home on Thursday after 3:00 pm, the temperature indicator pointed at 43 C degrees. I saw a traffic police car with its flash lights on, pulled over behind a small cargo car on a side street next to Fifth Ring Road. I was unsure of what had happened. Deciding to return to that point meant lunch would be delayed by 30 minutes. I got back to where the police car was, and came across an unfamiliar yet happy scene. The driver of the wrecked vehicle, an ambulance, did not know how to speak Arabic, but could understand English. The back tire of his vehicle was totally destroyed, and metal wires stuck out of it. The policeman in his uniform had left his air conditioned patrol car to help the driver.

Traffic instructions indicate that for security reasons, patrol officers are not to leave vehicles stopped on highways without helping the driver by move his or her vehicle away or pull over behind them until a tow truck takes the vehicle to a safer place. This means the officer can

remain seated in his air conditioned patrol vehicle until the truck arrives to the scene. But what I witnessed was unusual; I saw the policeman had left his car, and helped the ambulance driver change the damaged tire under the scorching sun.

I requested the policeman to permit me to take his picture, as what he did goes beyond any explanations and represent the peak of humanity. For showcasing civilized behavior, the man deserved much appreciation. This is the refined role exhibited by Majid Al-Mutairi, in an oasis where such actions are scarce, after the ignorant has convinced us that we are better than others.

I sincerely hope and wish the Interior Minister himself would call police officer Majid Al-Mutairi and personally expresses appreciation to him for his good deed, and also honors him so that he becomes an example for others. I am willing to share a KD 500 prize in honoring him, and readers are welcome to credit this gentleman in ways they wish to. — *Translated by Kuwait Times*



Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager, Human Resources with Gulf Bank's team along with Rana Al-Naibari, INJAZ-Kuwait's CEO.



'Youth Creation' received the 'Student Company of the Year 2017' award for the universities category.

GULF BANK CONGRATULATES STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS IN INJAZ-KUWAIT'S COMPANY PROGRAM COMPETITION

GULF BANK NAMED COMPANY WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF STAFF VOLUNTEERS

**KUWAIT:** As a strategic sponsor of INJAZ-Kuwait and its programs, Gulf Bank was pleased to be part of the INJAZ-Kuwait annual awards ceremony, where winners of the 2017 'Company Program Competition' were announced. The event was organized by INJAZ-Kuwait and took place at the JW Marriott Hotel on 11 and 12 May.

The event was held under the Patronage of Dr Mohammad Al-Fares, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education, and attended by INJAZ-Kuwait's representatives, students, volunteers, parents, teachers, sponsors and supporters, along with representatives from the local media. On the first evening a dinner was held to thank the companies and volunteers involved in the program. Gulf Bank was pleased that it was named as the company with the highest

number of volunteers participating in the year of INJAZ-Kuwait programs.

The Company Program spans almost four months and is focused on helping students start up entrepreneurial companies. There are 10-30 students per group ranging in age from 15-24. This year 13 student companies were featured with a total of 150 students from private and public schools and universities competing for the 2017 'Company of the Year' award. Over the course of 12 different sessions students learn skills important for business, including: creative and innovative thinking; business skills; accounting and finance; public speaking and presentation skills; consultation and negotiation tactics; as well as leadership and teamwork.

INJAZ-Kuwait's panel of judges visited the Student Companies' booths to evaluate the

business ideas as part of the decision making process in order to select the winners. Each company gave a 15-minute presentation, after which the judges made a unanimous decision on the winners.

Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager, Human Resources at Gulf Bank, said: "On behalf of Gulf Bank, I would like to congratulate the winners of this year's Company Program Competition. Like each year, the students who participate are a true reflection of what our youth have to offer and what they are capable of when offered the right kind of support and guidance. We are very proud of the concepts we witnessed in this year's competition and we look forward to seeing more participations next year".

The 'Student Company of the Year 2017' award went to 'Youth Creation' for the

Universities category; and 'Agrivage' for the High School category. The awards were presented to the two winning companies by a Gulf Bank representative. Next, the winning companies will be participating in the regional competition.

Hajjaj continued: "Gulf Bank has been a long time partner and supporter of INJAZ Kuwait, and we will continue to invest in the younger generations by supporting educational programs that focus on equipping youth with the skills and knowhow that allow their ideas to materialize. We are proud of that Gulf Bank was named the company with the most volunteers participating in the year of INJAZ activities. I thank our staff for their commitment to mentoring the next generation."

INJAZ-Kuwait is a non-profit (NPO), non-governmental organization (NGO) driven by

Kuwait's private sector. Through strategic partnerships with Kuwait's business and education sectors, and with the help of qualified and dedicated volunteers, INJAZ delivers both Arabic and English language educational programs on entrepreneurial and leadership skills to build successful careers.

INJAZ forms part of the global network of Junior Achievement worldwide. The programs are designed to narrow social inequities, encourage social engagement, foster creativity and experience, and develop generations of highly skilled individuals. Board members include: Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Gulf Bank Chairman and CEO of Alghanim Industries, who is also the Chairman of the Board INJAZ-Kuwait, along with Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager Human Resources at Gulf Bank, among other notable individuals.



'Agrivage' received the 'Student Company of the Year 2017' award for the high school category.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) celebrated the graduation of a new batch of customer service - communications center employees after they completed their training at CBK Academy.



**Conservative mayor Ghalibaf withdraws from Iran election**

**INDIA APPEALS TO UN COURT TO HALT EXECUTION OF 'SPY'**



**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomes French President Emmanuel Macron for talks on strengthening the EU, a day after the new French president took office at the chancellery in Berlin. —AFP

**PHILIPPE APPOINTED AS NEW FRENCH PM**

**MACRON APPOINTS CENTRE-RIGHT PM TO WIDEN APPEAL**

**PARIS:** New French President Emmanuel Macron named centre-right lawmaker Edouard Philippe as prime minister yesterday in a further effort to splinter the country's traditional parties and redraw the political map. Philippe, a little known 46-year-old MP and mayor of the northern port of Le Havre, comes from the moderate wing of the rightwing Republicans party and is seen as a pragmatist.

His appointment was seen as a strategic move by 39-year-old Macron, who is trying to woo modernizers of all stripes to his new centrist party, the *Republique en Marche* (Republic on the Move, REM). France's fervently pro-European new president who travelled to Berlin later to meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel has already won over dozens of moderate Socialist MPs.

Former investment banker Macron, who trounced far-right leader Marine Le Pen in the May 7 presidential run-off, aims to take votes from both the Republicans and Socialists in next month's crucial parliamentary election. Philippe has been presented as his Trojan horse on the right of the spectrum. Taking over from outgoing prime minister Bernard Cazeneuve during a short ceremony, Philippe

described himself as "a man of the right" who was driven by "the greater good".

**Break the right**

Like Macron, Philippe is a product of France's elite ENA college who worked for a while in the private sector and has little truck with the country's fraying left-right divide. Relatively unknown outside his northern fiefdom, he has never served in national government. After campaigning for Socialist prime minister Michel Rocard as a youth, he switched to the right, becoming a close ally of centre-right former prime minister Alain Juppe.

Mayor of his hometown of Le Havre, the German-speaking father of three, who writes crime novels in his spare time, was elected to parliament in 2012. Juppe yesterday praised him as "a very talented man". His appointment as premier is a blow to the Republicans, who have been trying to regroup after the presidential vote and prevent defections to Macron's camp.

**Political transformation**

Republicans secretary-general Bernard Accoyer said there were no immediate plans

to expel Philippe from the party but that he would have to "clear up the ambiguity" about his loyalties. Some in the party have argued in favor of an alliance with Macron. Around 20 MPs on Monday issued a statement urging the Republicans and centre-right UDI to "accept his outstretched hand", saying the right needed to "take the full measure of the political transformation taking place before their eyes".

Macron needs a majority to push through his ambitious plans to loosen France's strict labor laws, boost entrepreneurship and reduce class sizes in tough neighborhoods. But his year-old party faces a battle for seats, with the Republicans, Le Pen's National Front, the radical left and other losers of the presidential election all plotting revenge. Leftist firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon said that Philippe's appointment as premier showed the right had been "annexed" by the tentacular Macron.

**No arm-wrestling**

At his inauguration on Sunday, Macron said he aimed to restore France's shattered self-confidence and help rebuild the flagging European Union. The talks with Merkel are

likely to focus on how Europe's power couple can drive reforms of the bloc, with Macron pushing for deeper EU ties to help it overcome the imminent departure of Britain. Later this month, he will also meet Donald Trump, when the US president-believed to have preferred Le Pen to Macron-visits Brussels for a NATO summit.

Merkel has hailed Macron's win as a blow for the eurozone to have its own budget have received a cool response from Germany, which fears it would be forced to pay the lion's share. "Many countries including France would need to organize a referendum. It's not realistic," German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble told *Le Figaro* newspaper. French MEP Sylvie Goulard, an ally of Macron who has close ties to Berlin, predicted he would avoid causing any tensions with Germany.

"There will be no arm-wrestling," she said. Breathing new life into the EU is just one of a host of challenges Macron faces. On the home front, he will have to work quickly to tackle stubbornly high unemployment, combat the jihadist threat and heal divisions exposed by an often vicious election campaign.—AFP



**PARIS:** Newly appointed French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe delivers a speech after the handover ceremony with outgoing Prime Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, in Paris, France. — AP



**NORTH KOREA:** This picture released from North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) shows North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un inspecting a ground-to-ground medium long-range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong-12 at an undisclosed location. — AFP

**NORTH KOREA: NEW LONG-RANGE MISSILE CAN CARRY HEAVY NUKE**

**SEOUL:** North Korea yesterday boasted of a successful weekend launch of a new type of "medium long-range" ballistic rocket that can carry a heavy nuclear warhead. Outsiders also saw a significant technological jump, with the test-fire apparently flying higher and for a longer time period than any other such previous missile. Amid condemnation in Seoul, Tokyo, Washington and Moscow, a jubilant North Korean leader Kim Jong Un promised more nuclear and missile tests and warned that his country's weapons could strike the US mainland and Pacific holdings.

North Korean propaganda must be considered with wariness - Pyongyang has threatened for decades to reduce Seoul to a "sea of fire," for instance - but Monday's claim, if confirmed, would mark another big advance toward the North's goal of fielding a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the US mainland. Some experts, including officials in Tokyo, estimate that Sunday's launch successfully tested a new type of missile, potentially the longest in North Korea's arsenal.

The test is also an immediate challenge to South

Korea's new president, Moon Jae-in, a liberal elected last week who expressed a desire to reach out to North Korea. Pyongyang's aggressive push to boost its weapons program also makes it one of the Trump administration's most urgent foreign policy worries, though Washington has struggled to settle on a policy. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency called the missile a "new ground-to-ground medium long-range strategic ballistic rocket," and said the "Hwasong-12" was "capable of carrying a large, heavy nuclear warhead."

Kim witnessed the test and "hugged officials in the field of rocket research, saying that they worked hard to achieve a great thing," according to KCNA. The rocket, "newly designed in a Korean-style," flew 787 kilometers and reached a maximum altitude of 2,111 kilometers, the North said, and "verified the homing feature of the warhead under the worst re-entry situation and accurate performance of detonation system."

South Korea's Defense Ministry said more analysis is needed to verify the North's claim on the rocket's technological features. Spokesman Moon Sang Gyun

said it's still unlikely that North Korea has re-entry technology, which would return a warhead safely back into the atmosphere. Japanese officials said Sunday that the missile flew for half an hour and reached an unusually high altitude before landing in the Sea of Japan.

Several South Korean analysts, including Lee Illwoo, a Seoul-based commentator on military issues, said the missile flew higher and for a longer period than any other the North has ever test-fired. North Korea has also launched satellites into orbit on long-range rockets that share some of the same technology as missiles. North Korea is not thought to be able yet to make a nuclear warhead small enough to mount on a long-range missile, though some outside analysts think it can arm shorter-range missiles with warheads.

Each new nuclear and longer-range missile test is part of the North's attempt to build a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile. Kim said North Korea would stage more nuclear and missile tests in order to perfect nuclear bombs needed to deal with US "nuclear blackmail" —AP

## IRAN HARDLINERS TURN TO REFORMIST -DOMINATED SOCIAL MEDIA

**TEHRAN:** After a series of bruising electoral defeats, Iranian conservatives campaigning in this week's presidential poll have belatedly embraced social media—a space long dominated by their reformist rivals. Across Iran's political spectrum, posting on social media has increasingly replaced street campaigning as the crucial way to rally supporters and attack opponents—even if some of the most popular sites such as Twitter remain officially banned.

Hardline Tehran mayor Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf has used Twitter and messaging app Telegram, which has 25 million users in Iran, to release documents accusing his rivals of corruption. When moderate President Hassan Rouhani, who is seeking re-election, vis-

ited the site of a mining disaster last week, conservatives posted a video of his car being attacked by protesters which quickly went viral.

Another conservative candidate, cleric Ebrahim Raisi, has live-streamed his rallies on Instagram and given unprecedented online question-and-answer sessions. It marks a significant shift in a country where conservatives have tended to respect bans on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube-leaving reformists a relatively free run on social media. The bans date back to the 2009 election when Twitter and Facebook were widely used to rally support for reformists and then to organize mass protests when they claimed the result was rigged in favor of hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

"The reformist camp always had the upper hand on social media" during 2009 and 2013 elections, journalist Sadra Mohaghegh said. Conservatives finally came round after a massive defeat in urban areas at last year's parliamentary elections, in which reformists scored a clean sweep of Tehran's 30 seats. "Until then the conservatives had not realized the power of social media, but after that they realized they had to join the game," said Mohaghegh, who writes for reformist daily Shargh.

### Online army

Reformists have continued to score hits on social media. When hardliner Ghalibaf claimed he supported female empowerment in the workplace, critics published

documents showing he had called for gender-segregated offices at Tehran municipal offices. But Iran's hardliners have some powerful assistance. Some 18,000 "volunteers" regularly scour the internet for anything deemed subversive, a top judiciary official said in February.

The arrests in March of 12 heads of popular reformist channels on Telegram sent a chill through the online community. Six are still in jail, despite criticism from Rouhani and another lawmaker who blamed the elite Revolutionary Guards and told them to stay out of politics. Rouhani has made civil liberties, including online freedom, a key theme of his campaign. His administration has rolled out high-speed Internet across the country, making it harder for the

authorities to limit access. "The era of one state broadcaster dominating people's minds is over," he said at a campaign rally on Saturday.

"We will set up the communications infrastructure so that each one of you can become the broadcaster with your mobile phones. We will not let Iran become isolated once again." The online mud-slinging has smeared both sides in a bitterly fought contest. But the use of social media has at least boosted voter interest in the election, and officials are keen to see a high turnout in order to buttress the regime's legitimacy. "I think everyone has embraced the competitive campaign atmosphere—it helps build up the hype and enthusiasm," Mohaghegh said.—AFP

## CONSERVATIVE MAYOR GHALIBAF WITHDRAWS FROM IRAN ELECTION

### GHALIBAF CALLS ON HIS SUPPORTERS TO BACK EBRAHIM RAISI

**TEHRAN:** Tehran mayor Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf withdrew from Iran's presidential race yesterday, paving the way for a head-to-head battle between President Hassan Rouhani and his leading hardline challenger in this week's election. Ghalibaf called on his supporters to back conservative cleric and jurist Ebrahim Raisi in Friday's vote, saying it was vital for the "preservation of the interests of the people, the revolution and the country."

Unofficial polls still show Rouhani, a moder-

challenge from the conservatives due to the continued stagnation of the economy. Raisi, a former prosecutor-general and close ally of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has called for a more assertive approach to the West and a focus on building a self-sufficient "resistance economy."

This had been Ghalibaf's third bid for the presidency, having been runner-up to Rouhani in 2013. A former police chief and member of the Revolutionary Guards, he has played on his

damental and crucial decision must be taken for the unity of the revolutionary front," Ghalibaf wrote in a statement announcing his withdrawal. "To protect this great ideal, I ask all of my supporters across the country to offer all of their support to the success of our dear brother Ebrahim Raisi."

### Fight has just begun

He launched brutal tirades against Rouhani and his reformist allies in the televised debates, accusing them of corruption and failing to support the poor. "The expectation of us and the people is that this decision sets the stage for a new era of economic transformation that, by cutting off the four-percenters from the economy, will lead to youth employment and support for the underprivileged and poor in Iran. The fight has just begun," he said.

Rouhani's government signed a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers that ended some sanctions in exchange for curbs to Iran's nuclear program. But it has struggled to attract the large-scale foreign investments Rouhani had promised when the deal came into force, and which he said were necessary to reduce unemployment and kick-start the economy. Raisi is currently the head of the powerful Imam Reza shrine and charitable foundation in the holy city of Mashhad who has attracted support from traditional conservatives, and is seen as the favored candidate of the security establishment.

Three other candidates-reformists Eshaq Jahangiri and Mostafa Hashemataba, and conservative Mostafa Mirsalim—are also standing in the election, though they are considered relatively marginal figures who may also withdraw before the vote. Iran's elections are similar to the French system in which a second round run-off is held between the top two candidates unless one wins 50 percent or more in the first round. Rouhani squeaked through in the first round of 2013 with 50.7 percent of the vote.—AFP



**TEHRAN:** In this file photo, Tehran's mayor and conservative presidential candidate Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, center right, listens to a cleric on his arrival to attend a campaign rally in Tehran, Iran.—AP

ate cleric who has sought to improve civil liberties and rebuild ties with the West, as the front-runner. But he has faced a harder-than-expected

tough-guy image in the past, but this year targeted his campaign against the wealthy elite, whom he dubbed the "four-percenters." "A fun-

## SYRIA REGIME NEARS TOTAL RECAPTURE OF DAMASCUS

**BEIRUT:** Syria's regime is close to cementing its control over the entire capital under local deals with rebels after a six-year war that has ravaged suburbs of Damascus and caused population displacements. Rebels have evacuated some of the last Damascus districts under their control, shattering their dream of one day seizing the capital and toppling a five-decade-old regime.

Over 2,000 civilians and rebels evacuated the Qabun district on Sunday, after similar departures from the Barzeh and Tishrin neighborhoods earlier last week. "With the seizure of these three neighborhoods, the regime now controls almost all the capital," said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group. In the east of the capital, "the rebels now only hold a part of the Jobar district, most of which is destroyed," he said.

In the south, the Tadamun and Hajar al-Aswad neighborhoods as well as the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmuk are now mostly controlled by jihadists including the Islamic State group, he said. The so-called reconciliation deals that led to the latest evacuations from the capital have dealt a heavy blow to the armed opposition, following their defeat in the northern city of Aleppo in December. "With Aleppo retaken and Damascus about to be, the rebels no longer present a political or military alternative," said Syria expert Fabrice Balanche.

"The regime is therefore not under any threat and doesn't need to make any concessions," added Balanche, a visiting fellow at The Washington Institute think-tank. For President Bashar al-Assad, regaining control of the capital was vital to retain power after anti-government protests that began in 2011 before spiraling into civil war.

### Regime success

His fortunes have sharply reversed since July 2012, when thousands of rebels seized several of the capital's neighborhoods before a two-week counter-offensive by elite regime troops repelled them. More recently, in March, rebel groups and jihadists from former Al-Qaeda affiliate Fateh al-Sham Front briefly entered Abbassid Square near the city centre in a surprise assault from Jobar,

before being pushed back days later. But the capital, with its approximately 1.6 million inhabitants, has largely been insulated from the civil war and has endured far less destruction than other major hubs such as Aleppo and the city of Homs in northern Syria. "The regime was reinforced by Russian and Iranian foreign troops at the expense of a defenseless people," said Mohammed Alloush, head of Jaish al-Islam, the most powerful rebel faction in the opposition-held Eastern Ghouta area outside Damascus. He said the population displacements caused by the local reconciliation deals amounted to "crimes against humanity."

"The regime now plans to swallow up Jobar in the next phase before setting its sights on Eastern Ghouta," Alloush said. He said the evacuations were a "betrayal" after backers of the regime and rebels signed a deal in the Kazakh capital earlier this month aimed at paving the way towards a lasting ceasefire in Syria.

On May 4, regime allies Russia

and Iran and rebel backer Turkey inked a deal to introduce so-called "de-escalation zones" in the country. Under the deal, four zones are to be created in the northwestern province of Idlib, parts of the central province of Homs, the south, and the opposition enclave of Eastern Ghouta near Damascus. The capital is not included in the plan.

### Rebel offensive doomed

The regime has long touted "reconciliation deals" as the best way to end the conflict and views the latest evacuations as a success. "It's a turning point in the conflict," said government advisor on national reconciliation Ahmad Munir Mohammed. "It's a victory for the Syrian state," he added. "Reconciliation is a defeat for those waging war against Syria." He denied that the deals were changing the country's demographics.

"Those who wanted to regularize their status (with the regime) stayed, and those who left did so at their request," he said. Syria analyst

Joshua Landis said the evacuations underlined that "the suburbs of Damascus cannot hold out against the regime". He said the intervention of the Lebanese movement Hezbollah in support of the Assad regime in 2013 "doomed the Damascus rebel offensive" by severing supply routes from neighboring Lebanon. "The regime and its allies cut the legs out from underneath the Damascus rebels," said Landis, director of the Centre for Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma.

Aron Lund, a fellow at The Century Foundation, said the army taking control of the three Damascus districts would weaken the armed opposition in Eastern Ghouta. "The long-term situation of the rebels there looks very bleak," he said. "Qabun, Barzeh and Tishrin, which are now being retaken by the army, have contained smuggling tunnels that supplied Eastern Ghouta," he said. "Without those tunnels, the Ghouta rebels will be weakened and the government will have more leverage over them."—AFP



**DAMASCUS:** Syrian civilians and rebels, who were evacuated from the Qabun district in northeast Damascus, arrive at a temporary camp in the northern countryside of Idlib province.—AFP



**MOSUL:** Iraqis sell goods in Mosul's neighborhood of al-Jadida as civilians gradually return to the area after Iraqi forces recapture the district from Islamic State group fighters.—AFP

## RESCUED HUMAN SHIELDS TELL OF MOSUL HORROR

**HAMMAM AL-ALIL, Iraq:** Fear and hunger are driving an ever-growing number of Iraqi civilians into a camp in Hammam al-Ail, where they share harrowing tales of deadly violence and jihadist tyranny in Mosul. Some arrive at the displacement camp, the largest in the Mosul area, on foot, but most of them are crammed into buses and trucks, relieved and exhausted. Half a million people are currently displaced as a result of the massive seven-month-old offensive to retake Iraq's second city from the Islamic State group.

Thursday saw what the Norwegian Refugee Council said was the biggest single-day displacement since the start of the operation, with around 20,000 fleeing neighborhoods of west Mosul. "I feel safe, I did not think I would get out of there alive," said Shams Hassan, a woman in her forties who reached the Hammam al-Ail camp on Friday with 16 members of her family. She is from the Al-Faruq neighborhood of Mosul's Old City and lost track of the number of times she and her relatives had to change houses and neighborhoods in recent months. "They always wanted us to be in front of them to use us as human shields. They would come to tell us to change houses," she said. "We would find ourselves in the middle of shelling and car bombs. One of the houses we lived in was struck by a mortar round, it collapsed on us and I was wounded by shrapnel. I had to be carried," she said. A large population remains in Mosul's Old City, where IS appears to have concentrated most of its remaining resources. Some estimates put the number of civilians still trapped in west Mosul at 250,000.

### Hanged from posts

Human shields have become a central feature of the vastly outnumbered jihadists' defense and IS has stopped at nothing to deter people from escaping the city. "Those who tried to flee were executed in the streets and their bodies hung from posts," Shams Hassan said. Her mother, who reached Hammam al-Ail a few weeks earlier, sat next to her, her gaze lost in the distance. "Daesh would take our food," the old lady said, using a derogatory Arabic

acronym for the Islamic State group. "They would come with their guns and take our clothes too."

Trapped residents reached by AFP inside the areas still controlled by IS have warned recently that hunger was beginning to kill more people than the intense fighting itself. There is no clean water left to drink and even unclean water is hard to come by. People are boiling paper and cartons to fill their stomachs. "A bottle of oil was 50,000 dinars (around 40 US dollars), a can of tomatoes was 50,000 dinars too. Flour was 5,000 dinars. We ate some of it and got sick," said Shams Hassan.

### Eating grass

"We haven't showered the kids in two months, they have lice," she said. Having moved countless times, they eventually managed to escape when the Iraqi security forces reached their neighborhood and escorted them out through holes that both sides have punched in walls in people's homes to move up and down blocks undetected. "We were walking on broken glass and rubble... my son had to carry me," she said.

At age 72, Ahmed Yunis Dawood dodged sniper fire to leave west Mosul through the neighborhood's water mains. "For five days, I would go out at night to check out the streets," he recounted. In the Hammam al-Ail camp he reached early Sunday, the elderly man found safety but little else. "The people who arrive here have no tent, no bed to sleep in, no food, no water," Dawood said. Aid groups have been delivering assistance in the camps to tens of thousands of civilians daily but the lack of funding, the recent peak in displacement and soaring temperatures are leaving many outside the relief net.

In the dusty chaos engulfing the entrance of the camp, where new arrivals are screened and in most cases subsequently dispatched to other locations, one man cried in despair. "We fled death only to face death here... Take us home, it is better for us," he said. "An air strike will come and we will die together. We were eating grass like cows but at least we were in our homes."—AFP

## AFTER TEARFUL FAREWELL, ISRAEL BROADCASTER ENTERS NEW ERA

**JERUSALEM:** Israel's new public broadcaster went live yesterday after reforms to television and radio stations, seen as integral to the country's history, threatened snap polls and evoked tearful on-air tributes. Radio newscasts began with the same two-hour show as previously, with iconic anchor Aryeh Golan remaining in the chair. "Good morning, at this time the Israeli Broadcasting Corporation sets out on its way," he said in his opening remarks.

But in a reference to layoffs accompanying the reforms, he said, "Our rejoicing, of course, is tinged with sadness for the hundreds of our colleagues from the IBA who were left by the wayside." The number of jobs lost has yet to be confirmed. Many Israelis grew up with only public radio and television run by the former Israeli Broadcasting Authority until private stations began appearing in 1993.

The launch comes after bitter political infighting over the reforms that seek to streamline the former authority's operations. The now-defunct IBA had one television channel and eight radio stations, as will the new corporation. A dispute between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon over how to move ahead with the reforms threatened early elections, before a compromise was reached

in March. Netanyahu has been accused of reneging on a previous agreement by seeking too much control of the new broadcaster, while Kahlon was committed to it and wanted to see through financial reforms. Employees of the old corporation have harshly criticized the way the shutdown was handled. Staff from its main nightly television news program were informed last week its broadcast that day would be its last, drawing emotional on-air tributes.

In a sign of how much the reforms remained in flux, the new corporation was still looking for a boss. The official receiver charged with the IBA breakup on Sunday published an "invitation to apply for the post of temporary managing director". Channel One public TV is due to go on air later Monday.

### Years of reform attempts

For years the government had tried to reform the IBA, the Jewish state's sole broadcaster until 1993, when the first commercial TV channel went on air followed by several commercial radio stations and a second television channel. It was accused of financial mismanagement, bowing to government interference and allowing bloated staffing imposed by strong unions.—AFP



## ERDOGAN VISITS TRUMP, AMID FRICTION BETWEEN US, TURKEY

**WASHINGTON:** The United States is on a collision course with its NATO ally Turkey, pushing ahead with arming Syrian Kurds after deciding the immediate objective of defeating Islamic State militants outweighs the potential damage to a partnership vital to US interests in the volatile Middle East. The Turks are fiercely opposed to the US plans, seeing the Kurdish fighters as terrorists. And when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visits the White House today, the most he and President Donald Trump may be able to do is agree to disagree, and move on.

"The Turks see this as a crisis in the relationship," said Jonathan Schanzer at the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies. The challenge is hardly new. Long before Trump took office, US presidents have grappled with the fragility of partnering with Turkey's government and the Kurds to carry out a Middle East agenda.

Past administrations have sought a delicate balance. Too exuberant in its support for the Kurds, and the US risks pushing ally Turkey toward US geopoliti-

cal rivals like Russia or emboldening the Kurds to try to create an independent state - a scenario that would destabilize multiple countries in the region. Too little cooperation with the Kurds risks squandering a battlefield ally with proven effectiveness against extremist threats and who has staunchly supported Washington.

Trump has made his priorities clear. His administration is arming Syrian Kurdish fighters as part of an effort to recapture the Syrian city of Raqqa, the Islamic State group's self-declared capital. Coupled with the US-backed fight in the Iraqi city of Mosul, Raqqa is seen as a key step toward liberating the remaining territory the militants hold. Turkey has been pressuring the US to drop support for the Kurdish militants in Syria for years and doesn't want them spearheading the Raqqa effort.

Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish group, known as the YPG, a terrorist group because of its ties to the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party inside Turkey. The United States, the European Union and Turkey all agree the PKK is a terrorist organization.

The Turks fear any weapons the US provides the Syrian Kurds could well end up with their ethnic brethren in Turkey, who've fought violently as part of a separatist insurgency for more than three decades.

As a nod to Turkey's concerns, the Pentagon has promised tight monitoring of all weapons and greater intelligence sharing to help the Turks better watch over their frontiers. Kurds are an ethnic group predominantly concentrated along the borders of four countries - Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran. But a face-to-face confrontation on the matter between Trump and Erdogan seems inevitable.

### Failed coup

Erdogan and other top Turkish officials have pressed for the US to reverse its strategy, however low the prospects of Trump changing his mind. As a result, experts see Erdogan using the meeting to confront Trump on a host of other Turkish grievances. Those include extraditing the Pennsylvania-based cleric, Fethullah Gulen, whom Erdogan blames for fomenting a failed coup last summer, and

dropping US charges against Reza Zarrab, a Turkish businessman accused of money-laundering and violating US sanctions in Iran.

"I see this trip as a new milestone in Turkey-US relations," Erdogan said, as he prepared to fly to Washington. The US, too, has a wish list for Turkey. Washington is concerned by rising anti-Americanism in Turkey that Erdogan's government has tolerated since the July coup attempt. The US also has pressed unsuccessfully for the release of Andrew Brunson, an American pastor, and other detained US citizens.

Trump also has much at stake. His willingness to partner with authoritarian rulers and overlook their shortcomings on democracy and human rights have alarmed US lawmakers of both parties. Trump's premise has been that he is focusing on deal-making. That puts added pressure on him to get results. Trump has gone out of his way to foster a good relationship with Erdogan. After a national referendum last month that strengthened Erdogan's presidential powers, European leaders and rights advocates criticized Turkey for moving closer toward autocratic rule. —AP



**OHIO:** This file photo shows Callista Gingrich, wife of former US Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich waving to the crowd during the third day of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP

## TRUMP TO NOMINATE CALLISTA GINGRICH AS VATICAN ENVOY

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump is set to nominate Callista Gingrich, wife of former House speaker Newt Gingrich, to be the next US ambassador to the Vatican, CNN and The New York Times reported. The nomination is expected to be formalized before Trump meets with Pope Francis on May 24 in Rome, and once the Office of Government Ethics gives its approval, CNN reported Sunday.

A self-described devout Catholic, Gingrich, 51, currently heads Gingrich Productions, a multimedia company. Newt Gingrich, 73, was one of the few big-name Republicans to support Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign. He was speaker of the House of Representatives second in line in the US presidential succession chart from 1995 to 1999, and was notably

vociferous in his calls to impeach president Bill Clinton over the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal. The potential nomination carries some controversy: Callista Gingrich is the former speaker's third wife, and had a multi-year sexual relationship with him when she was a young congressional aide named Callista Bisek and he was still married to his second wife.

After a messy divorce from his second wife in 1999, he married Callista the following year. He credits Callista with his conversion to Catholicism. Trump mentioned the possibility of the ambassadorship in January, but the Gingrichs have been so frustrated with the slow vetting process that they have threatened to withdraw Callista's name, The New York Times reported. —AFP

## VOTE COUNTING SLOW IN NEPAL'S FIRST LOCAL ELECTIONS IN 20 YEARS

**KATHMANDU:** Counting of votes in Nepal's first local elections in two decades began yesterday but officials said it could take several days for all the results to be known. Officials said 73 percent of nearly five million voters cast their ballots on Sunday in the first round of the elections, a major step in the young republic's difficult transition to democracy more than a decade after the end of its civil war.

The government hopes that the polls, staggered over two phases, will lead to a general election later in the year. "The first phase of local elections was historic because it took place after many years. Voters also participated with enthusiasm," Govinda Acharya, an aide to Prime Minister Prachanda, said. Nepal's democratic journey took a hit in 2015 when

some regional groups rejected a constitution approved by bigger political parties, saying it concentrated power among the hill elite that has long dominated politics.

Surya Prasad Sharma, an Election Commission spokesman, said counting for 214 local bodies out of 281 for which polls were held on Sunday had started. Sharma said ballot boxes were being brought in by helicopter from remote polling centers. "It could take 3-4 days for all results to be declared because of (lengthy) counting procedures," he said. Another nine million Nepalis are eligible to vote in the second phase of elections set for June 14 that includes the restive southern plains where Madhesi groups are demanding constitutional change to address their grievances. —Reuters

## CANADA'S TOP DIPLOMAT AND DEFENSE CHIEF VISITS WASHINGTON

**OTTAWA:** Canada's top diplomat and its defense chief will be in Washington yesterday and today as trade tensions mount between the two North American neighbors. Global Affairs Canada, which promotes the country's international trade, said that Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland and Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan would meet with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Defense Secretary James Mattis and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

The ministers will also hold meetings "with important stakeholders to discuss Canadian priorities and cooperation between the two countries," the trade agency said. The visit comes ahead of a summit of NATO member nations in late May, followed by the summit of G7 developed nations in Italy. It also follows the confirmation of Robert Lighthizer as Donald Trump's

Special Representative for Trade (USTR) on Thursday.

Lighthizer, seen as a trade hawk, will play a pivotal role in renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico. Much of Trump's trade agenda has been on hold since Lighthizer's nomination in January. Last week Ross, the US commerce secretary, said he hoped to resolve delays in Congress that would allow the White House to formally notify it of its intent to renegotiate NAFTA, which would start the 90-day clock before the talks could begin.

Separately, Ross said last month that Washington was imposing duties of up to 24 percent on Canadian lumber used in construction after the two countries failed to reach an agreement in the 35-year-old dispute over charges that Ottawa subsidizes the industry. —AFP

## TRUMP, MACRON PLAN 'LENGTHY' BRUSSELS GET-TO-KNOW-YOU LUNCH

BOTH NEOPHYTES TO COMPARE PERSPECTIVES

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron are to hold a "lengthy lunch" in Brussels this month - a bonding exercise for two men the White House believes have much in common. Senior US administration officials said that Trump will break bread with Macron on May 25 in Brussels and "compare perspectives." The White House believes the 39-year-old French centrist-who took office on Sunday-and the 70-year-old US leader are not as uncomfortable allies as it first may seem.

This despite suspicions that Trump would have preferred far-right candidate Marine Le Pen to win the recent French election. For one, both Macron and Trump are presidential neophytes. "They are two of the newest leaders to the stage," said a senior Trump administration official, adding that a recent phone call between the two leaders very well.

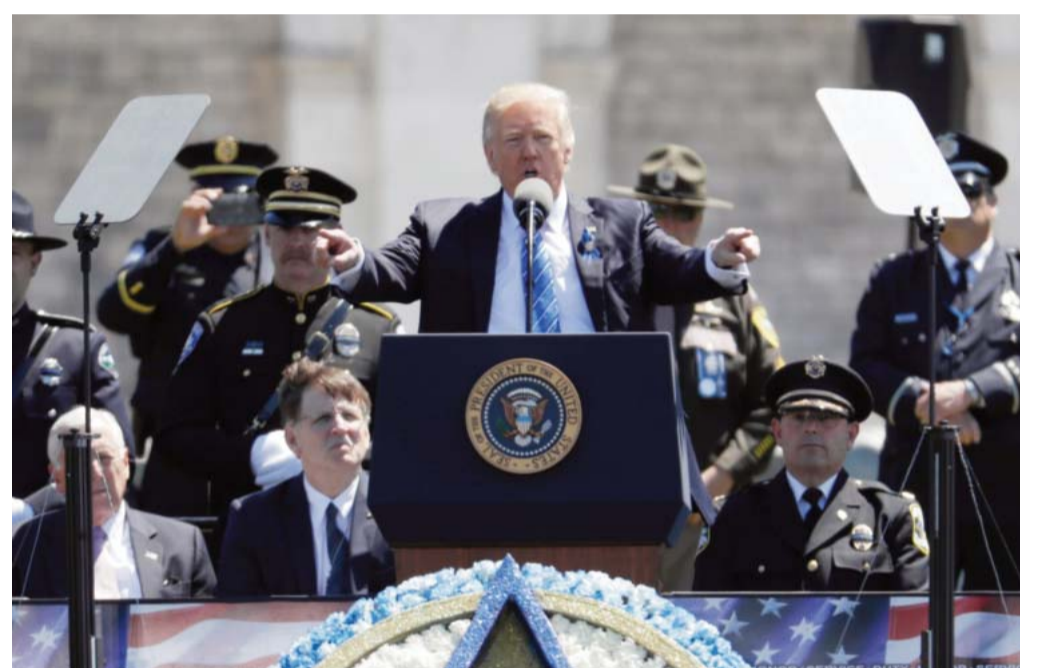
Trump "was very impressed with Mr Macron," said the official, who had direct knowledge of the call. Trump - who regularly gripes about getting insufficient credit for his November 2016 election victory - was impressed that Macron won almost 50 percent more votes than Le Pen. "It was clearly a very strong electoral win," said the official, who asked not to be named in order to discuss sensitive issues.

### Le Pen support downplayed

While their ideology may differ, both Trump and Macron "come from outside traditional political lines." Macron was the first candidate from outside the traditional political parties to win the French presidency in decades. Trump won the Republican presidential nomination, but has often shattered party orthodoxy.

The White House also believes that the impression that Trump supported Le Pen is exaggerated, based only on "one tweet about borders" and Le Pen's visit to Trump Tower in January, before the US billionaire took office. Trump aides stress that Le Pen had no meeting with the campaign when she visited Trump Tower, much less with the now-president.

In April Trump tweeted in the wake of a deadly shooting on the Champs Elysees: "Another terrorist attack in Paris. The people of France will not take much more of this. Will have a big effect on



**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump speaks at the 36th Annual National Peace Officers' memorial service yesterday on Capitol Hill. — AP

presidential election!" Trump also once remarked that Le Pen had been the "strongest on borders and she's the strongest on what's been going on in France."

### Counterterrorism, economy

When Macron and Trump do sit down the agenda is likely to be dominated by counterterrorism cooperation, which the White House describes as "excellent." But there may also be some common ground on the economy. "Macron has a lot of reforms in mind" one senior administration official said, and both leaders could help "jump start Europe."

Since becoming president Trump appears to be torn between pro-business instincts and a verve for protectionism. In his more populist moments, Trump has suggested he would not consider trade agreements with the European Union, looking for bilateral agreements instead. Many European capitals see that as the economic

equivalent of divide and conquer, with potentially damaging consequences for their economies and the cohesion of the European Union.

### NATO burden sharing

There may however be a point of contention on NATO spending. Trump has been browbeating European governments to spend a higher portion of their GDP on collective defense. "As far as the president is concerned, he wants to see the two percent target met right now," a second US official said.

That is "not practical" the source admitted, but as long as Europe is moving strongly in that direction common ground may be found. "It's all about burden sharing," the US official said. Both Trump and Macron will be in the Belgian capital for a meeting of NATO leaders before traveling to the G7 summit in Sicily. While in Brussels, Trump will also meet the King and prime minister of Belgium. —AFP



**JOHANNESBURG:** This file photo shows South African chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng leading a session of the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg. — AFP

## S AFRICA COURT TO RULE ON ZUMA CONFIDENCE VOTE

**JOHANNESBURG:** South Africa's highest court weighed yesterday whether lawmakers can cast secret ballots in a no-confidence vote in President Jacob Zuma, who faces growing criticism within the ruling ANC. Several hundred protesters marched to the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg in the latest demonstrations against Zuma, who has been implicated in a series of corruption scandals.

Opposition parties have lobbied for a secret ballot and called for African National Congress (ANC) lawmakers to "vote with their conscience." The ANC holds a large majority in parliament and Zuma has survived similar votes in the past, which have not been secret. "ANC members of parliament will have to choose between what is best for themselves and what is best for South Africa," Mmusi Maimane, leader of the main opposition Democratic Alliance party, told protesters.

"They did not swear (their oath of office) to be faithful to Jacob Zuma, or to the ANC. They promised to be faithful to South Africa." The case united DA protesters with marchers from the radical left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party, with the court forecast to give its ruling later in the day. "If parliament fails to remove Zuma, then the people in the 2019 election will make sure that the ANC is voted out," said EFF supporter Daniel Mhinele, who travelled from Pretoria to rally outside the court.

The scheduled no-confidence debate has been postponed by parliamentary Speaker Baleka Mbete, who has said she has no powers to agree to a secret ballot. Zuma's sacking of respected finance minister Pravin Gordhan in March fuelled public anger over years of government corruption scandals, record unemployment and slowing economic growth.

### Legal battles

The president has recently faced unprecedented criticism from senior ANC figures, including from Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa. Zuma, who came to office in 2009, is due to step down as head of the ANC in December, and as national president ahead of the 2019 general election. He is seen as favoring his ex-wife, former African Union chief Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, to succeed him-rather than Ramaphosa. "Zuma's time is up," 22-year-old marcher Tsido Molefe said.

"We are going to march until he leaves, and today we are here to support the court case," she said. Yesterday morning, the Constitutional Court heard legal arguments in favor of the secret ballot. The court last year found Zuma guilty of violating the constitution after he refused to repay taxpayers' money used to refurbish his private rural house. —AFP

## GUNFIRE HEARD IN I COAST CITIES IN GRIP OF MUTINY

**ABIDJAN:** Gunshots rang out early yesterday in the Ivory Coast cities of Abidjan and Bouake amid a four-day-old mutiny by ex-rebel soldiers demanding government bonuses, AFP journalists and witnesses said. In the economic capital of Abidjan, gunfire was heard at two military camps in Akouedo in the east of the city, which together form the country's largest military barracks, a nearby resident said. Sustained gunfire also rang out in the second-largest city of Bouake, where one person died on Sunday from bullet wounds.

Access roads into Akouedo were closed, preventing residents from the east of Abidjan from entering the city, an AFP reporter said. Shots were also heard from the Gallieni camp in the centre of the city. Mutinous former rebels often fire in the air to express their anger over the non-payment of

bonuses by the government, an issue which sparked the mutiny in Bouake on Friday.

The African Development Bank advised its employees in Abidjan to stay at home as "the security situation" was "not clear for the moment." The armed forces chief of staff, General Sekou Toure, said in a statement Sunday that "a military operation is underway to re-establish order" and made a televised appeal to the disgruntled soldiers to return to barracks.

### Deal on bonuses

Under a deal negotiated with the government in January after a mutiny by the ex-rebels, they were to be paid bonuses of 12 million CFA francs (18,000 euros) each, with an initial payment of five million francs that month. The remainder was to be paid

starting this month, according to rebel sources. But the government has struggled to pay the soldiers the promised money. In Bouake, the mutinous former rebels were in control late on Sunday and appeared determined to press on with their protest despite the threat of sanctions by military chiefs.

"We want the money, that's all! There's nothing to discuss," said one of them. Bouake was the epicenter of the January mutiny, which triggered months of unrest. The city served as rebel headquarters after a failed 2002 coup which split Ivory Coast in half and led to years of unrest. The world's top cocoa producer and former star French colony has since been slowly regaining its credentials as a West African powerhouse and a haven of peace and prosperity.

The current round of trouble began when on Thursday a soldier presented as a spokesman for

some 8,400 former rebels said in a televised ceremony that they wished to apologize to President Alassane Ouattara for the mutiny and were giving up their demand for huge payouts. But this seemed to be viewed with skepticism by many of the former fighters. "We don't know if the delegates who were sent to Abidjan (for the ceremony) betrayed us, if they are corrupt or if they were taken hostage over there," said one mutineer in Bouake, Sergeant Yacouba Soro.

"But we have not renounced, that's clear." Ivory Coast has an army of around 22,000, but falling cocoa prices have severely cramped the government's finances. Last year, the government unveiled an ambitious plan to modernize the military, part of which would involve the departure of several thousand men, particularly ex-rebels, who will not be replaced.—AFP

## ITALY BUSTS MAFIA CLAN, CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION IN MIGRANT SCANDAL

### 68 ACCUSED OF EXTORTION, FRAUD, EMBEZZLEMENT

**ROME:** Italy has broken up a mafia ring accused of infiltrating one of the country's largest migrant reception centers and capitalizing on asylum seekers with the help of a Catholic association, police said yesterday. The Arena clan, a family belonging to the powerful 'Ndrangheta crime syndicate, allegedly made a fortune by supplying services for the centre at Isola di Capo Rizzuto and siphoning off money from the state destined for the migrants.

"Over 500 agents overnight arrested 68 people... accused of mafia association, extortion, carrying illegal weapons, fraud, embezzlement to the detriment of the state, (and) theft," police in Catanzaro, a city in Calabria, said in statement. Their investigation revealed "that the clan controlled, for profit, the management of the reception centre" at Isola di Capo Rizzuto which has held up to 1,500 migrants at a time for over a decade.

Police arrested Leonardo Sacco, the 35-year-old head of the Catholic Misericordia association which runs the centre, who has boasted of links to high-powered political figures. Local priest Edoardo Scordio was also detained in the sting.

### Cash for spiritual guidance

"Some 32 million euros (\$35 million) went

straight into the clan's pocket," assistant prosecutor Vincenzo Luberto said, adding that Scordio had received 150,000 euros for offering "spiritual guidance" to the migrants. Police say the Arena clan, through Sacco, awarded contracts for services such as the centre's food supplies to associations it set up specifically for the purpose, as well as to other 'Ndrangheta families.

It also provided food services to the reception centre on Lampedusa, the Italian island which for several years was the frontline of the migrant humanitarian crisis, the biggest influx in Europe since World War II. The head of the country's anti-mafia commission, Rosy Bindi, said the sting was "an important result in the fight against the 'Ndrangheta and the infiltration of mafia in the management of migrants."

About 175,000 people are currently living in reception centres, where the state provides food, clothing, Italian lessons, psychological support, health care and a small amount of pocket money. Italy's finance ministry has estimated the 2017 budget for migrant reception at three billion euros, depending on how many people are rescued in the Mediterranean and brought to the country. More than 45,000 people have arrived so far this year, a 44 percent increase from the same period in 2016.

### Ghost migrants

Raffaele Cantone, Italy's anti-graft chief, said the mafia infiltration at Isola di Capo Rizzuto "is unfortunately, I believe, just the tip of the iceberg, and certainly not a one-off case". The Calabrian centre had long been on the authorities' radar: In 2015 Italy's L'Espresso magazine published an investigative report alleging that managers at the camp were stealing funds earmarked for migrants and making money by starving them. "If the organization was supposed to provide 500 meals, it provided 300 and the rest went hungry," prosecutor Nicola Gratteri said.

The Crotona prefecture said in 2014 that it appeared the official number of people recorded at the centre was grossly inflated, with management pocketing funds from the state for "ghost" migrants. A health inspection in 2013 revealed that asylum seekers were being given miserly portions of out-of-date food, and that the centre was illegally hosting 70 unaccompanied minors who went barefoot and slept in a hangar with only two toilets.

The Arena clan hit the headlines in 2012 after police seized assets from them worth 350 million euros, including one of Europe's largest wind farms.—AFP



**ADANA:** In this file photo a German Air Force cargo plane maneuvers on the runway after it landed at the Incirlik Air Base, in the outskirts of the city of Adana, southern Turkey.—AP

## GERMANY SLAMS TURKEY'S REFUSAL TO LET MPs VISIT TO NATO BASE

**BERLIN:** Germany yesterday slammed Turkey's refusal to allow its lawmakers to visit a NATO base near Syria and warned it could move its troops elsewhere. Berlin described as "unacceptable" Ankara's latest ban on a visit to the Incirlik base in southern Turkey, used by international coalition fighting the Islamic State group. Germany has more than 200 troops stationed there, flying Tornado surveillance missions over Syria and refueling flights for partner nations battling IS jihadists.

Germany will now "look into alternative locations" for its military personnel, said Chancellor Angela Merkel's top spokesman Steffen Seibert. Jordan offered "the best conditions", a defense ministry spokesman added, saying it had also looked at Kuwait and Cyprus since Turkey first denied such visits to German MPs for several months last year. The defense ministry spokesman cautioned however that any move would involve shifting hundreds of containers of materiel and would take several months.

Turkey rejected the latest lawmakers' visit because of anger over Germany granting political asylum to some of its military officials since last year's failed coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, foreign ministry spokesman Martin Schaefer suggested. He said Ankara's reason may be "individual decisions of independent German authorities in connection with military members".

### Hundreds have sought asylum

German media have reported that over 400 Turkish military personnel, diplomats, judges and other officials and their relatives had sought political asylum in Germany. They fear being caught up in

Turkey's crackdown against those Erdogan blames for the coup-supporters of Fethullah Gulen, a reclusive US-based Islamic preacher who has denied the charges against him.

The vast crackdown has heightened tensions between Turkey and Germany, which is home to a three-million-strong ethnic Turkish population, the legacy of a massive "guest worker" program in the 1960s and 1970s. Both countries have sparred over a range of issues, including civil rights in Turkey, press freedom and the military campaign against Turkey's Kurdish minority.

Relations were strained further during the referendum campaign in April to boost Erdogan's powers, and since the arrest of Turkish-German journalist Deniz Yucel on terror-related charges in February this year. Another row last year, centered on a sensitive historical question, had led Turkey to deny German lawmakers the right to visit Incirlik for several months. The German parliament had voted in June to recognize the Ottoman Empire's World War I-era massacre of Armenians as a genocide.

After the vote, a furious Erdogan accused German lawmakers of Turkish origin of having "tainted blood". Armenians say up to 1.5 million people were killed between 1915 and 1917 as the Ottoman Empire was falling apart. Turkey rejects the claims, arguing that 300,000 to 500,000 Armenians and as many Turks died in civil strife when Armenians rose up against their Ottoman rulers and sided with invading Russian troops. That row was only resolved after Merkel made clear the Armenia resolution was a political statement and not legally binding.—AFP

## GOLDEN DAWN MP EJECTED FROM PARLIAMENT AFTER SHOVING MATCH

**ATHENS:** A leading member of the far-right Golden Dawn party was ejected from the Greek parliament yesterday after shoving a rival MP, prompting a showdown with other parties. "You are contaminating parliament. Get out," acting parliament chairman Makis Balaouras shouted at the neo-Nazi party's lawmakers after ejecting Ilias Kasidiaris. Kasidiaris became aggravated when conservative New Democracy parliament speaker MP Nikos Dendias passed in front of him as the neo-Nazi lawmaker addressed the chamber.

A parliament source said Kasidiaris shoved Dendias and then other Golden Dawn MPs emptied their water glasses on him. Parliament police were summoned to remove Kasidiaris, and Dendias later called the fracas a "huge insult" to Greece's constitutions and laws. "I hope that this incident will prove useful to society," Dendias told the chamber. Kasidiaris

had already been ejected from a parliamentary briefing in February after insulting the defense minister.

Golden Dawn lawmakers have repeatedly used offensive language in parliament towards representatives of other parties. They are also suspected of ordering rank-and-file members to attack migrants and political opponents. Kasidiaris and several other senior party officials, including the group's founder, Nikos Michaloliakos, are on trial in connection with the murder of a leftist rapper by a Golden Dawn member in 2013.

One of Golden Dawn's leading members, Kasidiaris in 2012 had punched a female Communist MP during an election debate. A court acquitted him in 2015 because he had not inflicted "serious injury", and because the victim did not register a complaint within the required time limit.—AFP

## BOKO HARAM KILLS SIX FARMERS IN NE NIGERIA

**KANO, Nigeria:** Boko Haram jihadists have killed six farmers who were working on their land near the northeast Nigerian city of Maiduguri, civilian militia members and locals said yesterday. Gunmen on motorcycles attacked the group who were preparing their fields for the rainy season outside Amrawa village, 16 kilometers from the Borno state capital, on Saturday.

"The gunmen attacked the farmers with machetes as they were clearing their farms that have been taken over by weeds in preparation for the rains which start in a few days," said Ibrahim Liman, a civilian militia member. "They seized six farmers and slaughtered them while the rest fled." Liman's account was supported by Masida Bunu and Rahis Musa, who live in

the village. Some residents raised the alarm and the militia pursued the attackers to the nearby village of Sojori.

"The vigilantes fought the terrorists and killed four while the rest fled," said Liman. At least 20,000 people have been killed and more than 2.6 million made homeless in northeast Nigeria since the start of Boko Haram's Islamist insurgency in 2009. Nigeria's government and military maintain the jihadists are a spent force but sporadic attacks and suicide bombings pose a constant threat, particularly in remote areas. Saturday's attack again underlines the vulnerability of rural communities at a time when the authorities have been encouraging the displaced to return and rebuild their lives.—AFP

## RUSSIAN STUDENTS FACE SPECIAL LECTURES OVER ANTI-PUTIN VIEWS

**MOSCOW:** Russian student Sergei Chaikovsky was expecting an ordinary history lesson when he entered the classroom at his high school in Siberia. But instead his teacher launched a stinging verbal attack against him for attending an anti-Kremlin protest in a special lecture on the dangers of "extremism" in the country. "Fascist", "lackey of the Anglo-Saxon nations" and "traitor"—the teacher did not mince his words in blasting the 18-year-old student for joining an anti-corruption rally in March organized by top opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

"In front of the whole class, he said that it was his job to make sure my classmates didn't turn out like me," said Chaikovsky, who secretly filmed the lesson at his school in the city of Tomsk and posted it online. "It was unethical. He wanted to humiliate and intimidate me." Chaikovsky told his headmistress about the lesson but she dismissed it on local television as "simply a teacher's hysterical reaction." This, however, is no isolated case as authorities in Russia appear to be getting jittery over youth discontent ahead of presidential elections next year.

Numerous schools and universities have held classes or lectures attacking Navalny after thousands of his supporters took part in the nationwide protests on March 26 in the biggest show of anger against President Vladimir Putin in years. Striking about the demonstrations were the large numbers of school pupils and students present who have grown up under Putin's nearly 18 years in power and were willing to risk detention to voice their anger. "I'm really happy that a generation has been born in the country who want to be citizens, who aren't afraid," Navalny said in court, a day after being detained at the Moscow protest.

### Attitude to extremists?

Across the country students have reported being press-ganged into lectures warning them of the perils of supporting those opposed to Putin. In the Volga city of Samara, more than 3,000 students were last month forced to attend a lengthy conference titled "No to extremism!", where speakers warned the March protests could turn into an armed movement, a person who attended said. One of the speakers told students that "to fight extremism" they

must support the region's governor Nikolai Merkuskin from the Kremlin's ruling party, whom Navalny has accused of corruption.

At another event in the city, priests lectured students on the dangers of "revolutionary movements," citing the "collapse of the country" after the Russian Revolution in 1917, one of the students told the opposition movement Open Russia. In Russia's second city of Saint Petersburg, students at the Polytechnic University also had to attend a similar conference and fill in a questionnaire, a local journalist said. "Are you willing to help police? What is your attitude to extremists? Do you think that the media foment extremism?" said the questionnaire, obtained by AFP.

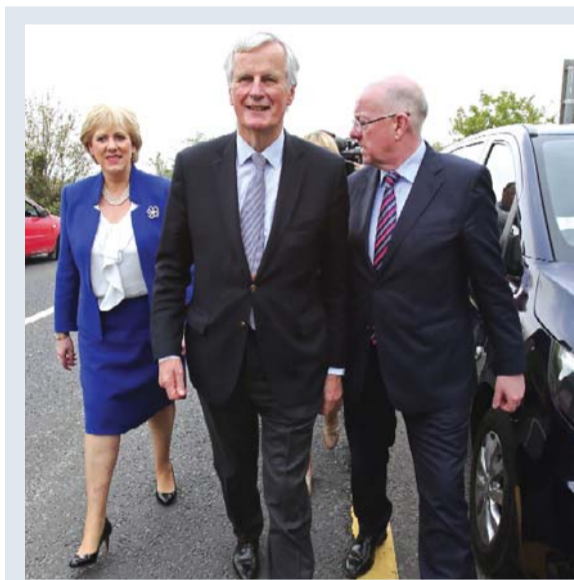
### Debating more

But the attempts to reeducate the youths sometimes appear to backfire. In the city of Vladimir, 180 kilometers from Moscow, cell phone footage emerged showing university students challenging lecturers after they were forced to watch a film accusing Navalny of being a "fascist". "Why are you scaring us with war and revolution?" shouts one student before others raise examples of high-level corruption and demand to be shown opposition videos.

Andrei Rudoi, a history teacher in the town of Dzerzhinsk, around 450 km east of Moscow, has witnessed a rise in political engagement among his students and says authorities seem keen to tamp it down. "I've seen this in my teaching. Over the last year, more and more of my students have started talking about politics," Rudoi said. "They are debating more, they go to meetings and take part in political groups—and that makes the authorities afraid," the 26-year-old teacher said. "Whether at national or regional level, there must have been an order issued to calm school and university students down."

### Morality lecture

Some schools and universities have simply tasked teachers with persuading their students not to go to protests. In the southern town of Volzhsky, one school pupil recounted how they were supposed to have an IT lesson but the teacher said that, instead, they would discuss the importance of political stability in Russia.—AFP



**DUNDALK, Ireland:** European Commission (EC) member in charge of Brexit negotiations with Britain, Michel Barnier, center, is shown a border road in Co Monaghan between Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.—AFP

## BREXIT SPARKS DEBATE ON UNITED IRELAND VOTE

**DUBLIN:** Britain's vote to leave the EU has sparked a debate after Irish nationalists called for a referendum on reunification less than two decades after Northern Ireland's historic peace deal. After last June's Brexit referendum outcome, Irish nationalists instantly began clamoring for a so-called border poll to allow people in Northern Ireland to vote on Irish reunification. When Britain leaves the European Union its only land border with the bloc will be between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which people can currently cross freely.

The impact of such a change has prompted Brussels to make Ireland one of its top priorities for Brexit negotiations, less than 20 years since a hard-won peace accord ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland. EU leaders at a summit in Brussels last month said Northern Ireland would be automatically welcomed back into the bloc if it ever voted to become part of the Republic, although the prospect is currently far off despite rallying cries from Irish nationalists.

Ireland's Foreign Minister Charlie Flanagan told the BBC this week that the Brexit vote "may well" have made a referendum more likely but dismissed the prospect saying: "That time is not now." "I don't believe that a debate now on the merits or otherwise of a united Ireland is timely or appropriate. I don't believe that we should conflate the issue of the reunification of Ireland with the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union."

### Brexit changed everything

Brexit has however brought back reunification as a talking point, in a society where bitter political, historical, cultural and socio-economic divisions between pro-British, mainly Protestant, unionists and pro-Irish, mainly Catholic, nationalists are still readily apparent. In the United Kingdom's June 2016 referendum on its EU membership—in which British, Irish and Commonwealth residents could vote—some 52 percent voted to leave the bloc.

But within Northern Ireland, on a 63 percent turnout—the lowest in the kingdom—some 56 percent voted for the UK to remain in the EU. The Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein, once the political arm of the Irish Republican Army paramilitary group, has called for a border poll in the next five years. "Brexit has changed everything," Sinn Fein European Parliament member Matt Carthy told a recent party gathering.

"The prospect of the north being dragged out of the European Union against the democratically expressed wishes of people there has horrified citizens across the political spectrum," he said. The possibility of a referendum is provided for in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which ended three decades of armed conflict in Northern Ireland.—AFP



**MOSCOW:** This file photo shows riot police officers detaining a man during an unauthorized anti-corruption rally in central Moscow.—AFP

## EU PUSHES MYANMAR FOR AID ACCESS IN NORTH

**YANGON:** A senior European Union official has urged Myanmar to allow full aid access to the north of Rakhine state, where thousands have fled their homes after a months-long army crackdown on Rohingya Muslims. The area along the country's northwestern border has been under lockdown since October, when the military launched a campaign to hunt down Rohingya militants who staged deadly attacks on police posts.

Some 100,000 people from the Muslim minority were displaced by the violence, most of them fleeing to Bangladesh and bringing with them harrowing stories of rape, torture and mass killings by soldiers. Myanmar has rebuffed UN claims that its security forces may have committed crimes against humanity and has refused to allow international observers into the area. De facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi this month publicly rejected a UN mission to probe the violence after meeting the EU's diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini.

European Union commissioner for aid Christos Stylianides said he pushed for unrestricted humanitarian access during a three-day visit to Myanmar, which included a tour of northern Rakhine. "A lot of problems remain in order to see what we want... about humanitarian access," he told AFP late on Sunday at the end of his trip. "I raised this issue a lot in my meetings, not only with ministers but also

with the district commissioner of Maungdaw," he added, referring to one of the locked-down areas.

The EU has pledged to give Myanmar some 800 million euros (\$875 million) of development aid between 2014-20, making it the second-largest recipient in Asia after Afghanistan.

Stylianides is the highest-profile foreign official to visit northern Rakhine since UN rights envoy Yanghee Lee and former UN chief Kofi Annan, who leads a commission tasked with healing deep divisions between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine.

Over a million Rohingya who live in the coastal western state are treated as interlopers from neigh-

boring Bangladesh and denied citizenship, basic education and healthcare. Their movements are severely restricted. Stylianides said some foreign aid workers had been granted access to northern Rakhine, but more must be done to help 16,000 people who are still displaced before the imminent onset of the monsoon.

The commissioner also raised concerns about a push to forcibly rehouse Rohingya in state-built "model villages" in areas where troops are accused of burning hundreds of houses to the ground. "It's completely unacceptable to proceed on this project without the (voluntary) decision of the inhabitants," he said.—AFP

## INDIA APPEALS TO UN COURT TO HALT EXECUTION OF 'SPY'

### INDIA ACCUSES PAKISTAN OF EGREGIOUS VIOLATIONS



**THE HAGUE:** Dr. Deepak Mittal, joint secretary of India's Ministry of External Affairs, right, and his delegation wait for judges to enter the World Court in The Hague, Netherlands, yesterday.—AP

**THE HAGUE:** India yesterday appealed to the UN's top court to order Pakistan to suspend its planned execution of an Indian national convicted of spying, denouncing his court martial as "farfetched". In an emergency hearing called just days after India lodged its case, lawyers for New Delhi urged the International Court of Justice to halt the death sentence imposed on Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav saying his rights had been violated by Islamabad.

Jadhav was arrested in the restive southwestern province of Balochistan in March 2016, where a separatist insurgency has raged for years. And Pakistani officials claim he has confessed to spying for Indian intelligence services. But India has denied he was a spy, saying his confession was forced from him, and last week lodged a rare protest at the ICJ in The Hague accusing Pakistan of "egregious violations of the Vienna convention".

Pakistan was to present its arguments later yesterday in the court housed in the history-filled halls of The Peace Palace, in a case which has highlighted the uptick in tensions between the two nuclear-armed rivals. Deepak Mittal, one of the Indian legal team, insisted Jadhav was "an innocent Indian national, who, incarcerated in Pakistan for more than a year on concocted charges, (has been) deprived of his rights and protection accorded under the Vienna Convention".

Pakistan has failed to respond to all Indian demands for information about the case, snubbing requests for documents including the charge sheet, and has failed to provide Jadhav with consular access, he told the tribunal. Islamabad has also not responded to a visa application by Jadhav's parents seeking to travel to Pakistan to visit their son. Jadhav "has been denied the right to be defended by a legal counsel of his choice," Mittal said at the start of day-long hearing.

"All that we know is what we have seen in the media in Pakistan," he added. "India believes that the farcical nature of the proceedings and unjust trial by a Pakistani military court... has led to a serious miscarriage of justice." India is seeking the immediate suspension of the death sentence against Jadhav who it claims was "kidnapped from Iran, where he was carrying on business after retiring from the Indian Navy," according to court documents.

#### Urgent situation

New Delhi ultimately wants the tribunal to order Islamabad to annul the sentence. It also wants the ICJ, set up in 1945 to rule on disputes between nations in accordance with international law, to declare that the Pakistani military court violated the Vienna Convention by imposing a death sentence on Jadhav and broke human rights laws. "The situation in which we find ourselves is grave and it is urgent," said another Indian lawyer, Harish Salve. "India has made innumerable requests since March 2016 for consular access."

Nuclear archrivals India and Pakistan routinely accuse one another of sending spies into their countries, and it is not uncommon for either nation to expel diplomats accused of espionage, particularly at times of high tension. But death sentences have rarely been issued in recent years. The case comes as relations have plummeted since a deadly attack on an Indian army base in the disputed region of Kashmir in September, which New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-based Islamist group Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Since the incident there have since been repeated outbreaks of cross-border firing, with both sides reporting deaths and injuries. Both lay claim to complete control over the Himalayan territory of Kashmir which has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. India has long insisted the issue should be resolved bilaterally, without any international involvement.—AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, right, is met by officials at the start of a visit to the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing in Noida, on the outskirts of the Indian capital New Delhi.—AFP

## PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT KICKS OFF INDIA VISIT WITH TECH TOUR

**NEW DELHI:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas began a three-day visit to India yesterday with a tour of an IT facility that is helping Ramallah build a high-end tech hub. Abbas, who arrived late Sunday, will hold talks on the Middle East peace process, among other issues, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in coming days. But his first stop was to a technology institute outside Delhi where India is lending its IT know-how to help Palestine spur job creation in the tech sector.

India agreed in October to spend \$12 million financing a new IT hub in Ramallah in a sign of India's "strong commitment to support (the) Palestinian cause", the foreign ministry said at the time. Abbas and his delegation spent nearly two hours touring the

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing. The Palestinian leader will this evening attend a function at the India Islamic Cultural Centre in New Delhi.

Abbas will today be formally welcomed at the presidential palace before meeting Modi, Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj. New Delhi is hosting Abbas ahead of Modi's visit to Israel in July—the first by an Indian prime minister. India has traditionally voiced its support for Palestinian statehood, initially shunning diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. The frost has thawed, however, with India—the world's biggest arms importer—increasingly seeking closer defense ties with Israel, a top weapons exporter.—AFP

## BANGLADESH UPHOLDS LIFE SENTENCE FOR FIREBRAND ISLAMIST PREACHER

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh's top court yesterday upheld a life sentence for a firebrand Islamist preacher convicted of war crimes, rejecting calls for him to be hanged. The Supreme Court stood by its 2014 decision to jail Delwar Hossain Sayeedi for life over atrocities committed during Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence against Pakistan.

Sayeedi's lawyers wanted the prominent member of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh's largest Islamist party, acquitted while government attorneys sought capital punishment for the 77-year-old cleric.

"The court rejected the review appeals by both sides," Sayeedi's lawyer Tanvir Al Amin said. Five Jamaat leaders, including mastermind Motiur Rahman Nizami, have been executed for their part in bloody crimes during the war of independence. Sayeedi was sentenced to death in 2013 by a war crimes tribunal, despite criticism by human rights groups that the proceedings failed to meet international norms. The verdict triggered some of the worst political violence in years in the Muslim-majority nation, with scores left dead as tens of

thousands of Islamists clashed with police. Support for the radical preacher—whose sermons could draw hundreds of thousands—swelled even further after rumors that his image was seen in the moon, a perceived sign of his innocence.

The Supreme Court in 2014 commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment, angering secularists who had fought for decades for top Jamaat-e-Islami members to be punished for war crimes. Sayeedi and other Islamists from the hardline group were implicated in the murder, rape and torture of Hindus and pro-independence Bangladeshis seeking a secular nation free from Pakistani rule.

The court decision in Sayeedi's case comes as Bangladesh grapples with a rise in extremism, as the moderate Islam worshipped for generations gives way to a more conservative interpretation of the scriptures. The secular government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has ordered a crackdown on homegrown extremists after a series of bloody attacks, but has more recently made concessions to Islamists to try to woo support.—AFP



**LAHORE:** Supporters of Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam, a Pakistani religious group, chant slogans during a demonstration to condemn the Friday's suicide bombing, in Lahore, Pakistan.—AP

## PAKISTANI POLICE KILL FOUR ISLAMIST MILITANTS

**MULTAN, Pakistan:** Pakistani police killed four Islamic militants in a shootout in a central district yesterday, according to an official with the country's counterterrorism department. The militants were killed when the police returned fire in a raid in the Khanewal district, said Chaudhry Mohammad Saleem, the official. He said the militants were from Jamat-ul-Ahrar, a breakaway faction of the Pakistani Taliban. The faction has also expressed support for the Islamic State group but has not pledged allegiance to it.

Hand grenades, assault rifles and a cache of explosives were seized in the raid, Saleem said, adding that three other suspects managed to escape from the scene. The raid was part of an intelligence operation launched jointly by the police and military in urban areas in Pakistan, targeting militants who had fled military offensives in lawless tribal regions along the Afghan border that have long served as safe havens for local militants and foreign fighters.

Earlier in the day, a roadside bombing wounded four Pakistani paramilitary troops in

the southwestern district of Mastung, which was the site of a deadly IS attack last week. In yesterday's attack, a roadside bomb struck the troops' vehicle, police official Abdul Nabi said. Sunni extremist group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed responsibility for the attack. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed a similar attack on Sunday that wounded two paramilitary troops.

A suicide attack by the Islamic State group in Mastung on Friday killed 28 people. IS had said it targeted a lawmaker seen as close to the Taliban.—AP

## INDIAN SEX TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR GETS COMPENSATION CASH

**MUMBAI:** Devi is a bubbly teenager who loves hip hop and belly dancing, and still nurtures her childhood dream to become a doctor, even after her life took a cruel turn when she was trafficked and sold for sex in Mumbai two years ago. "I want to study science after high school. I know it is difficult, but I have the will to study. I was only unsure of the money," she said by phone from a shelter where she has stayed since she was rescued.

Now the money she needs has come through. A few weeks ago, the government of the western state of Maharashtra deposited 75,000 rupees (\$1,150) into Devi's bank account, making her a rare beneficiary of a compensation scheme for victims of sexual violence that has failed to compensate many trafficking survivors. She will receive another 225,000 rupees when she turns 18 next year.

Thousands of people—largely poor, rural women and children are lured to India's towns and cities each year by traffickers who promise good jobs, but sell them into modern day slavery. Some end up as domestic workers, or forced to work in small industries such as textile workshops, farming or are pushed into brothels where they are sexually exploited.

Maharashtra is one of the top destinations for trafficked children in the country. The state government is preparing to review a financial aid scheme it established in 2013 for victims of rape and acid attacks, and for children who have been sexually assaulted. Since its launch, Maharashtra has received 7,500 requests and offered payments to nearly 4,500 girls. Some claims were rejected while others have been held

up for lack of funds, an official said. Adult trafficking victims have not been able to access compensation as perpetrators in such cases are charged under anti-trafficking laws—not rape laws, which is a requirement to get aid under the scheme. Yet trafficking victims under the age of 18 can be compensated if their cases are registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. A district office committee decides on compensation based on the report filed by police and the victim's medical records.

Maharashtra's review of the scheme was directed by the Bombay High Court, which is hearing petitions challenging rules that exclude victims from the scheme, including one denying compensation to victims assaulted prior to the scheme's launch. "You can't have a cut-off date for this scheme. This is not how a welfare scheme works," said Wesley Menezes, a lawyer fighting for compensation for a 13-year-old rape victim who was forced to marry her attacker in 2012, a year before the scheme was launched.

Advocates for trafficking victims say the date rule has primarily impacted children. The International Justice Mission (IJM) helped in Devi's case and it took two years, reams of paperwork and follow-ups with various government departments before the financial aid came in. "This is the first time compensation has come through for a case with our follow-up. We are now encouraged and are pursuing compensation for four to five other cases of minor victims who are eligible for compensation," said Melissa Walavalkar, IJM's director of justice solutions.—Reuters

## INDIAN WOMAN BATTERED TO DEATH WITH BRICKS AFTER BEING GANG-RAPED

**NEW DELHI:** An Indian woman was gang-raped and then brutally murdered by men who smashed her skull with bricks after she had threatened to inform authorities, police in the northern state of Haryana, said yesterday. Police have arrested two men for rape and murder in Sonapat town, and six more were being investigated after the victim's mother accused them of involvement, superintendent of police Ashwin Shenvi said.

The 23-year old woman, a laborer, was taken by the men—at least one of whom knew her—by car from near her home in Sonapat to the nearby city of Rohtak, where they raped her, Shenvi said. "When she said to them she would complain, they hammered her skull in with bricks," he said. "The way that they brutalized her is horrific."

The body was found in an open field on Thursday. The mother of the victim had previously registered a complaint against one of the accused for pressuring

her daughter into marrying him, but the disagreement was settled between the two parties, Shenvi said. Sonapat is 44 kilometers north of New Delhi. Sexual violence against women is a highly-recurring issue in India, where the horrific, fatal gang-rape of a student on a bus in New Delhi in 2012 sparked nationwide protests about entrenched violence against women and the failure of authorities to protect them.

India has enacted tougher jail sentences for rapists and promised to try those accused through "fast-track" courts but rape, acid attacks and domestic violence remain common. Indian media also reported a gang-rape in the city of Gurgaon on the outskirts of Delhi over the weekend.

On average, 50 crimes against women are registered every day by police in Delhi, including at least four cases of rape, according to a senior official in the federal home ministry.—Reuters

## PHILIPPINES TO SHOP FOR CHINESE, RUSSIAN ARMS DUE TO US CONDITIONS

**MANILA:** The Philippines has been forced to turn to China and Russia for arms supplies because of conditions imposed by its long-time ally and former colonial ruler the United States, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday. The United States has provided its defense treaty ally with most of its major hardware, like ships, fighters, helicopters and small arms, but the Philippines was now looking to China and Russia for drones, planes, fast boats and rifles to fight Maoist-led rebels and Islamist militants behind an unrelenting spree of piracy and kidnapping, he said.

Lorenzana said acquiring weapons and equip-

ment from the United States had become difficult because the process was slow and there were conditions tied to sales. "That's why we are discouraged from getting from them because of these conditions," Lorenzana told reporters in Beijing. "We need airplanes, we need drones, we need fast boats," he said. "We need them in the south so that we can deter kidnappings and bring about development."

Weapons procurements could also be complicated by bipartisan attempts by some US lawmakers to ban the transfer of arms to the Philippines that could be used in a war on drugs that has killed

thousands of Filipinos, and has been condemned by Western governments. At the sidelines of a Belt and Road summit in Beijing, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday met several Chinese state-owned corporations, including a defense contractor blacklisted by Washington for selling to Iran items that were banned under US laws.

Duterte, who is working hard to strengthen ties with China, has admitted he has a grudge against the United States and complained at what he says is useless US. "hand-me-down" merchandise. Lorenzana confirmed China's Poly Group Corporation and Poly Technologies were among

companies which called on the firebrand leader, and the defense ministry would send a technical team to look at the Chinese equipment.

China has offered to donate \$14 million worth of military hardware to the Philippines, plus a soft loan for \$500 million in Chinese arms. He said the Philippines had only planned to use China's money if the military's five-year 100 billion peso (\$2 billion) budget for modernization was insufficient. He is due to sign a defense agreement with his Russian counterpart next week for possible purchases of weapons and drones. The Philippines is also acquiring drones from Israel. —Reuters

## PHILIPPINE LAWMAKERS REJECT DUTERTE'S IMPEACHMENT COMMITTEE DISMISSES COMPLAINT ON FIRST HEARING

**MANILA:** Philippine lawmakers yesterday rejected an impeachment complaint against President Rodrigo Duterte that accused him of a crime against humanity over the deaths of thousands of people killed in his war on drugs. The complaint alleged Duterte had adopted a state policy of extrajudicial killings that led to more than 8,000 deaths in his first eight months as president, and was involved in mass murder as well as widespread corruption in his previous stint as a mayor of a southern city.

The congressional justice committee quickly dismissed the complaint in its first day of hear-

ing and had little chance of prospering with the president enjoying a commanding majority in the lower house of congress.

A plenary of the lower house still needs to endorse the committee's decision, although political observers and lawmakers said there was zero chance of yesterday's vote being overturned. "We have nowhere to go (but) we will find a way to get justice," opposition lawmaker Gary Alejano, who filed the impeachment case, told reporters. Duterte, 72, won presidential elections last year after promising to launch an unprecedented crackdown on crime in which

he repeatedly promised to pardon police if they are found guilty of murder while prosecuting his drug war.

But Duterte also insists that he is not breaking any laws with his rhetoric, and that police are only allowed to kill in self-defense. He has said he does not encourage or endorse extrajudicial killings. The United Nations, the European Union and the US government have criticized the drug war, while rights groups have warned Duterte may be orchestrating a crime against humanity. However surveys show Duterte remains a popular president at home and that many Filipinos support the drug war, believing tough tactics are needed to tackle crime. Duterte has also won some support internationally, including from China.

### Trumped-up charges

Duterte's spokesman Ernesto Abella welcomed Monday's rejection of the impeachment complaint. "We maintained that it was from reshaped, trumped-up charges aimed at undermining the duly constituted government," Abella said. Yesterday's vote showed that Duterte still enjoyed the overwhelming backing of lawmakers, according to Gladstone Cuarteros, a political analyst at Manila's De La Salle University. "They are sending the message that from the first instance they will dismiss it and they are showing the president has large support. 'We are the super-majority,'" Cuarteros said.

A Filipino lawyer last month filed a complaint at the International Criminal Court (ICC) accusing Duterte of mass murder in relation to the drug war. However many observers saw that complaint as premature, arguing all legal remedies had yet to be exhausted in the Philippines, which is an ICC requirement. The ICC has not given any indication as to whether it will pursue that complaint.

Alejandro said yesterday he was also considering filing a case with the ICC. Cuarteros said Alejandro's failed impeachment effort could have been part of a strategy to pave the way for an ICC probe. "He wants to show people that (Philippine) institutions are compromised because of strong support for Duterte and by extension perhaps external institutions, international organizations can step in," Cuarteros said. —AFP



**MANILA:** Magdalo Representative Gary Alejano, left, gestures as he explains the impeachment complaint against Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte at the House of Representatives in Manila. — AFP

ings on the issue, overwhelmingly voting that it was "insufficient in substance." "The complaint filed was frivolous. How can you proceed if the complaint has no basis," committee chairman Reynaldo Umali, who is a member of Duterte's ruling party, told reporters afterwards. The committee vote effectively ends the impeachment case, which even Duterte's opponents conceded

of thousands of people would die.

Police have reported killing about 2,700 people since Duterte took office at the end of June and immediately launched his war on drugs. Unknown assailants have killed more than 1,800 others, while about 5,700 other violent deaths are under investigation, according to police data. Duterte has called for addicts to be slaugh-

## HONG KONG REJECTS ASYLUM FOR REFUGEES WHO SHELTERED SNOWDEN

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong authorities have rejected asylum requests from a group of refugees who sheltered Edward Snowden four years ago, in what their lawyer said is retaliation for helping the former NSA contractor. Immigration officials in the southern Chinese city denied the applications by the four adults and three children from Sri Lanka and the Philippines, Robert Tibbo said yesterday. Snowden hid out in Hong Kong for two weeks in June 2013 after he leaked documents revealing extensive US government surveillance.

His whereabouts were a mystery during that time and it was not until last year that the role Tibbo and his clients played in sheltering Snowden was revealed. Tibbo said his clients will appeal the ruling, which leaves them at risk of being detained or deported to their home countries. They have also applied for refugee status in Canada. He said he represents 50 to 60 other clients who are applying for asylum in Hong Kong, where cases typically

take years to be processed. But so far only these cases have received a speedy decision from immigration officials - issued last Thursday - in a sign they have been targeted by authorities, Tibbo said.

The Hong Kong government "has repeatedly tried to question the four adults about their involvement with Mr Snowden. For example, about how long had Mr Snowden been staying with them, what was Mr Snowden's movement in the territory, which is irrelevant to the (asylum) claims," he said. Tibbo said that when they refused to answer the questions, their social assistance payments for rent and food were cut off. The group includes Ajith Pushpakumara, a former Sri Lankan soldier; Vanessa Mae Rodel, who is from the Philippines and has a 5-year-old daughter; and a Sri Lankan couple, Supun Thilina Kellapatha and Nadeeka Dilrukshi Nonis, and their two children.

Tibbo decided to go public with their iden-

tities last year after learning that movie director Oliver Stone had found out about them and would incorporate their role into his film on Snowden, released in October. The three families, who didn't realize they were harboring one of the world's most wanted figures at the time, said they feared being sent back. "I'm an army deserter person," said Ajith, adding that if he returned to Sri Lanka, "I will be tortured again. I don't want to be tortured."

The Hong Kong government said in a statement that asylum claims are handled in a "fair, impartial and efficient manner," and that it found "no substantial grounds for believing that the claimants, if returned to their country of origin, will be subject to real and substantial risk of danger." Rodel said she had no regrets helping Snowden, who gave her a hug when he left her tiny apartment four years ago. "This guy is the most wanted man in the world and he had a big hug with me," Rodel said. "I am very proud of that." —AP



**HONG KONG:** Sri Lankan refugee Ajith Puspa, back left, Filipino refugee Vanessa Rodel, back 2nd left, her daughter Keana, front left, Sri Lankan refugee Nadeeka, back 3rd left, her partner Supun Thilina Kellapatha and their children, son Danath, front center, and daughter Sethumdi, front right, pose for the press outside the Immigration Tower in Hong Kong. — AFP



**CARACAS:** Venezuelan opposition activists carry out a protest against the government of President Nicolas Maduro, in Caracas. — AFP

## VENEZUELAN BLOCK ROADS IN SEVENTH WEEK OF UNREST

**CARACAS:** Venezuelans launched a seventh week of anti-government demonstrations by blocking roads yesterday, vowing not to budge all day in protest at a deadly political and economic crisis. Dozens of people sat down on the main highway into Caracas in the early morning and similar rallies were called around the country. Rallies over recent weeks have drawn thousands.

Clashes have left 38 people dead in protests against moves to strengthen President Nicolas Maduro's hold on power and his refusal to hold early elections.

The center-right opposition blames Maduro for an economic crisis that has caused severe shortages of food and medicine. A senior opposition lawmaker, Freddy Guevara, told reporters Monday's rally would go on for 12 hours until 2300 GMT.

He said 50 other similar "sit-ins" were planned on roads across the country with the aim of generating a state of "ungovernability" to pressure Maduro. "This is a day of resistance, of endurance, of showing that we are organized and firm," Guevara said at the rally. He repeated the opposition's claim that Maduro was installing a "dictatorship." Maduro has vowed general elections will take place as scheduled in late 2018 but not before.

He has accused the opposition of mounting an "armed insurgency" with US backing to remove him from power. He has set no date for postponed regional polls and for mayoral elections that are due this year. The opposition has called on the armed forces to stop backing Maduro but so far he still has the public backing of the high command. —AFP

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO SHUT PARTS OF MANUS ASYLUM SEEKER CAMP: REFUGEES

**SYDNEY:** Papua New Guinea will close some parts of an Australian-run detention centre within weeks, refugees said yesterday, stepping up pressure on asylum seekers hoping to start a new life. Human rights groups and the United Nations have criticized the Manus Island detention complex, one of two South Pacific island asylum-seeker centers funded by Australia, for cramped conditions, inadequate medical facilities and violence.

At a meeting, Papua New Guinea immigration officials told refugees that an area of the Manus camp would close on May 28, with the rest of the compound to shut on June 30. An unspecified number of asylum-seekers will be relocated to a transit centre; one refugee quoted the officials as having said, "Immigration is telling people that their plan is to remove those people who were interviewed for America to East Lorengau camp, which is close to

Lorengau town," said Behrouz Boochani, a Kurdish Iranian detained on Manus for nearly four years, referring to the island's major town.

Papua New Guinea officials could not immediately be reached for comment by Reuters. The move to close the centre also increases pressure on those whose applications for asylum have been rejected. Asylum seekers said the move was creating panic and signaled Papua New Guinea's readiness to deport those who had so far rejected Australia's financial offer to return home voluntarily.

Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court ruled in 2016 that the camp was illegal and should close, forcing Australia to confirm it would shut the facility by the end of 2017. Australia struck a deal with former U.S. President Barack Obama to take some detainees who were deemed refugees, a pact President Donald Trump characterized as a "dumb deal" when he took office in January. —Reuters

## AUSTRALIAN'S SENTENCE FOR BALI COP KILLING RAISED TO 5 YEARS

**DENPASAR:** An Indonesian court yesterday increased the jail term of an Australian woman convicted of killing a policeman on the resort island of Bali to five years after prosecutors appealed her original sentence. Sara Connor, 46, was handed a four-year jail term in March after being found guilty along with her British DJ boyfriend of killing officer Wayan Sudarsa, who was beaten to death on a popular beach on the island.

The Briton, 34-year-old David Taylor, was jailed for six years. Traffic policeman Sudarsa's blood-soaked body was found in August covered with dozens of wounds on his neck, chest and head. Taylor, whose stage name is DJ Nutzo, admitted getting into a fight with Sudarsa on the beach after accusing the officer of stealing Connor's handbag. Mother of two, Connor had maintained her innocence but judges found her guilty, ruling she had held the victim down during the fight.

Prosecutors appealed the four-year sentence for Connor, which was lower than the eight years they had recommended to the judges, arguing it would not have enough of a deterrent effect. Bali High Court yesterday increased the term by one year. The judges said the reasons were that her actions could impact the tourism industry



**DENPASAR:** This file photo shows Sara Connor of Australia attending her trial at a court in Denpasar on Indonesia's resort island of Bali. — AFP

and she had left the victim to die when he was lying face down on the beach.

"The defendant has damaged the image of Indonesian tourism, especially tourism on Bali," said judge Sutuyo, who like many Indonesians goes by one name. Connor did not attend the appeal hearing at the court in the Balinese capital Denpasar. Bali, a pocket of Hinduism in Muslim-majority Indonesia, is a popular tourist destination known for its tropical climate and palm-fringed beaches. Minor crime is common but murders are rare. —AFP

## ISRAELI NAVY KILLS GAZA FISHERMAN

Continued from Page 1

been a strong supporter of Israeli settlement building in the occupied West Bank. After his arrival in Tel Aviv, Friedman visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem, praying there and kissing the sacred site, the holiest location where Jews are allowed to pray.

"I prayed for the president and I wished him success, especially on his upcoming trip," Friedman said in a video posted on the US embassy's Twitter feed. "I know it's going to be an amazing trip," he said. Friedman, a frequent visitor to Jerusalem, also exchanged words near the wall with Steven Tyler of American rock band Aerosmith, in town for a concert.

Jewish-American bankruptcy lawyer Friedman has expressed skepticism over the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the basis of years of US peace efforts. He has also advocated breaking with decades of precedent by moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to the disputed city of Jerusalem, a prospect deeply alarming to Palestinians.

Trump vowed to move the embassy to Jerusalem during his campaign, but has since backed away, saying the move was still being looked at. He will have to

decide by the beginning of June whether to continue with the policy of his predecessors and again block the embassy's transfer. Trump is expected to visit Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories on May 22 and 23.

Speaking at a pre-election rally in October in support of Trump on Jerusalem's Mount Zion, Friedman said the now US president would fire US State Department "lifelines" who refused to move the embassy. He has also clashed with American Jewish progressive groups, notably dubbing liberals "worse than kapos", a reference to Jewish collaborators who worked as guards in Nazi concentration camps. His appointment comes as Trump seeks ways to restart moribund Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, and questions have been raised over whether Friedman will be able to put his personal views aside.

Trump himself has sent mixed signals over how he will approach the decades-old conflict. He cast uncertainty over years of international efforts to foster a two-state solution when he met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House in February. At that meeting, he said he would support a single state if it led to peace, delighting Israeli right-wingers who want to see their country annex most of the occupied West Bank. — Agencies

## SECURITY KEY TO DEVELOPMENT, ARAB SPRING...

Continued from Page 1

Moreover, he cited other issues that have been shrouded in corruption, including allowances to national delegations sent abroad and government budgets. Speaking on development in Kuwait, the prime minister said there has been tangible progress as a slew of infrastructure projects have commenced as of late.

Sheikh Jaber said Kuwaiti youth have amassed accomplishments in sports and education, which is a testament of their desire to attain further success. He noted that he keeps abreast of what circulates on social media, saying all political leaders should be open to criticism. On the government's relationship with the National Assembly, the premier said that the aim is to "establish a relationship founded on trust and we have been fortunate to maintain cordial ties with parliamentary speakers". Meanwhile, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak said that the process of appointing ministers is not an easy one and all those chosen are deemed fit for the position. He added that parliament prioritizes health and housing issues, indicating that this was adopted by the executive authority.

In the interview, Sheikh Jaber said the army was not ready for conscription when he was serving as minister of defense. "As a result, I called for reconsidering compulsory military service. The army needed a numerical intensity, but not by this way. The armed forces cannot attract many as it is a tiring job. If a member makes a mistake, he will face a military trial," the premier said. He stressed that he sought to provide incentives to soldiers and officers when he was serving as minister of defense. "The armed forces have progressed greatly and ground

forces have become strong," the PM said.

Sheikh Jaber said that ministry of defense during his tenure was supported by 10 billion (he did not specify whether Kuwaiti dinars or US dollars), emphasizing that the Kuwaiti army is defensive in accordance with the constitution, and carries out trainings with armies of a number of Western and Arab countries to share expertise. "We have our Peninsula Shield forces," he added.

Sheikh Jaber remembered the period of drawing up the constitution under the era of late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, confirming that it was a source of pride at that time. He said that the constitution showed the vision of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem that paid much attention to democracy. The premier revealed that he was first appointed at the Amiri Diwan's financial and administrative affairs in 1968.

He noted that he was named governor of Hawally, preceded by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad at that time. "Hawally governorate included many neighborhoods and a total of 400,000 Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) office. They (Palestinians) wanted to secure their conferences themselves, but I achieved the mission through our security forces. I took charge of the ministry of social affairs for a short period of time. I knew about chaos and lack of discipline. So I met with undersecretaries and told them that they knew better than me where corruption was. I said I trust you (undersecretaries) and needed help to achieve the mission. I finally succeeded in this job," Sheikh Jaber recalled. "I was appointed as minister of information, and many officials at the ministry were keen on helping me like Abdulaziz Jafar and Hamad Al-Roumi. We worked as a team." — KUNA

## MP CALLS TO REDUCE EXPAT STUDENTS IN GOVT...

Continued from Page 1

categories, who include children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis, children of diplomats and others. Shaheen demanded that the exemptions should be reviewed to reduce the number of foreign students in public schools.

MP Askar Al-Enezi yesterday submitted an amendment to the residency law stipulating that those who give shelter or employ runaway domestic helpers should be forced to pay the costs of their deportation from the country. The lawmaker said that the number of domestic helpers fleeing their employers has been on the increase recently, negatively impacting employers. He said that many people have given shelter and even employment to these

runaway domestic helpers, which is a clear violation of the law. As a result, he proposed that people who employ runaway domestic helpers should pay the costs of sending the domestic helpers back to their homelands.

Supervisor of the National Assembly MP Nayef Al-Merdas said yesterday that the issue of providing allowances to retired servicemen will be debated in the assembly next session on May 23. Meanwhile, MP Safaa Al-Hashem asked Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh about a previously unannounced contract to develop the ministry's taxation department and prepare the legal foundations for value added tax and other selective taxes. She said if the issue is correct, she demanded the details of the reported studies about the taxes. She also asked if VAT is mentioned in the national reform plan.

## PUTIN BLAMES US AS CYBER ATTACKS EASE

Continued from Page 1

But according to Michel Van Den Berghe, director of telecom group Orange's cyber security arm, a "second wave" is to be expected. "Loads of people will use the original to generate variations... to recreate the panic and try to get some money for themselves," he said.

The indiscriminate attack was unleashed Friday, striking hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide by exploiting known vulnerabilities in older Microsoft computer operating systems. US package delivery giant FedEx, Spanish telecoms giant Telefonica and Germany's Deutsche Bahn rail network were among those hit. The attackers demanded money to unblock their computers. In China, "hundreds of thousands" of computers were affected, including petrol stations, cash machines and universities, according to Qihoo 360, one of the country's largest providers of antivirus software. Russia said its banking and railway systems were hit.

A fifth of regional hospital associations in Britain's National Health Service were affected and several still had to cancel appointments yesterday. French carmaker Renault shut its Douai plant - one of its biggest sites, employing 5,500 people - yesterday as systems were upgraded.

The attack blocks computers and puts up images on victims' screens demanding payment of \$300 in the virtual currency Bitcoin, saying: "Ooops, your files have

been encrypted!" Payment is demanded within three days or the price is doubled, and if none is received within seven days the locked files will be deleted, according to the screen message. Bitcoin, the world's most-used virtual currency, allows anonymous transactions via heavily encrypted codes.

Experts and governments alike warn against ceding to the demands and few victims so far had been paying up. Security firm Digital Shadows said on Sunday that transactions totalling \$32,000 had taken place through Bitcoin addresses used by the ransomware. A hacking group called Shadow Brokers released the malware in April, claiming to have discovered the flaw from the NSA, according to researchers at the Moscow-based computer security firm Kaspersky Lab. The attack is unique, according to Europol, because it combines ransomware with a worm function, meaning once one machine is infected, the entire internal network is scanned and other vulnerable machines are infected.

Although the economic fallout is still unknown, the political fallout "will be significant" according to the Eurasia consultancy. As well as Russia, China and India have blamed the US government for developing the original code. It also predicted a review in the United States about when to inform software vendors of vulnerabilities in their systems and increased funding to ensure timely patches to protect computer systems. — AFP

## SAUDI KINGHAILS TRUMP SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, Trump yesterday met with the crown prince of Abu Dhabi at the White House. The president welcomed Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates for their first face-to-face meeting since Trump took office. Sitting alongside one another in the Oval Office, Trump called Sheikh Mohammed a "very special person" who loves his coun-

try and loves the US.

Washington and Riyadh have a decades-old relationship, but US ties with Riyadh and its Gulf neighbors became increasingly frayed during the administration of president Barack Obama. Saudi leaders felt Obama was reluctant to get involved in the civil war in Syria and was tilting toward Shiite-dominated Iran. The Saudis have found a more favorable ear in Washington under Trump, who has denounced Iran's "harmful influence" in the Middle East. — Agencies

# Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:  
**+965 248 35 616 / 617**  
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
ads@kuwaittimes.net  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

**Great Saving Offer**

**Buy and Fly**

**Buy Now .. Pay Later**

| Panasonic   | Panasonic  | KÄRCHER   | KÄRCHER  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>MC-YL633G747<br/>Vacuum Cleaner</p> <p>18 Liters<br/>2000 Watts</p> <p>MADE IN MALAYSIA</p> <p>31 Liters<br/>40 Liters<br/>8 Liters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 m cord</li> <li>• Anti bacteria filter</li> <li>• 2 Pieces Metallic wand</li> <li>• 2 Step floor nozzle</li> <li>• Cord Rewind function.</li> </ul> | <p>MC-YL799N747<br/>Vacuum Cleaner</p> <p>21 Liters<br/>2400 Watts</p> <p>MADE IN JAPAN</p> <p>67 Liters<br/>71 Liters<br/>4 Liters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cord Rewind Function</li> <li>• Large sized Residential units</li> <li>• Blower Function</li> <li>• 3-in-1 Body Ditch (through body)</li> </ul> | <p>KAR-VC2<br/>Vacuum Cleaner</p> <p>700 Watts<br/>2.8 Liters</p> <p>24 Liters<br/>34 Liters<br/>10 Liters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 700W</li> <li>• 2.8 L</li> <li>• Mega Filter</li> <li>• Telescope Nozzle</li> </ul> | <p>K2-BASIC-GB<br/>Pressure Washer</p> <p>1400 Watts</p> <p>23 Liters<br/>29 Liters<br/>5 Liters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1400W</li> <li>• 110 bars</li> <li>• 3600/h</li> </ul> |

بست  
AL-YOUSIFI

Credit: Start from SKD • Up to 48 month • Interest approved

• Kuwait 1 (The New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalid str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

Shop Online [www.best.com.kw](http://www.best.com.kw) Free Delivery

## 1809 809

## BUY 4 MICHELIN TYRES & GET ENERGIZER CAR BATTERY

Discount on Battery Value Based on Number of Tyres Purchased:

Buy 3 Tyres & Get **KD 15** Discount

Buy 2 Tyres & Get **KD 10** Discount

Buy 1 Tyre & Get **KD 5** Discount

TYREPLUS is a "one-stop-shop" offering you a wide choice of all major tyre brands, lubricants and batteries, suspension system, Brake system. Our knowledgeable and friendly staff will offer you professional service and advice, giving you peace of mind that your vehicle is in good hands.

الشركة الكويتية لاستيراد السيارات ذ.م.م  
Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. W.L.L.

KAICO Available on

For more information:  
**6902 1367 / 6901 1259**

## Kuwait Times

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT  
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher  
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief  
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
ACCOUNTS : 24835619  
COMMERCIAL : 24835618  
P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

## Focus

## NO SET MENU TO FEED APPETITE OF CITIES' RESIDENTS

**B**elo Horizonte in Brazil and Ede in the Netherlands may not have much in common at first sight, but both have become leaders in trying to tackle a growing challenge for the world's cities - providing a reliable supply of nutritious food to residents. In Belo Horizonte, hunger and poverty prompted the mayor in 1993 to declare a citizens' right to food and kick-start an action plan to ensure the poor got fed - a campaign that won it worldwide acclaim as "the city that ended hunger".

Ede's food policy, adopted more than 20 years later, aims to create better opportunities for farmers and make residents healthier, said Leon Meijer from the city, the Netherlands' first local councillor in charge of food. "We chose to have our own food policy because food isn't just about production - it's about food security, public health and people reconnecting with what they eat," said Meijer. Rich and poor countries alike are tasked with creating sustainable and inclusive cities by 2030 under global development goals agreed in 2015 - and sorting out how cities are fed is a crucial part of that challenge, experts say.

Almost 800 million people worldwide do not have enough to eat, according to the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), while about 30 percent of the world's population are overweight, a paradox nowhere more visible than in cities. As two-thirds of the global population are forecast to live in cities by 2050 compared with about half now, urban planners and policymakers are increasingly looking to agriculture in towns and cities as a solution to provide nutritious food.

### Beyond City Limits

Land used for farming in cities and the areas around them equals the size of the European Union, a recent study said, while others estimate some 800 million urban farmers provide up to 20 percent of the world's food. Unlike imported produce, food from city farms and gardens does not need to travel far, reducing production costs, waste and fuel use. Having your food come from sources close by is also crucial if supply is disrupted by civil unrest or extreme weather in the rural areas that still supply most of the world's food.

"Food is not just a local issue, and to become more sustainable we need to look beyond our own boundaries," Ede's Meijer told the "Resilient Cities" conference in Bonn this month. Ede, located in what is known as "Food Valley" for its high concentration of food companies and research institutes, has shaped a policy that addresses health-related food issues, fosters links between urban and rural areas, and boosts food education for children. It also aims to stimulate innovative food research and start-ups by working closely with businesses in the region.

In January, Ede was one of 12 Dutch cities to sign the Urban Agenda on Food, along with three national ministries and Gelderland province - where it is located - with the aim of strengthening the Netherlands' food system. Belo Horizonte, meanwhile, is focusing on healthy nutrition and the inclusion of family farmers into a localized and sustainable food system for its 2.5 million residents. It has created farmers' markets, now a common sight in many cities worldwide, to enable direct sales at affordable prices for the poor, and it regularly surveys and publishes market prices. It has also implemented a national policy stipulating that 30 percent of food consumed in places like schools and hospitals must come from family farmers.

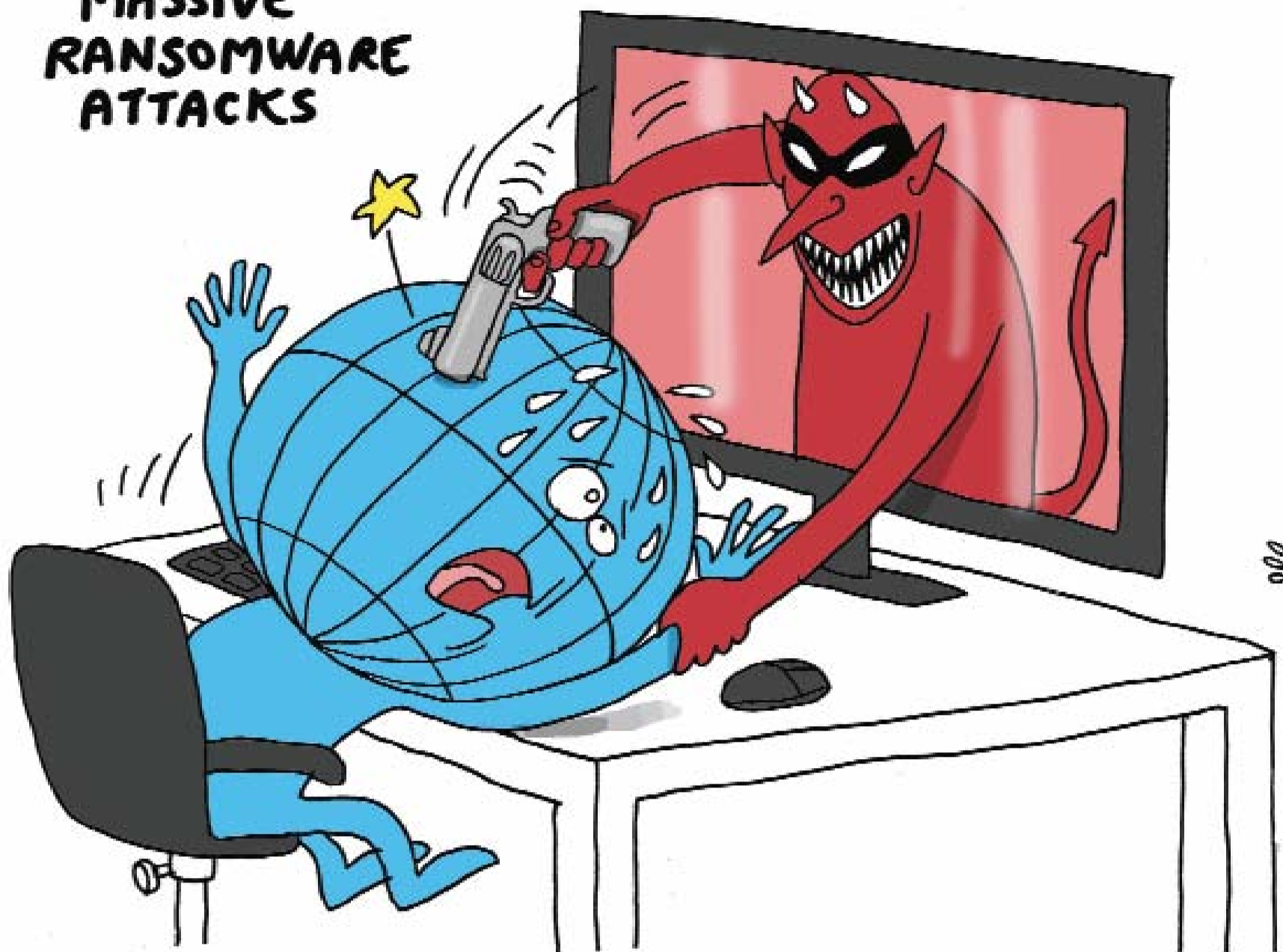
### Complex Web

Yet despite the benefits of urban farming, simply boosting the numbers of city farmers will not guarantee that cities can feed everyone or protect their food supply, experts say. "Local agricultural production has to be part of a diverse food system to become a reliable secure food source for growing urban populations," Pay Drechsel of the International Water Management Institute in Colombo told the Bonn conference. Migration from rural areas to fast-growing cities in the developing world adds more complexity as an increasing number of people living in informal settlements and slums turn to urban farming, studies have shown.

City planners face many other challenges due to the labyrinth of formal and informal food markets, and often lack a clear jurisdiction or mandate to manage food systems. Another barrier is that policymakers tend to divide people into rural or urban, a classification that ignores the many links between the two, including flows of people, goods, money and services. "Food systems have to be part of a sustainable city plan that creates regional linkages because food is so connected to other critical issues, like health and social cohesion," said Tori Okner, a food expert at ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, a network of 1,500 cities, towns and regions. —Reuters

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwait-times.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.

## MASSIVE RANSOMWARE ATTACKS



## BRAZIL ROLLS BACK ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**F**rom sweeping cuts of funds to protect forests, to the loosening of conservation of indigenous land and measures to boost large-scale property deals, Brazil has embarked on the biggest roll back of environmental protections in two decades, former government officials and campaigners said. Amid a political upheaval and an economic crisis, Brazil is backsliding on its commitments to protect land rights, the Amazon rainforest and the indigenous people who depend upon it, environmentalists say.

The changes are the biggest shift in Brazil's environmental policies since it adopted a new constitution in 1988 at the end of a military rule, said Adriana Ramos from the Social and Environmental Institute (ISA), a Brasilia-based campaign group. "It's a serious crisis," a former Brazilian cabinet minister told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on the condition of anonymity. "We are backsliding on land use and new demarcation of indigenous peoples' land."

Supporters of measures to remove protected area status for more than one million hectares of land say the changes are overdue. Brazil is suffering its worst recession on record and large-scale agriculture offers has boosted exports, giving the country's rural lobby more clout, Ramos said. Proponents of moves to relax regulation and spending cuts say they are necessary to boost growth get more than 13 million unemployed Brazilians back to work.

"If it wasn't for that contribution (from agriculture), we would likely be forecasting another fall in gross domestic product," said Rodolfo Margato, an economist with Santander Brasil, in São Paulo last month. The government will spend this year working to pass the new series of environmental and mining laws, cabinet minister Eliseu Padilha said on Friday, outlining future priorities. "These are measures we can take to make the country more prosperous," Padilha told lawmakers in the capital.

### Big Cuts

As part of efforts to close its yawning budget deficit, Brazil's government has launched a series of wide-ranging spending cuts, led by President Michel Temer who took power following the impeachment of his predecessor last year. The environment ministry has been hit hard, with its budget slashed by more than 40 percent this year, according to government figures. Funding at the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), the government body responsible for protecting the rights of Brazil's 900,000 indigenous people has been slashed by more than 40 percent.

FUNAI has drawn criticism from rural lawmakers who say it is giving away too much land to indigenous people by making biased assessments of their historical claims. "The budget cuts will obviously have a major impact on our work," a senior government official working on environmental protection told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on condition of anonymity. The cuts come in tandem with a rise in deforestation in the Amazon, the world's largest tropical forest and crucial for absorbing carbon dioxide emissions. Deforestation increased by 29 percent last year following previous reductions.

### Conservation Areas

Among the proposed changes are measures to reduce the size of conservation areas in the Amazon by more than a million hectares - an area larger than Jamaica. The changes to conservation areas, put forward by Temer at the end of 2016, are expected to be passed by Brazil's Congress in the coming months, according to environmentalists. "Cutting protected areas at a time when deforestation rates are increasing is the opposite of what Brazil needs," Greenpeace Brazil campaigner Cristiane Mazzetti told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

But the moves have the support of some local politi-

cians, such as Atila Lins, a lawmaker from Amazonas State, because he says they will benefit his constituents by opening more land for farming and other economic activities. "A decision (to reduce the size of protected areas)... will not cause any environmental impact," he wrote on his Facebook page. Other proposed measures include relaxing the environmental licensing rules for big infrastructure projects, opening sales of farmland to foreigners, and loosening rules for approving new mining projects.

### 'Legalizing Land Grabbing'

Lawmakers are also debating a plan to amend property registration rules that critics say would lead to an increase in "land grabbing" known locally as "grilagem". Politicians supporting the move say changes to land laws would make it easier for small farmers and poor Brazilians to formally own properties where they have lived and worked for decades. Making it easier for landless Brazilians to be granted tenure for their property could be positive, said Ramos from the ISA.

But the amendments would also allow landowners to register territory they had been informally occupying, she said - an incentive for rural businessmen to clear forests or occupy public land to gain formal ownership under the titling program. "They have also increased the size of what can be regularized to 2,500 hectares," Ramos told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "They are effectively legalizing land grabbing." Senator Romero Juca, an ally of Temer from the Amazonian state of Roraima where many residents do not formally own their land, argues the landless poor will be the prime beneficiaries of the initiative. Juca did not respond to interview requests. "We want every family to have their title deeds," Juca said in a statement supporting the proposal. "This legislation will improve the lives of millions of Brazilians." —Reuters

## SWIFT CHANGES IN SOUTH KOREA UNLIKELY

**S**outh Korea's new liberal President Moon Jae-in promised to seek a parliamentary review of a controversial US anti-missile defense system. If the vote were held today, the deployment would likely be endorsed in the legislative body controlled by conservative and moderate politicians. More importantly, pushing for that motion would strain Moon's already fraught relations with the opposition, whose cooperation is essential on a more urgent policy goal: creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in a country where youth unemployment is near an all-time high.

Despite the election of the first liberal president in South Korea after nine years of conservative rule, sweeping policy changes on the left are almost untenable in the divided National Assembly, where Moon's Democratic Party holds only 40 percent of the 299 seats. Moon's first 100 days in office will likely focus on pushing economic reforms that have broad consensus across the political spectrum, political experts say.

While Moon has promised a shake-up of South Korea's powerful family-run conglomerates, lawmakers would likely support more modest changes, such as ending the practice of pardoning convicted corporate criminals, given the outsized importance of chaebols to Asia's fourth-largest economy. Kang Dong-wan, a political science professor at Dong-A University in Busan, saw "a good chance of a very messy parliament" unless Moon uses a "give-and-take" approach with other parties.

During the campaign, Moon criticized the previous government of impeached leader Park Geun-hye for agreeing to host the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system without seeking parliamentary approval. He also promised to reopen the Kaesong Industrial Zone just north of the militarised border with North Korea, a joint economic cooperation project Park scrapped in 2016 after the North fired a long-range rocket.

But these pledges have drawn fierce



In this May 10, 2017, photo, South Korea's presidential candidate Moon Jae-in of the Democratic Party is greeted by supporters as he arrives to give a speech on a stage in Seoul. — AP

criticism, unlike his other goals - creating jobs, raising the minimum wage, reforming conglomerates, and setting up a body to investigate corruption by high-ranking public officials. "Moon will first have to tackle issues which have some kind of common ground among political parties and the public, not divisive issues such as THAAD," said Kim Jun-seok, a political science professor at Dongguk University.

### Deploying THAAD

Underscoring the dilemma for Moon, North Korea on Sunday fired a ballistic missile in defiance of calls to rein in its weapons program, only days after he took office pledging to engage the North in dialogue. Backing away from his THAAD pledge could ease tensions with Washington, though it does risk alienating Beijing, which considers THAAD's powerful radar a threat to its own security. "Unless Moon is out of his mind, he shouldn't con-

tinue to drag on with the THAAD issue. He really can't oppose it anymore," said Hong Moon-jong, a member of the conservative Liberty Korea Party, the second-largest party with 107 seats, behind the 120 seats held by the ruling party.

Two other major opposition parties, the centrist People's Party and the conservative Bareun Party that together have 60 seats, also support the deployment. If the new administration wants to work with the opposition, Moon should focus on creating jobs instead, which the Liberty Korea presidential candidate had also promised, Hong said. In fact, Moon's first executive action was to create a presidential "jobs council" tasked with implementing his promise to create 810,000 public-sector jobs over his single five-year term.

Officials have started drafting a supplementary budget, worth as much as 10 trillion won (\$8.95 billion) that will pay for new jobs, people involved in the effort told

Reuters. It requires parliamentary approval. Also high on his list: increasing the minimum wage to 10,000 won (\$8.83) an hour by 2020, from 6,470 won and cutting working hours to about 1,800 a year, from an average of 2,113 as of 2015. Parliament also has to approve such changes.

### Taming Parliament

South Korea's National Assembly has a long history of physical scuffles. One lawmaker famously set off a teargas canister to thwart a bill in 2011. It passed anyway. The so-called parliament advancement law, which requires three-fifths of all lawmakers to approve disputed bills, was created in 2012 to civilize debate and prevent the largest parties from railroading bills through. While the law refined parliamentary proceedings, it also prevented Park's government from passing any major legislation despite her Saenuri Party holding a majority.

Even before her party lost its majority in the April 2016 election, Park's package of four bills, introduced in 2015 to reform South Korea's rigid labor market, never passed. The labor reform bills were central to her election pledges of boosting economic growth to 4 percent. Opposition parties in parliament also blocked Park's other election promises, including easing regulations for the services sector to boost investment.

"The previous Park Geun-hye administration tried all it could to make things possible without parliamentary approval as it was not friendly with parliament, but it got little done," said a senior government official tasked with creating new policies in the Moon administration. With most major reforms requiring a supermajority of 60 percent to pass in parliament, Moon has acknowledged bipartisan unity will be key to his success. He spent a large part of his first day in office meeting with opposition leaders and requesting their cooperation. — Reuters

## SWISS OMEGA EXTENDS AS OLYMPIC SPONSOR TO 2032

**BERLINS:** Swiss watch manufacturer Omega yesterday extended its Olympic Games sponsorship by 12 years, becoming the first top International Olympic Committee sponsor to commit until 2032. Omega, the Games official timekeeper, is one of 12 major companies on the IOC's sponsorship program. China's Alibaba was the latest addition to the list in January, penning a deal to 2028. Omega's deal sees the Swiss company continue providing timing, scoring, in-venue results systems, equipment and broadcast graphics services, the IOC said. No financial details were disclosed. IOC sources previously told Reuters that major sponsors pay more than \$100 million per four-year cycle, which includes one summer and one winter games. "Omega is the world's leader in sports timekeeping, and the extension of our agreement through to 2032 means Olympic athletes will continue to be able to rely on Omega's expertise," IOC President Thomas Bach said in a statement. "2032 is an important milestone, as it will mark 100 years since the Olympic movement was first able to count on Omega's timekeep-



## WOLFF: HAMILTON WIN SET UP BY 'MAGIC CALL'

**BARCELONA:** Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff says "a magic call" in strategy set up Lewis Hamilton's dramatic Spanish Grand Prix victory over Sebastian Vettel. In Barcelona on Sunday Hamilton slipped from pole to second at the start, recovered and passed Vettel's Ferrari to secure his second win of the season and reduce the German's lead to six points in the title race. The three-time champion obeyed his team's instructions perfectly as they - led by chief strategist James Vowles - plotted his route to triumph by putting pressure on Vettel in the opening stint and then taking perfect advantage of a Virtual Safety Car (VSC) period.

Vettel pitted early for a new set of soft tyres to end his first stint, but instead of matching that call Mercedes chose to switch to their plan and kept both Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas out for longer stints before Hamilton came in for medium tyres - and leaving the Finn in the lead to block the frustrated Vettel. The key moment came on lap 34 when Belgian Stoffel Vandoorne of McLaren crashed into Brazilian Felipe Massa's Williams to trigger the VSC.

"That was beautiful for us," said Wolff. "At that stage we planned to do the opposite to Sebastian - and then the magic call was the one to pit Hamilton, at a time when it looked like the VSC would end, so Sebastian couldn't react... We timed it perfectly - credit to James and the strategists - and that pit-stop

obviously was much faster than Sebastian's afterwards. Then it was down to Lewis to pass him on track which he did on the straight and taking the lead."

That move, which Vettel described as "like a train" passing him, left Hamilton in front for the final stint of 32 laps on soft tyres while Vettel, on mediums, toiled to stay in touch. "In the end, it was all about balancing on a knife's edge," said Wolff. "You want to have a gap, in the lead, to avoid the undercut, but on the other side we had to make the tyres last 32 laps. It was a combination of team work, strategy and Lewis's driving."

### NO TENSION

Bottas' selfless contribution on a weekend when he was unable to repeat the form that carried him to his maiden F1 win in Russia was also a significant part of their triumph before he retired with an engine failure. Hamilton says he was left out of breath but relishing the title challenge by the win. "It's definitely one of the favourites, if not the favourite battle, I'm having," said the three-time champion. "I'm in a much better position than last year so 2017 is a much better year so far. It's great to have a battle - and a fight with another team is so much nicer and more enjoyable because there's no tension within our team. At the last race, when Valtteri (Bottas) won, there wasn't an ounce of me that was like 'damn it he won.... But this is how it should be.'"

Hamilton, who has changed his fitness coaching arrangements and now plans his own schedule between races without a trainer, conceded that he found himself fighting for breath at times. He had to sit down on the victors' podium during the post-race ceremony, clearly lacking the same level of vim and energy of others around him. "Man, these cars are so much more physical this year and this is a tough circuit," he explained after the contest at the Circuit de Catalunya where many seasoned observers commented on his condition. — AFP



Lewis Hamilton

## KITTEL COLLECTS FIRST TOUR OF CALIFORNIA STAGE WIN

**SACRAMENTO:** German Marcel Kittel out-sprinted Peter Sagan to claim his first win at the Tour of California in the opening stage of the seven-day race in Sacramento on Sunday. Kittel got some help from his teammates as he launched off the wheel of Quick-Step Floors partner Fabio Sabatini with about 800 metres remaining to beat reigning two-time world champ Sagan of Bora-Hansgrohe. "I am really happy I could finally win a race here in California," Kittel said. I always try to do my best. "I rely on really strong and intelligent teammates. It is a mix of a lot of things, but in the end when it works it is a great feeling. "My team did an incredible job. We had a good plan and did a good job of bringing me to the finish."

Italy's Elia Viviani finished third while Floris Gerts of the Netherlands placed fourth. By winning the 167 kilometre first stage, Kittel nailed down the 80th win of his pro career. The sprinting specialist,

who turned 29 on Thursday, will enjoy wearing the yellow leader's jersey for at least one day as the race moves into the mountain stage with a 143km ride from Modesto to San Jose on Monday.

The race opened in Sacramento and finishes May 20 at Pasadena. Stage two offers six category climbs, the toughest up Mount Hamilton. Stage five features a steep and long ascent to Mount Baldy among three category climbs. Sprinters will have a penultimate sixth-stage 24km time trial Friday at Big Bear Lake to regain any lost ground ahead of the final 125km stage down to the finish. Meanwhile, Olympic road race gold medalist Anna van der Breggen won the women's Tour of California title Sunday to earn her fourth win of the season. Her victory after four stages of racing follows the gold she won in the Rio Games and wins in three other major one-day races this season. — AFP



SACRAMENTO, California: Marcel Kittel of Germany, riding for Quick-Step Floors, celebrates after winning the first stage of the Men's Amgen Tour of California on Sunday. — AP

## BASTIA FAN FACING PRISON TERM FOR 'MONKEY NOISES'

**BASTIA, France:** A French prosecutor is seeking a three-month suspended prison sentence for a Bastia fan accused of racist abuse directed at Nice striker Mario Balotelli. Prosecutor Nicolas Bessone also requested that Herve Guittou receive a four-year stadium ban and be fined 800 euros for inciting racial hatred. Italian striker Balotelli had accused a section of the Corsican supporters of making "monkey sounds during the match" on Jan 20. "So is racism legal in France? Or only in Bastia? Football is an amazing sport... those people like Bastia supporters make it horrible! A real shame," an upset Balotelli wrote on Instagram after the game. Bastia initially said it was "amazed" at the Italian's allegations, before acknowledging "several" fans had abused the player during the 1-1 draw. The French league's disciplinary commission docked Bastia one point - suspended - and ordered the club to close its East Stand for the next three home games. Bastia were also punished for crowd violence during April's league game against Lyon which had to be abandoned at halftime.

## RAONIC NAMED IN TEAM WORLD FOR LAVER CUP

**PRAGUE:** Canadian Milos Raonic, ranked number six in the world, is the first player to be named in the rest of the world team that will take on Europe in the inaugural Laver Cup from Sept 22-24 in Prague this year. The Laver Cup, a three-day competition modelled on golf's Ryder Cup, will pit a team of six top players from Europe against six of their counterparts from the rest of the world. Players will officially qualify based on their post-Wimbledon rankings, and the teams will be finalized following the US Open in September. Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are already confirmed to play for Team Europe, with Tomas Berdych committing to play if qualified or selected. Team World is being captained by John McEnroe, while Bjorn Borg will captain Europe during the tournament, which will comprise two singles and a doubles match each day.



PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida: Si Woo Kim of South Korea plays his shot from the 18th tee during the final round of The Players Championship at the Stadium course at TPC Sawgrass on Sunday. — AFP

## S KOREAN RISING STAR KIM WINS PLAYERS TITLE

**MIAMI:** South Korean Kim Si-Woo became the youngest winner in Players Championship history, firing a three-under par 69 on Sunday for a three-stroke US PGA Tour victory. The 75th-ranked prodigy, who has played 120 professional tournaments worldwide, became only the second Asian winner of the event after South Korea's K.J. Choi in 2011. The 21-year-old Kim eclipsed the Players age mark set by Adam Scott when the Australian won at age 23 in 2004 at the famed TPC Sawgrass layout in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. "I still can't believe I'm the champion and I'm the youngest champion for this major tournament," Kim said through a translator. "I'm looking forward to working hard from now on." Resolute and cool under pressure, Kim used a bogey-free final round to collect his biggest victory by finishing 72 holes on 10-under 278. Kim, ranked 75th in the world, became only the second non-US player to win twice on the US PGA Tour before age 22, joining last month's Masters winner, Spaniard Sergio Garcia.

Britain's Ian Poulter and South African Louis Oosthuizen shared second on 281, Poulter after a closing 71 with "Oosty" firing a 73. American Kyle Stanley and Rafa Cabrera Bello of Spain shared fourth on 282.

### PRIOR WIN KEEPS KIM CALM

Kim, the US PGA's youngest player, won his first tour title last August at Greensboro, but hadn't managed a top-20 US PGA finish since last October and was in only his second Players, having shared 23rd in 2016. "Usually I'm very nervous but last year I won one and I got a two-year extension," Kim said. "So I can hit aggressively and I wasn't as nervous." Now Kim has a five-year spot on the tour and assured spots into many of golf's top events.

Stanley and countryman J.B. Holmes, who closed with an 84, were 54-hole co-leaders, but Holmes had bogeys on five of the first five holes and Stanley on two of the first four to stumble back. Oosthuizen sank a four-foot birdie putt at the par-5 second to reach nine-under but found water at the fourth and made double bogey to fall back. That left Poulter and Kim atop



Si Woo Kim holds The Players Championship Trophy on Sunday. — AP

the leaderboard at eight-under, Poulter after a tap-in birdie at the second and five-foot birdie putt at the sixth and Kim after a 17-foot birdie on the opening hole. Kim sank a 24-foot birdie putt at the par-4 seventh to seize the lead and sank an 18-foot birdie putt at the par-5 ninth to reach 10-under for a two-stroke advantage. Then Kim parred his way through the back nine, his last putts no longer than four feet on any hole as he calmly ignored winds and tension to prevail.

### LATE BOGEYS FOIL POULTER

Poulter could never catch him, reaching nine-under with a five-foot birdie putt at the par-5 11th but making bogey at 12, missing a five-foot par putt, and taking another bogey at 18 after shanking his approach 40 yards right into a bush but then smacking his fourth inches from the cup. "It was one of the worst shots you will ever

see to a pretty good one," Poulter said. "I was nervous out there all day, being in a situation I hadn't been in for a while. "I felt good coming down the last few holes. I'm pleased I played well. It has been a good week."

It was the second Players runner-up finish for Poulter after 2009. It came after he had thought his playing rights were lost before a recalculation of points showed he had done enough with a medical exemption to keep his tour spot. Stanley made his fourth birdie of the week at the par-3 17th island green, matching American Paul Azinger from 1987 as the only players to birdie the hole four times in one week. Northern Ireland star Rory McIlroy, who fired a 75 to finish on 290, travels to Belfast for an MRI exam yesterday to see about nagging back pain that could be related to a rib injury that sidelined him earlier this year. —AFP

## BUTTON HINTS F1 RETURN STILL POSSIBLE

**BARCELONA:** Jensen Button, preparing for his one-off comeback with McLaren-Honda at the Monaco Grand Prix, yesterday hinted he could make a U-turn on retirement and make a full-time return to Formula One in 2018. The 37-year-old 2009 world champion told reporters that he could not rule out a comeback with the team. "I have a contract with the team to race next year so definitely I would not rule anything out," he said, when questioned about the future.

A move to retain Button's services again may be an option for the troubled McLaren outfit if they fail to convince two-time champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso. Alonso yesterday flew into Indianapolis to start his preparations for the Indianapolis 500 on May 28, when Button replaces him on a one-off basis at the Monaco Grand Prix. It had seemed Button's F1

career was over when he held his retirement party at last year's end of season Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. Button said he was contacted by two other teams, offering him a race seat for 2017. "I had so many options to race this year it is hilarious," he said. "I am thinking of Monaco as my only race this year. But, obviously, if I am asked again at another point in the year I am here to fill that seat." Button has been spending time in the United States this year and on Saturday won his age group competition in an 'Ironman in California' contest.

"It is pretty mad really that I am getting back in a Formula One car," he said. "But there are no negative thoughts going through my head. I don't have anything to gain, but I don't have anything to lose either. I am there to help the team out and have some fun - and it will proba-

bly be one of the most fun Grand Prix for me because there is no pressure. It is a one-off so I am really excited about the challenge." — AFP



Jensen Button



PYEONGCHANG: Aerial general views taken on April 30, 2017 show the ski jumping venue (left) and the opening ceremony venue (right) of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. — AFP

## PYEONGCHANG ON TRACK DESPITE SLOW TICKET SALES

PARIS: Less than nine months ahead of the opening ceremony, PyeongChang is ready to host the 2018 Winter Olympics, barring minor details, organizing committee vice president Kim Jae-Youl said yesterday. "We are right on track in terms of hardware and software," Kim told AFP in Paris where he is attending the World Ice-Hockey Championships. Kim said that 12 venues for the Games that are divided

into two clusters in the eastern coastal region of South Korea, about one-hour by high-speed train from Seoul, are 97 percent complete. "The 22 test events went really well and we just have some minor details that we have to work on." He said that athletes competing in the test events as well as international federations and the International Olympic Committee gave 'great' feedback and the

organizers had acted on it. "If the athletes are happy, then we are happy," he said. "The remaining days are for perfecting the plan." However, a key concern surrounding the weather and the potential absence of snow for the February 9-25 Games remains.

"It is hard to predict how the weather will be and whether or not we will get snow," said Kim. But he added that with its elevation of

more than 700m, snow events will take place in sub-zero temperatures. "We had plenty of snow for the test events and conditions were great," he said. "We usually have snow at that time of year but in case we don't, we have the capacity to generate more than enough artificial snow." The organizing committee is upbeat about ticket sales, he said, despite a disappointing initial

response from the public. Barely a quarter of the tickets made available by lottery from Feb 9 this year were sold before the closing date last month in a country there is little traditional support for winter sports. "We are very optimistic about tickets sales over time," said Kim. "The test events had a big impact in Korea and generated a lot of interest. I think we have made a good start." — AFP



MADRID: Italian tennis player Fabio Fognini returns the ball to Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal during the ATP Madrid Open on May 10, 2017.—AFP

## FOGNINI TARGETING UPSET OVER UNDER-PAR MURRAY

FOIGNINO, Italy: Fabio Fognini is hoping to capitalize on the mediocre form of Britain's world number one Andy Murray when they meet in the second round of the Rome Masters yesterday. Fognini, ranked 29th in the world, booked his place in the second round with a clinical 6-1, 6-3 win over fellow Italian Matteo Berrettini on Sunday. Murray claimed his maiden Rome title with victory over Novak Djokovic in the Eternal City last year.

But the Scot, ousted by unseeded 20-year-old Croat Borna Coric at the Madrid Open last week, has admitted his game on clay has gone awry - and Fognini wants to capitalize. "It's not a bad time to be meeting him, he's not playing at his usual level. But to beat him, I'll need a big hand from the (supporters of) center court," Fognini said.

Murray, who celebrated his 30th birthday yesterday, leads their ATP head to head series 3-2 and has beaten Fognini in their last two meetings. But Fognini was the only player to push Rafael Nadal to three sets last week in Madrid, where the Spaniard triumphed Sunday with victory over Dominic Thiem, and Murray said he is taking nothing for granted. "Fognini is one of the better clay-court players, for sure. He obviously would be highly motivated, I would think, playing in Italy as well," Murray said. "I have had some tough matches with him in the past, so it won't be easy. I will definitely

need to play well in that one to have a chance of winning."

Nadal underlined his status as the tournament favorite when he ousted Djokovic in their Madrid semi-final to claim his first clay victory over the Serb in three years. He then dominated Thiem in the final on Sunday to take his record on the surface to 15-0 this year, in the process moving up to fourth in the rankings ahead of Swiss rival Roger Federer. Spain's 14-time Grand Slam champion is now a strong favorite to claim his 10th French Open crown next month, although he remains tight-lipped about his ambitions. "I am aware that if I am fit and I can play well, I have the capacity to win important titles and achieve my goals," said Nadal.

It already looks ominous for Murray's hopes of defending his title, and Fognini has also given four-time Rome champion Djokovic, the defending French Open champion, the edge. "On clay he (Murray) is just a little inferior to Djokovic, given that he's never won in Paris," added the Italian. Yet Fognini, who has never made it past the third round in Rome and has a win-loss record of 5-9 in the capital, has never forgotten exiting the tournament under a hail of criticism from his home crowd in 2014. He added: "I've never had a good run in this tournament. I will never forget being whistled off the court when I was ranked 15th (in the world)." — AFP

## YANKEES SPLIT DOUBLEHEADER WITH ASTROS

NEW YORK: George Springer and Alex Bregman paid tribute to Derek Jeter in their own way - with memorable first-inning home runs off Masahiro Tanaka. Springer led off with a drive run into Monument Park just after Jeter's No. 2 was retired there in a pregame ceremony and Bregman capped a six-run first inning with a grand slam that propelled the Houston Astros to a 10-7 win over the New York Yankees on Sunday night and a doubleheader split.

Josh Reddick homered off the facing of the right-field second deck a pitch after Springer's first homer. Springer also homered leading off the second and Carlos Beltran hit an RBI double against Tanaka (5-2), who left trailing 8-0 after 1 2/3 innings and set career highs for runs and home runs allowed. Backed by a 9-0 lead, Charlie Morton (5-2) gave up four runs in 5 2/3 innings.

In the opener, Chase Headley hit a tiebreaking bases-loaded triple off Chris Devenski in New York's six-run seventh inning, and the Yankees rallied to beat Houston 11-6. Adam Warren (1-0) got the win as the Yankees stopped a three-game slide. Starlin Castro, Aaron Judge and Brett Gardner homered for New York. Evan Gattis had two hits and two RBIs for the Astros. Will Harris (1-1) got the loss.

### PHILLIES 4, NATIONALS 3, GAME 1 NATIONALS 6, PHILLIES 5, GAME 2

Ace Max Scherzer endured a scary line drive to grind out six innings while Michael Taylor hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the eighth and Washington overcame another dodgy bullpen outing in the nightcap for a doubleheader split. Bryce Harper went 3 for 4 with an RBI double in Game 2. He also hit his 12th home run in Game 1 but Philadelphia won the opener of the day-night affair after Washington's third blown save in six games.

In Game 2, Freddy Galvis gave Philadelphia another lead against the bullpen when his two-run triple off Jacob Turner (2-1) put the Phillies ahead 5-4 in the eighth. After striking out three times, Taylor homered off Pat Neshek (0-1), belting a first-pitch slider off the left field foul pole. The runs were Neshek's first allowed this season. In the first game, Ty Kelly hit a tiebreaking RBI single in Philadelphia's three-run ninth. Aaron Altherr opened the ninth with his eighth homer. Maikel Franco and Cameron Rupp hit consecutive doubles off Shawn Kelley (3-1), and Galvis walked before Kelly delivered against Koda Glover. Joaquin Benoit (1-2) pitched a scoreless eighth for Philadelphia, and Hector Neris finished for his fourth save.

### RANGERS 6, ATHLETICS 4

Nomar Mazara had the go-ahead hit for the second game in a row as the Rangers extended their winning streak to a majors-best six in a row. Mazara hit a tiebreaking RBI single with two outs in the seventh right after Elvis Andrus' RBI double, both off Ryan Madson (0-3). Carlos Gomez had three hits, including a single to start the Texas seventh, but left the game with a right hamstring strain after scoring from second on Delino DeShields' two-out infield single. Dario Alvarez (2-0) got two outs for the win and Matt Bush the save.

Yadier Molina homered twice for the Cardinals and Adam Wainwright threw seven sparkling innings. Molina recorded the third multihomer game of his career. He drilled a two-run homer off Jake Arrieta (4-3) in the second inning and added a solo drive in the eighth. Matt Carpenter also homered for St. Louis while Wainwright (3-3) allowed four hits, struck out three and walked four.

### ROCKIES 9, DODGERS 6

Pat Valaika homered twice and drove in four runs and Antonio Senzatela got the win in an emotional Mother's Day start for Colorado. Senzatela (6-1) was pitching on Mother's Day for the first time since his mom died of breast cancer last July. Like many around the league, Senzatela used a pink bat to raise awareness about the disease. The rookie right-hander is tied for the major league lead in wins. Nolan Arenado also went deep as the Rockies salvaged a split of the four-game series. Los



ARLINGTON, Texas: Texas Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus (1) jumps off second base after throwing to first base as Oakland Athletics Matt Joyce (23) slides on the game ending double play in the ninth inning on Sunday. Oakland Athletics Jed Lowrie was out at first base and the Rangers won 6-4. —AP

Angeles led 4-3 before Valaika hit a two-run homer in the fourth off Julio Urias (0-1). Greg Holland struck out the side in the ninth for his 16th save.

### ANGELS 4, TIGERS 1

Angels star Mike Trout homered in his third straight game and Alex Meyer pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning. Danny Espinosa hit a tiebreaking homer off Justin Verlander while Andrelton Simmons added an RBI single to chase Verlander (3-3) in the seventh. With a first-inning shot to left for his 11th homer, Trout homered in three straight games for the third time in his career, also accomplishing the feat in September 2013 and June 2016. Meyer (2-1) struck out seven in 6 1/3 innings. Bud Norris got the save.

### BREWERS 11, METS 9

Manny Pina hit a three-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning, capping Milwaukee's comeback from a six-run deficit. Pina hit a 3-2 slider from Addison Reed (0-2) over the wall in left. The Brewers scored 10 runs over their final three innings, teeing off on the Mets bullpen after a solid start by Jacob deGrom. Neftali Feliz (1-4) got the win and Corey Knebel picked up his first save.

### ROYALS 9, ORIOLES 8

Mike Moustakas homered and drove in four runs to help Kansas City rally for the win. Jorge Soler and Drew Butera also connected for the Royals. Soler's 464-foot shot to center leading off the seventh was the longest by a Kansas City player this season. The Orioles' Chris Davis reached five times on a solo homer, RBI single and three walks. Caleb Joseph hit a two-run shot in Baltimore's four-run fourth.

### BLUE JAYS 3, MARINERS 2

Kevin Pillar homered with two outs in the ninth inning to give Toronto a sweep of the four-game series. Pillar sealed the win with a blast to left off Edwin Diaz after Justin Smoak hit a two-run homer for Toronto. The Blue Jays have won five straight and seven of eight and lead the majors with 21 homers in May.

### RAYS 11, RED SOX 2

Steven Souza Jr hit a three-run homer and Jesus Sucre drove in three runs as Tampa Bay beat Boston. The Rays won for the second time in three games, a day after striking out 16 times in a loss. At 4 hours, 32 minutes, it was the longest nine-inning game in Rays history. Souza went deep during Tampa Bay's seventh-inning homer. Boston starter Drew Pomeranz (3-3) came out with left triceps tightness before the fourth inning. He gave up two runs and three hits.

### INDIANS 8, TWINS 3

Jason Kipnis homered twice and drove in four runs to help the Indians snap a three-game losing streak. Kipnis finished with four hits. Carlos Santana and Lonnie Chisenhall also homered for Cleveland, while Indians right-hander Trevor Bauer (3-4) allowed three runs in six-plus innings. Jorge Polanco hit a solo shot in the seventh, giving the Twins a home run in 15 straight games, one short of the club record.

### MARLINS 3, BRAVES 1

Tyler Moore hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning to spoil a shutout bid by R.A. Dickey as the Marlins broke a five-game losing streak. It was Moore's first homer of the year and the fourth pinch-hit shot of his career. Kyle Markakis (1-0) pitched out of a bases-loaded situation in the seventh by retiring Kurt Suzuki. A J Ramos pitched around a leadoff walk in the ninth with his fourth save. Atlanta had eight hits and six walks but stranded 12 runners. Atlanta's Nick Markakis hit a two-out single in the fifth to drive home the game's first run. Dickey (3-3) allowed five hits in seven innings.

### WHITE SOX 9, PADRES 3

Pinch hitter Melky Cabrera had a key two-run single in Chicago's eight-run eighth inning. Cabrera, whose hit went through the right side of the infield, was one of 14 batters in the inning against three San Diego relievers. The rally denied Jered Weaver his first win with the Padres after his best outing of the season. Ryan Buchter (2-2) took the loss, walking three batters while recording only one out. Michael Ynoa (1-0) earned the win with a scoreless eighth. The White Sox got their second straight victory after a six-game slide.

### GIANTS 8, REDS 3

Brandon Belt homered again, helping San Francisco to its first three-game winning streak of the season. Belt hit his third home run in four games. Joe Panik and Eduardo Nunez each drove in two runs and Buster Posey had two hits for the Giants. Scooter Gennett drove in two runs for the Reds, who lost their third straight.

### PIRATES 6, DIAMONDBACKS 4, 10 INNINGS

Jose Osuna hit a two-run homer for Arizona with two outs in the 10th inning and Tony Watson escaped a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the inning. Osuna hit a 3-1 pitch from Tom Wilhelmson (0-1) out to right-center field, forcing a split of a four-game series. It was Osuna's second career homer. Watson (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings. He got Jake Lamb out on a ground ball to second with the bases loaded to end the game. Josh Bell and Andrew McCutchen also went deep for the Pirates. —AP

## LEONARD'S INJURY SPOTLIGHTS A DEBATED, DANGEROUS PLAY

OAKLAND: Kawhi Leonard had already launched his jump shot and Zaza Pachulia kept sliding toward him while Leonard was in the air. Leonard landed on Pachulia's foot and crashed to the court in pain. Dirty? Possibly. Dangerous? Absolutely. The play that knocked Leonard out of the game with an injured left ankle and helped Golden State's huge rally in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals is one the NBA started cracking down on four seasons ago in an effort to protect jump shooters.

But with long-distance shots playing such a heavy role in offenses these days, the risk of injury isn't going away. Nor is the debate - one the Spurs have seen from both sides - that raged long after the Warriors' 113-111 victory Sunday. While Leonard is respected for the way he defends without fouling, opponents hated the way former defensive ace Bruce Bowen crowded too closely on their jumpers.

"We see this quite often in the NBA where that defender, they just go a little too far and you're not allowed to take the landing area away from the jump shooter," Joe Borgia, the NBA's senior vice president

of replay and referee operations, said Sunday while discussing the foul that was called on Pachulia on his "Making the Call" video segment on NBA.com. "Obviously a very dangerous situation for players, and the referee luckily stayed on that play all the way until the shooter landed and the foul was called on the play."

That wasn't enough for ABC analyst Jeff Van Gundy, who argued that Pachulia should have been called for a flagrant one for intentionally sliding under Leonard, which both players denied. "Did he step under it? Like on purpose? No," Leonard said afterward. "He was contesting a shot. The shot clock was coming down. I'll have to see the play."

Pachulia said he was just trying to contest the shot and seemed surprised at first that a foul was even called, though many observers on social media thought the play looked suspect. "Zaza's not a dirty player. You've got to time that perfectly if you want to hurt somebody," teammate Kevin Durant said. "We're not that type of team. Kawhi's an unbelievable player. We've got nothing but respect for him." —AP



Kawhi Leonard



# DOUBLE DEPARTURE HANDS PAK A TESTING TRANSITION

**ROSEAU, Dominica:** As Younis Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq head off into the sunset after long and illustrious careers, Pakistan begins a tricky period of transition looking for a new wave of players ready to fill a huge void left by the retired batting greats. In a fitting finale, Younis, Pakistan's most prolific test run-scorer, and Misbah, the country's most successful captain, bowed out together in a blaze of glory on Sunday with the team celebrating a first-ever series triumph in the Caribbean.

The thrilling 101-run victory in Dominica sealed a 2-1 win over West Indies and was Pakistan's 26th under the 42-year-old Misbah, who also led the side to the top of the International Cricket Council (ICC) world test rankings last year. Since his 2001 test debut in New Zealand, Misbah accumulated 5,222 runs in 75 matches at an average higher than 46. Admired for his unflappable temperament in a dressing room replete with mercurial talent, Misbah was handed the test captaincy after a 2010 spot-fixing scandal in England led to the expulsion of his predecessor Salman Butt.

ICC chief executive David Richardson was among those to pay a glowing tribute to the consistent right-hander. "Misbah has been the bedrock of many a Pakistan innings, time and time again extricating his team from difficult situations with a terrific temperament," the former South Africa wicketkeeper said. "He knew how to graft for his runs but could also be inventive and score at a brisk pace, as was evident during his impressive 56-ball century against Australia in 2014 in Abu Dhabi, which equalled Viv Richards's world record. "He was a leader who took charge at a difficult time... He was a true sportsman and role model."

If Misbah represented the voice of reason in both the dressing room and out on the field, Younis let his bat do the

talking and is currently the only Pakistani to have joined the coveted 10,000 test-run club.

## GREAT SERVANTS

The former captain, who led Pakistan to the World Twenty20 title in 2009, tallied 10,099 runs in 118 tests, embellishing his legacy with 34 hundreds at an average of more than 52. Together they were the pillars of Pakistan's batting lineup for over a decade and it could take many years for the country to find anyone capable of matching their feats. Pakistan's situation mirrors the dilemma South Asian rivals Sri Lanka faced when batting mainstays Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene ended their international careers two years ago.

"I was really sad when Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene left the Sri Lankan team together. Look at their team now, they are in such disarray," former Pakistan leg-spinner Abdul Qadir told the Express Tribune. "Likewise, both of these batsmen leaving together could cause problems for Pakistan's test team. However, they have been great servants to the country."

Pakistan have coped with their absence in the shorter formats since 2015 but the challenge of white-ball cricket is completely different to the patience and technique required in the red-ball arena. "The onus is now on the likes of Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq and Sarfraz Ahmed to step up and fill the void," Misbah told Cricket Australia's website in an interview last month. "When two Pakistan greats Inzamam-ul-Haq and Mohammad Yousuf left the scene, Younis and I tried to fill that gap. Azhar and Asad have developed in the meantime and now they are at a stage to replace us. "We need Azhar and Asad to take ownership of the test side... Every team goes through transition periods and Pakistan is no different." —Reuters



**ROSEAU, Dominica:** Members of the Pakistan cricket team celebrate after winning the final test match and the series 2-1 against the West Indies at the Windsor Park Stadium on Sunday. —AFP

# PAK WIN THRILLER FOR FIRST WINDIES SERIES VICTORY

**ROSEAU, Dominica:** Pakistan won a thrilling third and final Test with six balls to spare to clinch a first series victory in the West Indies Sunday and give a fitting farewell to the retiring captain Misbah ul Haq and veteran Younis Khan. Roston Chase's unbeaten 101, his second hundred of the series, proved in vain as the home side, set a target of 303 at Windsor Park in Dominica, slipped to 93 for six before the lower order almost rescued a dramatic draw.

"This was just incredible," said a breathless Misbah after Shannon Gabriel dragged a wide delivery from Yasir Shah onto his stumps with just six balls left in the game to trigger Pakistani celebrations as the West Indies were dismissed for 202 to lose the series 2-1. "There were so many things happening in that last session - dropped catches, appeals, no-ball dismissals - it looked for a while as if it wasn't going to happen. "I am thankful for myself, the team and all supporters of Pakistan cricket that we were able to pull it off."

Chase, who also top scored in the first innings with 69 and earned the man-of-the-match award, was the prime beneficiary of those near-misses. Twice he saw caught-and-bowled attempts by Hasan Ali put down and then was relieved on 91 when an edge to Asad Shafiq at slip off Mohammad Abbas was shown to be off a no-ball. "I'm really disappointed that we couldn't hold on for just one more over," said a crestfallen Chase. "We have showed that we can compete with the best but it's up to us to be able to take it all the way. It doesn't even matter that I got a hundred."

In the end he completed his third Test century but was left helpless at the non-striker's end when Gabriel, who had defended resolutely for 21 balls, inexplicably attempted a wild drive off Shah and dragged the ball back onto his stumps. Shah finished with five for 92 and a series haul of

| SCOREBOARD   |   |
|--|---|
| <b>ROSEAU, Dominica:</b> Final scoreboard on the fifth day of the third and concluding Test between the West Indies and Pakistan at Windsor Park in Dominica on Sunday |   |
| <b>Pakistan 1st Innings - 376</b>  | D. Bishoo c Masood b Abbas 3  |
| <b>West Indies 1st Innings - 247</b>   | A. Joseph c Ahmed b Hasan Ali 5   |
| <b>Pakistan 2nd Innings - 174 for 8 declared</b>   | S. Gabriel b Shah 4   |
| <b>West Indies 2nd Innings (overnight 7 for 1)</b>   | Extras (nb-3, w-2, b-6) 11  |
| K. Brathwaite c Hasan Ali b Shah 6   | Total (all out, 96 overs) 202   |
| K. Powell c Masood b Shah 4  | Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Powell), 2-22 (Brathwaite), 3-47 (Hetmyer), 4-66 (Hope), 5-76 (Singh), 6-93 (Dowrich), 7-151 (Holder), 8-181 (Bishoo), 9-197 (Joseph), 10-202 (Gabriel) |
| S. Hetmyer b Amir 25   | Bowling: M. Amir 15-8-22-1 (2w), M. Abbas 20-9-31-1 (2nb), Y. Shah 37-13-92-5, H. Ali 20-7-33-3 (1nb), A. Ali 2-0-3-0, A. Shafiq 2-0-15-0.                                    |
| S. Hope lbw Hasan Ali 17   | Result: Pakistan won 101 runs   |
| R. Chase not out 101   | Series: Pakistan won the 3-match series 2-1   |
| V. Singh c Azam b Shah 2   |   |
| S. Dowrich c Azam b Shah 2   |   |
| J. Holder lbw Hasan Ali 22   |   |

25 wickets, the highest of his career, as he took the man of the series award.

## NERVE-JANGLING

From their mid-afternoon perils, a 58-run seventh-wicket partnership between Chase and Jason Holder frustrated Pakistan for an hour-and-a-half, until the West Indies captain missed a knee-high full toss from Hasan Ali to be leg before for 22 just after tea. Devendra Bishoo and Alzarri Joseph also offered some resistance but it was Gabriel's defiance through eight nerve-jangling overs with Chase that almost took the West Indies to safety and a drawn series.

A swift end to the match had looked likely as Vishaul Singh and Shane Dowrich both fell to Shah just after lunch. Both were taken at short-leg by Babar Azam and on a pitch offering turn and bounce, it appeared only a matter of time before more wickets fell. But Chase and Holder batted with calm assurance as the Pakistanis

grew increasingly impatient in pursuit of the breakthrough.

Such anxieties appeared unlikely at the start of the day. Having already lost the wicket of Kieran Powell overnight, the home side suffered two further setbacks inside the first hour of the morning. Kraigg Brathwaite's poor run of form continued when the opening batsman miscued an attempted cut off Shah for Hasan Ali to take the comfortable catch at backward point.

Shimron Hetmyer batted positively for 25 but was then comprehensively bowled by Mohammad Amir for the third time in the series. Chase then joined Shai Hope with the pair defying all the challenges presented to them by the Pakistani attack until Hasan Ali got the breakthrough and his first Test wicket 20 minutes before lunch, trapping Hope leg-before with a full-length in-swing. His two additional wickets in that pulsating final session were critical to the victory. —AFP



**ROSEAU, Dominica:** Retiring Pakistan cricket team members Younis Khan (left) and captain Misbah-ul-Haq celebrate with the series trophy at the Windsor Park Stadium on Sunday. —AFP

# LATHAM BACKS YOUNG KIWI GUNS TO STAR IN TRI-SERIES

**DUBLIN:** New Zealand captain Tom Latham believes his emerging players can help the Blackcaps take the Tri-Series in Dublin after they made a winning start against Ireland. The 51-run victory at Malahide was sealed by a career best five for 50 from left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner and 79 from Neil Broom, but there were also three wickets for opening bowler Scott Kugeleijn on his one-day international debut on Sunday. "These guys called in have been putting in performances back home for the last couple of years and we back them 100 percent," said Latham.

"Our main goal is to win the Tri-Series and make the selectors think and if they can keep putting performances on the board it can only be good for New Zealand cricket," he added. "Neil Broom played really well and the partnership he built with George Worker (who scored his maiden fifty in only his third ODI) put us in a position to get us close to 300. "We haven't played cricket for a while, and it wasn't the complete performance, but the guys came under pressure and played really well," explained Latham, whose side next face Bangladesh in Clontarf, another Dublin suburb, on Wednesday.

With seven New Zealand internationals taking part in the Indian Premier League, rather than on tour in Ireland ahead of next month's Champions

Trophy one-day tournament in England, Latham was delighted at how his youthful side performed under pressure. Ireland were actually ahead of the Blackcaps after 38 overs, needing only another 80 from the last 12 overs with five wickets left to reach their victory target of 290 and claim their first top eight scalp outside a global tournament.

## 'AGGRESSIVE'

But the next over saw the return of Santner and in it he claimed the wicket of debutant Simi Singh to spark an Ireland collapse which included the vital wicket of Niall O'Brien, stumped by Luke Ronchi for 109, the former Leicestershire wicket-keeper's first ODI century in his 85th match. "Ireland played beautifully and Niall's innings put us under pressure but the way Mitch came back and how Kugeleijn bowled so aggressively, that we are used to back home, it was a good response," said Latham, who was captaining New Zealand for the first time, in place of Kane Williamson who is still at the IPL.

"I enjoyed the captaincy and the win is good for the confidence although I have a couple of experienced guys to lean on and bounce ideas off. "We played Bangladesh not so long ago, we know how strong they can be and we'll see what conditions are like. It'll be interesting to see what the wicket is like and we'll adapt our plans accordingly." — AFP

# TWO-MILLION MAN STOKES MISSING FOR IPL PLAYOFFS

**NEW DELHI:** Rising Pune Supergiant will head into this week's Indian Premier League play-offs without star all-rounder Ben Stokes after he was recalled to England's one-day international squad. Stokes - paid a record \$2.16 million to play the eight-week IPL season - was instrumental to Pune reaching the knockout phase after a brilliant debut campaign in the cash-rich Twenty20 competition. The 25-year-old left-handed batsman and right-handed pace bowler scored 316 runs in 12 matches, with a highest of 103 not out, and took 12 wickets.

He is not the only England star who will be missing from the final week's action. Table-topping Mumbai Indians have also lost Jos Buttler to preparations for the England-South Africa series, which doesn't begin until May 24, three days after Sunday's IPL final in Hyderabad. Their early departures saw an angry response from former England captain Kevin Pietersen, who blasted the England and Wales Cricket Board. "I think it's pathetic. An absolute shambles," Pietersen said on Sky Sports on Sunday. "Stokes should be playing in the semi-final and the final. The last week of the IPL is a huge occasion."

The England duo will join the rest of the squad for an ECB training camp in Spain this week. "What are they going to Spain for?" said Pietersen. "To field a couple of balls? He

should be playing in the IPL. "Just speak to him, speak to Jos Buttler, they'll talk about how much it has helped their development being out there."

Supergiant skipper Steve Smith said other players would have to step up Stokes's absence. "We have a couple of options (to replace) Stokes," said Smith, who is also the Australia captain. "He has been magnificent and will be a big loss. Hopefully, the other guys will stand up for us." Supergiant thrashed Kings XI Punjab by nine wickets in their final regular season match on Sunday to take second spot behind Mumbai.

They meet in the first qualifying playoff in Mumbai today, with the winners going straight into Sunday's final. The losers get another crack at reaching the final on Friday against the winners of Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders, who will clash in tomorrow's eliminator playoff in Bangalore with the losers heading home. The Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai have been the outstanding side in this year's IPL, with 10 wins from their 14 matches and will enjoy home advantage at the Wankhede Stadium for the first playoff encounter against Pune today. Australia vice-captain David Warner leads third-placed finishers Hyderabad while veteran Indian opener Gautam Gambhir leads fourth-placed Kolkata as the 10th season of IPL cricket heads for Sunday's finish line. — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Rising Pune Supergiant batsman Ben Stokes reacts after being dismissed during the 2017 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match between Delhi Daredevils and Rising Pune Supergiant at The Feroz Shah Kotla Cricket Stadium on May 12, 2017. —AFP

# ASHES STRIKE WARNING OVER AUSSIE PAY ROW

**SYDNEY:** Australia's cricketers union urged a swift resolution to a damaging pay dispute yesterday to avoid any strike disruption to this year's Ashes series. Cricket Australia last week threatened not to pay contracted players beyond the June 30 expiry of their current financial deal if they didn't accept a new offer. The robust statement prompted warnings of a strike, with pace spearhead Mitchell Starc tweeting: "Makes for an interesting men's and women's ashes..."

Former Test all-rounder Shane Watson

added his support by tweeting: "Well said @mstarc56. It will be an interesting game of cricket without any players." Alistair Nicholson, chief executive of the Australian Cricketers' Association, said players wanted the dispute resolved rather than risk damaging the show-piece Ashes series against England, starting in November. "It is in our interest to get this done. The players want it done," he told Melbourne radio yesterday.

"They don't want to be in a dispute. They want to play the Ashes and we now need to get

around to mediation and get this done. We've come up with a solution that's a win-win and that was rejected by Cricket Australia within two hours." The dispute centers on Cricket Australia's desire to scrap the fixed percentage players have earned since the first memorandum of understanding was agreed 20 years ago.

Following Cricket Australia's ultimatum, Nicholson said he had been contacted by several players. "The response from the players was quite swift to me, being clear what they thought about it," he said. —AFP

PREVIEW

## BELLERIN BACKS ARSENAL TO MAKE THE FINAL PUSH

**LONDON:** Hector Bellerin has backed Arsenal to mount a final push to qualify for the Champions League as his side face a make or break clash with Sunderland today. Arsene Wenger's team are three points behind fourth placed Manchester City and four adrift of third placed Liverpool, who have played a game more than their top four rivals. The fifth placed Gunners and City are both in action today, with Pep Guardiola's side hosting West Bromwich Albion.

Arsenal's 4-1 thrashing of Stoke on Saturday had given them renewed hope of controlling their own fate, but Liverpool responded by crushing West Ham on Sunday. As a result, the north

Londoners are relying on slips by City or Liverpool to sneak into the top four. But if they fail to beat relegated Sunderland at the Emirates Stadium, it will effectively end their challenge in the most dispiriting manner possible.

That would be another bitter blow for Arsene Wenger, who once again had to endure calls for his resignation from frustrated Arsenal fans, who flew a plane trailing the message: "Wenger - Out means Out" over Stoke's stadium. In the circumstances, bottom of the table Sunderland appear ideal opponents for Arsenal as they aim to take the top four fight to the final weekend when they host Everton. Bellerin is convinced the way they coped with a barrage of Stoke

pressure to record a fifth win in their last six games proves Arsenal are determined to finish the season strongly, no matter what happens in the European race. "We have a lot of heart, a lot of character and, even though in some games it may not look like we've shown it, the team really wants to be there (in the Champions League)," the defender said. "We've shown that against Stoke. We knew that we were playing for our lives really, so any result other than a win wasn't good for us. "We knew that at the start of the game, so we knew we had to win no matter what. I think the team did really well."

### CHARACTER

When Stoke's Peter Crouch reduced

Arsenal's lead to 2-1 with a controversial goal that went in off his arm, it appeared the Gunners might crumble. But they hit back with goals from Alexis Sanchez and Olivier Giroud to seal a rare win at a venue that has seen plenty of Arsenal surrenders in the past. Gunners defender Rob Holding echoed Bellerin as he praised the way they stood up to a high-pressure situation. "Crouch got that goal and their fans got a bit louder," he said. "I didn't see it go in, but I saw some of the lads shouting and waving their arms about. It went in but we got the result, so it doesn't matter. We showed a bit of character to stay in the game when they had seven corners in a row. We just had to withstand it and then score more

goals on the break to polish it off."

Even a shock win at Arsenal wouldn't salvage Sunderland's dismal season, but a positive performance would at least give them something to build on as they prepare for the Championship. Beaten by lowly Swansea on Saturday, David Moyes's side were jeered by Sunderland fans in their home finale and winger Seb Larsson conceded the criticism was deserved. "Listen, you have got to take what comes your way. We have been on the pitch during the season, so we are where we deserve to be," he said. "You can't just take the praise when it comes your way, you have got to take the other part of the game as well. It wasn't good enough." — AFP



**STOKE-ON-TRENT:** Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger gestures as he leaves after an English Premier League football match between Stoke City and Arsenal at the Bet365 Stadium on May 13, 2017. —AFP

## WENGER URGES ARSENAL FANS TO IGNORE BOYCOTT

**LONDON:** Arsene Wenger has called on Arsenal fans to turn out in force for today's game against Sunderland rather than take part in a boycott designed to hasten his removal as manager of the London giants. The veteran French boss has still to announce if he will be staying at the Emirates Stadium when his current contract expires after the end of the season. The Gunners have just three games left before their campaign concludes - two in the Premier League against Sunderland and Everton before an FA Cup final newly-crowned champions and London rivals Chelsea.

In marked contrast to the Blues, Arsenal have not won the English title since 2004 and Wenger has come under renewed pressure this season with his side in danger of failing to qualify for the Champions League. Arsenal have finished in the top four of every full season since Wenger took charge 21 years ago but, after Liverpool's 4-0 win at West Ham on Sunday, they now need slip-ups from either the Merseysiders or Manchester City to help them maintain that proud record.

### 'PAST-IT MANAGER'

This season has already seen a number of 'Wenger out' protests by supporters groups, including planes flying over grounds carrying messages urging the 67-year-old to quit and marches before games, with some empty seats visible at recent Emirates fixtures. Now there are calls for mass boycott of Tuesday's match at home to Sunderland. But Wenger, who yet again refused to comment on his Arsenal future, said yesterday: "My message is always the same, it is to support the team. A statement on onlinegooner.com suggested that Atletico Madrid's Diego Simeone or Juventus's Max Allegri would now be better at managing Arsenal than Wenger. The

statement then asked fans not to turn up at the game against the Black Cats.

"We are calling on fans that feel the same way to boycott tomorrow evening's match against Sunderland," the statement said. "Please consider joining us in this boycott. Don't sell your seat to a tourist or give it to a mate. Let yours be one of the many gaps in the stands that send a direct and unarguable message to the directors. You do not want to watch any more of the same old same old. If you are in any doubt, look at our season and compare that to Chelsea, Juventus and Atletico Madrid. We are a bigger club than all three of them but we are being held back by a greedy owner and a past it manager. By doing this, we can send a message to Stan Kroenke (Arsenal's US-based owner) and Arsene Wenger that Arsenal should be doing so much better."

Arsenal have won six of their last seven games with their only defeat coming against north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur, who on Sunday beat Manchester United in the last match at White Hart Lane to ensure they would finish runners-up behind Chelsea. Arsenal, second to shock champions Leicester last season, could win more points this term but fail to qualify for the Champions League. "Our chances depend on winning our games. We have 69 points, we can get to 75," said Wenger. "That will be four points more than last year, so let's focus on finishing as well as we can."

Arsenal won 4-1 away to Stoke City on Saturday but they are now waiting on the fitness of Laurent Koscielny (calf) and Alexis Sanchez (thigh) ahead of the match against bottom-of-the-table Sunderland. "Sanchez will have a test today (Monday)," said Wenger. "Yesterday it didn't look too good, but with him you never know. He's so keen. Maybe it was just a kick. It could be a possibility that he recovers for tomorrow." — AFP

## KLOPP URGES LIVERPOOL TO STAY FOCUSED ON TOP-4 BID

**LONDON:** Jurgen Klopp believes Liverpool's 4-0 rout of West Ham proves they can cope with the pressure of fighting for Champions League qualification, but he warned his stars to guard against complacency. Liverpool's destiny is in their own hands after a dominant display at the London Stadium and victory over relegated Middlesbrough next Sunday will secure a top four finish in the Premier League. If Arsenal drop points against Sunderland on Tuesday, Liverpool will make it back into Europe's elite club competition before the last weekend of the season.

"Part of our life is to handle pressure, to ignore the bad part of pressure and to use the good part of pressure," Klopp said. "We drew in the last game with Southampton, we didn't score with a penalty and maybe people say then: 'They can't deal with pressure.' "I thought we saw really a convincing performance with no doubts about anything. But the first sentence the players said in the dressing room was: 'One more time. One more game.' We will stay focused 100 per cent, we know about the difficulty of the next game, nobody will go into this game and underestimate it one per cent."

Liverpool will be heavy favourites to beat Middlesbrough, but Klopp warned his players to stay focused. "Middlesbrough have had a hard season, and it's hard in a season like this to enjoy football," he said. "I'm pretty sure they'll want to enjoy football at Anfield, they'll want to try anything and that makes life difficult for us. If we can be as focused as today and as fluent and have as good movements as today, then it will be difficult for

them." Klopp hailed man-of-the-match Philippe Coutinho, who scored twice and created Daniel Sturridge's opening goal. Divock Origi added the fourth goal but it was Coutinho who drew Klopp's most fulsome praise. Often lost stationed out on the wing, Coutinho flourished at the tip of the diamond and he has now scored six goals in the last seven games. "He was never a winger, he's always kind of a playmaker, it's not interesting where he's coming from, he needs to be at one point, in the decisive area in the middle of the park," Klopp said. He needs to be in shooting situations and finishing situations, that's what he did today. Obviously he did really well in this position." — AFP



Jurgen Klopp

PREVIEW

## CITY EYE TOP FOUR BOOST TO MARK ZABALETA FAREWELL

**MANCHESTER:** Pablo Zabaleta's farewell is likely to garner much of the attention as Manchester City host West Bromwich Albion today, but Pep Guardiola's side still have work to do to secure a Champions League place. It was confirmed on Saturday that full-back Zabaleta will leave City at the end of this season after nine years at the club, with West Ham his likely destination. The Premier League match against Albion will mark his final home appearance, and the club are planning tributes to mark the occasion.

Guardiola believes City need more players with Zabaleta's commitment if they are to succeed in the future. "It's important to have players like Pablo in the team," Guardiola said. "Pablo is a real legend in what he has done in the club, he has helped with his team-mates at the club to make a step forward, to try to compete to qualify for the Champions League, sometimes to win the Premier League. "That's why Pablo Zabaleta, in these kind of things, is so, so important." Victory would just about ensure a top-four finish for Guardiola's side, and may even make it mathematically certain if Arsenal fail to beat

Sunderland on the same night.

Guardiola is in the process of shaping his squad for next season, and while Zabaleta's future has been decided, those of City's six other out-of-contract players remain in the balance. The most high-profile of those players is midfielder Yaya Toure, who looked certain to leave after being dropped from the first-team squad earlier this season because of a fall-out with the manager. Since resolving the dispute and being recalled in December, Toure has proved himself a valuable player for City, and even though he turned 34 on Saturday, it is clear that he still has plenty to offer. City go into today's match on the back of two successive wins, beating Crystal Palace 5-0 but following that up with a far less convincing 2-1 victory over Leicester on Saturday.

### OPTIMISM

Guardiola must decide whether to recall his 31-goal leading scorer Sergio Aguero to the starting line-up, having caused something of a surprise by naming him only as a substitute on Saturday. Aguero, who made the squad after

recovering from a groin injury, did come on for the last 12 minutes, but Gabriel Jesus, signed in January from Palmeiras, is clearly the first-choice striker. West Brom will head for Eastlands with some discouraging memories, having shipped 23 goals in their last seven visits.

But despite losing 1-0 to Chelsea on Friday in the game that saw the London club crowned champions, West Brom boss Tony Pulis believes optimism is high at The Hawthorns. His side have two games to clinch the eighth place they have held for much of the season. "It was a slow start to the season but we picked up and it's been a fantastic journey and a fantastic ride," said Pulis. "What we've got to do now is try to get something from these two away games. The club had got a buzz about it that it hasn't had for a long time, at least not since I've been at the club. There is much more optimism that the club hasn't had since I've been here and people want to feel that and be part of it. And I'm hoping we can get maybe one or two players in that can give us a lift for next season because that's important." — AFP

## GUARDIOLA WANTS WINNING SEND-OFF FOR ZABALETA

**MANCHESTER:** Pablo Zabaleta deserves a victorious finale to mark the end of his nine-year Manchester City career, manager Pep Guardiola said yesterday. The Argentinian full-back is leaving the Etihad Stadium when his contract expires at the end of the season, with Premier League rivals West Ham the 32-year-old's likeliest destination. Zabaleta joined City from Espanyol for £6.45 million (\$8.3 million) on August 31, 2008, a day before the Abu Dhabi United Group, led by billionaire Sheikh Mansour, completed a takeover that transformed the club's fortunes.

Because of the timing of his arrival, and the service he has given to City, Zabaleta has become closely associated with the modern era at the Etihad Stadium, while the quality of his performances has made him a popular figure with the club's supporters. He was a key member of the side that won the Premier League title in 2012, scoring the opening goal in the dramatic 3-2 final-day win over Queens Park Rangers that ensured City became champions of England for the first time since 1968.

Zabaleta has won two league titles with City, as well as the FA Cup once, in 2011, and the League Cup twice. He is expected to make his final home appearance for the club when they play West Bromwich Albion at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday, five days before City complete their Premier League campaign at Watford.

### 'AMAZING IMPACT'

Guardiola hopes Zabaleta finishes his time at the club by helping them secure qualification for next season's Champions League, with Guardiola's men currently ahead of Arsenal in the race for fourth place. "I have a lot of respect for Pablo," Guardiola told a news conference yesterday. "His impact here has been amazing.

Nine years he has been here. To replace that you need someone who has been here for nine years. That is a long time, and so it is not easy. "He was the first player to come here when the owners arrived. He has helped the club to where it is right now.

"He deserves all of the fans to come to the West Brom game. I hope all the fans can come to support us, as we are playing for a lot of important things, but also so they can express gratitude for one of the most important players in the history of Manchester City." While Zabaleta will feature as City look to complete the season in fine style, midfielder Fabian Delph will be unavailable. Delph has not played since the victory over Hull City on April 8 because of a leg problem, and will miss the end of the campaign. Centre-back John Stones, however, has recovered from a muscle problem.

Guardiola, meanwhile, remained guarded on the fate of the six out-of-contract players whose futures all remain unclear. The manager indicated last week he had already decided whether to keep Yaya Toure, Gael Clichy, Bacary Sagna, Willy Caballero, Jesus Navas and Tosin Adarabioyo. Offers have been made to Navas and Adarabioyo, and Toure is also likely to be given a contract if City qualify for the Champions League.

However, Guardiola insisted his focus and that of his players must remain on trying to finish as high as they can in the table, with third place still a possibility. "After next Sunday, we will start talking with individuals," the Spaniard said. "I know you are curious but now it is important to stay in the present. If we didn't play for anything it would be different. But we are playing for a lot of important things," the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich manager added. "Hopefully, the players are focused on that." — AFP



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City's Argentinian defender Pablo Zabaleta warms up for the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Leicester City at the Etihad Stadium on May 13, 2017. —AFP

## POCHETTINO SEES GOLDEN FUTURE IN NEW HOME

**LONDON:** Mauricio Pochettino described Tottenham Hotspur's final day at White Hart Lane as "perfect", but said moving into their new stadium would take the club to the next level. Local hero Harry Kane scored the decisive goal as Tottenham beat Manchester United 2-1 on Sunday in their last game at the Lane, which is due to be demolished and rebuilt in time for the 2018-19 season. The game was followed by a pitch invasion and then a ceremony involving Spurs greets from yesteryear, a rainbow breaking through the clouds with perfect timing as a shower of white tickertape brought the festivities to a close.

"I think for me the most special day will always be the last day at White Hart Lane," Spurs manager Pochettino said. "For me it was a very exciting day because I think it was perfect. The preparation of the game, the game, we played well and we got the three points. And at the end the ceremony was fantastic to share with all the legends, the people, the staff, the fans, the family." Pochettino's side will play at Wembley next season before returning to their new 61,559-

seater stadium, which is already taking shape beside the Lane. Spurs have twice come close to the Premier League title in the last two seasons, losing out to Leicester City last season and Chelsea this. But despite admitting to feeling "sad and disappointed" about Spurs' latest brush with glory, Pochettino believes even brighter days lie ahead. "We were talking a lot. We believe that when the new stadium opens the door, it will help the club to reach the last level," said the Argentine. "That is our expectation. That is our idea. The facilities, the training ground, the new facilities with the new stadium will put the team and the club in the last level in Europe."

It was Spurs' 14th successive home league win - equalling the club record, set over two seasons in 1987 - and confirmed they will end the season in second place, their highest placing since a runners-up finish in 1963.

United, meanwhile, are now assured of finishing outside the top four, meaning they must beat Ajax in the Europa League final in Stockholm on May 24 to secure a place in the Champions League. With manager Jose



Mauricio Pochettino

Mourinho prioritising the Europa League campaign, he has fielded weakened teams in United's last two league games - the defeat at Spurs and a 2-0 loss at Arsenal. But with injuries biting at Old Trafford, he said the quest for glory in Europe had left him with no alternatives. "Because of my respect for them (Tottenham), I didn't rest more people," said Mourinho, whose side visit Southampton tomorrow. —AFP

# IOC 2024 BID INSPECTORS IMPRESSED AFTER PARIS TOUR

**PARIS:** Olympic officials admitted that they would have to "really nitpick" to find fault after spending yesterday inspecting potential sites for the Paris 2024 bid. The IOC's 11-member evaluation commission, who examined rival bidders Los Angeles last week, started their day with a visit to the Eiffel Tower, the iconic backdrop to the triathlon start should the French capital be chosen to host the Games.

They had a bird's eye view from the Tower of many proposed venues including the Champs-Élysées and Grand Palais, and Saint-Denis to the north-east of the city where the Olympic village will be situated. The compact nature of Paris' Olympic venues is offered as one of the bid's main selling points with over 80 percent of venues covering 22 sports within a radius of 10 kilometres (8 miles) making "Paris an Olympic park".

The bid inspectors, led by Switzerland's Patrick Baumann, were then greeted at the Stade de France by Lilian Thuram who won the 1998 World Cup at the national stadium. "We have to seduce them with emotion, that it would be fantastic if it was Paris, but also show that infrastructures also serve the people," Thuram said beside the stadium's athletics track.

Joining Thuram at the Stade de France to press home the virtues of choosing Paris were Beijing Games 100m swimming champion Alain Bernard and multiple Paralympic champion Marie-Amélie Le Fur. During the tour Baumann broke sweat by testing his sprinting prowess against a bunch of youngsters and grabbed the opportunity to take a selfie with Tony Estanguet, France's three-time Olympic canoeing champion and the bid's co-chairman.

### VISITS TO ALL SITES

The Olympic bid exam board went on to visit all of the proposed 2024 sites in and around Paris, like the home of the French Open Roland Garros but also the non-sporting sites like the Champs-de-Mars, the central Paris park which will stage beach volleyball should Paris and not Los Angeles win the IOC vote in Lima in September. "To find fault, you really need to nitpick," said Baumann at the end of the inspection. "We had confirmation that with the Champs-de-Mars, the Grand Palais, Roland Garros, everything's there!"

After rubbing shoulders with French track and field gold medalists from the Paris-hosted World Athletics Championships in 2003 (Christine



**PARIS:** Co-president of the Paris bid for the 2024 Olympics Tony Estanguet poses for a selfie with members of the bidding team at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Evaluation Commission continues with its visit to Paris yesterday. — AFP

Arron, Muriel Hurtis, Leslie Djhone, Eunice Barber), the Olympic officials rounded off their day in the company of three Olympic boxing champions, Tony Yoka, Estelle Mossely (both 2016) and

Brahim Asloum (2008). "We were very happy to see many Olympic, world and European champions," said Baumann. "It's clear that the passion and enthusiasm for these Games and for the different stadi-

ums are great and impressive." Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo, speaking alongside Estanguet, stressed that "France wants to welcome the world, France is behind us. "Legacy is above all human." — AFP

# TOTTI ALL SMILES AS DEFIANT ROMA KEEP JUVE WAITING

**MILAN:** Club icon Francesco Totti applauded from the sidelines then celebrated at the whistle as Roma kept Juventus waiting for the Serie A title with a defiant 3-1 win at the Stadio Olimpico on Sunday. Treble-chasing Juventus travelled to the capital hoping to secure at least a point to mathematically ensure a record sixth consecutive scudetto with two games to spare. But despite heading in for the half-time on equal terms after Daniele De Rossi levelled Mario Lemina's 21st minute opener for the visitors, Juventus were stunned by a pair of second-half strikes from Stephan El Shaarawy and Radja Nainggolan.

Roma's 26th win of the campaign moved Luciano Spalletti's men back up to second place, only four points off the lead, to sit one point ahead of Napoli, who saw Jose Callejon hit a brace in a 5-0 rout at Torino earlier. It kept the capital side in contention for the league's second automatic Champions League spot and, to boot, ended Juve's hopes of celebrating at the ground of their bitter league rivals. "After Napoli's win (earlier), the league standings started to worry us a little," said Roma captain De Rossi. "Juve started well and we went down a goal. All they needed was a draw, but we responded well. It was a great game, and a great night."

Juve can wrap up the title with a win at home to relegation-haunted Crotona next week, but their fifth defeat of the campaign ended Massimiliano Allegri's hopes of securing the scudetto before they face Lazio in the Italian Cup final on Wednesday. "We did well in the opening half, we kept it tight in defence, but then we thought we had the game wrapped up and took our foot off the pedal," Allegri told Mediaset.

"Hats off to Roma, but this will just make us more determined for next week, and for Wednesday." Allegri rested several players as the champions, who face Real Madrid in the June 3 Champions League final, target an unprecedented club treble. Argentinian playmaker Paulo Dybala started on the bench alongside defenders Giorgio Chiellini and Dani Alves, handing a rare start to Mario Lamina. Only days ago the Frenchman complained of his lack of playing time in Turin, but after a couple of early Juve chances he was eating his words.

Ghanaian defender Kwadwo Asamoah, too, was given a rare start and drew gasps with a ferocious left-foot drive following a corner that smashed off the upright after just seven minutes. Gonzalo Higuain's drive then curled over, but the visitors broke the deadlock soon after, Lemina side-footing Higuain's generous ball past Wojciech Szczesny after controlling Stefano Sturaro's long ball from midfield. Roma striker Edin Dzeko's absence due to a calf strain robbed Roma of the aerial threat usually provided by the Bosnian.

But when Kostas Manolas rose high to meet a corner with a powerful header that forced Juve 'keeper Gianluigi Buffon to parry, the rebound fell to De Rossi, who beat the Italy 'keeper at the second time of asking. Roma resumed in determined fashion after the interval, De Rossi earning a quick a caution after clattering into Miralem Pjanic. Minutes later, the Olimpico erupted - and Totti began clapping - when El Shaarawy goal collected a cross from Nainggolan, cut inside and unleashed a low, right-footed strike that took a slight deflection before squeezing inside the far post of Gianluigi Buffon's net. —AFP



**(Left)** Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring during the Spanish league football match Real Madrid CF vs Sevilla FC at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Sunday. **(Right)** Las Palmas' defender Pedro Bigas Rigo (right) vies with Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi during the Spanish league football match UD Las Palmas vs FC Barcelona at the Gran Canaria stadium in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on Sunday. — AFP



# REAL MADRID, BARCA SET UP FINAL DAY TITLE SHOWDOWN

**MADRID:** The fight for the La Liga title will go down to the last day of the season after convincing wins for Real Madrid and Barcelona on Sunday left them locked together on 87 points at the top of the table. Madrid remain in the driving seat after the European champions saw off Sevilla 4-1 as they have two games remaining to Barca's one. However, Barca remain on top thanks to their better head-to-head record with Neymar scoring a hat-trick as they also won 4-1 at Las Palmas.

Madrid visit Celta in their game in hand tomorrow and then travel to Malaga, whilst Barca host Eibar on the final day next Sunday. Sevilla's defeat at the Bernabeu also guarantees they will finish fourth and Atletico Madrid, who drew 1-1 at Real Betis, qualify automatically for next season's Champions League in third. At the bottom, Sporting Gijon joined Granada and Osasuna in being relegated despite winning 1-0 at Eibar as Deportivo La Coruna secured safety in a 0-0 draw at Villarreal.

"It is a long road. We know to win the league in Spain is not easy," said Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane. "Every day we are getting closer, we keep winning but there are two games to go and we need to keep doing what we have until now." However, the fact two of Barca's four league defeats this season came at the two sides Madrid have still to visit gives the Catalans' boss Luis Enrique hope. "We have one game left and the objective is to win it," he told TV station Movistar. "If we have lost (there) then any team can." Sevilla have now won just three of their last 13 games as their season has petered out to a disappointing end. However, they gave Madrid more than a few scares at the Santiago Bernabeu. Nacho gave the hosts the lead in controversial fashion as he curled home a quick free-kick with the Sevilla defence caught unawares and their protests towards referee Alberto Undiano Mallenco falling on deaf ears. That goal meant Madrid broke Bayern Munich's European record for scoring in consecutive games as their streak now stretches to 61 games.

### RONALDO REACHES 400

Sevilla fired their first warning shot when Stefan Jovetic smashed a shot against the post from the edge of the area. However, moments later it was 2-0 as Sergio Rico could only palm James Rodriguez's effort into the path of Cristiano Ronaldo to score his 400th Madrid goal. Jovetic then saw a fine chipped effort come back off the bar and was denied by Keylor Navas when played through by Joaquin Correa as Sevilla continued to threaten. And they finally got back in the game through Jovetic's neat finish from outside the box three minutes into the second-half.

Yet, just as the hosts' nerves were becoming

frayed, Ronaldo appeared once more by crashing home Toni Kroos's cut-back to restore Real's two goal lead. And Kroos rounded off the scoring himself by prodding into the far corner six minutes from time. Barcelona kept the pressure on despite a series of defensive absences that meant Brazilian 21-year-old Marlon Santos was handed a full debut in the Canary Islands.

The visitors still hand all of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar to call on up front and the latter two combined to give Barca a 2-0 half-time

lead. After wonderful passes from Sergio Busquets and Andres Iniesta, Suarez squared for Neymar to open the scoring. The roles were reversed two minutes later as Neymar's chip freed Suarez to dink home his 36th goal of the season. Pedro Bigas momentarily gave Las Palmas hope just after the hour mark. But Neymar headed home Ivan Rakitic's cross and then sealed his first hat-trick of the season 19 minutes from time when he slotted in Jordi Alba's through ball. — AFP

# FALCAO FIRES MONACO TO BRINK OF FRENCH TITLE

**PARIS:** Radamel Falcao scored twice as Monaco strode to within a point of the Ligue 1 title after Sunday's 4-0 home win over Lille left them on the verge of dethroning Paris Saint-Germain. The Colombian striker netted either side of a Bernardo Silva goal before Junior Alonso bundled into his own net as Monaco reeled off a 10th straight league victory, although PSG's 5-0 rout of Saint-Etienne prevented Leonardo Jardim's side from officially securing the title.

Monaco lead the reigning champions by three points - and have a game in hand against Saint-Etienne tomorrow - ahead of next weekend's final round of matches, but their vastly superior goal difference all but guarantees them an eighth French league crown. "Before the match we needed four points. Now we need just one," said Jardim, with the Portuguese leaving nothing to chance. "We'll keep working hard until the end. On Wednesday we need to pick up the points to win the title. We had to be careful (against Lille) and we were. Paris scored five goals and aren't giving up. I'm asking for one final effort on Wednesday."

Falcao calmed any lingering nerves by handing Monaco the perfect start at the Stade Louis II when he headed in unmarked from Thomas Lemar's left-wing cross after just six minutes. Kylian Mbappe tormented the Lille defence as he wriggled past Franck Beria to set up Silva for a simple tap-in on the stroke of half-time, with the teenager teeing up Falcao for his second on 69 minutes.

Junior Alonso then turned a Lemar cross beyond Lille goalkeeper Mike Maignan late on as Monaco put their midweek Champions League semi-final defeat to Juventus behind them in convincing fashion. Edinson Cavani climbed up to 35 league goals this term with a brace as PSG

demolished Saint-Etienne, ending the hosts' outside shot of qualifying for the Europa League.

### 'NOT ENOUGH THIS YEAR'

Lucas also scored twice for Unai Emery's men while Julian Draxler added a fifth, but the capital club's four-year reign in France is effectively over with just next Saturday's visit of Caen to come. "Monaco have had a great season but they're not yet mathematically champions," said Emery, although his side's goal difference of plus-56 trails well behind Monaco's 73. Congratulations to Monaco for the work they've done. This competition is good for French football," he added. "With the number of points we have we could have been champions, but it's not enough this year with the competition from Monaco." Nice suffered a first home defeat of the campaign as goals from Angers skipper Cheikh Ndoeye and Karl Toko Ekambi secured a 2-0 victory at the Allianz Riviera, while Marseille remain in control of their European destiny following a 1-1 draw at Bordeaux. Uruguay international Diego Rolan grabbed an early opener for Bordeaux, but Bafetimbi Gomis hit his 19th goal of the season to keep fifth-place Marseille a point ahead of the home side. —AFP



**ROME:** Roma's midfielder from Egypt Mohamed Salah (right) vies with Juventus' midfielder from Germany Sami Khedira during the Italian Serie A football match Roma vs Juventus on Sunday at the Olympic stadium. — AFP

# SHARAPOVA WINS IN ROME

**ROME:** Maria Sharapova broke seven times to win her opening match at the Rome Masters yesterday, with the Russian wild card advancing over American Christina McHale 6-4, 6-2. The five-time Grand Slam champion, who is coming back onto the WTA after completing a 15-month doping ban, advanced to the second round at the sun-drenched Foro Italico as she beat McHale for a fifth time in a row. The former No 1, whose ranking has recovered into the 200s after a Stuttgart semifinal and a second round last week in Madrid, overcame seven double-faults in victory on the clay in 90 minutes.

She came through a hic-cup near the end, losing serve as she prepared to wrap it up while leading 5-1, but recovered in the next game to emerge the winner. Sharapova is still waiting to hear if she will receive a wild card entry into Roland Garros starting a week from Sunday. "I'll focussed on my match, I'm playing tomorrow," Sharapova said; "But nothing is a disappointment after being away from the game for 15 months."

The match began unsteadily, with three breaks of serve in the first 17 minutes, McHale took an early 3-1 lead. But the rhythm steadied as the experienced Sharapova pegged back her opponent and got to work to sweep the first set from the back foot. Sharapova is playing Rome for the ninth time, winning the title in 2011, 2012 and two years ago; the 30-

year-old owns 11 WTA tour-level titles on clay. "Winning matches will get me places, so if that's where it got me today, then I will take it," the Russian said. "The fact that I'm back and playing three weeks in a row now and three events in a row for me is a big deal. That's my focus."

In the ATP men's first round, ninth seed David Goffin beat Thomaz Bellucci 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4 and American Sam Querrey upset French 11th seed Lucas Pouille 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (10/8). Tomas Berdych, the number 12, beat German Mischa Zverev 7-6 (9-7), 6-4; Jan-Lennard Struff put out Australian Bernard Tomic 6-7 (6-8), 6-1, 6-4. —AFP



**ROME:** Maria Sharapova of Russia returns the ball to Christina McHale of the US during their tennis match at the ATP Tennis Open tournament yesterday. — AFP

**Live** Matches on TV (Local Timings)

| ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE   |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Arsenal v Sunderland     | 21:45 |
| beIN SPORTS HD 4         |       |
| Manchester City v Albion | 22:00 |
| beIN SPORTS HD 2         |       |

# Sports

South Korean rising star Kim wins Players title

15



Pak win thriller for first Windies series victory

17



TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

IOC 2024 BID INSPECTORS IMPRESSED AFTER PARIS TOUR Page 19



OAKLAND, California: Kawhi Leonard #2 of the San Antonio Spurs throws up a shot against the Golden State Warriors during Game One of the NBA Western Conference Finals at ORACLE Arena on Sunday. — AP

## WARRIORS RALLY TO STUN SPURS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Stephen Curry scored 40 points and Kevin Durant 34 to power a stunning second-half comeback that lifted Golden State over San Antonio 113-111 Sunday in an NBA playoff thriller. The Spurs squandered a 25-point lead and might have lost star forward Kawhi Leonard, who left the game for good with a sprained left ankle early in the third quarter.

Golden State seized a 1-0 edge in the best-of-seven Western Conference final, which continues Tuesday in Oakland. The winner plays defending champion Cleveland, Boston or Washington in the NBA Finals. "We just controlled what we could control and played smarter," Curry said. "It's the playoffs. You've got to take a win any way you can get it."

Curry credited the reversal of fortunes in the dying minutes to "aggressiveness, paying attention to details and obviously we've got to make shots." The much-anticipated matchup between the most productive NBA scoring attack of Golden State, which led the league with 67 wins, and the top NBA defense of the Spurs, next best at 61 wins, met high expectations.

Kawhi Leonard scored 18 of his 26 points in the first half and LaMarcus Aldridge added 17 of his 28 in the opening two quarters as the Spurs seized a 62-42 half-time lead. But Leonard left the contest for good with 7:53 to play in the third quarter, limping to the locker room with a left ankle sprain. "Just very painful because I tweaked it before," Leonard said. "It's hard to tell (about

Tuesday). I definitely couldn't go (the rest of Sunday's game). But we'll see how I get better each day."

Leonard is expected to undergo an MRI on Monday and his status for game two is questionable. The Warriors responded by scoring the next 18 points, pulling within 78-73 on Durant's fast break slam dunk. "We were smart when we got out and pushed the basketball. We were disciplined when we ran," said Warriors assistant coach Mike Brown, guiding the team in place of idled coach Steve Kerr.

The Warriors were given a half-time pep talk by Kerr, who has given way to Brown since the second playoff game due to complications from back surgery. Curry scored 19 points in the third quar-

ter to ignite the fightback, going 5-of-6 from 3-point range, but the Warriors still trailed 90-81 entering the fourth quarter. Curry being treated on the bench for a right arm issue.

### HEROICS BY DURANT, CURRY

Two Durant 3-pointers and a dunk trimmed the Spurs' lead to 96-93. And after two baskets by Shaun Livingston and some Spurs misses, Durant dunk with 4:09 remaining put Golden State ahead 101-100, their first lead since 8-7 in the opening minutes. Draymond Green's three-point play put the Warriors ahead 109-106 and after an Aldridge miss, Curry made a driving layup to lift the Warriors ahead 111-106.

Argentina's Manu Ginobili responded with a

dunk for the Spurs and Australian Patty Mills, starting in place of injured Tony Parker, made a steal and two key free throws to pull San Antonio within 111-100. Curry made a shot over Aldridge for the final Warrior points and a 113-110 edge. Aldridge missed a tying 3-pointer but Mills was fouled with a half-second remaining. He made the first free throw but missed the second, hoping for a game-tying tip in basket.

Instead, the Warriors swatted away the ball and the clock expired. We had to "be aggressive and be decisive," Curry said. "In the first half we were trying to do too much. We weren't willing to take ugly shots. I got it going in the third, KD got it done in the fourth, everybody contributed and we got it done." — AFP

## RITCHIE STRIKES AGAIN AS DUCKS EVEN SERIES

**ANAHEIM, United States:** Nick Ritchie scored the eventual winning goal as the Anaheim Ducks defeated the Nashville Predators 5-3 Sunday to even their Western Conference finals series at 1-1. Ritchie took a long pass off the boards and his shot glanced off the side of goalie Pekka Rinne's head into the net in front of a crowd of 17,000 at the Honda Center. "Ryan Getzlaf tipped it and that messed up their defense a bit. I just shot it at the net," he said.

It was the third goal of the playoffs for Ritchie, and while it allowed Anaheim to overcome another poor start, it wasn't the biggest one he has scored in this postseason. Ritchie also scored the winner in game seven against the Edmonton Oilers to advance the Ducks to the NHL semifinals. Sweden's Jakob Silfverberg, Sami Vatanen, Ondrej Kase and Antoine Vermette, into an empty net, also scored for the Ducks, who avoided going into an 0-2 hole for the second straight series with the win.

Filip Forsberg, James Neal and Ryan Johansen scored for the Predators, who continued their Cinderella run through the NHL postseason by winning game one in Anaheim. Game three of this series is scheduled for Tuesday in Nashville.

### 'HOPETHE KETCHUP BOTTLE IS OPEN'

The overachieving Predators have been going full steam through the postseason and it appeared for awhile on Sunday that they weren't going to take their foot off the gas. "Tonight's

response after getting down 2-0 is a character builder for our group," said Anaheim coach Randy Carlyle. Vatanen's goal came on the powerplay which has been weak part of the Ducks' game lately. "We haven't scored many goals on the powerplay so far, but let's hope the ketchup bottle is open now and we can keep scoring," said Finland's Vatanen.

A pair of Anaheim blunders allowed Nashville to take a 2-0 lead in the first 10 minutes of the game. Johansen opened the scoring on a breakaway after Ducks defenseman Hampus Lindholm got caught out of position after making an ill-time pinch at the Nashville blueline. The Predators took a 2-0 lead when Anaheim goalie John Gibson lost track of the puck and allowed Canadian Neal to get in behind him and score into an empty cage.

But the Ducks fought back, scoring two goals just 99 seconds apart to tie it 2-2. Vatanen ripped a shot over the shoulder of Rinne late in the first period and Silfverberg one-timed a beautiful pass from Rickard Rakell from in close just 39 seconds into the second. "They're a good team. They found a way to claw back," said forward Johansen. After the game Johansen accused Ducks forward Ryan Kesler of being dirty player. "It doesn't make sense how he plays the game. I am just trying to go out there and play hockey and it sucks when you get pulled a stick out of your groin every shift," said Johansen of American Kesler. — AFP



ANAHEIM, California: Nashville Predators' Mattias Ekholm (14) collides with Anaheim Ducks' Ondrej Kase (86) as they battle for the puck by the goal during the first period of Game 2 of the Western Conference final in the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs on Sunday. — AP

## FEDERER TO SKIP ROLAND GARROS

**PARIS:** Roger Federer has pulled out of this month's French Open as he feels he needs to avoid playing on clay this season in order to prolong his career. The Swiss, who defied logic to lift his 18th grand slam title at the Australian Open in January after being out of tennis for six months, will be absent from the clay-court major, which starts on May 28, for the second year running after missing last year's edition through injury.

"Regrettably, I've decided not to participate in the French Open," Federer said on his Facebook page yesterday. "I've been working really hard, both on and off the court, during the last month but in order to try and play on the ATP World Tour for many years to come, I feel it's best to skip the clay-court season this year and prepare for the grass and hard-court seasons," added the 35-year-old, who won his sole Roland Garros title in 2009.

"The start to the year has been magical for me but I need to recognize that scheduling will be the key to my longevity moving forward. Thus, my team and I concluded today that playing just one event on clay was not in the best interest of my tennis and physical preparation for the remainder of the season." — Reuters



Roger Federer

# Kuwait Times <sup>55</sup> BUSINESS

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

**Qatar Airways supports US Embassy event**

Page 25

**Zenith launches new global brand vision and identity**

Page 23



**ZL1: Most powerful Camaro ever produced!**

Page 26

## KAMCO ANNOUNCES ITS FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR Q1 2017

Page 22



**BEIJING:** Leaders attending the Belt and Road Forum pose for a group photo at the Yanqi Lake venue on the outskirts of Beijing yesterday. — AP photos

## CHINA SLAMS PROTECTIONISM, TOUTS GLOBALIZATION EUROPEANS RAIN ON SILK ROAD PARADE, INDIA SKIPS SUMMIT

**BEIJING:** Chinese President Xi Jinping criticized protectionism yesterday at a summit positioning Beijing as a champion of globalization, but some European nations challenged Beijing to address concerns about its own trade practices.

Xi addressed almost 30 leaders on the second day of a forum on his new Silk Road plan, a huge infrastructure project intended to revive ancient land and sea trade routes from Asia to Europe and Africa. "Globalization is encountering some headwinds," Xi told leaders from countries ranging from Spain to Turkey, Russia and Pakistan at a convention centre near the Great Wall on the outskirts of Beijing.

"We need to seek results through greater openness and cooperation, avoid fragmentation, refrain from setting inhibitive thresholds for cooperation or pursuing exclusive arrangements, and reject protectionism." He compared countries to "swan and geese" that can "fly long and safely through winds and storms because they move in tandem and help each other as a team".

The Chinese leader used the international gathering to promote his signature foreign policy project, the One Belt, One Road initiative.

He later announced that the two-day summit reached "broad consensus" on the project and that China will host a new forum in 2019. "This forum has sent a positive message to the rest of the world that we will work together to advance Belt and Road cooperation and build a future of shared prosperity for mankind," he said after the close of the summit.

Xi pledged on Sunday to pump an extra \$124 billion into the China-bankrolled project, which involves a huge network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks. The China Development Bank had already earmarked \$890 billion for some 900 projects. The initiative spans 65 countries representing 60 percent of the world population and around a third of global gross domestic product.

China has defended globalization at a time when the United States is retreating into "America First" policies on trade and foreign relations under President Donald Trump.

While some see Beijing's project as a geopolitical power-

play, Xi has insisted that the Belt and Road is open to everybody. "In a world of growth, interdependence and challenges, no country can tackle the challenges or solve the world's problems on its own," he said as he sat next to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin and other leaders praised Xi's project. "Today any signals that would give hope for stability are in demand. In that sense, the Chinese initiative is very timely and very useful," Putin told reporters.

### Concerns raised

But in a setback to Xi's effort to gain full support, some European Union countries-Germany, Estonia and Hungary-indicated they would not sign one of the summit documents on trade.

The text on trade is one of the statements that were to be published after the end of the summit later Monday, along with the final communique. A diplomat who requested anonymity told AFP the EU countries believe the text did not sufficiently address European concerns on transparency of public procurement and social and environmental standards.

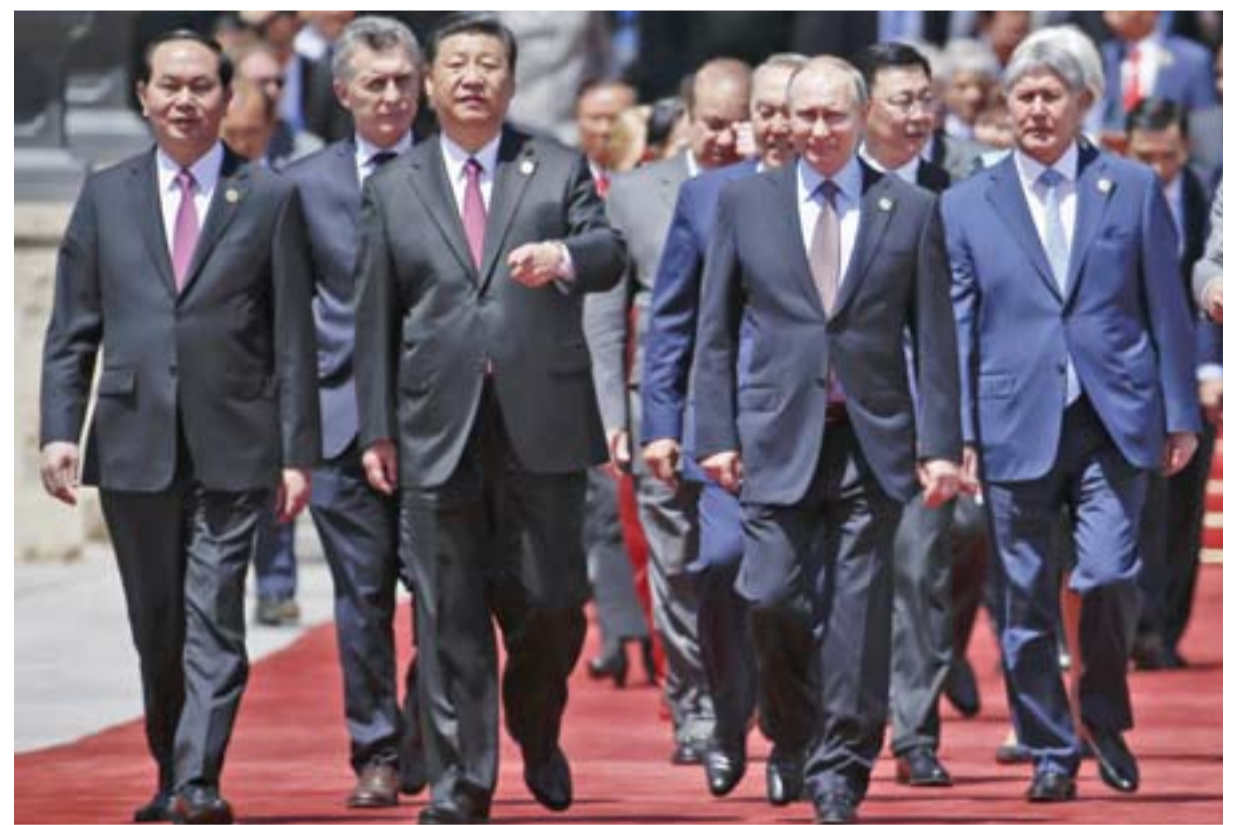
China only presented the document to negotiators last week, telling them it could no longer be reworked, according to the official. On Sunday German Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries called for transparency to ensure that the calls for investment bids are "non-discriminatory".

"I think there is still room for improvement in this area," Zypries said.

### Indian boycott

But other Europeans praised Xi's project. "In these times, when the temptation is great to respond to the crisis of globalisation by increasing isolation, and by raising walls, this initiative highlights a vision of connectivity, cooperation and dialogue across Europe and Asia but also other parts of the world," Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said on Sunday.

British finance minister Philip Hammond said London



**BEIJING:** Chinese President Xi Jinping, foreground center, walks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, foreground right, and other leaders as they arrive for a family photo session during the Belt and Road Forum at the meeting's venue by Yanqi Lake just outside Beijing.

was "ready to work with all Belt and Road partner countries to make a success of this initiative". Europeans are not the only ones voicing concerns. India skipped the summit as it voiced displeasure at the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor, a Belt and Road project aimed at linking north-western China to the Arabian Sea. The route cuts through Gilgit and Baltistan in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, disputed territory that India claims is illegally occupied. — AP



**NEW YORK:** Trader Mark Puetzer follows the market on electronic screens at the New York Stock Exchange, in New York. A spurt in oil prices yesterday helped revive energy stocks, which have been among the year's worst performers, and US stock indexes flirted again with record highs. — AP

## SPURT IN OIL PRICES PUSHES US STOCK INDEXES HIGHER

**NEW YORK:** A spurt in oil prices yesterday helped revive energy stocks, which have been among the year's worst performers, and US stock indexes flirted again with record highs. The pace for markets around the world, though, remained sluggish. For weeks, markets have made only modest moves as investors shrugged off a long series of potential concerns.

### Keeping score

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 10 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,401, as of 10:08 a.m. Eastern time. If it stays there, it will surpass its record closing high set last week.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 77 points, or 0.4 percent, to 20,972, the Nasdaq composite gained 19, or 0.3 percent, to 6,140 and the Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks rose 9 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,392.

### Oil spurt

Crude jumped on expectations that the

global oil glut may ease. Many oil-producing countries around the world have already cut their production in hopes of supporting the price of oil, and Russia and Saudi Arabia said they want to extend the cuts through the first three months of 2018. Benchmark US crude rose \$1.78, or 3.7 percent, to \$49.62 per barrel. It's close to topping the \$50 level for the first time in nearly three weeks.

The price of oil has swung sharply in recent years, from more than \$100 two years ago to less than \$30 last year, as concerns wax and wane that supplies will overwhelm demand. Brent crude, the international standard, rose \$1.43 to \$52.27 per barrel yesterday.

### Higher energy stocks

The rise in oil's price pushed energy stocks in the S&P 500 to a 1.3 percent gain, the biggest among the 11 sectors that make up the index.

It's the latest swing for a group of stocks that has tracked the price of oil higher and

mostly lower in recent years. As a group, energy stocks are still down 9 percent for 2017, while the S&P 500 has climbed 7 percent. Marathon Oil jumped 77 cents, or 5.4 percent, to \$15.05 for one of yesterday's biggest gains in the S&P 500. Transocean rose 46 cents, or 4.2 percent, to \$11.08, and Hess gained \$1.56, or 3.2 percent, to \$50.93.

The worldwide "ransomware" cyberattack continued to spread yesterday, while politicians in Washington wonder whether Republicans' odds of implementing pro-business have weakened.

For the most part, signs of a strengthening global economy and improving corporate profits have been enough to allay investors' fears and push markets to new heights. Investors' appetite for stocks and other risky investments "has held up remarkably well given the list of bad news faced by investors," according to Jane Foley, a senior strategist at Rabobank International. — AP

# KAMCO ANNOUNCES ITS FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR Q1 2017

**KUWAIT:** KAMCO Investment Company K.S.C. (Public), a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, yesterday reported its financial results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2017. The Company recorded a net profit of KD 285,992, an increase of 112 percent in comparison to KD 135,150 during



Faisal Mansour Sarkhou

the first quarter ended March 31, 2016. Revenue stood at KD 2,291,618 with an increase of 42 percent in comparison to KD 1,609,816 for the same period in 2016. KAMCO's earnings-per-share (EPS) saw an increase of 1.20 fils, up 110.5 percent in comparison to 0.57 fils per share during the same period in the previous year.

Chief Executive Officer of KAMCO, Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, said in his comments about the results, "During the quarter, KAMCO successfully completed the acquisition of Amazon's largest distribution warehouse located in the United Kingdom, for an all-in purchase price of approximately GBP 61 mil-

lion," Sarkhou added that the Company acted as the acquisition advisor to Qurain Petrochemical Industries Company KSCP ("OPIC") on the successful acquisition of 20.5 percent of National Petroleum Services Company KSCP ("NAPESCO"). He also said that KAMCO acted as one of the Joint Lead Managers and Book Runners for Warba Bank K.S.C.P's ("Warba") Tier 1 Basel III compliant USD 250 million sukuk issuance.

Commenting on the KAMCO Investment Fund ("KIF"), Sarkhou said, "It is due to the efficient and prudent fund management strategy, supported by market stability during the first quarter of 2017, pos-

itive investor sentiments, oil market recovery and corporate profits in 2016, KIF ranked first locally in terms of return during the first quarter of 2017 with a growth of 15.93 percent."

Sarkhou also pointed out that during the first quarter of the year, the company launched its KAMCO Islamic Equity Fund's ("KIEF") public offering, for individual and corporate investors who wish to achieve attractive and long-term risk returns. The Fund seeks to outperform the stated benchmark by investing in equity securities of companies worldwide that comply with sharia guidelines.

# OIL RISES ON SAUDI-RUSSIA COMMENT ON OUTPUT CUT

## WORRIES OVER CYBER-ATTACK RELEGATED TO BACKGROUND

**LONDON:** Oil's strongest run of gains since December cushioned the hit to stock markets yesterday from a successful missile test by North Korea and a cyber-attack that locked 200,000 computers in more than 150 countries.

Asian shares hit a two-year high overnight and Wall Street was set to open higher, while Europe's major markets were mixed after hitting long-term highs in early trade. In Europe, another victory for Angela Merkel's conservatives in a regional election in Germany pushed Frankfurt's DAX to a record high in early trade.

But nerves about the pace of Chinese and US growth, and odd trends generated by record low volatility globally were lingering in the background and the DAX was down 0.1 percent on the day by 1200 GMT. "The main story of the day is the commodity market as the oil price rises, dragging up other commodity prices," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at City Index in London.

"This is also having a knock-on effect on the commodity currencies, with the CAD, AUD, NZD and NOK, the top performers in the FX space this morning," Saudi Arabia and Russia, the world's

two top oil producers, said yesterday an output cut needed to be extended for a further nine months until March 2018 to rein in a global crude glut, driving oil prices almost 3 percent higher.

That made the past seven days the strongest for the crude market since December and spurred gains for copper and iron ore as well as in commodity-linked currencies including the Australian and Canadian dollars and Russia's ruble. Oil traders were surprised by the strong wording of the announcement, although it remained to be seen whether all countries participating in the deal would agree with the Saudi-Russian stance.

"Extending the cuts until March 2018 would take account of the fact that demand in the first quarter of a year is lowest for seasonal reasons," said Carsten Fritsch, analyst at Commerzbank.

"That said, we are skeptical about Russia's willingness to actively participate in any extended cuts."

### Mixed bag

At a time when central bank policymakers are

wondering if they have successfully got consumer prices moving upward again, two weeks of fuel price rises also hint at another boost to headline rates of inflation in the months ahead. That in the past has been a mixed blessing for markets and the global economic outlook, and gains for European stocks were neither large nor across the board, with Paris shares drifting lower.

The past fortnight has seen the emergence of some broad concerns over the pace of economic growth in the United States and China, and US data on Friday was read as weak.

Gains in US Treasury yields from the oil bounce were less than those for their German equivalents and the euro was a third of a cent stronger against the dollar.

"The shadow of Friday's softer US CPI and retail sales data hangs over markets this morning," Societe Generale analyst Kit Juckes said in a note to clients. "The inability of the dollar to gain more ... reflects the changing global landscape as recovery elsewhere drives rates and yields a bit higher. With a thin US data calendar, there's not much to propel yields or the dollar back up." — Reuters



**SHANGHAI:** People cross a road in a shopping area in Shanghai yesterday. China's factories and workshops saw their output slow sharply in April, data showed yesterday as the world's second-largest economy grapples with tighter credit and weaker demand. —AFP

# CHINA'S ECONOMY LOSES TRACTION ON DEBT RISKS

**BEIJING:** China's growth took a step back in April after a surprisingly strong start to the year, as factory output to investment to retail sales all tapered off as authorities clamped down on debt risks in an effort to stave off a potentially damaging hit to the economy. Waking up to the systemic threat posed by cheap credit-fueled stimulus since the 2008-9 global financial crisis, Beijing has continued to tighten the screws on speculative financing over the past several months.

Data yesterday highlighted the broad economic impact of these regulatory curbs, with below-forecast factory output in April and fixed-asset investment in the first four months of the year reinforcing evidence of a weakening manufacturing sector and slowing momentum in the world's second-biggest economy.

"If anything (the slowdown) is even faster than we expected," said Julian Evans-Pritchard at Capital Economics in Singapore in an interview before the data was released. However, "we're still some way off from the economy weakening to the point where it will test the tolerance of policymakers...as the urgency to address some of these financial risk issues (is even greater)," he said. Factory output was up 6.5 percent in April from a year earlier, down from 7.6 percent in March, and fixed-asset investment rose 8.9 percent in the first four months of the year, off the 9.2 percent pace in Jan-March. Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted factory output would grow by 7.1 percent in April, and tipped fixed asset investment to rise 9.1 percent in Jan-April.

Output growth slowed on tumbling steel and iron ore prices amid concern over rising inventories after China's mills cranked out as much metal as possible to drive factory production to its highest since December 2014. However, on a volume basis, steel output hit a record in April, data yesterday showed, stoking worries of a growing glut as demand remains flat even as China says it is ahead of schedule on capacity reduction targets. Fixed asset investment in the manufacturing sector also slowed over Jan-April, with growth of 4.9 percent down from 5.8 percent in the first quarter. Infrastructure spending, however, continued to grow over 23 percent year-on-year in the same period, supported by Beijing's Belt and Road initiative to expand investment links with Asia, Africa and Europe.

### Property cools

Analysts say Beijing is keen to ensure steady economic growth ahead of the 19th Communist Party Congress later in the year. Chinese leaders have pledged to shift the emphasis to addressing financial risks and asset bubbles which analysts say may pose a threat to the Asian economic giant if not handled well. China's central bank has been guiding short-term interest rates higher to help contain debt perils, though it is treading cautiously to avoid hurting economic growth. A red-hot property market, fueled by speculative investments, has been identified by analysts and policymakers as one of the biggest risks to growth.

Yesterday's data showed investment in property development picked up in April, although sales growth was significantly slower, suggesting investment in the sector remained robust even as intensified government controls to rein in the market began to take effect. The area of property sold grew 7.7 percent year-on-year in April, the lowest since December 2015 and well short of the 14.7 percent increase in March.

Softer consumption  
Retail sales rose 10.7 percent in April from a year earlier, weaker than March's 10.9 percent gain as home appliances and automobile sales growth slowed from March. At the same time, growth in the services sector slowed to 8.1 percent year-on-year, down from 8.3 percent growth in March and the slowest since December. Slowing domestic consumption growth and softer external demand appear to have driven the slowdown in China at the start of the second quarter, "Capital Economics' Evans-Pritchard said in a note following the data release.

The country's first quarter economic growth came in at a faster-than-expected 6.9 percent, the quickest since 2015 on higher government infrastructure spending and a gravity-defying property boom. China has cut its economic growth target to around 6.5 percent this year to give policymakers more room to push through painful reforms and contain financial risks after years of debt-fueled stimulus.

But with the ambitious new Silk Road global development initiative and the Xiong'an "satellite" capital plan, analysts don't expect China to stray too far from the investment-led growth model. —Reuters

# IN MARGINALIZED SOUTH TUNISIA, UNREST OVER GAS TESTS GOVT

**KAMOUR, Tunisia:** In Tatatuine province in Tunisia's southern Sahara, around 1,000 protesters living in a makeshift campsite are threatening to blockade roads used by foreign companies to access nearby gas and oilfields. They want a larger slice of the gas proceeds to go towards the development of Tatatuine, an area of high poverty and unemployment. Flags and banners hanging in the desert heat ask "Where is our energy wealth?"

Their weeks-long protest has disrupted production as some companies close fields as a precaution. Last week, President Beji Caid Essebsi for the first time ordered the army to protect strategic phosphate mines and gasfields operated by companies including Italy's ENI and Austria's OMV.

Rights groups have warned that this could lead to violence in the south, an area of unrest where many people feel abandoned by the government. The army has not yet arrived at the camp but the flags promise 'no surrender'. "We paid no attention to the president's speech. We will continue our peaceful protest for our rights, that is development, work and our share in energy riches," said Tarek Haddad, one of the protest leaders at the Kamour camp in Tatatuine.

"We are ready to talk, but we won't give up until our region gets solutions." Six years after its revolution ended Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali's autocratic rule, Tunisia is once again faced with the reality of how far its uprising has fallen short for many in the marginalized southern regions where the revolt first started.

Praised by Western governments as a model for democratic transition, Tunisia has mostly failed to deliver the economic opportunities to match its political success, leaving many youth with little hope.

The protests are another challenge for Prime Minister Youssef Chahed whose government is struggling to enact sensitive subsidy

and public spending reforms demanded by the IMF and other lenders to help stabilize economic growth. Tunisia is a small oil and gas player compared with neighboring energy giants Libya and Algeria, OPEC members and major suppliers to European markets. But its economy is just recovering from 2015 Islamist militant attacks on tourists.

Protests targeting energy production are not new. British gas company Petrofac last year threatened to leave Tunisia and end its investment after protests over jobs disrupted gas production for nine months. ENI says the protests have not affected its production. But OMV has removed 700 non-essential staff and contractors as a precaution. Perenco halted production at its Targa and Baguel fields, while protests closed Canada-based Serinus Energy's Chouech Essaida field.

The government says protests around phosphate mines, another key earner, caused losses of around \$2 billion since 2011. But they ended after negotiations, allowing state production to rise the highest levels since 2010. At Kamour, a brigade of National Guard troops keeps watch on the protests at the camp which is about 5 km from a gas pipeline. There was no sign of the army but an army spokesman said on Thursday the military were coordinating with the interior ministry to carry out the president's instructions. "Cutting off routes and halting energy production is a crime," Energy Minister Hela Chikhrouhou said. "It will not be tolerated anymore because it is destroying the economy."

### Increasing tensions

Sending the army into a region that has faced unrest over jobs and lack of investment almost every year since the 2011 revolution, carries risk. Even before then, Gafsa, the southwestern region at the heart of phosphate production, was seething with anti-government

sentiment. In the town of Redeyaf a statue pays homage to a young man killed in 2008 rioting against Ben Ali's rule.

In many southern and central towns, agriculture is the main source of income. Near the Algerian and Libyan borders, fuel smuggling is also rife and opportunities scarce. Unemployment is around 15 percent nationwide, but almost double that in rural communities. "I am an information technician graduate, but I've been unemployed for more than 5 years. It is not normal that we see nothing of the riches coming out of our region," said Nejib Daifallah, 30, one of the protesters in Tatatuine.

When Chahed visited Tatatuine last month to negotiate with protesters, he was greeted by crowds chanting "Get Out". They refused offers of infrastructure development and around 900 jobs including some in oil, environment or part of the government's "Dignity" program with the private sector. Instead, they demanded at least 1,500 positions with oil companies and nearly \$50 million in local investment.

Essebsi's decision to send in the army has had mixed reactions. "This is not a foreign army that will be protecting our natural resources, it's the national army protecting our revolution," said Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the Islamist Ennahda party which is in a coalition with the ruling secular Nidaa Tounes party founded by Essebsi. But opposition parties said it was a provocative step that would increase social tensions with young men simply seeking a better life.

Rights groups said there was a risk of violence. "Instead of calming the situation and looking for solutions for the social issues and unemployment, this will just increase tensions," opposition leader Adnen Monsar said. "You are sending in the army against peaceful protesters." — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

| ASIAN COUNTRIES   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Japanese Yen      | 2.696   |
| Indian Rupees     | 4.753   |
| Pakistani Rupees  | 2.914   |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 1.999   |
| Nepali Rupees     | 2.976   |
| Singapore Dollar  | 218.720 |
| Hongkong Dollar   | 39.208  |
| Bangladesh Taka   | 3.748   |
| Philippine Peso   | 6.142   |
| Thai Baht         | 8.827   |

| GCC COUNTRIES  |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Saudi Riyal    | 81.534  |
| Qatari Riyal   | 83.977  |
| Omani Riyal    | 794.049 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 811.880 |
| UAE Dirham     | 83.245  |

| ARAB COUNTRIES            |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Egyptian Pound - Cash     | 19.600  |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 16.820  |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000      | 1.227   |
| Tunisian Dinar            | 127.050 |
| Jordanian Dinar           | 430.720 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000    | 2.037   |
| Syrian Lira               | 2.179   |
| Morocco Dirham            | 31.179  |

| EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| US Dollar Transfer            | 305.550 |
| Euro                          | 335.950 |
| Sterling Pound                | 396.150 |
| Canadian dollar               | 224.010 |
| Turkish Lira                  | 86.190  |

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Swiss Franc       | 307.550 |
| Australian Dollar | 227.630 |
| US Dollar Buying  | 304.350 |

| GOLD    |         |
|---------|---------|
| 20 Gram | 251.030 |
| 10 Gram | 128.440 |
| 5 Gram  | 65.060  |

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

| Rate for Transfr  | Selling Rate |
|-------------------|--------------|
| US Dollar         | 304.800      |
| Canadian Dolla    | 226.525      |
| Sterling Pound    | 392.135      |
| Euro              | 328.485      |
| Swiss Frank       | 305.110      |
| Bahrain Dinar     | 808.430      |
| UAE Dirhams       | 83.380       |
| Qatari Riyals     | 84.605       |
| Saudi Riyals      | 82.175       |
| Jordanian Dinar   | 429.815      |
| Egyptian Pound    | 16.978       |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 2.005        |
| Indian Rupees     | 4.728        |
| Pakistani Rupees  | 2.907        |
| Bangladesh Taka   | 3.742        |
| Philippines Peso  | 6.121        |
| Cyprus pound      | 168.208      |
| Japanese Yen      | 3.795        |
| Syrian Pound      | 2.420        |
| Nepalese Rupees   | 3.950        |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 70.185       |

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 44.745 |
| Thai Bhat             | 9.860  |
| Turkish Lira          | 84.130 |

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

| CURRENCY           | BUY      | SELL     |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>EUROPE</b>      |          |          |
| British Pound      | 0.388019 | 0.398019 |
| Czech Korune       | 0.004568 | 0.016568 |
| Danish Krone       | 0.040806 | 0.045806 |
| Euro               | 0.329116 | 0.338116 |
| Norwegian Krone    | 0.031640 | 0.036840 |
| Romanian Leu       | 0.084681 | 0.084681 |
| Slovakia           | 0.009153 | 0.019153 |
| Swedish Krona      | 0.030530 | 0.035530 |
| Swiss Franc        | 0.299308 | 0.310308 |
| Turkish Lira       | 0.080073 | 0.090373 |
| <b>Australasia</b> |          |          |
| Australian Dollar  | 0.217894 | 0.217894 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.203889 | 0.213389 |
| <b>America</b>     |          |          |
| Canadian Dollar    | 0.217681 | 0.226681 |
| Georgina Lari      | 0.138004 | 0.138004 |
| US Dollars         | 0.301450 | 0.305850 |
| US Dollars Mint    | 0.301950 | 0.305850 |
| <b>Asia</b>        |          |          |
| Bangladesh Taka    | 0.003417 | 0.004001 |
| Chinese Yuan       | 0.042810 | 0.046310 |
| Hong Kong Dollar   | 0.037310 | 0.040060 |
| Indian Rupee       | 0.004143 | 0.004831 |

|                    |          |          |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Indonesian Rupiah  | 0.000018 | 0.000024 |
| Japanese Yen       | 0.002614 | 0.002794 |
| Kenyan Shilling    | 0.003041 | 0.003041 |
| Korean Won         | 0.000262 | 0.000277 |
| Malaysian Ringgit  | 0.066161 | 0.072161 |
| Nepalese Rupee     | 0.003019 | 0.003189 |
| Pakistan Rupee     | 0.002719 | 0.003009 |
| Philippine Peso    | 0.006019 | 0.006319 |
| Sierra Leone       | 0.000068 | 0.000074 |
| Singapore Dollar   | 0.212284 | 0.222284 |
| South African Rand | 0.016910 | 0.025410 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee   | 0.001639 | 0.002219 |
| Taiwan             | 0.009782 | 0.009962 |
| Thai Baht          | 0.008471 | 0.009021 |
| <b>Arab</b>        |          |          |
| Bahraini Dinar     | 0.803906 | 0.812406 |
| Egyptian Pound     | 0.014073 | 0.019981 |
| Iranian Riyal      | 0.000085 | 0.000086 |
| Iraqi Dinar        | 0.000195 | 0.000255 |
| Jordanian Dinar    | 0.425601 | 0.434601 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar      | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound     | 0.000157 | 0.000257 |
| Moroccan Dirhams   | 0.020780 | 0.044780 |
| Nigerian Naira     | 0.001266 | 0.001901 |
| Omani Riyal        | 0.787215 | 0.792895 |
| Qatar Riyal        | 0.083116 | 0.084566 |
| Saudi Riyal        | 0.080393 | 0.081693 |
| Syrian Pound       | 0.001298 | 0.001516 |
| Tunisian Dinar     | 0.123088 | 0.131088 |
| Turkish Lira       | 0.080073 | 0.090373 |
| UAE Dirhams        | 0.081765 | 0.083465 |
| Yemeni Riyal       | 0.000993 | 0.001073 |

## ZENITH LAUNCHES NEW GLOBAL BRAND VISION AND IDENTITY

**KUWAIT:** Zenith has unveiled a new global approach to communications, supported by a relaunch of the network's brand identity, proposition and platforms.

Led by Zenith's Global Brand President, Vittorio Bonori, the move is the most significant development for the network since the launch of its ROI Agency positioning in 2002. Building on this unique positioning, Zenith has launched a new proposition that will enable the network take a lead role in marketing transformation in order to drive profitable growth for clients.

Called ROI+, the new approach is designed to solve business challenges through advanced communications models. The approach has three key client benefits. First is the creation of 'upstream' strategies that deliver greater ROI through business transfor-

mation. Second is a focus on the full consumer journey in order to design personalised communication at scale. And third is maximizing 'downstream' efficiencies through market-leading automation, such as machine learning.

Zenith's new approach is brought to life by a full rebranding of the agency. Building on The ROI Agency positioning, Zenith has a new mantra: "We blend data, technology and brilliant specialists to scout out new opportunities, solve complex challenges and grow client business".

The new agency proposition sees Zenith's 'peak' logo re-imagined as a framework and is supported by new colors, fonts and photography that set a bright and differentiating tone across all Zenith's brand assets around the world.

Zenith's global website - www.zenith-

media.com - has been totally overhauled as part of the global rebranding program. As the global leader in advertising expenditure forecasting, Zenith has a wealth of data and insight and this is now available in a new, interactive section on the site called Global Intelligence.

The new global approach and rebrand was developed by Zenith's new Global Leadership Team working closely with leaders from Zenith's key markets around the world, including USA, UK, Germany and China. Zenith also worked with a range of digital, design and consultancy partners on this key development program.

Vittorio Bonori, Global Brand President, Zenith, said: "We have a vision for delivering transformational growth for our clients and this required a new way of working that embraces



both technology and invention. I believe that Zenith's new proposition and brand identity builds on our distinctive ROI positioning and sets us further apart from the competition."

Zenith is The ROI Agency. We blend data, technology and brilliant specialists to scout out new opportunities, solve complex challenges and grow our clients' businesses. Zenith is part of Publicis Media, one of four solution hubs within Publicis Groupe [Euronext Paris FR0000130577, CAC40], and has offices within Publicis One. We have over 5000 brilliant specialists across 95 markets. We are experts in communica-

tions & media planning, content, performance marketing, value optimisation and data & analytics. Zenith works with some of the local's leading brands including Ooredoo, Jazeera Airways, National Bank of Kuwait, Abyat, Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) and Fasttelco. In addition to the world's leading brands including Acer, Bahrain Economic Development Board, Bel Group, BMW Group Middle East, Creditbank, Coty, Dabur Egypt, Jergens, Kering Group, Nestle Egypt, Omantel, Reckitt Benckiser, SAMBA, Singapore Airlines, Singapore Tourism Board, SCA, Sanofi, TE Data and 21st Century Fox.



**PORT-AU-PRINCE:** This file photo taken on February 10, 2017 shows a woman preparing food to sell in the Miracle Market in Port-au-Prince. Haiti's government announced on Sunday fuel price increases of up to 20 percent in an effort to shore up the country's disastrous public finances. —AFP

## GERMANY MUST DECIDE: BUDGET RIGOR OR EUROPE'S FUTURE

**BERLIN:** After Emmanuel Macron's victory in France's presidential election, Germany must decide whether it wants to continue its single-minded focus on budget rigor or work with him to ensure the future of the European project, a German diplomat said. In an interview with Reuters hours before the new French president travels to Berlin to meet Chancellor Angela Merkel, Wolfgang Ischinger, chairman of the Munich Security Conference, pushed back against German politicians who have picked holes in Macron's ideas for Europe since his election win.

Among those are Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, who has come to personify Berlin's focus on the "Schwarze Null", or balanced budget. He has suggested Macron's plans to create a budget and finance minister for the euro zone are unrealistic. "My wish is that this issue is not used in the (German) election campaign, but that we have a serious discussion over the question: 'What is more important to us? The Schwarze Null as a categoric imperative or the future of Europe?'" Ischinger said.

"If compromises are necessary and make sense, then I would support compromise rather than categorical imperatives." Mainstream parties in Germany applauded Macron's victory over far-right

leader Marine Le Pen earlier this month.

But since then, conservative politicians and media have criticized his plans, suggesting they would lead to a "transfer union" in which German money would be used to pay for uncompetitive member states that are reluctant to reform. Schaeuble has suggested some of Macron's more ambitious plans would require politically thorny changes to the EU treaty.

But Ischinger, a former German ambassador to Britain and the United States, said much could be done on an intergovernmental basis. "People have been talking for quite some time about the idea of a euro zone or EU finance minister," Ischinger said.

"This could be the subject of a German-French initiative that incorporates the idea of an emergency rescue fund for struggling euro zone member states," he said.

Ischinger also urged France and Germany to press ahead with closer military cooperation, saying Germany and France could agree to joint defense procurement from a certain date in the future. This would save billions of euros annually, he said. "It can't happen immediately, it is difficult, it might be painful because of the different industrial interests. But it has to happen," he said. —Reuters

## TOSHIBA DELAYS RESULTS AGAIN, WARNS OF \$8.4 BILLION NET LOSS

### WESTERN DIGITAL TAKES LEGAL ACTION AGAINST TOSHIBA

**TOKYO:** Troubled conglomerate Toshiba yesterday delayed its earnings for a third time since January, but warned it likely lost 950 billion yen (\$8.4 billion) in the just-ended fiscal year, with fears growing about its survival. The latest delay comes as one of Japan's best-known firms grapples with claims of financial misconduct at money-losing US nuclear unit Westinghouse Electric, which is sitting in bankruptcy protection. Toshiba twice postponed nine-month earnings before it released unaudited results last month.

Yesterday's warning—largely linked to the bloodletting at Westinghouse—was, however, slightly better than an earlier projected net loss of 1.01 trillion yen for the year ended in March. "We can't officially disclose the earnings as they're still being audited," Toshiba president Satoshi Tsunakawa told a news briefing in Tokyo yesterday. Toshiba—still recovering from a 2015 accounting scandal—has said it needed more time to probe claims of financial misconduct by senior managers at Westinghouse and to gauge the impact on its finances. The investigation was started after a whistleblower complained that one or more executives at the US unit exerted "inappropriate pressure" on its accounting. The series of delays have stirred fears that Toshiba could be delisted from the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

The company now faces a deadline for the end of June to file its results with Japan's finance ministry, or face a possible end-of-July delisting. But it is not clear if the firm's shares will be yanked from the exchange even if that date is missed.

Toshiba stock, which has lost more than 40 percent of its value since late December, rose 3.43 percent to 261.8 yen yester-



**TOKYO:** In this Sunday, May 14, 2017 photo, a shopper walks past the company logo of Japanese electronics giant Toshiba Corp at an electronic shop in Tokyo. —AP

day. "The market does not feel that the exchange is pushing toward a delisting," Toshihiko Matsuno, chief strategist at SMBC Friend Securities, told AFP.

"If that was the case, the company would have been delisted a while ago, but the reality is that it's been put off for quite some time."

#### Lucrative chips

Yesterday's announcement comes as a sensitive time as Toshiba looks to sell its prized memory chip business. The plan is facing opposition from Western Digital, which jointly runs Toshiba's key chip plant in Japan. On Sunday, the US-based firm said it is taking its case to the International Court of Arbitration, seeking an injunction to block Toshiba

from selling the business to a third party. Unloading the division, which accounts for about one-quarter of Toshiba's previous 5.6 trillion yen in annual revenue, is seen as key for the company to turn itself around.

The two companies jointly operate Toshiba's main semiconductor plant but Western Digital is not a favoured bidder for the world's second biggest NAND chip producer, having put in a much lower offer than other suitors, a source with knowledge of the matter has said.

A legal battle could delay or put an end to an auction that could fetch some \$18 billion and has attracted suitors such as private equity firm KKR & Co LP, Taiwan's Foxconn and US chipmaker Broadcom. Toshiba is depending on the sale to cover

billions in dollars in cost overruns at its now bankrupt US nuclear unit Westinghouse. The Japanese firm logged a 950 billion yen (\$8.4 billion) annual net loss and had negative shareholder equity of 540 billion yen, it said in an unaudited earnings release yesterday. After months of souring relations, Western Digital has begun arbitration procedures with the International Chamber of Commerce, demanding Toshiba reverse a move to put their joint venture assets into a newly formed unit - Toshiba Memory - and stop any sale without Western Digital's consent. Western Digital's "efforts to achieve a resolution to date have been unsuccessful, and so we believe legal action is now a necessary next step," CEO Steve Milligan said in a statement. —Agencies

## JPMORGAN BUYS BIGGER DUBLIN OFFICE UNDER BREXIT PLANS

**DUBLIN:** JPMorgan yesterday announced a deal to buy a bigger Dublin office to accommodate more than 1,000 employees as the US banking giant seeks to relocate London staff over Brexit.

The bank, which employs 500 people in the Irish capital, had already said that it would relocate hundreds of workers from London to Dublin, Frankfurt and Luxembourg because of Britain's vote in favor of exiting the European Union.

"Dublin has the vibrant business and technology communities that suit a global firm like ours," Carin Bryans, senior country officer for JPMorgan in Ireland, said in a statement yesterday. "Given the momentum of our local businesses, this new building gives us room to grow and some flexibility within the European Union."

Britain's financial sector fears the loss of "passporting" rights that allow EU member states to trade across national borders. US investment bank Goldman Sachs and HSBC have also spoken of switching staff out of London because of Brexit.

On the other hand, Germany's Deutsche Bank recently picked a site for its new British headquarters, highlighting its commitment to London. A consortium comprising Kennedy Wilson, Fairfax Financial Holdings and Irish state-run National Asset Management Agency on Monday said that it had sold the 12,000 square metre Capital Dock office building, due for completion in the final quarter of 2018, for an undisclosed amount. "We are excited to welcome JPMorgan, through its acquisition of 200 Capital Dock, as the first major office occupier to commit to this best-in-class, mixed-use, campus development, to grow its existing business and meet its long-term plans in Ireland," said William McMorrow, chairperson and CEO of property group Kennedy Wilson.

The Irish government welcomed the deal, describing it as "a huge vote of confidence in our economic policies." "This announcement by a leading investment bank will create a large number of high-quality jobs and this is very positive and very welcome," Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Mary Mitchell O'Connor said in a statement. —AFP

## ACT NOW TO REDUCE TRADE SURPLUS, IMF TELLS BERLIN

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** Germany must act to reduce the massive trade surplus that has stoked friction with European neighbors and the United States, the International Monetary Fund warned yesterday.

"In 2016 Germany's current account surplus was the world's largest in dollar terms," IMF economists noted in a report. "Policies that boost public and private investment and reduce the need for private saving ... would accelerate the necessary external rebalancing process."

US President Donald Trump and EU partners have criticized Germany's trade surplus—the amount by which its exports outweigh its imports—saying that it is costing growth and jobs in their own economies. IMF staff praised "prudent management" in Germany's public finances but repeated a long-standing call for policies "encouraging investment, promoting labor supply and boosting productivity".

Berlin has in recent years booked massive surpluses in tax income even as it pays down debts under the no-new-borrowing policy of Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble. But critics accuse the tough finance chief of failing either to invest enough in infrastructure to secure long-term growth, or to cut down the government's slice of a swelling economic pie. Looking to social policy, the IMF recommends reducing tax on labor to boost businesses' readiness to hire new workers, as well as

reforming pensions to encourage people to work longer. An ageing population is a key concern for the German economy, as the post-World War II "baby boomer" generation heads towards retirement in the coming decade.

Meanwhile, the economists argue against rolling back tough labor market reforms introduced in the early 2000s. Ahead of September elections, Social Democrats are campaigning to change the so-called "Hartz reforms", which are credited with boosting the number of people in work, in part by reducing benefits for the long-term unemployed.

Instead, policymakers should make it easier for women with children to return to work and for refugees to integrate into the labor force, the IMF recommends.

The IMF said that in the near future, Germany's economy should continue to perform well as foreign demand for its goods compensates for rising prices dampening consumption at home. Nevertheless, "anti-globalization policies abroad could negatively affect long-term prospects for the Germany economy," it warned, adding that "in the euro area, an insufficient progress in the reform agenda may rekindle stress". Chancellor Angela Merkel was later yesterday set to meet newly-inaugurated French President Emmanuel Macron, who was elected on a platform that includes working together with Germany to secure deep reforms to the 19-nation single currency zone. —AFP

## For Rent

In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at Abou Halifa Region Facing the National Park and the Sea



Duplex & Triplex Villas 3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms + Big Salon + Separate pool All Master Bathrooms is Marble

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas



66804222

# FRANKFURT, LONDON STOCKS REACH RECORD PEAKS

**LONDON:** The Frankfurt and London stock markets touched record peaks yesterday, as investors eyed rallying oil prices, China's vast infrastructure spending plans and upbeat German election news. In morning trade, the British capital's benchmark FTSE 100 index hit an all-time peak at 7,460.20 points.

World oil prices leapt after oil ministers from Saudi Arabia and Russia the world's two biggest oil producing nations declared Sunday that they would consider extending an output cut into 2018. That handed a boost to London's sizeable energy sector, whose revenues and profits are boosted by rising crude futures. Frankfurt's DAX 30 was catapulted to a new pinnacle at

12,832.29 points, partly on relief over Chancellor Angela Merkel strong win in a regional vote in Germany's biggest state. The DAX later lapsed into negative territory.

Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party secured a strong win on Sunday in a regional vote in North Rhine-Westphalia, four months before national elections. "There does not seem to be any common driver to explain the highs hit by the German and UK indices, but rather a coincidental lining up of stars," Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell told AFP.

"The DAX was fuelled by the CDU taking a tough seat in a regional election, while the FTSE it appears to be the commodity gains

thanks to the Brent crude rise/Chinese infrastructure spending."

### China investment

China hosted Sunday an international summit showcasing its Silk Road infrastructure project that it hopes will revive ancient trading routes and breathe life into the world's number two economy, which grew last year at its slowest pace in a quarter of a century. Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to pump an extra \$124 billion (114 billion euros) into the China-bankrolled project, which involves a huge network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks.

Most Asian markets rose yesterday, with

Hong Kong achieving a sixth successive gain. Hong Kong closed up 0.9 percent at levels not seen since mid-2015, while Shanghai edged up 0.2 percent—a third straight win. Seoul added 0.2 percent as investors ignored another missile test by North Korea. However Tokyo ended 0.1 percent lower on the back of a stronger yen, which hurts Japanese exporters. Back in China, official data showed output from the country's factories and workshops slowed more sharply than expected in April, while retail sales were below par.

Tokyo stocks edged lower yesterday following North Korea's latest missile launch

and disappointing data, but small-car maker Suzuki shook off the gloom as upbeat earnings pushed it to a record close.

Ponyang said it carried out a successful test of a new type of "ballistic rocket" on Sunday that experts said had an unprecedented range and brought US bases in the Pacific within reach, raising fresh geopolitical fears. Japanese shares were also hit after US retail sales and inflation data Friday fell short of expectations.

Data Monday also showed retail sales in China were weak, while output from the country's factories and workshops slowed more sharply than expected in April. —AFP

| Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report |         |          |              |          |          |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Monday 15 May 2017                 |         |          |              |          |          |
| Index                              | Change  | Closing  | Last Closing | High     | Low      |
| Price Index                        | ▲ 47.41 | 6,706.25 | 6,658.84     | 6,706.25 | 6,655.77 |
| Weighted Index                     | ▲ 2.10  | 402.75   | 400.65       | 403.32   | 400.47   |
| KSX 15                             | ▲ 4.40  | 918.74   | 914.25       | 923.29   | 913.24   |

| Volume           | 159,548,438 |
|------------------|-------------|
| Value (KWD)      | 17,822,187  |
| Number of Trades | 4,086       |

| Trades                    |       |       |                   |                  |            |                |                |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Security                  | High  | Low   | Volume            | Value (KDI)      | Trades     | Last           | Change         |
| MARIN                     | 63    | 62    | 66739             | 4,140            | 5          | 63             | ▲ 1.0          |
| IPG                       | 395   | 395   | 606               | 239              | 1          | 395            | ▼ -30.0        |
| NAFESCO                   | 1,680 | 1,600 | 38,426            | 63,462           | 36         | 1,640          | ▲ 60.0         |
| ENERGYH                   | 41.5  | 40.0  | 851,440           | 34,061           | 36         | 40.0           | ▼ -2.5         |
| GPI                       | 41.0  | 39.5  | 3,437,821         | 137,218          | 84         | 39.5           | ▼ -1.0         |
| ASAR                      | 88    | 88    | 500               | 44               | 1          | 88             | ▼ -0.0         |
| <b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>      |       |       | <b>4,395,534</b>  | <b>239,194</b>   | <b>163</b> | <b>1090.68</b> | <b>▲ 7.94</b>  |
| KFOUC                     | 305   | 305   | 900               | 275              | 1          | 305            | ▼ -0.0         |
| BPOC                      | 570   | 570   | 156,147           | 89,004           | 6          | 570            | ▲ 10.0         |
| ALKOUT                    | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 0.00           | ▼ -0.0         |
| ALQURAIN                  | 330   | 325   | 822,522           | 304,398          | 42         | 330            | ▲ 5.0          |
| <b>Basic Materials</b>    |       |       | <b>1,679,569</b>  | <b>393,676</b>   | <b>49</b>  | <b>1287.41</b> | <b>▲ 11.56</b> |
| KCEM                      | 485   | 485   | 2                 | 1                | 1          | 485            | ▲ 15.0         |
| CABLE                     | 440   | 435   | 252,017           | 110,837          | 37         | 440            | ▲ 20.0         |
| SHP                       | 226   | 216   | 55,020            | 12,104           | 8          | 224            | ▼ -2.0         |
| PCEM                      | 960   | 950   | 14,000            | 13,381           | 3          | 950            | ▼ -20.0        |
| PAPER                     | 275   | 270   | 10,794            | 2,918            | 5          | 270            | ▼ -10.0        |
| MRC                       | 86    | 80    | 87,653            | 8,615            | 15         | 86             | ▲ 4.0          |
| ACICO                     | 275   | 270   | 12,350            | 3,348            | 2          | 275            | ▼ -5.0         |
| HCC                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 208            | ▼ -0.0         |
| KBMAC                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 136            | ▼ -0.0         |
| NICBM                     | 212   | 208   | 120               | 25               | 2          | 212            | ▼ -0.0         |
| EQUIPMENT                 | 55    | 53    | 1,081,962         | 57,803           | 36         | 54             | ▲ 1.0          |
| NCCI                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 90             | ▼ -0.0         |
| GYPISUM                   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 95             | ▼ -0.0         |
| SALBOOKH                  | 59    | 57    | 50,400            | 2,874            | 3          | 59             | ▼ -0.0         |
| AGLYT                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 650            | ▼ -0.0         |
| EDU                       | 295   | 285   | 31,993            | 9,118            | 3          | 295            | ▲ 10.0         |
| CLEANING                  | 45.0  | 42.5  | 675,910           | 29,457           | 52         | 42.5           | ▼ -1.0         |
| KGL                       | 64    | 60    | 322,142           | 19,661           | 20         | 62             | ▲ 3.0          |
| KPCP                      | 162   | 150   | 10,992            | 1,709            | 3          | 150            | ▼ -4.0         |
| HUMANSOFT                 | 3,900 | 3,880 | 93,839            | 366,162          | 4          | 3,880          | ▼ -20.0        |
| NAFAS                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 140            | ▼ -0.0         |
| GFC                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 88             | ▼ -0.0         |
| MAYADEEN                  | 27.5  | 25.5  | 1,128,745         | 29,012           | 61         | 25.5           | ▼ -1.5         |
| GGC                       | 560   | 550   | 48,250            | 26,920           | 11         | 560            | ▼ -0.0         |
| MTCC                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 56             | ▼ -0.0         |
| LIPAC                     | 840   | 790   | 5,257             | 4,359            | 4          | 840            | ▼ -0.0         |
| ALAFCO                    | 260   | 260   | 49,175            | 12,788           | 3          | 260            | ▼ -5.0         |
| MUBARRAD                  | 79    | 79    | 240,000           | 16,900           | 4          | 79             | ▼ -0.0         |
| LOGISTICS                 | 58    | 54    | 1,941,771         | 106,228          | 85         | 54             | ▼ -3.0         |
| SCEM                      | 90    | 90    | 10                | 1                | 1          | 90             | ▲ 4.0          |
| GCEM                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 80             | ▼ -0.0         |
| QIC                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 91             | ▼ -0.0         |
| FCEM                      | 83    | 83    | 10                | 1                | 1          | 83             | ▲ 1.0          |
| RKWC                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 99             | ▼ -0.0         |
| SPEC                      | 83    | 83    | 526               | 44               | 1          | 83             | ▼ -0.0         |
| <b>Industrials</b>        |       |       | <b>6,063,638</b>  | <b>833,323</b>   | <b>365</b> | <b>1780.34</b> | <b>▲ 0.35</b>  |
| KSH                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 184            | ▼ -0.0         |
| NSH                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 48.0           | ▼ -0.0         |
| PAPCO                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 110            | ▼ -0.0         |
| CATTL                     | 226   | 226   | 650               | 147              | 1          | 226            | ▲ 10.0         |
| DANAH                     | 79    | 75    | 1,587,320         | 120,108          | 80         | 75             | ▼ -1.0         |
| FOOD                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 2,460          | ▼ -0.0         |
| <b>Consumer Goods</b>     |       |       | <b>1,587,970</b>  | <b>120,254</b>   | <b>81</b>  | <b>1116.61</b> | <b>▲ -1.42</b> |
| MHC                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 315            | ▼ -0.0         |
| ATC                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 1,100          | ▼ -0.0         |
| YIACO                     | 270   | 270   | 1,000             | 270              | 2          | 270            | ▲ 22           |
| <b>Health Care</b>        |       |       | <b>1,000</b>      | <b>270</b>       | <b>2</b>   | <b>1422.37</b> | <b>▲ 22.26</b> |
| KCN                       | 1,100 | 1,100 | 2                 | 2                | 1          | 1,100          | ▲ 80           |
| KHOT                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 290            | ▼ -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         |
| IFAYS                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 420            | ▼ -0.0         |
| IFAHR                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 192            | ▼ -0.0         |
| OULAFUEL                  | 120   | 120   | 21,269            | 2,552            | 18         | 120            | ▲ 2            |
| MUNTAZAHAT                | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 79             | ▼ -0.0         |
| JAZEERA                   | 490   | 485   | 9,314             | 4,548            | 5          | 485            | ▼ -0.0         |
| SOOR                      | 118   | 118   | 22,587            | 2,665            | 12         | 118            | ▲ 2            |
| FUTUREKD                  | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 118            | ▼ -0.0         |
| ALRAI                     | 132   | 128   | 148,167           | 19,333           | 11         | 132            | ▲ 2            |
| ZIMAH                     | 55    | 53    | 270,945           | 14,572           | 18         | 54             | ▼ -0.0         |
| Mazzan                    | 990   | 980   | 229,904           | 225,605          | 11         | 990            | ▼ -10          |
| <b>Consumer Services</b>  |       |       | <b>793,188</b>    | <b>269,277</b>   | <b>76</b>  | <b>860.16</b>  | <b>▲ 8.30</b>  |
| ZAIN                      | 450   | 440   | 5,945,213         | 2,662,760        | 101        | 450            | ▲ 10           |
| OOREDOO                   | 1,220 | 1,220 | 804               | 737              | 7          | 1,220          | ▼ -0.0         |
| HITSTELEC                 | 44.0  | 43.0  | 1,216,490         | 52,563           | 45         | 43.0           | ▼ -1           |
| VIVA                      | 860   | 840   | 61,467            | 52,058           | 57         | 860            | ▲ 10           |
| <b>Telecommunications</b> |       |       | <b>7,223,774</b>  | <b>2,768,118</b> | <b>210</b> | <b>629.98</b>  | <b>▲ 5.05</b>  |
| NBK                       | 680   | 680   | 1,402,126         | 955,304          | 37         | 680            | ▼ -0.0         |
| GRK                       | 244   | 244   | 1,346,446         | 328,533          | 24         | 244            | ▼ -0.0         |
| CBK                       | 365   | 365   | 64,058            | 23,381           | 6          | 365            | ▼ -0.0         |
| ABK                       | 310   | 305   | 24,231            | 7,491            | 4          | 310            | ▼ -0.0         |
| ALMUTAHED                 | 405   | 395   | 21,485            | 8,602            | 11         | 400            | ▼ -0.0         |
| KIB                       | 248   | 244   | 931,753           | 230,975          | 28         | 246            | ▲ 2            |
| BURG                      | 335   | 325   | 252,051           | 83,749           | 23         | 335            | ▲ 5            |
| KFIN                      | 500   | 490   | 7,578,352         | 3,745,610        | 103        | 495            | ▲ 5            |
| BOUBYAN                   | 415   | 405   | 898,713           | 296,498          | 36         | 410            | ▼ -0.0         |
| AUB                       | 206   | 204   | 1,122,499         | 230,091          | 42         | 206            | ▼ -0.0         |
| ITHMR                     | 47.0  | 45.0  | 7,833,143         | 360,208          | 194        | 46.5           | ▲ 2            |
| WARBANK                   | 246   | 244   | 385,903           | 94,751           | 17         | 246            | ▲ 2            |
| <b>Banks</b>              |       |       | <b>21,660,768</b> | <b>6,355,191</b> | <b>575</b> | <b>922.43</b>  | <b>▲ 6.46</b>  |
| KINS                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 265            | ▼ -0.0         |
| GNS                       | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 550            | ▼ -0.0         |
| AINS                      | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 490            | ▼ -0.0         |
| WINS                      | 92    | 86    | 357               | 29               | 3          | 86             | ▼ -2.0         |
| KUWAITRE                  | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 196            | ▼ -0.0         |
| FTI                       | 59    | 55    | 40,135            | 2,233            | 13         | 59             | ▲ 1.0          |
| WETHAQ                    | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 51             | ▼ -0.0         |
| BKQWT                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                 | 0                | 0          | 355            | ▼ -0.0         |
| <b>Insurance</b>          |       |       | <b>40,472</b>     | <b>2,262</b>     | <b>16</b>  | <b>1053.83</b> | <b>▲ -0.31</b> |

| Trades    |      |      |            |             |        |      |         |
|-----------|------|------|------------|-------------|--------|------|---------|
| Security  | High | Low  | Volume     | Value (KDI) | Trades | Last | Change  |
| SOKOUK    | 47.5 | 45.0 | 678,762    | 313,039     | 177    | 47.5 | ▲ 2.5   |
| KRE       | 56   | 56   | 807,301    | 45,220      | 16     | 56   | ▼ -0.0  |
| URC       | 86   | 81   | 29,214     | 2,366       | 3      | 86   | ▼ -0.0  |
| NRE       | 114  | 108  | 11,063,415 | 1,238,441   | 132    | 112  | ▲ 8.0   |
| SRE       | 370  | 370  | 500        | 185         | 1      | 370  | ▼ -0.0  |
| TAM       | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0          | 0           | 0      | 420  | ▼ -0.0  |
| AREEC     | 162  | 162  | 10,000     | 1,620       | 1      | 162  | ▼ -4.0  |
| MASSALEH  | 44.0 | 43.5 | 201        | 9           | 3      | 44.0 | ▲ 1.0   |
| ARABREC   | 34.0 | 32.5 | 835,804    | 27,835      | 37     | 34.0 | ▲ 0.5   |
| ERESCO    | 39.5 | 39.0 | 808,000    | 31,546      | 12     | 39.5 | ▼ -0.0  |
| MABANEE   | 810  | 790  | 200,250    | 159,918     | 15     | 790  | ▼ -10.0 |
| INJAZZAT  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0          | 0           | 0      | 93   | ▼ -0.0  |
| INVESTORS | 24.5 | 24.0 | 2,888,985  | 69,358      | 40     | 24.0 | ▼ -0.0  |
| IRC       | 35.0 | 33.5 | 1,148,000  | 38,872      | 52     | 35.0 | ▲ 1.5   |
| ALTUJARIA | 75   | 74   | 233,870    | 17,300      | 10     | 75   | ▲ 1.0   |
| SANAM     | 50   | 47.5 | 875        | 42          | 2      | 50   | ▼ -0.0  |
| AAYANR    | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0          | 0           | 0      | 79   | ▼ -0.0  |
| AGAR      | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0          | 0           | 0      | 82   | ▼ -0.0  |
| ALAGARIA  | 35.5 | 35.5 | 105,000    | 3,728       | 7      | 35.5 | ▲ 1.5   |
| MAZAYA    | 114  | 106  | 1,348,456  | 149,042     | 27     | 114  | ▲ 4.0   |
| ADNC      | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0          | 0           | 0      | 11.0 | ▼ -0.0  |
| THEMAR    | 75   | 75   | 800,000    | 60,000      | 4      | 75   | ▼ -0.0  |
| TUARA     | 58   | 58   | 2,000      | 116         | 1      | 58   | ▼ -0.0  |
| TAAMEER   | 37.0 | 36.0 | 2,113,781  |             |        |      |         |





# QATAR AIRWAYS SUPPORTS US EMBASSY EVENT

## QATAR AIRWAYS PARTNERS WITH US EMBASSY TO CELEBRATE NEW US DESTINATIONS

**KUWAIT:** Qatar Airways, the award-winning airline has supported the US Embassy event, 'The United States: A Great Place to Visit'. The event took place on 14 May and aimed to brief top US Travel Agents on the United States as an ideal travel destination for Kuwait travellers. The event also focused on how the travel agents can increase the number of travellers from Kuwait to the United States.

Qatar Airways operates flights to 10 cities in the US and recently announced the addition of its 11th and 12th destinations. Both commencing in 2018, the Las Vegas and San Francisco routes support the award-winning airline's continued growth in the US market.

Additional flights from Kuwait are also planned for the summer, one arriving in Doha

at 06:30 am local time, making it ideal for travellers to connect to exciting destinations in the US, with a transit time of less than two hours. The award-winning airline offers passengers departing from Kuwait to the US the luxury of two pieces of checked baggage allowance of 32KG, at no additional cost.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al-Baker, said: "We are proud to have supported the US Embassy event in Kuwait. At Qatar Airways we provide our passengers departing from Kuwait a stress-free travel experience to US, through our state-of-the-art Hamad International Airport to any one of our 10 popular destinations in the US including New York, Washington, Miami, Houston and Chicago. We are delighted to be adding Las Vegas and San

Francisco to our US operations, and we look forward to bringing even more passengers to the US."

Speaking about the embassy event, Ambassador Lawrence R Silverman said: "The United States is an exquisite travel destination, as there truly is something for everyone. The event gave us the opportunity to clarify the visa application process and customs entry procedures and answer any questions travel agents may have had about visiting the United States. We are pleased to have had Qatar Airways supporting this important event."

After the recent electronics restrictions on flights departing from the region to the US, the multiple award-winning airline promptly found a unique solution: offering passengers

a laptop loan service. Showing true commitment to travellers inconvenienced by the ban, the Doha-based airline took the notable step to purchase laptops available for complimentary loan on all of its US flights, ensuring uninterrupted productivity and service for Business Class Passengers while travelling on all US-bound flights.

Qatar Airways, the national carrier of the

State of Qatar, this year celebrates 20 years of Going Places Together with travellers across more than 150 business and leisure destinations. The world's fast growing airline will continue to add a number of exciting new destinations to its growing network in 2017, including Dublin, Nice, Skopje and many more, flying passengers on board its modern fleet of 199 aircraft.



## GOP FLIPS OBAMA-ERA NORMS, CLAIM A BOON TO ECONOMY

**WASHINGTON:** Final score: Republicans 14, Barack Obama's last-minute regulations, one. Congressional Republicans anxious to show voters they can get something done are hailing their reversal of more than a dozen Obama-era regulations on guns, the internet and the environment.

Over a few months, lawmakers used an obscure legislative rule to ram through changes that will have far-reaching implications for the coal industry, broadband customers, hunters and women seeking health care at Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers. The deadline for scuttling the rules that Democrat Obama imposed during his final months in office was last Thursday. The 1996 Congressional Review Act had given Republicans the power to make the changes with a simple majority, within a set time.

While the rest of Washington focused on the furor over President Donald Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey, Republicans were celebrating their effort to reverse the rules, arguing that it would boost the economy and make it easier for businesses to operate.

"I am almost speechless when I think about the success," said Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla. Senators pointed out that Congress had only once before used the legislative tools stemming from the Congressional Review Act to quash a regulation - until this year. In all, the GOP was able to reverse 14 regulations that had or will get Trump's signature. Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader in the Senate, argued that overturning rules passed at the end of the Obama administration hardly constituted an agenda.

"The fact that they are bragging about these highlights how little else they have accomplished legislatively," Schumer said. Republicans have a long way to go in their efforts to repeal and replace the health care law, cut taxes and boost infrastructure spending, all Trump priorities. Still, the GOP made clear soon after election victories in November that one of the first orders of business would be to go after Obama administration rules.

The effort has had strong backing from business groups such as the US Chamber of Commerce, the National Rifle Association and prominent anti-abortion groups - all key constituencies that generally back Republican candidates. The Chamber endorsed eight of the 14 repeal resolutions that Congress passed. One still awaits the president's signature before it can become law.

Republicans reversed Obama rules that enhanced protections for waterways near coal mines, required contrac-

tors to disclose violation of 14 federal labor laws for the previous three years when bidding on contracts and imposed tight restrictions on what broadband companies such as Verizon, AT&T and Comcast could do with their customers' personal data.

### The culprit

Neil Bradley, a senior vice president at the Chamber, said that when it comes to slow economic growth, it's difficult to say, "This regulation is the culprit, but collectively, that's what happens."

"Together, they affected a pretty broad base of the business community," Bradley said. Democrats overwhelmingly voted against most of the regulatory repeals. Republicans generally supported them, with Vice President Mike Pence casting the tie-breaking vote to allow states to deny federal family planning money to Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers. That reversed a rule Obama issued in his last weeks in office. While many of the actions were designed to help businesses, others addressed social issues, including the repeal of a regulation designed to keep guns out of the hands of certain mentally disabled people. The NRA as well as advocacy groups for the disabled and the ACLU weighed in. They said it was discriminatory for the Social Security Administration to forward the names of certain beneficiaries to the instant background check system based on a mental disability and having a third party manage their benefits.

Democrats and environmentalists scored one victory last week. Senate Republicans failed to overturn a rule that would have forced energy companies to capture more of the methane that's burned off or "flared" at drilling sites. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said he considered the rule onerous but undoing it would have prevented the Bureau of Land Management from issuing a similar rule in the future. McCain, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Sen. Susan Collins of Maine joined Democrats on the vote.

GOP leaders opted not to bring a couple dozen other repeal resolutions up for a vote, including one that would have blocked a rule designed to protect funds on prepaid debit cards in case of fraud and unauthorized use. Still, the 14 victories gave Republicans a chance to crow.

"In just a few short months, we have turned a significant corner from how things operated under the Obama administration," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. "Instead of going around Congress to push through regulations, the president is working with us to ease the burden." — AP

## JAPANESE FIRMS PLAN TO BUY ROBOTS AS LABOR FORCE SHRINKS

**TOKYO:** Desperate to overcome Japan's growing shortage of labor, mid-sized companies are planning to buy robots and other equipment to automate a wide range of tasks, including manufacturing, earthmoving and hotel room service.

According to a Bank of Japan survey, companies with share capital of 100 million yen to 1 billion yen plan to boost investment in the fiscal year that started in April by 17.5 percent, the highest level on record. It is unclear how much of that is being spent on automation but companies selling such equipment say their order books are growing and the Japanese government says it sees a larger proportion of investment being dedicated to increasing efficiency. Revenue at many of Japan's robot makers also rose in the January-March period for the first time in several quarters.

"The share of capital expenditure devoted to becoming more efficient is increasing because of the shortage of workers," said Seiichiro Inoue, a director in the industrial policy bureau of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, or METI. If the investment ambitions are fulfilled it would show there is a silver lining as Japan tries to cope with a shrinking and rapidly aging population. It could help equipment-makers, lift the country's low productivity and boost economic growth.

The government predicts investment in labor-saving equipment will rise this fiscal year, Inoue said. The way Japan copes with an aging population will provide critical lessons for other ageing societies, including China and South Korea, that will have to grapple with similar challenges in coming years.

"More than 90 percent of Japan's companies are small- and medium-sized, but most of these companies are not using robots," said Yasuhiko Hashimoto, who works in Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd's robot division. "We're coming up with a lot of applications and product packages to target these companies." Among those products is a two-armed, 170-centimeter (5-foot-7) tall robot. Kawasaki says it is selling well because it can be adapted to a range of industrial uses by electronics makers, food processors and drug companies.

Hitachi Construction Machinery says it is getting a lot of enquiries for its computer-programmed digging machines that use a global positioning system to hew ditches that are accurate to within centimetres and can cut digging time by about half. "We focus on rentals and expect business to pick up in the second half of the fiscal year, which is when most companies tend to order construction equipment for projects," said Yoshi Furuno, a company official. Hitachi Construction declined to provide figures.

Mid-sized companies are planning on increasing spending much more than large-caps, which are projecting just a 0.6 percent increase in the fiscal year, according to the Bank of Japan. Smaller companies tend to have less flexibility in overcoming labor short-

ages by paying workers more or by moving production overseas.

### Working population plunging

Some companies could end up spending less than originally planned. But with demographics only worsening, companies will need to continue to search for solutions to the labor shortage problem. Japan's working-age population peaked in 1995 at 87 million and has been falling ever since. The government expects it to fall to 76 million this year and to 45 million by 2065.

In the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2016, mid-sized companies with 100 to 499 workers advertised to fill 1.1 million new positions, the highest in five years and almost five times the number of open positions at companies with 500 workers or more, Labor Ministry data show. Among the robot makers to report stronger revenue in the last quarter was Fanuc Corp. Its revenue was 7.9 percent higher than a year earlier, the first increase in seven quarters.

Meanwhile, Yaskawa Electric Corp's revenue grew 5.1 percent in January-March from the same period a year ago, the first increase in five quarters. Robots and labour-saving gear aren't just found in manufacturing and construction.

They are also being sought by property developers, food and beverage makers and hotel chains.

The Hen na Hotel, or the "Odd Hotel," near Tokyo Disneyland, for example, bills itself as a robot hotel because it uses 140 different robots and artificial intelligence to serve guests in its 100-room hotel and can operate with as few as two to three people, according to the manager Yukio Nagai. Each room contains an egg-shaped robot, or personal assistant, called Tapia, that uses artificial intelligence to recognize people's faces and respond to their voice commands. It can wake you up, manage your schedule, and control other Internet-linked devices like the TV and air conditioning. Other robots can carry bags and take out the trash.

"Originally we sold this product for use in the home, but now we are getting a lot of enquiries from companies," said Sayaka Chiba, a director at MJJ Co, which makes the Tapia. "Banks, hospitals, and hotels are interested in using Tapia for reception work and communicating with customers." "Companies say they are interested in Tapia because of labor shortages. Nursing homes are also interested," she said. "We'll continue to sell this for use in the home, but all the interest from companies show that the market has shifted somewhat." — Reuters

## UK EMPLOYERS PLAN SMALLEST PAY RISES SINCE 2013: SURVEY

**LONDON:** British employers plan to increase pay at the weakest rate since 2013, a survey showed yesterday, offering poor prospects for British households already strained by higher inflation since last year's Brexit vote. Employers on average expected to raise basic pay awards in the year ahead by 1.0 percent, down from 1.5 percent in the previous quarter's survey, the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) said.

Last week Bank of England Governor Mark Carney warned that households faced a challenging time, as wage growth was set to turn negative in inflation-adjusted terms. Rising inflation, fuelled by rising energy costs and the pound's post Brexit vote plunge, almost completely cancelled out the growth in pay of British workers during the three months to February, official data showed last month.

Living standards are a hot political topic ahead of a June 8 national election. Prime Minister Theresa May will promise yesterday to extend British workers' rights in a push to win over supporters of the opposition Labour Party. While the BoE's expectation for solid economic growth in the next few years hinges on wage growth picking up significantly, the CIPD survey showed no sign that employers are thinking about ratcheting up pay as yet.

Gerwyn Davies, labor market adviser at the CIPD, said weak pay partly reflected British businesses' long-standing difficulties at raising productivity, and said he expected living standards would fall for many employees this year.

"This could create higher levels of economic insecurity and could have serious implications for consumer spending, which has helped to support economic growth in recent months." Other indicators of future wage growth, like the monthly REC survey and the Bank of England's regional agents' report, have pointed to a dearth of upward pressure on pay. The government capped annual basic pay rises for most public-sector workers at 1 percent in 2013, after a three-year pay freeze.

The CIPD said pay expectations for the private sector held steady at 2.0 percent, but weakened in the voluntary sector and were stuck at 1.0 percent in the public sector.

Still, the survey suggested employment will continue to increase in the second quarter, albeit at a slower rate than at the start of this year. Official monthly labor market data are due on Wednesday. Economists polled by Reuters expect growth in average weekly earnings, excluding bonuses, held steady at 2.2 percent in the three months to March. — Reuters

# ZL1: MOST POWERFUL CAMARO EVER PRODUCED!

## NEW CAMARO ZL1 ARRIVES IN CHEVROLET ALGHANIM SHOWROOMS

**KUWAIT:** The most powerful Camaro in the model's fifty-year history has finally arrived in Kuwait. Chevrolet Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet cars in Kuwait, unveiled the latest new Camaro ZL1, which is poised to challenge the most advanced sports coupes in the world in any measure - with unprecedented levels of technology, refinement, track capability and straight-line acceleration.

Acceleration is delivered via a new supercharged 6.2L V-8 engine, with estimated 650hp. Its 0-100kph time is a mere 3.6 seconds, and it can complete the quarter mile in 11.4 seconds at a speed of 204 kph. It builds on the sixth generation Camaro's segment leadership as the fittest in the segment.

The Camaro ZL1 is designed to excel at everything, delivering on design, dependability, quality and performance. It is the first production car to use a new, advanced 10-speed automatic gearbox, which offers strong economy and performance benefits. It is also available as a six-speed manual.

Handling capability starts with the lightweight, stiff structure of the all-new sixth-generation Camaro, married with Magnetic Ride suspension and an electronic limited-slip differential. Standard technologies include Driver Mode Selector, dual-mode exhaust and advanced connectivity features.

### The 2017 Chevrolet Camaro in detail Designed for Performance

Functionality defines the Camaro ZL1's form, with the exterior shaped during more than 100 hours of wind-tunnel testing and on-track validation to improve aerodynamics and cooling for track use. Accordingly, its exterior elements all play a part in managing airflow over, under and through the ZL1.

The design supports the Camaro ZL1's exceptional performance and does so with compelling style. From every angle, the elements coalesce to give the car a purposeful, super aggressive attitude.

The lower grille opening, for example, offers greater airflow compared to the Camaro SS, and the upper grille incorporates a new version of the "flow-tie" open bowtie insignia. There's also a new hood, with a carbon fiber insert and heat extractor that pulls hot air from the engine compartment. Additional changes include a larger front splitter, unique rockers, a wing-style rear spoiler and wider front fenders - all tuned to improve aerodynamics for greater high-speed stability. The Camaro ZL1's interior also features a carbon fiber instrument panel molding interior trim.

Inside, there are standard Recaro front seats, along with a suede flat-bottom steering wheel and shift knob. Chevrolet's Performance Data Recorder is available.

### Fast with finesse

A cohesive suite of performance technologies tailors ZL1's performance for street and track. Features include an updated Magnetic Ride suspension, Performance Traction Management, electronic limited-slip differential, Custom Launch Control and Driver Mode Selector. It also has a stronger power-to-weight ratio than its predecessor, weighing 200 pounds less, while offering approximately 60 more horsepower and 80 more pound-feet of torque.

The result is a one-of-a-kind driving experience. Driving the Camaro ZL1 is best described as 'fast with finesse'. It is beautifully balanced, with perfect damping and isolation



for optimal performance and driver confidence in virtually any situation - from the Pacific Coast Highway to Willow Springs to Pomona.

### Additional chassis features include:

- Unique 20-inch forged aluminum wheels with 285/30ZR20 front and 305/30ZR20 rear tires.
- Goodyear Eagle F1 Supercar tires with a compound and construction developed exclusively for the Camaro to offer exceptional grip on the track.
- Brembo brakes with six-piston monobloc front calipers - featuring the ZL1 logo - and massive, 15.35-inch (390 mm) two-piece front rotors.

### Supercharged performance and new 10-speed automatic

Underhood, the ZL1 features a supercharged LT4 6.2L V-8 Small Block engine, with intake and exhaust systems tailored for Camaro. It is rated at an estimated 650 horsepower and 650 lb-ft of torque (881 Nm), making this the fastest Camaro ZL1 in the vehicles 50-year history.

The LT4 is backed by a standard six-speed manual transmission or all-new, available paddle-shift 10-speed automatic. The 10-speed automatic has 7.39 overall ratio for smaller steps between gears. It enables the LT4 engine to remain at optimal rpm levels during acceleration, particularly when exiting

corners, for quicker laps and lightning-quick responses on both up- and down-shifts.

This is the first Chevrolet application of the new quick-shift 10-speed, with unique calibrations and hardware developed exclusively for the ZL1.

Finally - and unlike some competitors - there's no need to purchase an optional package to make the ZL1 track ready. Track capability comes standard, with features including an impressive 11 heat exchangers for optimal powertrain cooling.

### Chevrolet Care

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with



same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.

Sports car enthusiasts can view the latest Camaro and other ranges by visiting any of Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms at the following locations: Shuwaikh, Al-Rai (Safat Alghanim), Sharq, Fahaheel and Ahmadi.



# ABK 'BEST COMMERCIAL BANK IN KUWAIT:' BANKER MIDDLE EAST

## BANK ALSO AWARDED 'BEST NEW BRAND IN EGYPT'

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) proudly took home the 'Best Commercial Bank in Kuwait' award for the second consecutive year and 'Best New Brand in Egypt' award, presented by the Banker Middle East, in recognition of its outstanding performance on various fronts. The award for Kuwait was received by Abdulla Al-Sumait, Deputy Chief General Manager and Fawzy Al-Thunayan, General Manager for Board Affairs, and for Egypt, Ali Marafi, ABK- Egypt

Chairman and Khaled El Salawy, ABK-Egypt CEO & Managing Director, during a ceremony that was held on 11th May, 2017 at the Emirates Tower Hotel, Dubai.

The Best Commercial Bank award recognizes ABK's series of achievements across various areas, substantially in line with its Simpler Banking strategy, growing the Bank's operations, and demonstrating the Bank's strength across the region.

ABK recently launched a new core banking system; a powerful infrastructure framework that has transformed the Bank's existing IT infrastructure and operating systems entirely. This has already been successfully deployed across its UAE operations and will roll out in Kuwait later this year.

An additional achievement for the Bank was the successful debut issue from its recently established \$1.5 billion Euro Medium-Term Note (EMTN) program. Not only was it the first bond issue for ABK but it was also the first Kuwaiti issuer to launch a bond following Kuwait's recent successful debut sovereign bond.

The Best New Brand in Egypt award was earned in recognition of the Bank's exceptional turnaround following the acquisition of Piraeus Bank Egypt. The rebranding process was successfully completed for ABK-Egypt, and a new division to cover the Alexandria and Delta regions was created, as well as a new Syndication and Project Finance Unit. Strategies were aligned across the Group and several new services were also introduced. Moreover, ABK-Egypt recorded substantial performance in 2016 with growth in+ total assets of 62 percent, in loans by 82 percent and in customer deposits by 50 percent; a true testament to the new successful management approach.



# GULF AIR'S LATEST COMMERCIAL OFFERING ROLLED OUT TO BAHRAINI TRAVEL TRADE

**MANAMA:** Gulf Air, the Kingdom of Bahrain's national carrier, recently hosted key members of Bahrain's travel trade industry at a dinner and networking event, aimed at informing guests of the airline's latest developments and customer-focused initiatives while thanking them for their longstanding support.

Esam Al-Hammadi, Gulf Air Country Manager Bahrain said: "We work together in synergy with Bahrain's travel trade on a number of fronts - proactively promoting in-bound tourism to the Kingdom and catering to the diverse needs of passengers travelling across the globe. This forum gives Gulf Air the chance to expand on the scope of our latest and upcoming products and services, looking at their impact on passengers and how we are transforming the concept of the passenger journey through these endeavours. We are honoured and grateful to have the support of these key trade members in Bahrain."

Most recently, Gulf Air launched passenger facilities including: prepaid seat selection, excess baggage and lounge access - all aimed at making travel even more comfortable for passengers while giving them greater control to manage various add-ons pre-travel. Additionally, the airline recently rolled out online flight status and online group bookings facilities aimed at giving passengers more access to relevant and time-critical information and to facilitating travel across the Gulf Air network for group travellers - respectively.

Among its most highly anticipated upcoming initiatives, Gulf Air will soon be rolling out its dedicated holidays unit "Gulf Air Holidays" offering travellers a wide range of holiday packages and tailor-made travel solutions to destinations worldwide - both across the Gulf Air network and beyond. The airline is also preparing to launch an online visa facility this summer that will

support its longstanding efforts to promote the Kingdom of Bahrain as a destination to a broad spectrum of travellers while making the process of obtaining a short term visit visa to Bahrain easier and more convenient.

Gulf Air currently serves 42 cities in 25 countries, spanning three continents - including Tbilisi, Georgia which will launch in June 2017. The airline operates double daily flights or more to 10 regional cities, in addition to select destinations in the Indian Subcontinent and Europe, from its hub at Bahrain International Airport.

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, commenced operations in 1950, becoming one of the first commercial airlines established in the Middle East. Today, Gulf Air is a major international carrier serving 42 cities in 25 countries spanning three continents.

The airline operates double daily flights or more to 10 regional cities, in addition to select destinations in the Indian Subcontinent and Europe, from its hub at Bahrain International Airport. Gulf Air currently serves all its destinations with a combination wide and narrow body fleet totalling 28 modern aircraft with orders for 39 new Boeing and Airbus aircraft due for delivery commencing in early 2018. The modern fleet will herald a new era for Gulf Air as it continues to enhance its product and service offering. Renowned for its traditional Arabian hospitality, evidenced by the airline's signature family and business friendly products, Gulf Air is committed to being an industry leader and developing products and services that reflect the evolving needs and aspirations of its passengers.

Gulf Air connects Bahrain to the world and, as such, is a key national infrastructure asset, serving as a powerful driver for the economy and supporting the Kingdom's on-going economic growth.



# IBS LAUNCHES ITS NEW WEBSITE, INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER ACCOUNTS

**KUWAIT:** Prof Yaqoub S Y Alrefaei, Director General of the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) - Kuwait, announced that IBS launched its new website, Instagram and Twitter accounts, plus a new smart device app.

Alrefaei stated: "As our goal is to always bring our customers the best quality and to provide them with our best services, we are pleased to announce the launch of our new social media look and feel, which comprises our all-new website, new smart device app (IOS/Android), and accounts on Twitter and Instagram. The new additions will present a totally new, modern feel and look of the IBS."

• The website address will remain to be: [www.kibs.edu.kw](http://www.kibs.edu.kw)

• Our smart device app is downloadable from either App Store (IOS) or Play Store (Android) - search keyword "Kuwait IBS"

• Twitter account: [IBSKuwait](https://twitter.com/IBSKuwait)

• Instagram account: [ibs\\_kuwait](https://www.instagram.com/ibs_kuwait)

We hope our customers will enjoy the totally new look of the IBS website, and will be frequent users of our other new applications".

# GHASSAN AL-KHALED WINS 'VISIONARY OF THE YEAR' BY ARABIAN BUSINESS KUWAIT AWARDS

**KUWAIT:** In its annual awards ceremony, ACICO Industries Group CEO, Ghassan Ahmed Al-Khaled, was named the Visionary of the year by the Arabian Business magazine.

Commenting on the award, Al-Khaled said: "The ACICO Group has continued to grow this year, further strengthening its position in the industry to continue growing and expanding. "Today, I am a proud founder of ACICO Group, which has become one of the leading industrial companies in the region. Through its diversified business lines, ACICO has set a solid footprint in the countries where it operates, gaining the confidence of government entities and in specific that of

the Public Authority for Housing Welfare and Ministry of Public Works".

He added that ACICO has succeeded in building a strong customer base and relationships with banks, which played an important role in the success of the Group over the past two decades. He said that the Group's success is credited to its high professional ethics and compliance with international standards. Al-Khaled also said that the success of the Group was achieved as a result of invested efforts and continued commitment to deliver quality.

He commented: "I was pleased to say that ACICO has a strong team of engineers and supporting professions, all known for their high degree of professionalism, knowledge and experience, leading the Group's subsidiaries to achieve success following the highest international standards in their relevant sectors". Al-Khaled concluded: "We are honored to be awarded this award by a world-class organization that will undoubtedly encourage us to continue to deliver the high quality and service that our customers are accustomed to receiving from the ACICO Group in its various subsidiaries".



## SOPHOS TO PLACE SPOTLIGHT ON SYNCHRONIZED SECURITY AT GISEC 2017

**DUBAI:** Sophos (LSE:SOPH), a global leader in network and endpoint security announced its participation at Gulf Information Security Expo & Conference (GISEC 2017) which will be held from May 21st - May 23rd, 2017 at the Dubai World Trade and Convention Centre. The company will showcase its extensive security portfolio and focus on its synchronized security strategy.

"Given the scale and sophistication of attacks in the Middle East region, companies are looking for smarter and simpler IT security solutions. A recent Sophos-sponsored study developed by International Data Corporation (IDC) revealed that complexity is driving the

need of integrated security in the region and it is one of the top priorities for CIOs and IT Managers. Majority of the respondents agreed with the concept of linking network firewall and endpoint security for better insights and the acceptance was higher among the large enterprises. Synchronized security is the new key for protection against cyber threats in the region," said Harish Chib, VP MEA Sophos.

"GISEC, being an important event for the Middle East IT security industry, is a perfect platform for Sophos to communicate our vision of 'Synchronized Security'. We plan to highlight our latest innovation, Security Heartbeat, which for the first time allows the endpoint and



Harish Chib, Sophos

network security to actively and continuously share threat intelligence to effectively

protect against sophisticated threats in a manageable way. It is also a great opportunity for us to meet with key decision makers," he added.

At the exhibition, Sophos will highlight the core tenant of synchronized security strategy that can be used to successfully protect an organization from the growth of sophisticated attacks. The company will showcase its extensive portfolio of its next-generation endpoint and network security solutions including the recently launched Sophos Mobile 7, the latest version of Enterprise Mobility Management (EMM) solution that extends containerization support for Android Enterprise, Sophos InterceptX,

and the latest synchronized encryption solution -Safe Guard Encryption8, which can automatically respond to threat incidents from connected endpoint protection.

Sophos top local executives and security experts will be present at Stall B-100, Hall : ZAB5 and will engage with visitors, customers and channel partners, understand their security requirements, address their concerns and share their global experiences and success stories with them. Through presentations and demos at the stand, the company plans to give its customers a first-hand experience on the benefits of synchronized security.



This photo taken on July 21, 2014 shows an employee of Equinix data center checking servers on July 21, 2014 in Pantin, a suburb north of Paris in the Seine-Saint-Denis department. —AFP

## WORLDWIDE RANSOMWARE ATTACKS: WHAT WE KNOW

**LONDON:** Security agencies are hunting for those behind a crippling cyberattack which has so far hit hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide, including at government agencies, factories and health services. Here is what we know so far about the cyber ransom attacks:

### \* What happened?

The cyberattacks started Friday and spread rapidly around the globe using a security flaw in Microsoft's Windows XP operating system, an older version that is no longer given mainstream tech support by the US giant. The so-called WannaCry ransomware locks access to user files and in an on-screen message demands payment of \$300 (275 euros) in the virtual currency Bitcoin in order to decrypt the files.

Victims have been advised by security experts not to pay up. The attack is unique, according to policing agency Europol, because it combines ransomware with a worm function, meaning once one machine is infected, the entire internal network is scanned and other vulnerable machines are infected.

### \* Who has been affected?

Europol chief Rob Wainwright said computer systems in more than 150 countries were hit, with the majority of organizations affected over the weekend in Europe. But as Asia woke up to the working week yesterday, leading Chinese security-software provider Qihoo 360 said "hundreds of thousands" of computers in the country were hit at nearly 30,000 institutions including government agencies.

In Japan, a spokesman for Hitachi said the conglomerate discovered problems on Monday morning and its computer networks were "unstable". Other high-profile victims include hospitals in Britain, the Spanish telecoms giant Telefonica, French carmaker Renault, US package delivery company FedEx, Russia's interior ministry and the German rail operator Deutsche Bahn.

### \* Where did the malware come from?

Brad Smith, Microsoft's president and chief legal officer, said in a blog post Sunday that the culprits used a code developed by the US National Security Agency.

It was leaked as part of a document dump, according to researchers at the Moscow-based computer security firm Kaspersky Lab. Smith warned governments against stockpiling such vulnerabilities and said instead they should report them to manufacturers-not sell, store or exploit them, lest they fall into the wrong hands.

"An equivalent scenario with conventional weapons would be the US military having some of its Tomahawk missiles stolen," Smith wrote. "The governments of the world should treat this attack as a wakeup call."

### \* Who was behind the attack?

Europol said yesterday it was continuing to hunt for the culprits behind the unprecedented attack.

The agency's senior spokesman Jan Op Gen Oorth said it was still "a bit early to say who is behind it, but we are working on a decrypting tool".

Experts think it unlikely to have been one person, with criminally minded cyber-crime syndicates nowadays going underground and using ever more sophisticated encryption to hide their activities.

### \* How can people protect their computers?

Microsoft took the unusual step of re-issuing security patches first made available in March for Windows XP and other older versions of its operating system. Kaspersky said it was seeking to develop a decryption tool "as soon as possible". Europol said European companies and governments had heeded warnings and as a result avoided further fallout from the ransomware.

"It seems that a lot of internet security guys over the weekend did their homework and ran the security software updates," Jan Op Gen Oorth said.—AFP

## 40% OF INDUSTRIAL COMPUTERS FACED CYBERATTACK: KASPERSKY

**DUBAI:** Kaspersky Lab is participating in the 2nd ISA UAE Automation Conference and Exhibition 2017 in Abu Dhabi to share its expertise on cybersecurity of industrial control systems (ICS).

The percentage of industrial computers under attack grew from over 17 percent in July 2016 to more than 24 percent in December 2016, with the top three sources of infection being the Internet, removable storage devices, and malicious e-mail attachments and scripts embedded in the body of e-mails. On average two-in-five computers, related to the technological infrastructure of industrial enterprises, faced cyberattacks in the second half of 2016. These are the findings from Kaspersky Lab's report, the "Threat Landscape for Industrial Automation Systems in the second half of 2016."

As the technology and corporate networks of industrial enterprises become increasingly integrated, more and more cybercriminals are turning their attention to industrial enterprises as potential targets. By exploiting vulnerabilities in the networks and software used by these enterprises, attackers could steal information related to the production process or even bring down manufacturing opera-

tions, leading to technogenic disaster.

In order to find out how widespread the threat is, Kaspersky Lab ICS CERT specialists have conducted dedicated research into the cyberthreat landscape faced by ICS systems.

They discovered that in the second half of 2016 malware downloads and access to phishing web-pages were blocked on over 22 percent of industrial computers. This means that almost every fifth machine at least once faced the risk of infection or credential compromise via the Internet.

The desktop computers of engineers and operators working directly with ICS do not usually have direct access to the Internet due to the limitations of the technology network in which they are located. However, there are other users that have simultaneous access to the Internet and ICS. According to Kaspersky Lab research, these computers - presumably used by system and network administrators, developers and integrators of industrial automation systems and third party contractors who connect to technology networks directly or remotely - can freely connect to the Internet because they are not tied to only one industrial network with its inherent limitations.

## TECH MAHINDRA RANKED AMONGST TOP 15 GLOBAL TECH SERVICES BRAND

### BRAND VALUE GROWS 21% FUELLED BY ITS DT INITIATIVES

**DUBAI:** Tech Mahindra, a specialist in Digital Transformation, Consulting, Services and Business Re-engineering and Brand Finance, the world's foremost independent branded business valuation consultancy announced Tech Mahindra's entry into the Top-20 global tech services brands list (by brand value) in 2017, ranked at No 14, with an impressive growth of 21 percent over the previous fiscal.

Brand Finance is an independent valuation and strategy consultancy. It advises organizations on how to maximize value through effective management of brands and other intangible assets and is world-renowned for its pioneering work in brand valuation. Brand Finance helped to shape the internationally recognized standard for brand valuation, ISO 10668, and is one of just a select group of firms to hold the certification. Brand Finance was founded in London 1996 and now has offices in over 25 countries.

Underscoring this achievement, David Haigh, Founder and CEO of Brand Finance commented, "Tech Mahindra has delivered excellent

brand value growth of 21 percent. Its brand transformation journey from being an Information Technology player to a Digital Transformation partner has shown great progress. With its new brand promise of 'Connected World, Connected Experiences' and the right brand investments, Tech Mahindra has all the potential to be

in the top 5 by 2020." Tech Mahindra has recently embarked on a massive brand building campaign globally forging strategic partnerships with several Global Media Groups, local Governments and Trade Councils, to bring alive its "Connected World, Connected Experiences." promise. The Company aspires to consolidate

and improve its position through significant brand investments aligned to its core strategy in delivering tangible "experience" outcomes to its 900+ customers worldwide. The Company's Techbets will deliver DIGITALISATION, AUTOMATION, VERTICALISATION, INNOVATION and DISRUPTION (#DAVID), readying its customers to face the digital future with products, platforms, design, experience and knowledge.

Celebrating this moment, Jagdish Mitra, Chief Marketing and Strategy Officer of Tech Mahindra said, "We are immensely glad to have entered the veritable brand club and would like to thank our associates, partners and customers, for helping place our brand where it deserves to be. We have embraced Digital Transformation as the bedrock of our brand journey, at a time when connectedness and experiences are the fundamentals for any business and consumer across all aspects of daily living. Our brand will constantly endeavour to reflect this, as we Run better, Change faster and Grow greater for our stakeholders."



Jagdish Mitra

## FOR SOME RANSOMWARE VICTIMS, HARD LESSONS

**SINGAPORE/HANOI:** The WannaCry ransomware worm that hobbled big institutions and businesses at the weekend, including FedEx and Britain's National Health Service, also indiscriminately caught many smaller victims across Asia, from hoteliers to Chinese students.

When MediaOnline, a firm that operates digital displays in Singapore shopping malls, noticed its displays were showing the ransomware's pop-up window on Saturday, it sent engineers to two malls, director Dennis So told Reuters.

The company's experience shows how the ransomware can sometimes be beaten without victims having to pay the \$300 or so in bitcoin that hackers demand for a decryption key to unfreeze their computers. MediaOnline's So said only 12 computers were affected as the network was isolated from both the firm's office network and those of the company running the malls, and its tenants. By replacing all the hard drives, reinstalling the operating system and downloading all Microsoft Windows updates, the computers were back up and running by early Monday, with So saying "no money or bitcoin was paid to the hackers."

At some larger organizations, it took longer. At Jakarta's Dharmais Hospital, Indonesia's biggest cancer centre, up to 200 people packed waiting rooms after cyberattacks hit scores of computers. By late yesterday morning, some visitors were still filling out forms manually, though the hospital said 70 percent of its systems were back online.

The unknown hackers behind WannaCry don't appear so far to have been well rewarded for their global blitz, with about \$50,000 worth of bitcoin transferred to the online wallets listed in the recent and earlier versions of the malware, according to bitcoin transaction tracker Elliptic Labs.

This may be partly because many of those infected, like

MediaOnline, chose to restore their computer data from back-ups or by reinstalling the operating system. Others just held their breath.

### Lost work

Yang Lin, a journalism student at China's Zhejiang University of Media and Communications, told Reuters she had just finished revising her thesis late on Friday and was closing Word on her desktop when all the Word icons blanked out, her screen went black and the hackers' message appeared. "I was connected to the university network. I didn't open any link," she said. "I just cried. I was afraid to believe it, but had to accept it."

Yang said she thought about

paying the ransom to unfreeze her computer, but gave up when she found out how much this would cost. Via a chat platform she discovered many of her friends faced the same problem. She said she lost her literature review, foreign translations and thesis proposal, as well as films she had made over four years at college.

In Vietnam, hotel and restaurant manager Ngo Viet Yen said he was given 24 hours to pay 5 bitcoins (worth around \$9,000) to save his files after his systems were infected on Friday. He didn't pay, and reckons he's lost around \$2,000, and possibly more, as his staff revert to taking bookings, writing receipts and managing stock manually.

He noted that copyright infringement is widespread in Vietnam, and little is spent on system security. "The number of computers updated to the latest version is very low," he said. "And the server is rarely updated because there will be more issues and it often slows the system. It's like: you only build a cage after losing your cows."

Others found that even paying the ransom didn't guarantee they'd get their data decrypted. "We've seen some of our customers from the energy and health services who made the payment did not receive the decryption key in return," said Budiman Tsjin, senior technical consultant at RSA, the security division of EMC Corp.—Reuters



JAKARTA: A patient takes a nap on her wheelchair as she waits with others at the registration desk at Dharmais Cancer Hospital in Jakarta yesterday. Global cyber chaos was spreading yesterday as companies booted up computers at work following the weekend's worldwide "ransomware" cyberattack.—AP

## TRADE GROUPS APPEAL TO BEIJING TO POSTPONE CYBERSECURITY LAW

**BEIJING:** A coalition of 54 global business groups appealed to Chinese authorities yesterday to postpone enforcing a cybersecurity law they warned violates Beijing's free-trade pledges and might harm information security.

The appeal by groups from the United States, Japan, Britain and other countries adds to complaints Beijing is improperly limiting access to its markets for technology products,

possibly to support its own fledgling suppliers. In a letter to Chinese regulators and the ruling Communist Party's cybersecurity committee, the groups said the Cybersecurity Law due to take effect June 1 might violate Beijing's trade commitments and make theft of information easier. It would limit use of foreign security technology and require data about Chinese citizens to be stored within the country.

Signers included the Business Software Alliance, the US Chamber of Commerce and trade groups for insurers, technology suppliers and manufacturers from Britain, Japan, Australia, Mexico and South Korea. Many of them were among 46 groups that made a similar appeal in 2016 for changes in the cybersecurity law, which weren't made.—AP

## DYING GUATEMALA LAKE UNDERLINES CLIMATE CHANGE THREAT



**ATESCATEMPA, Guatemala:** A young local fisherman, Wilman Estrada, sits next to one of the few puddles left of what was once Lake Atescatempa, which has dried up due to drought and high temperatures, in Atescatempa. —AFP

**ATESCATEMPA, Guatemala:** The dried-out oyster shells lie on a landscape parched and cracked by the sun. This is what is left of Lake Atescatempa, once a vast blue-green body of water in southwestern Guatemala. Now the lake is drying, a conspicuous victim of the climate change that is projected to profoundly and irreversibly affect Central America. A prolonged drought descended on the region last year, shriveling two rivers that feed into Lake Atescatempa, and with it the flow of tourists to the area and the livelihood of residents. "We have no more money coming in, nowhere to work. Our hopes for eating fish or supporting our families, that came from the lake," explained Juan Guerra, a 56-year-old who has lived his whole life by the lake.

Today however the lake's shore is dotted with abandoned boats left high and dry. Wilman Estrada, an unemployed 17-year-old wearing jeans and a T-shirt who for the past nine years lived off fishing here, sat by one of the last puddles. "It makes you want to cry," he said, casting a despondent gaze at the rainless sky. Other locals said they began noticing water levels starting to shrink three years ago. And the weather

forecast for Central America offers no relief. From July, El Nino—the irregular weather system that raises the temperature of the Pacific Ocean and causes droughts in some regions—could return.

"Climate change is really affecting the lives and future of these countries and those of our children in Central America," said Hector Aguirre, coordinator of Mancomunidad Trinacional, a group representing towns and villages around the junction of the borders of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

### El Nino

The "Dry Corridor," a zone that runs along the Pacific coast from Guatemala to Panama, felt the brunt of the last burst of El Nino. In 2016, the weather phenomenon left 3.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Crop production from vulnerable small growers shrank badly. "El Nino, bolstered by climate change, has made the Dry Corridor one of the most vulnerable areas on the planet," Aguirre said.

His group has tried to mitigate the problem by training more than 2,000 farmers in

how to diversify their crops, with the aim of guaranteeing food security. But malnutrition is already evident in some places, as in the village of La Ceiba Taquezal, in eastern Guatemala, where 114 families from the Ch'orti' people of the indigenous Maya population have long depended on coffee-growing to survive.

Four years ago, a fungus called coffee rust devastated their coffee plantations, and with it their revenues. Hunger soon set in, most noticeably among children.

### Food rations

With help from the Mancomunidad Trinacional and European Union financing, the families were given rations of flour, rice, beans and oil. Nutritionists gave advice on how to improve the quality of their diet by adding tomatoes, herbs and various local plants. "With the dishes we make from beans, rice and plants, we have managed to see the children starting to put on weight," said Marina Aldana, a 36-year-old mother of eight. But Aguirre noted that "these malnutrition problems are worse in indigenous communities for one simple reason: they are not a priority for the governments." —AFP

## SCHOOLS FACE VEXING TEST: WHICH KIDS WILL SEXUALLY ATTACK?

'THE RHYME OR REASON AS TO WHY PEOPLE OFFEND, IS INFINITE'

**NEW YORK:** Third in a month-long Associated Press investigative series focusing on sexual assaults by students on students in US elementary and secondary schools. The children who sexually assault other children may be the popular jocks, the loners or anyone in between. There is no typical attacker, no way for schools to predict who might inflict that kind of torment on a classmate.

Thousands of school-age offenders are treated annually for sexual aggression in the United States, yet experts see

ment and maturation, experts say, young abusers typically recover.

"It's not a lifelong trajectory," said Maia Christopher, executive director of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. "Children tend to be much more influenced by effective kinds of interventions than adults." An ongoing Associated Press investigation has documented how K-12 schools in the United States can fail to protect students in their care from sexual assault, sometimes minimizing or even covering up incidents. Schools also struggle to

After the Division I prospect pleaded guilty to assaulting a classmate in a darkened band room, a judge ordered him into adolescent sex offender treatment - for the second time. His first round was as a fourth-grader, after he pleaded guilty to assaulting two 11-year-old girls, according to records AP obtained. In mandatory counseling as a high school junior, Mondy insisted he did nothing wrong. The therapist saw no value in more sessions: Without that basic acknowledgement, treatment would not succeed.

cases. "If you can't admit you've done something wrong, you're never going to change behavior."

The toughest patients need support from all sides, according to one of the nation's pre-eminent juvenile sexual offender experts. "The safest sex offender is somebody who is stable, occupied, accountable to others and has a plan for the future," said therapist David Prescott, who has treated or assessed hundreds of sexually aggressive kids and now works in Maine for an alliance of nonprofit organizations. Because children are constantly developing, experts say age is an important factor when it comes to the motivation for attacks. Feelings of control or entitlement might spur a high school student. A middle schooler could act on impulse and opportunity. Elementary students might not know they are violating boundaries.

Academic studies suggest that what might seem like two obvious risk factors - exposure to pornography and being the victim of sexual abuse - are far from certain triggers. Broader life instability, such as physically or psychologically abusive parents, appears to increase risk. Experts have struggled to develop accurate ways to assess who will reoffend. Clues include a disregard for others' personal boundaries, or a tendency to fight and steal. Social isolation or pressure to be sexually active further elevates the risk, as do fantasies about forceful sex.

Since 2005, four days before he turned 19, Christopher Lee has been locked up in the Minnesota Sex Offender Program. Growing up, Lee said he desperately sought connections but was too needy to keep friends and became a target for bullying. He channeled his aggressions toward sex.

Minnesota officials civilly committed him for indefinite treatment after concluding he was likely to continue exposing himself to, masturbating in front of or peeping on other children. Inside the complex, he has learned the stories of many of the hundreds of other men confined with him. Some did it because they could, others because they were trying to deal with past trauma or because it made them feel powerful.

"The rhyme or reason as to why people offend," Lee said, "is infinite." Pritchard reported from Los Angeles and Twin Falls, Idaho; Dunklin reported from Dallas and Commerce, Texas. Contributing to this report were Robin McDowell in St. Peter, Minnesota; Rhonda Shafner in New York; Gillian Flaccus in Beaverton, Oregon; and Rebecca Boone in Boise, Idaho. —AP



**MINNESOTA:** Christopher Lee looks through a window secured by bars towards a barbed wire fence surrounding the building from a conference room at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program in St Peter, Minn. —AP

no standard profile of personality, background or motivation. They say that while anti-social behavior can suggest a greater risk of offending, the cool kid may attack and the rebel may reform. Their reasons are rarely as straightforward as physical gratification and range from a sense of entitlement to desperation to fit in.

Though many sexual assaults aren't reported to authorities, research shows that about 95 percent of juvenile offenders who enter the justice system won't be arrested for another sex crime: The ordeal of facing police and parents scares many straight. And with treat-

help sexually aggressive students, both before and after they do lasting harm.

The leading research suggests the overwhelming majority of the nation's roughly 50 million K-12 students will never sexually attack a peer. For those who do, the juvenile justice system stresses second chances, and even unrepentant offenders don't forfeit their right to an education. Back in class, privacy laws can mean teachers and peers do not know their pasts. At Forest Hills Central High School in the suburbs of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Marques Mondy's basketball talent was obvious. The risk he presented was not.

### Fiercely protective

Adults can play a huge role in rehabilitation, whether by pushing young offenders to confront reality or shielding them from responsibility. As in fourth grade, Mondy's mom was fiercely protective. "I hope race isn't a factor when determining who is telling the truth and who is lying," Nicole Scott, who is black, wrote a school district official on Christmas Day 2010. Her son's accusers were white. Mondy, now 23, said he would call AP to discuss the high school assault. He never did. "He didn't do the treatment he needed to do," said Vicki Seidl, the prosecutor who handled Mondy's juvenile



**BOGOR, Indonesia:** This photo shows Yulia Herawati preparing to place her daughter Maryamah Sudigyo, who was born prematurely, into an incubator in their home in Bogor. —AFP photos

## FREE INCUBATORS SAVE LIVES OF INDONESIAN BABIES

**BOGOR, Indonesia:** Tiny Indonesian baby Maryamah stared around from inside an incubator, her bright eyes swivelling left and right from under a woolen hat that was far too big for her. When she was born prematurely, Maryamah was just 1.2 kilograms (2.6 pounds), less than half the usual weight of a newborn in Indonesia. Now safely back at home, she is still diminutive but nestles comfortably in a small incubator lent to family, who live in a poor neighborhood in the city of Bogor on Java island.

She is one of hundreds of premature babies born in Indonesia benefiting from the work of an engineering professor who is building incubators and lending them for free to low-income families in a bid to fill a gap in the healthcare system. "The government has a program of public health insurance, but it cannot cover all the people," Raldi Artono Koestoer, who established the initiative, told AFP. Indonesia has the fifth greatest number of premature births of any nation in the world, at 675,700 a year, according to the World Health Organization. The WHO says that pre-term birth complications are the leading cause of death among children under five.

Babies born early can need specialist care. Incubators keep them warm and can help prevent infections. But getting access to the live-saving devices is a huge challenge for the millions living in poverty in Indonesia. The public insurance scheme introduced in 2014 — has helped as it sometimes covers the cost of incubators for a while. But families unable to afford the high cost of continued care are often forced to take their newborns home early.

### 'Complete success'

Koestoer, who works at the University of Indonesia just outside Jakarta, started his lending scheme back in 2012, using his technical expertise to design and build ultra-light, portable incubators. His interest in incubators began when he fixed one of the devices for his elder brother, a paediatrician, and then learnt how to construct them himself. To fund the scheme, he sought individuals willing to donate 3.5 million rupiah (\$260) each—the cost of making one incubator—and also to transport the devices to the homes of selected families. People who have signed up are generally middle-

class professionals and include many in the healthcare sector.

People requiring an incubator send a text message to a special number, and if they are deemed in need, a volunteer brings one round for them. The service began in the capital Jakarta, and has now expanded to an additional 48 cities, from the island of Sumatra in the west to the mountainous Papua region in the east. As the service has grown, the professor has recruited two of his students to work with him, and he hopes to extend the initiative to 300 cities. Koestoer, 62, says he has so far built 180 incubators that have helped about 1,500 babies, including twins and triplets. "Our success ratio is 100 percent," he said. "1,500 babies — 100 percent alive, healthy."

### 'Happiest man in world'

The scheme has proved invaluable for Maryamah and her parents, Yulia Herawati and Prayogi, who like many Indonesians goes by one name. Herawati underwent a caesarean section in February when she was almost eight months pregnant due to high blood pressure. Her baby was at first allowed to stay in a hospital incubator with the help of government insurance. But after seven weeks, when the baby was still only 1.5 kilos, doctors said Maryamah could no longer stay in the hospital as her condition had stabilized, prompting her parents to launch a desperate search for help.

"We were slowly recovering from the shock of having a premature baby, but then we had another problem—how were we going to take care of her at home?" said Prayogi. After asking around, he found out about the incubator lending service from a friend. "I sent a text message and the response was very fast. After a few minutes the operator got in touch with me, and said that the incubator can be picked up as soon as the baby is at home," he said. Maryamah now weighs 2.4 kilograms and although she still spends a lot of time in the incubator, her parents now feel safe taking her out and playing with her. While running the scheme is a big task, Koestoer says it all seems worth it when he meets the children he has helped. "When a mother comes here with her baby and it is in good health, I'm the happiest man in the world," he said, speaking from his university office. —AFP



**BOGOR, Indonesia:** Photo shows Maryamah Sudigyo, who was born prematurely, in an incubator in her home in Bogor. —AFP

## MINING BRINGS CHILE CITY RICHES, FEAR OF CANCER

**ANTOFAGASTA, Chile:** Black dust stains the walls of the building where Jaqueline Jimenez and her children once lived in northern Chile. In an industrial city like Antofagasta, there is perhaps nothing so unusual in that-but Jimenez says she fears that this dust carries a poisonous burden, and that her children now bear it in their bodies. It is blown on the wind from the nearby port, where copper from the region's abundant mines is loaded and shipped across the world. Long known as a hub of production in the world's biggest miner of the red metal, Antofagasta has earned a darker distinction as Chile's cancer capital.

Authorities have called for calm, insisting that heavy metals cannot be breathed in and are only poisonous if ingested. But Jimenez is not convinced. "It is not normal that everyone should be dying of cancer here," she says. "It is a death sentence for my family."

### Arsenic

Run your finger along the window sill in Jimenez's old home and it will come away black with dust that is hard to wash off. A study by the Public Health Institute identified 16 different metals in the dust. The Antofagasta Medical College said it found "arsenic, cadmium, zinc, chrome, copper, lead and manganese which far exceed Chilean norms." Jimenez lived for five years in an apartment building opposite the port terminal in the city center. Her children would play out on the roof terrace, unwittingly exposed to the dust. She says medical tests carried

out by specialists abroad have confirmed that the children, now aged 10 and 20, have traces of carcinogenic heavy metals.

### High income, cancer risk

Mining has helped raise residents' annual income in Antofagasta to nearly double the national average: some \$36,000. But it is also blamed for giving the city the highest rate of lung cancer deaths: more than double the average at just under 35 per 100,000 inhabitants. Bladder and skin cancer deaths are also high. "Scientists consider that the Antofagasta area is undergoing a biological experiment in having the population exposed to such levels of contamination," the president of the Antofagasta Medical College, Aliro Bolados, told AFP.

### Decades of pollution

The scourge of pollution in Antofagasta goes back decades. In 1998, doctors detected dangerously high levels of lead in children living near a freight railway in the city. Further back, high levels of arsenic found in the local drinking water between 1958 and 1971 are blamed for a rise in diseases. People born during that period who are now in their forties or fifties are at high risk of cancer, says Caterina Ferreccio, deputy head of the Center for Advanced Study of Chronic Diseases, Epidemiology and Cancer. "There is a whole generation that has had all these things," she told AFP. "Despite having the highest per capita income, they have the lowest life expectancy in Chile."

### 'This Dust Kills You'

The arsenic threat was brought under control. Now attention is focused on the black dust blowing from the port. The port's operators, the major Chilean conglomerate Luskic, have signed a commitment to "clean production." Despite that, a court fined the company \$1.3 million in October for pollution and ordered them to clean up the area. The port continues to operate. "They prefer to sacrifice Antofagasta than to stop Chile making money," said Ricardo Diaz of "This Dust Kills You," a group campaigning for the port to be moved.

### Testing the children

Authorities have called for calm, insisting that even people living nearby have been exposed to levels of heavy metals below the legal safety limits. In late 2015, hundreds of children in surrounding schools and nurseries were tested for lead in the blood. More than 99 percent of them were found to be within the safe limits, according to international recommendations. But the Antofagasta Medical College said further tests were needed. Jimenez sent samples of her children's hair abroad to have them analyzed. She says the results indicated higher levels of poisonous metals. Some experts have cast doubt on the validity of the hair tests—but they say children's exposure to the dust should in any case be limited, due to uncertainty about what effect it could have over the long term. "There should be obligatory annual tests for children from one to six years old," the city's mayor, Karen Rojo, told AFP, "to determine the damage to the population." —AFP

## NASA NIXES CREW FOR TEST FLIGHT OF NEW MEGAROCKET IN 2019

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida:** NASA's new megarocket will launch without astronauts on its test flight, now delayed until 2019 because of technical challenges, the space agency's top leaders said Friday. In February at the request of the White House, NASA began studying the possibility of putting a crew on the first flight. After reviewing the costs and risks, the space agency decided against it. The White House took part in the decision, said NASA's Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot. Still in development, the super-sized Space Launch System rocket is meant to eventually send astronauts to Mars. The first launch had been targeted for next year, but now won't happen until 2019 when NASA will send an unoccupied Orion capsule to the vicinity of the moon for a three-week trial run.

The second flight will have astronauts on board. It is scheduled for 2021, but will almost certainly be later because of all the delays with the first flight. It would have cost a lot more money and time to add life-support systems and other human-required equipment for the test flight, said Bill Gerstenmaier, head of NASA's human explorations and operations.

"The best plan we have is actually the plan we're on right now," he said. The test flight can be more dynamic, as NASA calls it, without a crew, and the lessons learned can help advance the next mission when people finally are on board. Lightfoot said it would have been technically feasible to add a crew, given more funding, but decided to stay the course. It would have cost an extra \$600 million to \$900 million to outfit the system for astronauts on the initial flight, Gerstenmaier said.

Earlier this week, NASA reported that a section of test hardware was damaged during manufacturing in New Orleans. No one was injured in the May 3 mishap.

Technicians were lowering the dome for the bottom of a liquid oxygen tank, when the dome ended up ramming into a support structure. NASA is investigating. Gerstenmaier called it "an unfortunate event" but said it shouldn't affect the schedule much. Late last month, the US Government Accountability Office warned that a delay was likely for the first SLS flight, crew or not. The current exploration effort will cost nearly \$24 billion by the end of fiscal 2018, the GAO reported.

Lightfoot acknowledged that he and others are frustrated by the technical challenges that have slowed down the program. The agency is aiming for a sustainable program within the available resources, he said, not just a single-objective mission. The Apollo moon program of the 1960s and early 1970s represented a sprint to a single destination, Gerstenmaier noted. The SLS rocket is meant to support flights to not only the moon and Mars, but the moons of Mars and even farther into the solar system, with potential commercial activity as well.

The megarocket represents a robust foundation for ultimately moving human presence out into the solar system, Gerstenmaier said. "That's a grander vision in a way than just moving people to the moon for the first time, although that was a very special moment and a very special challenge for those teams moving forward. But we're building off of that legacy now to move in a more sustained manner," he said. Earlier this year, SpaceX announced a bold mission to send two paying passengers on a flight around the moon in 2018. SpaceX chief Elon Musk also aims to colonize Mars. "I've been saying it for a while. This is an 'and' proposition, this is not an 'or,'" Lightfoot said. "If you look at what we're trying to do, it's going to take really all of us, frankly, to get this done." —AP



ALASKA: Photo shows the exterior of the local school's wood-heated aquaponics greenhouse in Coffman Cove, Alaska. —AP photos

## NEW ALASKA HANDBOOK PROVIDES HOW-TO ON HEATED GREENHOUSES

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska:** Cold-climate greenhouses have long been an option for increasing the limited growing season in Alaska, where fresh produce is a rarity in a harsh environment. But for many remote communities that rely on costly imported diesel fuel for their power source, they're too expensive to operate. Now, the state has released a handbook that shows schools and community groups how to build greenhouses heated with a plentiful local resource: wood. The 98-page guide comes as greenhouses gain popularity in the vast state for several reasons, including improved technology and heightened awareness, according to officials who worked on the handbook.

Thousands of schools in the continental US have gardens and some have greenhouses where students learn to grow food. But Alaska's situation is unique given the lack of fresh produce from local sources in remote parts of the state. "There's nobody that comes close," says Bob Deering, renewable energy coordinator for the Alaska region of the US Forest Service, the handbook's main funding source. In villages off the state's limited road system, for instance, goods must be flown up or barged in. Steeply priced vegetables can be more than a week in transit and past their prime by the time they arrive at stores.

The new handbook covers a range of subjects - from community planning and funding options to types of greenhouses and management of plant nutrients - aimed at putting more locally grown food in Alaska kitchens and school cafeterias. It also contains curriculum and case studies of projects by several schools, including the one in the small Prince of Wales Island community of Thorne Bay, in southeast Alaska, which installed a 750-square-foot (70-square-meter) aquaponics greenhouse three years ago.

The school was able to cheaply heat its greenhouse year-round with cord wood cut by students. Wood and variations such as cord wood, wood chips and pellets are known in the industry as biomass. "They could never have afforded a greenhouse if they were heating their school with diesel heat," said Devany Plentovich, manager of the Alaska Energy Authority's biomass program. A year in the making, the guide was funded by federal and state grants totaling \$150,000. It involved input from multiple entities, including those with successful projects such as Thorne Bay, whose heating system was funded through the state biomass program. Inefficient wood-burning stoves and outdoor boilers have created a huge pollution problem in Fairbanks. The boilers used in the greenhouses, however, are far more efficient,

burning most of the pollution that otherwise would go into the atmosphere, thanks to a second combustion chamber absent in less sophisticated systems, officials say.

### Kids love to make money

The Thorne Bay school was the first of four in the Southeast Island School District to install wood-heated aquaponics greenhouses, which use live fish to provide nutrients for lettuce, kale, bok choy and other crops. Alaska bans fish farming so the schools can't use edible fish such as aquaponics-favorite tilapia. They instead rely on goldfish and koi, said district greenhouse manager Colter Barnes, who also is the principal at the school in Coffman Cove, a community of 200. Students in the district

older get paid to cut and stack wood, and load the boilers, Barnes said. He called the greenhouse program a work in progress that has been a hit with students. "It's been fantastic. Kids love to eat, and kids love to make money," he said. "They are engaged in it - way more engaged than any worksheet or textbook."

In Coffman Cove, 12-year-old seventh-grader Damon Holtman went even further. He and his parents just built a small solar greenhouse at their property. An agriculture buff, Holtman also spends more time in the school greenhouse than any other student. He said it's easier to remember lessons learned through hands-on experience. For example, calculating how much to feed the fish involves a lot of math. "These fish eat 3 percent of their body



ALASKA: Photo shows some of the produce grown in the local school's wood-heated aquaponics greenhouse in Naukati, Alaska.



CAPE CANAVERAL: This undated image made available by NASA shows an artist's rendering of the Space Launch System. Still in development, the super-sized rocket is meant to eventually send astronauts to Mars. —AP

CLINIC  
PAGE

248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

# BUMPER-TO-BUMPER REWARDS CUSTOMERS WITH VALUABLE PRIZES IN BP VISCO LUBRICANTS CAMPAIGN



**B**umper-to-Bumper (BTB), that is part of Yusuf A Alghanim and Sons Automotive Group, announced the grand winners of valuable prizes in its nationwide campaign for BP Visco lubricants, rewarding the first place winner with a Chevrolet Tahoe LS and the second place winner with a Chevrolet Cruze LS, in addition to many valuable prizes that included over 75 electronic prizes of iPhones, LED 42" screens and Lenovo tablets.

Launched in February, the BP Visco lubricants campaign aimed to reward customers with the best offers and valuable prizes in Kuwait. Customers entered the draw with a coupon for every purchase of a four-liter BP Visco 2000 oil, two coupons for every purchase of a BP Visco 3000 TG, and three coupons for every purchase of a BP Visco 5000 oil. The campaign ran for customers changing their vehicle's oil with a BP Visco lubricants in any of the BTB centers and retail stores across Kuwait.

BP Visco lubricants have a proven record of ensuring car engines cleaner for a longer period of time, making them the best choice for customers to

protect their vehicles. BTB, as part of Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim and Sons Company, is committed to always providing the highest level of service and products to customers to fulfill their needs efficiently.

Throughout the years, BP Visco lubricants has been one of the most trusted brands amongst customers, and continues to grow footprint as a result of customers' satisfaction of the quality standards of the brand's engine oils.

Founded in 1980, BTB started as quick-service shops that specialized in replacing and repairing exhaust systems. Five years later in 1985, the brand BTB was created as a unique concept in the Kuwaiti market. Today, BTB's clear mission is to exceed expectations by offering the best in car maintenance and spare-parts services, for both individual customers and corporate owners. But what makes BTB truly stand out is the highly-trained team of technicians and professionals, who collectively provide an unprecedented level of support through state-of-the-art equipment and auto maintenance knowledge.

As one of the strongest local brands in the country, with more than 160,000

vehicles serviced each year, in one of 160 service platforms in 11 service centers throughout the country, BTB provides customers with total convenience and peace of mind, dealing with all car makes and models. At BTB, the customer comes first and each center is designed with the customer's comfort in mind, including free wireless access, a spacious lounge area and much more.

Indeed, choosing BTB service centers means turning over your car to a crew of specialized technicians who operate the most advanced equipment and analyzing tools to produce a highly-detailed report and an accurate estimate of total cost of repair. To top it off, BTB service centers offer genuine spare parts for all car models, as well as warranties for parts and labor. BTB service centers also offer easy finance solutions such as installments and other payment plans.

BTB service centers are strategically located throughout Kuwait including Sharq, Fahaheel, Shuwaikh and Jahra, and are also integrated in Alfa Petrol Stations in Shaab, Agaila, Shuwaikh and South Surra and KNPC stations in Ardiya, Ishbiya and Jahra - Alwaha area.



## MALABAR GOLD AND DIAMONDS CELEBRATED INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

**M**alabar Gold and Diamonds, one among the BIG 5 global jewelry retailer has celebrated the International Nurses Day in association with Chest Diseases Hospital on May 13, 2017 at the Chest Diseases Hospital. International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on May 12th, which is the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. Nursing is a profession within the health care sector focused on the care of individuals, families, and communities so they may attain, maintain, or recover optimal health and quality of life. Nurses may be differentiated from other health care providers by their approach to patient care, training, and scope of

practice. Malabar Gold and Diamonds has taken the initiative to celebrate the International Nurses Day as a token appreciation to the Nurses for their selfless contribution. Commenting on the celebration, Afsal Khan - Zonal Head, Malabar Gold and Diamonds said, 'Malabar Gold and Diamonds are glad to associate with Chest Diseases Hospital to celebrate the International Nurses Day and we thank the management and officials for the whole hearted support'.

Malabar Gold and Diamonds has honored 15 senior officials of the Chest Diseases Hospital by giving a memento as a token of appreciation for their service. Cake cutting ceremony along with

some fun games has been arranged as a part of the event.

"We thank Malabar Gold and Diamonds for their gesture towards us and also celebrating 'International Nurses Day' with us and it was indeed a new experience for all of us here," said Sadeq Abdul Hadi Al-Feeli, Nursing Director, Chest Diseases Hospital said during the event. The event also marked the importance of 'World Hygiene Day' which falls on May 05th. The day is declared by the 'World Health Organization' and encourages patients and their family members to join health workers in their efforts to practice good hand hygiene.



The raffle draw winner of 'Win Up to 30 Kilos Of Gold in 18 Days' campaign Huda Ali Ghuloum receives the prize of 1/2 kg gold from Afsal Khan, Zonal Head of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, Shahil, Branch Head of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, in the presence of Ministry Of Kuwait at Dajeej Branch.



## KUWAIT TAMILAISAI POETS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATED 'LAVENIR KURINJI VIZHA'

**K**uwait Tamilosai Poets Association (KTPA) recently celebrated their 12th year inaugural function as 'lavenir Kurinji Vizha' at Kohinoor Party Hall, Souk-Al-Sabha area, Fahaheel, Kuwait. A basic Medical check-up and Eye testing camp was organized to mark the commencement of the Association's new year, from 8am to 10am in the premises. The function began formally with the recitation of Tamil Anthem, presided over effectively by Gangai Gopal keeping Somasundaram as the front stager in the meet. Representatives from Indian Tamil Nurses Forum Kuwait (ITNF) and Admin.team of Marina Optics-Fahaheel, Kuwait were instrumental for the medical camp and hence honored by Mohammed Ghouse (Founder of Vellidn Real Promoters, Kuwait). KTPA's team dignified Ghouse to admire his philanthropic sponsorship for issuing breakfast

kits to the camp attendees. Then the celebration formally started for the 12th year inauguration of KTPA by lighting the traditional lamp ("Kuthu Vilakku") by KTPA's Lady members followed by Tamil cultural Dance - "The Bharatham" beautifully performed by the Girl Hency Vincia. Mind provoking poems were recited by KTPA's poets, mesmerizing melodies and folk songs sung in the concert enthralled the audience. Thoughtful discourses on The May Day, World Press Freedom Day, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day were delivered by Vetriyoor Makizhan, Siva Ramanan and Vasu Ramanathan respectively. The Proprietor of Al-Shafi Restaurant, Fahaheel-Abdul Khader aka 'Delhi Batcha' graced the occasion as the chief guest. He was felicitated with a memento as an appreciation of his tireless contribution over 45 years for the Hotel business in Kuwait.



## INDIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL KUWAIT KG STUDENTS CELEBRATE COLOR DAY

**P**re-primary children of ICSK Junior celebrated Color Day recently. The children in their early childhood discover the world through colors. This day was great fun for kids and it was designed to help the children to identify and

understand various colors, talk about them and enjoy the different things related to these colors. Each class was allocated a specific color such as red, orange, green, yellow, blue and pink. Each classroom was decorated with the allocated color.

Staff and students came to school dressed in the color allocated to their class. The atmosphere was so colorful and seemed like colorful butterflies flying around. Students were also given a coloring activity according to their respective colors.



## EMBASSY OF BANGLADESH

The Embassy for the People of Bangladesh in Kuwait will follow the following office hours during the holy month of Ramadan: Sunday to Thursday: 09:30 am - 3:30 pm, Friday and Saturday: weekly holidays.



## ANNE SEMONIN PARIS



### BENEFIT FROM 'MADE-TO-MEASURE' APPROACH TO BEAUTY AND SKINCARE



**J**umeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, welcomed a new exclusive brand, Anne Semonin, to its award-winning Talise Spa. The advanced skincare brand from Paris is designed to offer premium, effective and blissful treatment experiences for anti-aging and nourishing results.

With a focus on made-to-measure products, Anne Semonin, a beautician to iconic stars such as Princess Grace Kelly and Catherine Deneuve, personalizes treatments to suit all guests' needs and lifestyles. Because each skin is unique, the highly-qualified therapists at Talise Spa have been trained to offer guests a customized skin regime using Anne Semonin's premium ingredients consisting of seaweed, marine and plant extracts.

Talise Spa's menu now features a selection of Anne Semonin's facials, massage, and body detox rituals. Highlights include the 60-minute Marine Mineral Purifier Facial, which combines the power of marine elements resulting in a deeply purifying treatment for silky smooth skin.

The Cyro-time freeze facial uses the age-defying effects of cooling the skin to reinforce its firmness. The dry, sunny weather of this region might leave one feeling like their skin is ageing more quickly, but the delicate touch of Wild Indigo stimulates the skin leaving it radiant, toned, and brightened.

Men can also make the most of Anne Semonin's offering with a dedicated men's menu. They can also recharge their muscles after a rough workout and relieve tension using a blend of enriching oils alleviating aches and releasing tightness. Anne Semonin will complement the current luxurious skincare brands at Talise Spa, such as Aromatherapy Associates, ILA, NEOM Organics from London, and Natura Bisse.



Group picture for the soccer team with Gulf Bank's CEO and the number of senior employees of the bank.

### GULF BANK CELEBRATES THE TRIUMPH OF ITS SOCCER TEAM

**G**ulf Bank celebrated the triumph of its soccer team, who recently championed the final match of the Kuwait Banking Club Football Tournament for the season 2017, after an exciting finale against Commercial Bank of Kuwait team. The final match was held on Friday evening at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium

of Al-Arabi Club. The celebration, which was attended by Antoine Daher CEO of Gulf Bank, Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager Human Resources at Gulf Bank and a number of seniors and employees of the Bank, was held in recognition of the team's great efforts and fabulous performance throughout the tourna-

ment period that allowed them to take home the trophy. The Kuwait Banking Club also presented the members of the Gulf Bank's soccer team with medals to acknowledge their efforts, and also honored Abdulaziz Al Hindi from Gulf Bank, naming him "Best Coach of the sport season". The final match was held under

the patronage of Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, President of the Kuwait Banking Association and was attended by Dr. Hamad Al-Hasawi, Secretary General of the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), Fadel Al-Mandi, Chairman of the Kuwait Banking Club, Antoine Daher CEO of Gulf Bank and Salma Al-Hajjaj, General

Manager Human Resources at Gulf Bank, along with Board members and leaders of the banking sector. Gulf Bank is committed to supporting its soccer team to meet their need, and encouraging its employees to take part in sport activities to cultivate team spirit and to lead active and healthy lives.

## KUWAIT ULTIMATE SOCCER ACADEMY COMPETED DURING 2017 MARE NOSTRUM CUP IN BARCELONA

### NISSAN AL-BABTAIN OFFICIAL SPONSORS

**A**bdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), the authorized agent of Nissan is proud to be the official sponsor of Ultimate Soccer Academy in Kuwait, the team that participated in the 'Mare Nostrum Cup' Tournament, which took place in Barcelona from Mid-April 2017.

With more than 200 academies participating in the 'Mare Nostrum Cup 2017' tournament, Nissan Al-Babtain is proud of Ultimate Soccer Academy's participation for the fourth consecutive year. Teams from around the globe teamed up to compete during this tournament, which included teams from Sweden, Switzerland, Estonia, Belgium, England, Ireland, Scotland, Japan, the United States and more. Ultimate Soccer Academy joined with two teams, 2007/2008 and 2005/2006

This is Nissan Al-Babtain's second consecutive year of sponsorship to support various activities and events the academy organizes year around, including field trips in Kuwait and abroad, as well as world-class soccer training programs under the supervision of highly reputed coaches.

The Ultimate Soccer Academy, known for its top-quality coaching, is one of the most reputable sports academies in Kuwait that provides football training for kids between 5-18 years of age.

Nissan Al-Babtain is proud to support aspiring soccer-players by giving them the opportunity to grow their strengths, partake in competitive matches and instill a passion for sports and healthy living in a fun and engaging environment that exhibits team spirit. Nissan Al-Babtain's latest sponsorships are part of the brands Corporate Social Responsibility strategy that emphasizes the importance of promoting sportsmanship among the younger generations.





00:45 Bondi Vet  
01:40 Animal Cops Houston  
02:35 Saving A Species: Gorillas On The Brink With...  
03:25 Mutant Planet  
04:15 Cats 101  
05:02 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall  
05:49 Animal Cops Houston  
06:36 Going Ape  
07:25 Cats 101  
08:15 Animal Cops Houston  
10:05 Mutant Planet  
10:05 Saving A Species: Gorillas On The Brink With...  
11:00 Cats 101  
11:55 Bondi Vet  
12:50 Animal Cops Houston  
13:45 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall  
14:40 Mutant Planet  
15:35 Saving A Species: Gorillas On The Brink With...  
16:30 River Monsters  
17:25 Meet The Penguins  
18:20 Pit Bulls & Paroles  
19:15 Investigation Earth With Jeff Corwin



00:30 Science Of The Movies  
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
02:10 Dirty Jobs  
03:00 Now That's Funny  
03:50 Ultimate Survival  
04:40 How It's Made  
05:30 Storm Chasers  
06:20 Mythbusters  
07:00 Adventure 8: Zoo Games  
07:25 Kids vs Film  
07:50 Bad Dog  
08:40 How It's Made  
09:30 Science Of The Movies  
10:20 Mythbusters  
11:10 Bad Dog  
12:00 Ultimate Survival  
12:50 How It's Made  
13:40 Storm Chasers  
14:30 Adventure 8: Zoo Games  
14:55 Kids vs Film  
15:20 Bad Dog  
16:10 Science Of The Movies  
17:00 React To That  
17:50 Now That's Funny  
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
19:30 How It's Made



00:00 Murder Among Friends  
01:20 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas  
02:10 Killing Richard Glossip  
03:00 Murder Chose Me  
03:48 I Almost Got Away With It  
04:36 Beauty Queen Murders  
05:24 Swamp Murders  
06:12 I'd Kill For You  
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
07:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
08:40 Beauty Queen Murders  
09:30 Swamp Murders  
10:20 I'd Kill For You  
11:10 Nightmare Next Door  
12:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
12:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?

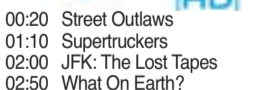
IDX HD  
00:30 Murder Among Friends  
01:20 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas  
02:10 Killing Richard Glossip  
03:00 Murder Chose Me  
03:48 I Almost Got Away With It  
04:36 Beauty Queen Murders  
05:24 Swamp Murders  
06:12 I'd Kill For You  
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
07:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
08:40 Beauty Queen Murders  
09:30 Swamp Murders  
10:20 I'd Kill For You  
11:10 Nightmare Next Door  
12:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
12:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?

JIM CARREY  
MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS



MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:40 Beauty Queen Murders  
14:30 Swamp Murders  
15:10 I'd Kill For You  
16:10 A Crime To Remember  
17:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
17:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
17:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
18:40 Beauty Queen Murders  
19:30 Swamp Murders  
20:20 I'd Kill For You  
21:10 Killer Instinct With Chris



00:20 Street Outlaws  
01:10 Supertrucks  
02:00 JFK: The Lost Tapes  
02:50 What On Earth?  
03:40 Sacred Steel Bikes  
04:30 Storage Hunters UK  
05:00 How Do They Do It?  
05:30 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Gold Divers  
06:50 Street Outlaws  
07:40 Sacred Steel Bikes  
08:30 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
09:20 Storage Hunters UK  
09:45 How Do They Do It?  
10:35 Fast N' Loud  
11:25 Diesel Brothers  
12:15 Harley And The Davidsons  
13:05 How Do They Do It?  
13:30 Storage Hunters UK  
14:20 Gold Rush  
15:10 Treasure Quest: Snake Island  
16:00 Gold Divers  
16:50 Sacred Steel Bikes  
17:40 Street Outlaws  
18:30 How Do They Do It?  
18:55 How Do They Do It?  
19:20 Treasure Quest: Snake Island  
20:10 Storage Hunters UK  
20:35 Storage Hunters UK

08:00 The Pioneer Woman  
09:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts  
10:00 Cooking For Real  
11:00 The Kitchen  
12:00 The Pioneer Woman  
13:00 Siba's Table  
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
15:00 Chopped  
16:00 The Kitchen  
17:00 Anna Olson: Bake  
18:00 Chopped  
19:00 Iron Chef America  
20:00 Restaurant: Impossible  
21:00 Mystery Diners  
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
23:00 Guy's Grocery Games



00:30 How Do They Do It?  
00:55 Food Factory  
01:20 How The Universe Works  
02:10 Race To Escape  
03:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
03:48 Mythbusters  
04:36 How Do They Do It?  
05:00 Food Factory  
05:24 How The Universe Works  
06:12 Race To Escape  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
08:14 Mythbusters  
09:02 Race To Escape  
09:50 How Do They Do It?  
10:14 Food Factory  
10:38 How The Universe Works  
11:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
12:14 Mythbusters  
13:02 How Do They Do It?  
13:26 Food Factory  
13:50 Race To Escape  
14:38 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

04:45 Zou  
05:00 Art Attack  
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:45 Loopedidoo  
06:00 Zou  
06:15 Calimero  
06:30 Loopedidoo  
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster  
07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh  
07:25 Sofia The First  
07:50 The Lion Guard  
08:15 PJ Masks  
08:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
09:05 Goldie & Bear  
09:35 The Lion Guard  
10:05 Sofia The First  
10:35 Doc McStuffins  
11:05 My Friends Tigger & Pooh  
11:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
12:05 Gummi Bears  
12:35 Miles From Tomorrow  
13:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
13:35 PJ Masks  
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh  
14:30 The Lion Guard  
15:00 Sofia The First  
15:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
15:55 Sofia The First  
16:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh  
16:50 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies  
17:15 Sofia The First  
17:40 Doc McStuffins  
18:05 PJ Masks  
18:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
19:05 Miles From Tomorrow  
19:35 Miles From Tomorrow  
20:05 Goldie & Bear  
20:35 My Friends Tigger & Pooh  
21:00 Gummi Bears  
21:25 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies  
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
22:00 Goldie & Bear  
22:30 PJ Masks  
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
01:05 Loopedidoo  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Zou  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:20 The Hive  
02:40 Loopedidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopedidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
01:05 Loopedidoo  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Zou  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:20 The Hive  
02:40 Loopedidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopedidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
01:05 Loopedidoo  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Zou  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:20 The Hive  
02:40 Loopedidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopedidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
01:05 Loopedidoo  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Zou  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:20 The Hive  
02:40 Loopedidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopedidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
01:05 Loopedidoo  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Zou  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:20 The Hive  
02:40 Loopedidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopedidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
01:05 Loopedidoo  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Zou  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:20 The Hive  
02:40 Loopedidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopedidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster

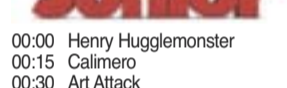
00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
01:05 Loopedidoo  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Zou  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:20 The Hive  
02:40 Loopedidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopedidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
01:05 Loopedidoo  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Zou  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:20 The Hive  
02:40 Loopedidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopedidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster

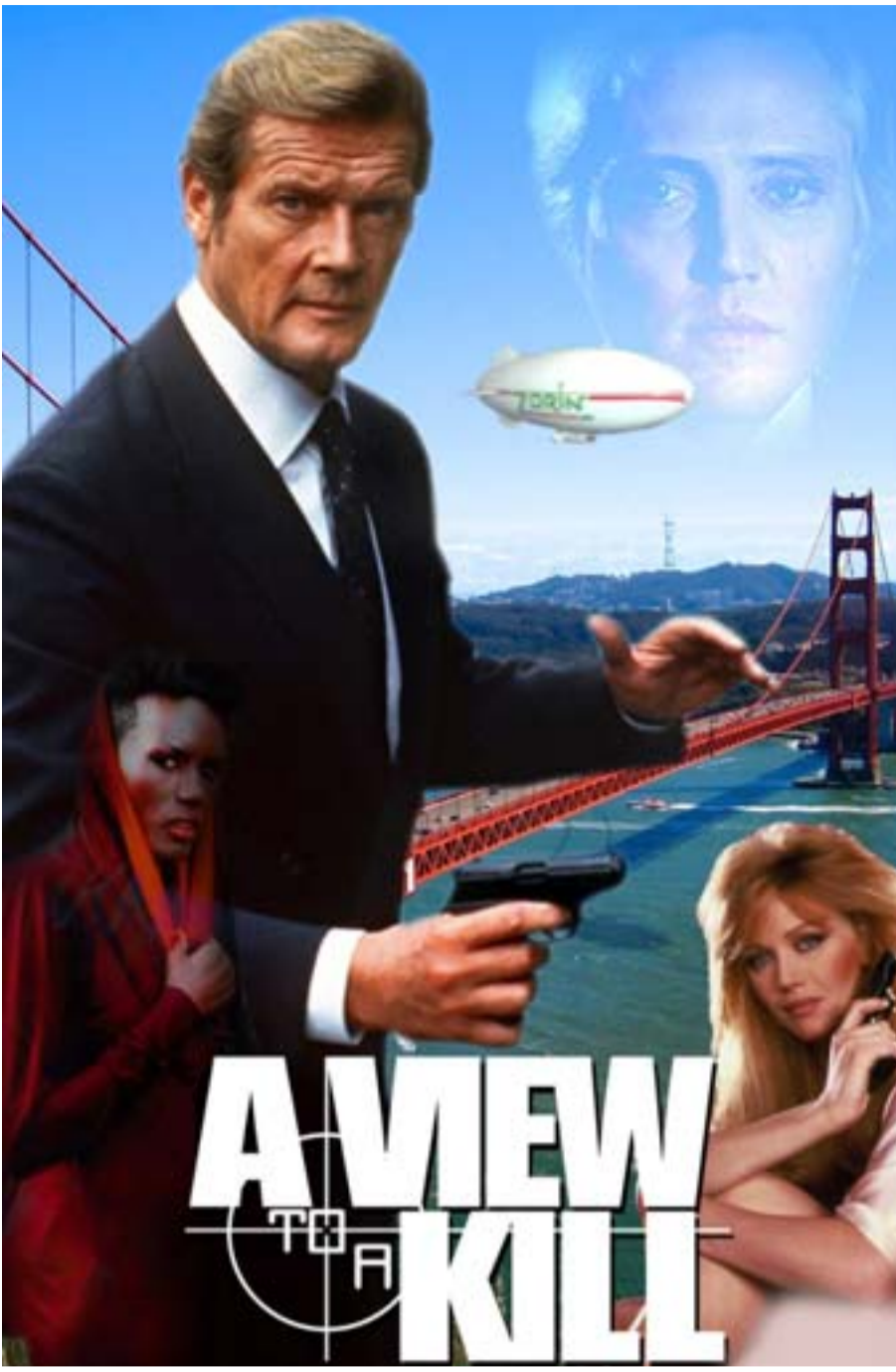


00:00 Binny And The Ghost  
00:25 Hank Zipzer  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Hank Zipzer  
02:50 Celebrity Style Story  
03:50 Botched  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 Hollywood & Football  
06:55 El News  
07:25 Hollywood & Football  
10:10 El News  
10:40 Celebrity Style Story  
11:10 Fashion Police  
12:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
15:00 El News  
15:30 Celebrity Style Story  
16:00 WAGs  
17:00 WAGs  
18:00 WAGs  
19:00 Fashion Police  
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
22:00 Botched  
23:00 El News  
23:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

00:20 Hoard Hunters  
01:10 Pawn Stars  
01:35 Pawn Stars South Africa  
02:50 Storage Wars  
03:15 American Pickers  
04:05 Pawn Stars  
04:30 Pawn Stars  
05:00 Mountain Men  
06:00 Ultimate Wheels  
06:50 Duck Dynasty  
07:15 Duck Dynasty  
07:40 Counting Cars  
08:30 Pawn Stars  
08:55 Pawn Stars  
09:20 Storage Wars  
09:45 Storage Wars  
10:10 American Pickers  
11:00 Billion Dollar Wreck  
11:50 Duck Dynasty  
12:40 Swamp People  
13:30 Ax Men  
14:20 Mountain Men  
15:10 Ultimate Wheels  
16:00 Storage Wars  
16:25 Storage Wars  
16:50 Pawn Stars  
17:15 Pawn Stars  
17:40 Storage Wars Miami  
18:30 Pawn Stars  
18:55 Pawn Stars South Africa  
19:20 Mountain Men  
20:10 American Pickers  
21:00 DB Cooper: Case Closed?  
22:40 Mummies Alive



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
07:15 Milo Murphy's Law  
07:25 Danger Mouse  
07:40 Supa Strikas  
08:05 Two More Eggs  
08:10 K.C. Undercover  
08:35 Counterfeit Cat  
09:00 Lab Rats Elite Force  
09:25 Lab Rats Elite Force  
09:50 Future-Worm!  
10:20 Pair Of Kings  
10:45 Pair Of Kings  
11:10 Danger Mouse  
11:35 Supa Strikas  
12:00 Supa Strikas



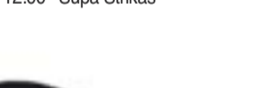
A VIEW TO A KILL ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

23:35 The Hive  
23:45 Loopedidoo

10:20 I'd Kill For You  
11:10 Nightmare Next Door  
12:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
12:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:40 Beauty Queen Murders  
14:30 Swamp Murders  
15:20 I'd Kill For You  
16:10 A Crime To Remember  
17:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
17:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
17:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
18:40 Beauty Queen Murders  
19:30 Swamp Murders  
20:20 I'd Kill For You  
21:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen  
22:00 Killing Richard Glossip  
22:50 A Crime To Remember  
23:40 JonBenet: An American Murder Mystery



20:30 Lee Chan's World Food Tour  
21:00 Carnival Eats  
21:30 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
22:00 My Restaurant In India  
22:25 Chasing The Sun  
22:55 Chasing The Sun  
23:20 Glamour Puds  
23:50 Andy And Ben Eat Australia  
OSN Series Comedy HD  
00:00 The Goldbergs  
00:30 The Carmichael Show  
00:51 The Carmichael Show  
01:12 The Carmichael Show  
01:35 Baskets  
02:00 Difficult People  
02:30 Life In Pieces  
03:00 Gary Unmarried  
03:30 Gary Unmarried  
04:00 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving  
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
05:30 The Mindy Project  
06:00 Til Death  
06:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
07:30 Dr. Ken  
08:00 Cooper Barrett's Guide To



00:10 The Chase  
01:00 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coronation Street  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
03:25 Jekyll And Hyde  
04:20 Shoot The Messenger  
05:15 Coach Trip  
05:45 Coach Trip  
06:10 The Chase  
07:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
08:00 Jekyll And Hyde  
09:00 Shoot The Messenger  
10:00 Coach Trip  
10:30 Coach Trip  
10:55 The Chase  
11:50 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
12:45 Emmerdale  
13:15 Coronation Street  
13:45 Coronation Street  
14:15 Cash Trapped  
15:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
16:00 Tutankhamun  
16:55 Tina & Bobby  
17:50 Coach Trip  
18:20 Coach Trip  
18:45 Emmerdale  
19:15 Coronation Street  
19:45 Coronation Street  
20:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
21:00 Tutankhamun  
21:55 Tina & Bobby  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Coronation Street  
23:40 Coronation Street



00:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
00:40 Poh & Co.  
01:10 Carnival Eats  
01:40 Croatia's Finest  
02:05 Glamour Puds  
02:35 Andy And Ben Eat Australia  
03:00 Living Free With Kimi Werner  
03:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
04:25 Sara's Australia Unveiled  
04:50 Chef On The Road  
05:45 Carnival Eats  
06:15 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
06:40 My Restaurant In India  
07:10 Croatia's Finest  
07:35 Glamour Puds  
08:05 Andy And Ben Eat Australia  
08:30 Living Free With Kimi Werner  
09:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
09:55 Sara's Australia Unveiled  
10:20 Chef On The Road  
11:15 Carnival Eats  
11:45 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
12:10 My Restaurant In India  
12:40 Croatia's Finest  
13:05 Glamour Puds  
13:35 Andy And Ben Eat Australia  
14:00 Living Free With Kimi Werner  
14:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
15:25 Sara's Australia Unveiled  
15:50 Straight To The Source: Korean Food  
16:20 Lee Chan's World Food Tour  
16:45 Carnival Eats  
17:15 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
17:40 My Restaurant In India  
18:10 Chasing The Sun  
18:35 Chasing The Sun  
19:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
19:30 Sara's Australia Unveiled  
20:00 Straight To The Source: Korean Food



00:30 Murder Among Friends  
01:20 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas  
02:10 Killing Richard Glossip  
03:00 Murder Chose Me  
03:48 I Almost Got Away With It  
04:36 Beauty Queen Murders  
05:24 Swamp Murders  
06:12 I'd Kill For You  
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
07:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
08:40 Beauty Queen Murders  
09:30 Swamp Murders

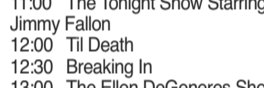
Humankind  
09:00 Mega Breakdown  
10:00 Scam City  
11:00 Lawless Island  
12:00 Primal Survivor  
13:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey  
14:00 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind  
15:00 Inside Singapore Airlines  
16:00 Scam City  
17:00 Lawless Island  
18:00 Primal Survivor  
19:00 Inside Singapore Airlines  
20:00 Scam City  
20:50 Lawless Island  
21:40 Primal Survivor  
22:30 Inside Singapore Airlines



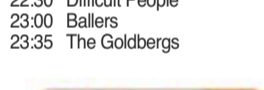
00:00 Homeland  
01:00 Scandal  
02:00 Feud  
03:00 Secrets And Lies  
04:00 Timeless  
05:00 The Art Of More  
06:00 Good Morning America - Weekend  
07:00 The Chew  
08:00 The View  
09:00 The Art Of More  
10:00 Timeless  
11:00 Bones  
12:00 The Chew  
13:00 The View  
14:00 Live Good Morning America  
16:00 The Art Of More  
17:00 Timeless  
18:00 Good Girls Revolt  
19:00 Rosewood  
20:00 Criminal Minds  
21:00 American Crime  
22:00 Code Black  
23:00 Secrets And Lies



00:00 People Of Earth  
00:30 The Mindy Project  
01:00 The Mindy Project  
01:30 Saturday Night Live  
03:00 Gary Unmarried  
03:30 Gary Unmarried  
04:00 Breaking In  
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
05:30 Superstore  
06:00 Til Death  
06:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
07:30 The Last Man On Earth  
08:00 Breaking In  
08:30 Gary Unmarried  
09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
10:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
12:00 Til Death  
12:30 Breaking In  
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
14:00 Gary Unmarried  
14:30 The Last Man On Earth  
15:00 Superstore  
15:30 The Mindy Project  
16:00 The Mindy Project  
16:30 Til Death  
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
18:00 Gary Unmarried  
18:30 Gary Unmarried  
19:00 Dr. Ken  
19:30 The Mindy Project  
20:00 The Goldbergs  
20:30 The Goldbergs  
21:30 Two And A Half Men  
22:00 Baskets  
22:30 Difficult People  
23:00 Ballers  
23:35 The Goldbergs



01:00 Cher Ami  
02:45 Ghatotkach - Master Of Magic  
04:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote  
06:00 Egon And Donci  
07:30 Mune  
09:00 Hey Arnold! The Movie  
11:00 Cher Ami  
12:30 Pooch's Heffalump Movie  
13:45 Marco Macaco  
15:15 Hey Arnold! The Movie  
17:15 Daddy I'm A Zombie  
18:45 Memory Loss  
20:15 Marco Macaco  
21:45 Mune  
23:15 Daddy I'm A Zombie



00:20 Promzillas  
01:10 The Undeatables  
02:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life  
02:25 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids  
02:50 Love, Lust Or Run  
03:15 Cake Boss  
03:35 Are You Fitter Than A Pensioner?  
04:20 Little People, Big World  
04:45 Little People, Big World  
05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras  
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day  
06:50 Promzillas  
07:40 Outdaughters: Busby Quints  
08:30 Little People, Big World  
08:55 Little People, Big World  
09:20 Sister Wives



01:00 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold  
03:00 Hocus Pocus  
05:00 Eight Below  
07:00 Atlantis: The Lost Empire  
09:00 Turner & Hooch  
11:00 Eight Below  
13:00 Atlantis: Milo's Return  
15:00 Chicken Little  
17:00 Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie  
19:00 Black Beauty  
21:00 Race To Witch Mountain  
23:00 Chicken Little



I'LL FOLLOW YOU DOWN ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL



# CLASSIFIEDS



**Kuwait Times**  
 Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (11/05/2017 TO 17/05/2017)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>SHARQIA-1</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD   | 11:30 AM<br>2:15 PM<br>4:45 PM<br>7:00 PM<br>9:15 PM<br>11:45 PM                                    |
| <b>SHARQIA-2</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD   | 12:15 PM<br>2:45 PM<br>5:15 PM<br>7:45 PM<br>10:15 PM<br>12:45 AM                                   |
| <b>SHARQIA-3</b><br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM  | 12:45 PM<br>2:45 PM<br>4:30 PM<br>6:15 PM<br>8:00 PM<br>10:00 PM<br>12:05 AM                        |
| <b>MUHALAB-1</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>RADHA -Telugu<br>RADHA -Telugu<br>SARKAR 3 - Hindi<br>RADHA -Telugu<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>NOTHU+FRH+MON<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD | 11:30 AM<br>2:00 PM<br>4:30 PM<br>4:30 PM<br>7:15 PM<br>7:15 PM<br>10:00 PM<br>10:00 PM<br>12:30 AM |
| <b>MUHALAB-2</b><br>A FAMILY MAN<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2<br>A FAMILY MAN  | 1:00 PM<br>1:30 PM<br>3:15 PM<br>5:15 PM<br>7:15 PM<br>9:30 PM<br>12:05 AM                          |
| <b>MUHALAB-3</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD   | 1:15 PM<br>3:45 PM<br>6:30 PM<br>9:00 PM<br>11:30 PM  |
| <b>FANAR-1</b><br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>FAST & FURIOUS 8   | 12:45 PM<br>3:00 PM<br>5:15 PM<br>7:30 PM<br>9:45 PM<br>12:05 AM                                    |
| <b>FANAR-2</b><br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2<br>GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2  | 1:15 PM<br>3:00 PM<br>5:00 PM<br>7:00 PM<br>8:45 PM<br>11:15 PM                                     |
| <b>FANAR-3</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>SARKAR 3 - Hindi<br>BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi   | 12:30 PM<br>3:00 PM<br>5:30 PM  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| SARKAR 3 - Hindi<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD  | 8:45 PM<br>11:30 PM  |
| <b>FANAR-4</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD  | 12:00 PM<br>2:30 PM<br>5:00 PM<br>7:30 PM<br>10:00 PM<br>12:30 AM                      |
| <b>FANAR-5</b><br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>THE BOSS BABY<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM   | 12:00 PM<br>2:00 PM<br>4:00 PM<br>6:00 PM<br>7:45 PM<br>9:30 PM<br>11:30 PM<br>1:15 AM |
| <b>MARINA-1</b><br>A FAMILY MAN<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN  | 11:45 AM<br>2:00 PM<br>4:00 PM<br>6:00 PM<br>8:00 PM<br>10:15 PM<br>12:30 AM           |
| <b>MARINA-2</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>THE BOSS BABY<br>GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2<br>GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD  | 12:30 PM<br>3:00 PM<br>5:30 PM<br>7:30 PM<br>10:00 PM<br>12:30 AM                      |
| <b>MARINA-3</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD                               | 11:30 AM<br>2:00 PM<br>4:30 PM<br>7:00 PM<br>9:30 PM<br>12:05 AM                       |
| <b>AVENUES-1</b><br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN  | 12:15 PM<br>2:30 PM<br>4:45 PM<br>7:00 PM<br>9:15 PM<br>11:30 PM                       |
| <b>AVENUES-2</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX<br>THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX | 11:30 AM<br>2:15 PM<br>5:00 PM<br>7:15 PM<br>10:00 PM<br>12:45 AM                      |
| <b>AVENUES-3</b><br>THE BOSS BABY<br>THE BOSS BABY<br>THE BOSS BABY<br>THE BOSS BABY<br>THE BOSS BABY<br>FAST & FURIOUS 8<br>MONOLITH   | 11:30 AM<br>1:30 PM<br>3:45 PM<br>6:00 PM<br>8:15 PM<br>10:30 PM<br>1:15 AM            |
| <b>AVENUES-4</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD  | 11:30 AM   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| THE BOSS BABY<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>Special Show "KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD"<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD           | 2:00 PM<br>4:00 PM<br>6:45 PM<br>9:30 PM<br>9:30 PM<br>12:15 AM              |
| <b>360°-1</b><br>THE BOSS BABY<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD | 11:30 AM<br>1:30 PM<br>4:15 PM<br>7:00 PM<br>9:45 PM<br>12:30 AM             |
| <b>360°-2</b><br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>SOUKAR BARAH<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM   | 12:00 PM<br>2:00 PM<br>4:00 PM<br>6:15 PM<br>8:15 PM<br>10:15 PM<br>12:15 AM |
| <b>360°-3</b><br>FAST & FURIOUS 8<br>BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi<br>GEORGETTAN'S POORAM- Malayalam<br>BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi<br>MONOLITH  | 12:15 PM<br>3:15 PM<br>6:30 PM<br>9:45 PM<br>1:00 AM                         |
| <b>AL-KOUT.1</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>THE BOSS BABY<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD      | 11:30 AM<br>2:15 PM<br>4:45 PM<br>6:45 PM<br>9:15 PM<br>11:45 PM             |
| <b>AL-KOUT.2</b><br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>A FAMILY MAN<br>GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2<br>A FAMILY MAN   | 12:00 PM<br>2:15 PM<br>4:30 PM<br>6:45 PM<br>9:00 PM<br>11:30 PM             |
| <b>AL-KOUT.3</b><br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM<br>YOU MIN AL AYAM                       | 12:30 PM<br>2:30 PM<br>4:15 PM<br>6:00 PM<br>8:00 PM<br>10:00 PM<br>12:15 AM |
| <b>AL-KOUT.4</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD                       | 12:15 PM<br>2:45 PM<br>5:15 PM<br>7:45 PM<br>10:15 PM<br>12:45 AM            |
| <b>BAIRAQ-1</b><br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D<br>THE BOSS BABY<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D<br>KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD                                   | 1:15 PM<br>1:45 PM<br>3:45 PM<br>6:15 PM<br>8:45 PM                          |

**REQUIRED**

**FULL TIME JOB FOR AN EXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPING FILIPINO MALE FOR A FURNISHED APARTMENTS BUILDING AT SALMIYA WE OFFER A FREE HOUSING**

Contact: 56600001

**REQUIRED**

**DRIVER**

To work at Kuwaiti Family Transferable residence Speaks Arabic / English Knows to use Google Maps

Contact: 97286044

**Required**

- Aluminum Technicians
- Glass Technicians

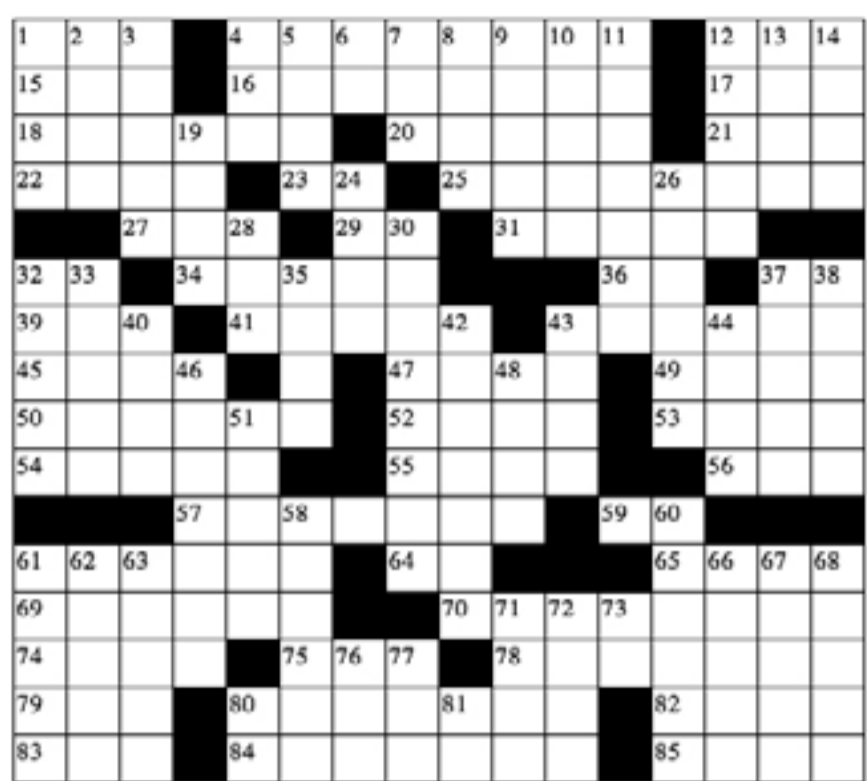
coordinator@safco-kuwait.com

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

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

| Arrival Flights on Tuesday 9/5/2017 |      |             |       | Departure Flights on Tuesday 9/5/2017 |      |                   |       |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------|-------|---------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------|
| Airlines                            | Flt  | Route       | Time  | Airlines                              | Flt  | Route             | Time  |
| THY                                 | 772  | Istanbul    | 00:10 | JAD                                   | 301  | Amman             | 15:00 |
| JZR                                 | 553  | Alexandria  | 00:15 | ETD                                   | 303  | Abu Dhabi         | 15:05 |
| SVA                                 | 502  | Jeddah      | 00:20 | KAC                                   | 562  | Amman             | 15:10 |
| SVA                                 | 514  | Riyadh      | 00:25 | OMA                                   | 645  | Muscat            | 15:10 |
| KAC                                 | 786  | Jeddah      | 00:30 | KAC                                   | 502  | Beirut            | 15:25 |
| MSC                                 | 411  | Asyut       | 00:30 | KAC                                   | 412  | Bangkok           | 15:30 |
| JZR                                 | 267  | Beirut      | 00:35 | ABY                                   | 127  | Sharjah           | 15:35 |
| RJA                                 | 642  | Amman       | 00:45 | UAE                                   | 857  | Dubai             | 15:45 |
| KAC                                 | 102  | London      | 00:55 | RJA                                   | 640  | Amman             | 16:00 |
| DLH                                 | 635  | Doha        | 01:00 | FDK                                   | 801  | Damascus          | 16:00 |
| JZR                                 | 539  | Cairo       | 01:25 | JZR                                   | 325  | Al Najaf          | 16:15 |
| UAE                                 | 853  | Dubai       | 01:40 | FDB                                   | 051  | Dubai             | 16:15 |
| ETH                                 | 620  | Addis Ababa | 01:50 | QTR                                   | 1072 | Doha              | 16:15 |
| KKK                                 | 6506 | Istanbul    | 01:55 | JZR                                   | 535  | Cairo             | 16:20 |
| AXB                                 | 395  | Kozhikode   | 02:00 | JZR                                   | 125  | Bahrain           | 16:25 |
| KAC                                 | 358  | Kochi       | 04:50 | NIA                                   | 361  | Alexandria        | 16:50 |
| FEG                                 | 953  | Asyut       | 05:00 | KAC                                   | 118  | New York          | 16:55 |
| THY                                 | 6376 | Istanbul    | 05:05 | KAC                                   | 542  | Cairo             | 17:05 |
| DHX                                 | 770  | Istanbul    | 05:05 | SVA                                   | 510  | Riyadh            | 17:15 |
| KAC                                 | 414  | Bahrain     | 05:10 | GFA                                   | 215  | Bahrain           | 17:30 |
| KAC                                 | 332  | Bangkok     | 05:20 | JZR                                   | 777  | Jeddah            | 17:35 |
| KAC                                 | 529  | Asyut       | 05:40 | JZR                                   | 1080 | Dubai             | 17:45 |
| BAW                                 | 157  | London      | 06:05 | JZR                                   | 483  | Istanbul          | 18:30 |
| KAC                                 | 284  | Dhaka       | 06:35 | MSC                                   | 620  | Dubai             | 18:30 |
| KAC                                 | 206  | Islamabad   | 06:40 | UAE                                   | 875  | Bahrain           | 19:05 |
| KAC                                 | 302  | Mumbai      | 06:55 | GFA                                   | 217  | Bahrain           | 19:05 |
| QTR                                 | 8511 | Doha        | 07:05 | KAC                                   | 776  | Riyadh            | 19:05 |
| JZR                                 | 504  | Luxor       | 07:25 | FDB                                   | 063  | Dubai             | 19:10 |
| KAC                                 | 354  | Bangalore   | 07:50 | ABY                                   | 123  | Sharjah           | 19:20 |
| FDB                                 | 053  | Dubai       | 07:50 | KAC                                   | 154  | Istanbul          | 19:30 |
| AAG                                 | 142  | Sharjah     | 08:00 | JAI                                   | 572  | Delhi             | 19:35 |
| KAC                                 | 384  | Delhi       | 08:00 | KAC                                   | 674  | Dubai             | 19:40 |
| UAE                                 | 855  | Dubai       | 08:25 | KAC                                   | 616  | Bahrain           | 19:40 |
| ETD                                 | 301  | Abu Dhabi   | 08:55 | FDB                                   | 057  | Dubai             | 19:50 |
| ABY                                 | 125  | Sharjah     | 09:00 | OMA                                   | 647  | Muscat            | 20:05 |
| QTR                                 | 1070 | Doha        | 09:20 | DLH                                   | 634  | Frankfurt         | 20:15 |
| IRC                                 | 6507 | Shiraz      | 09:30 | MEA                                   | 402  | Beirut            | 20:15 |
| FDB                                 | 055  | Dubai       | 09:40 | QTR                                   | 1088 | Doha              | 20:35 |
| IRA                                 | 675  | Lar         | 09:40 | KAC                                   | 164  | Rome              | 20:55 |
| SVA                                 | 512  | Riyadh      | 10:00 | KAC                                   | 564  | Amman             | 21:00 |
| GFA                                 | 213  | Bahrain     | 10:40 | KAC                                   | 168  | Paris             | 21:05 |
| MEA                                 | 404  | Beirut      | 10:55 | KAC                                   | 172  | Frankfurt         | 21:05 |
| PAL                                 | 668  | Manila      | 11:00 | ETD                                   | 307  | Abu Dhabi         | 21:10 |
| JZR                                 | 561  | Sohag       | 11:10 | KLM                                   | 445  | Amsterdam         | 21:15 |
| MSC                                 | 403  | Asyut       | 11:15 | JZR                                   | 229  | Colombo           | 21:15 |
| JZR                                 | 165  | Dubai       | 11:50 | UAE                                   | 859  | Dubai             | 21:15 |
| AZQ                                 | 4805 | EBL         | 12:00 | ICV                                   | 675  | Luxembourg        | 21:45 |
| JZR                                 | 1331 | Al Najaf    | 12:20 | GFA                                   | 219  | Bahrain           | 21:50 |
| MSC                                 | 401  | Alexandria  | 12:30 | QTR                                   | 1082 | Doha              | 22:00 |
| UAE                                 | 871  | Dubai       | 12:45 | NIA                                   | 0161 | Cairo             | 22:10 |
| THY                                 | 766  | Istanbul    | 12:50 | ETD                                   | 309  | Abu Dhabi         | 22:10 |
| FEG                                 | 933  | Sohag       | 12:55 | AIC                                   | 987  | Chennai/Hyderabad | 22:25 |
| MSR                                 | 610  | Cairo       | 13:00 | PIA                                   | 239  | Sialkot           | 22:35 |
| AXB                                 | 393  | Kozhikode   | 13:10 | JZR                                   | 185  | Dubai             | 22:55 |
| SYR                                 | 341  | Damascus    | 13:30 | IRA                                   | 241  | Amman             | 22:55 |
| KAC                                 | 672  | Dubai       | 13:55 | SVA                                   | 513  | Riyadh            | 23:00 |
| KAC                                 | 692  | Muscat      | 13:55 | GFA                                   | 214  | Bahrain           | 23:00 |
| QTR                                 | 1078 | Doha        | 14:05 | FDB                                   | 071  | Dubai             | 23:35 |
| KAC                                 | 364  | Colombo     | 14:15 | THY                                   | 764  | Istanbul          | 23:45 |
| GFA                                 | 221  | Bahrain     | 14:15 |                                       |      |                   |       |
| KAC                                 | 618  | Doha        | 14:20 |                                       |      |                   |       |
| FDB                                 | 059  | Dubai       | 14:20 |                                       |      |                   |       |
| SVA                                 | 500  | Jeddah      | 14:45 |                                       |      |                   |       |
| KAC                                 | 788  | Jeddah      | 14:55 |                                       |      |                   |       |
| KNE                                 | 529  | Jeddah      | 14:55 |                                       |      |                   |       |

CROSSWORD 1609



ACROSS

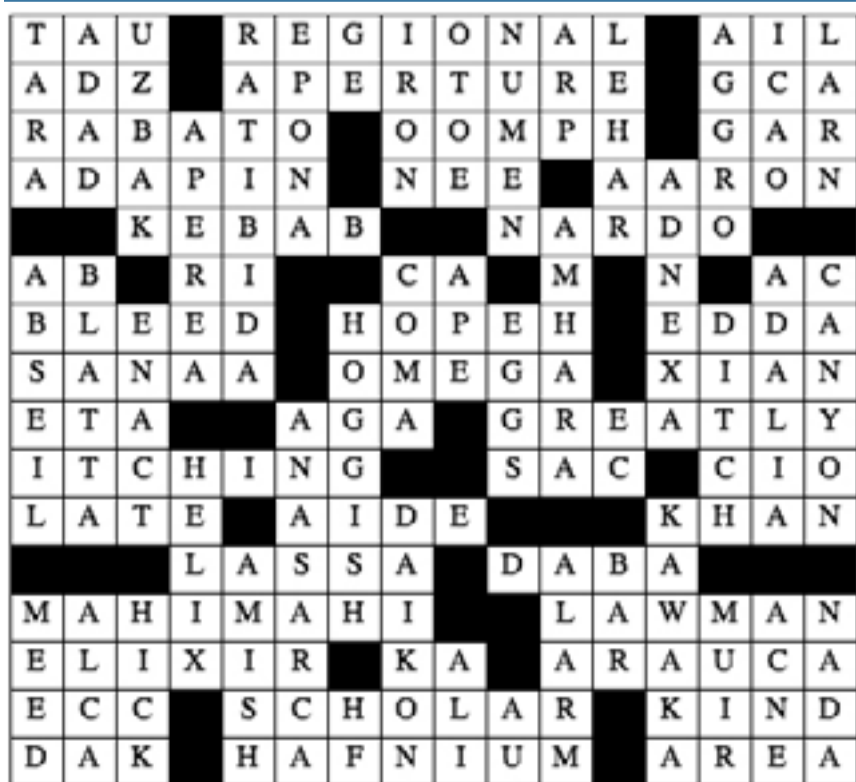
1. A bachelor's degree in theology.
4. Taken before a meal as an appetizer.
12. Electronic equipment that provides visual images of varying electrical quantities.
15. An affirmative.
16. Any of various long-legged carrion-eating hawks of South and Central America.
17. A small piece of cloth.
18. A unit of astronomical length based on the distance from Earth at which stellar parallax is 1 second of arc.
20. Relieve from military service.
21. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
22. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
23. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
25. Capable of being denied or contradicted.
27. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
29. The square of a body of any size of type.
31. God of the sky.
32. Before noon.
34. Humorously vulgar.
36. A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
39. The seat within a bishop's diocese where his cathedral is located adv.
41. A sharp sound made by small birds or insects v 1.
45. A pilgrimage to Mecca.
47. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
49. Capital and largest city and economic center of Peru.
50. First in order of birth.
52. Type genus of the Amidae.
53. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
54. City in Sudan.
55. A city in Tuscany.
56. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
57. Sometimes placed in family Convallariaceae.
59. A bachelor's degree in science.
61. A large fleet.
64. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
65. A block of solid substance (such as soap or wax).
69. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
70. Being of the age 13 through 19.
74. Type genus of the Amidae.
75. The cry made by sheep.
78. An organism that lives in and derives its nourishment from organic matter in stagnant or foul water.
79. A port in southern Lebanon on the Mediterranean Sea.
82. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
83. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
84. The largest city and former capital of Turkey.
85. A small cake leavened with yeast.

5. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
6. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
7. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
8. Made agreeably cold (especially by ice).
9. Brought from wildness into a domesticated state.
10. Witty language used to convey insults or scorn.
11. Genus of South and Central American heathlike evergreen shrubs.
12. Infestation of the pubic hair by crab lice.
13. A barrier consisting of a horizontal bar and supports.
14. Look at with amorous intentions.
19. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
24. The basic unit of money in Ghana.
26. Of or relating to the process of hearing.
28. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
30. General term for any terrestrial arthropod having an elongated body composed of many similar segments.
33. Composed of or covered with relatively large particles.
35. Make keen or more acute.
37. Relating to the blood vessels or blood.
38. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
40. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
42. Battle in which the ruler of Afghanistan defeated the Mahrattas in 1761.
43. An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
44. (trademark) A type of inflatable air mattress.
46. A loose cloak with a hood.
48. Freedom from difficulty or hardship or effort.
51. The main city of ancient Phoenicia.
58. Any of various burrowing animals of the family Leporidae having long ears and short tails.
60. Scarabaeid beetle considered divine by ancient Egyptians.
62. The posterior part of the mandible that is more or less vertical.
63. Of silk fabric.
66. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
67. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
68. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
71. (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
72. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
73. A radioactive transuranic metallic element.
76. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
77. An anticipated outcome that is intended or that guides your planned actions.
80. A chronic progressive nervous disorder involving loss of myelin sheath around certain nerve fibers.
81. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.

DOWN

1. A mistake in printed matter resulting from mechanical failures of some kind.
2. A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
3. Having the head uncovered.
4. (informal) Of the highest quality.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

There is an abundance of creative energy, which will make work projects successful. There could be mistakes in math this morning. Inventiveness and creative ventures will most likely be lucrative. Nobody minds hard work when there is something to be gained-the message seems very clear-rewards are just around the corner. You may become so involved in your work, however, that you could find it difficult to leave for home this afternoon. You will be attentive to your loved ones but you may seem to have other things on your mind as well. Be easy on your nervous system and involve yourself in some fun activity that includes the interaction with others this evening. You will have fresh thinking in the morning-don't worry so much.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are learning to recognize the ways in which you manipulate your life so as to live and manage your life successfully. You may now be able to adjust your ideas and response to situations so that you can create your ideal circumstances. If you want to be a servant to others, you will be the most honored and admired of all the servants because you will know how to make positive changes happen. If you decide to be a hermit, you will be self-sustaining and may write the most popular book ever! Whatever you plan in the future seems most positive as you have the determination and inner knowing to complete goals and rise above any difficulties. Now is the perfect time to plan a change that would improve and enlighten.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are a hard worker and it is important to remain behind the scenes and quietly continue your pace as long as possible. Do not let others distract you from your work-you make good progress all day long. There may be a serious decision made regarding the future of a project or investment. You find that you are appreciated or valued for your ability to simplify matters. Physical activities like sports among friends and family can be enjoyed this afternoon. Mingling with friends in social surroundings is a boost to your ego this evening. You may be encouraged to broaden your knowledge-more education perhaps. You join a friend in a story-writing class or some other creative venture, and you may find yourself with a new interest.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your determination may be interpreted as a sign of stubbornness at times. Others may not realize this is just a desire to accomplish things quickly. Be aware of the sound your words make and maintain low tones, if possible. If maintaining low tones is not possible, take some time to think before you express your thoughts. Considering the general feelings of today-it may be best to take mental notes of the things you want to change and meditate on them, one at a time-for another day. You will be pleased at the outcome. Do not allow the need to look good interfere with your progress. You have a strong psychic ability and may find this ability working overtime just now. You have many opportunities to express your kind and compassionate insights.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You could be in danger of acting spontaneously today. Take time before making any major or minor decisions and know that you will do well in your decision making when you think about your choices. New outlets for growth and success should appear soon. There are several excellent opportunities for monetary success. You are positive and upbeat and spread a bit of sunshine to many people. Make sure the changes you make for yourself at this time will include keeping old friends around. Good will and compromise are the expressions of this day. An after-work-gathering at a coffee shop or bookstore is fun. You and your friends might meet several times each month in this place to catch up with all the activity. New music is fun this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your practical concerns now may be with getting ahead and fulfilling your ambitions. Nobody minds hard work when there is something to be gained from it. Today the message seems to be that you will soon be rewarded for all the effort you are putting into a work project. You may, for the moment, ignore your more deep-rooted dreams. Set aside some time to really dig down and bring this work to completion. Stop on the way home to exercise or run errands to help you transition from your workday. The pleasure of a massage is tempting and you may end your errand running with a stop by the chair-massage section of one of the stores you frequent. This gives you time to clear your mind and relax or contemplate some future plans.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Seek a balance between your personal and professional work. If asked, allow others to help you in your work and push for breaks or time-out in order to catch your breath and to stretch your muscles. Regardless of how stressful it can become today, you have good luck in the area of funds. You can take a deep breath and relax; your financial decisions are good. Recognition in the workplace comes unexpectedly. This recognition is for past deeds as well as your current efforts. Your ideas and your style of working make it easy for you to work with and teach others. You understand and perform well with young people-you create a supportive environment. This would all work well in a volunteer organization if you so wished to try your talents.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You should be attentive to all the work you do as there could be a tendency to gloss over details that need to be completed, particularly now. Your interest in professional success is great and you may inspire others. A lull in the afternoon allows a time for you to become aware of an unfinished project that needs trashing. During the next few weeks, additional responsibilities may be placed on you in the context of the home setting. This may encompass the care of young children. You have tremendous drive to do just about anything possible. However, now would be a good time to slow your pace a bit and just enjoy the communication with loved ones. Doing just about anything with friends or family will create some good memories.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Truth is essential to your life. You are painstaking and deliberate when it comes to sorting through ideas and values for what is lasting and solid. You may appear to others as a little too sober. You can bring people around to your way of thinking through your actions and behavior better than through any conversations or lectures you may want to conduct. You will find you have lots of energy and drive, perfect for starting something out or taking care of business. Very physical too-exercise may be in order. You could be involved in some interesting conversations with a foreign person today. Things of a global or universal nature interest you and talk of travel may be in the air. You may find yourself in a position to teach. You are talented.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This workday moves along at a good pace most of the day. If you are wondering how you impress others and you want to look as though you are in control-check yourself out at noon by looking at your reflection in a store window. You can tell if your posture is confident appearing or your person is well kept. You will be able to make any changes necessary to feel more powerful. You are learning that looks and attitude are the first impressions that go through the door. If your attitude is good and your clothes neat, you will have an edge on any competition. This afternoon is a good time to visit with the young people in your family, perhaps a glass of tea and a joke or two. Your ability to communicate on a one-on-one level helps others as well.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This day marks a time where you should enjoy great success and attention through your profession. This is another great time to be with others and to work together. Your management and directional abilities are in high focus. Others may solicit your help regarding a particular job. This afternoon you may be asking yourself what you have outgrown and how you can let go of some of your excessive collections. There is time to think about how to clear the emotional things that block your sense of well-being. These are the questions you may ask yourself as spring fever kicks in and encourages you to clean up and get rid of old stuff. In your personal life, this can be a time of getting rid of old habits and creating new habits or patterns.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find yourself having emotional differences with someone in the workplace today. Take time to see where changes can be made and begin your plans to create a more positive atmosphere. You are sympathetic to an older member of the work team and may also look for ways to lessen the stress for this person. You may have several interactions with a parent or parent figure today as well. With your own children, you include them in any real-estate upgrades that you want to make; today is a good day to make or plan for those upgrades. This may mean a better apartment or an additional room or furniture. Young people will have input on the schools. Real estate may be the subject of discussion throughout the late afternoon.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Baseball

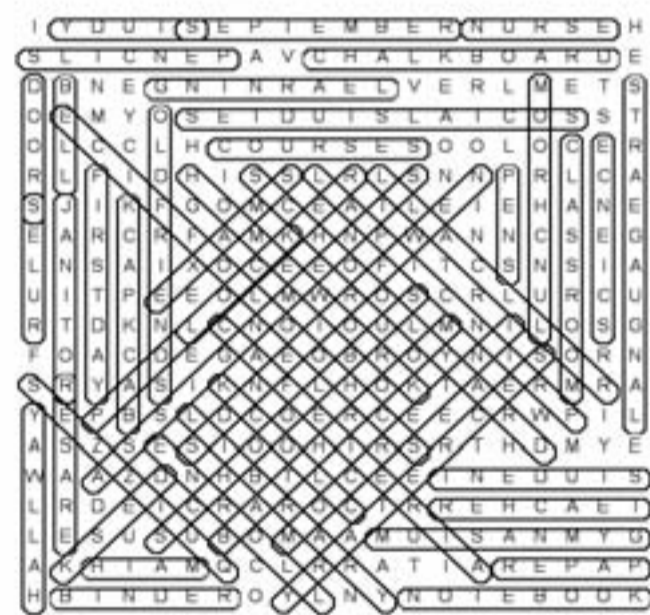
Find and circle all of the Baseball words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Humphrey Bogart quotation.



- |            |                |              |             |
|------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| APPEAL     | FAIR TERRITORY | INTERFERENCE | RETOUCH     |
| BALK       | FLY BALL       | LEAGUE       | RUN DOWN    |
| BATHROOM   | FORCE PLAY     | LINE DRIVE   | RUNNER      |
| BELL       | FORFEITED GAME | LIVE BALL    | SCOREBOARD  |
| BINDER     | FOUL BALL      | MOUND        | SHORTSTOP   |
| CAFETERIA  | FOUL TERRITORY | OBSTRUCTION  | STRIKE      |
| CHALKBOARD | FOUL TIP       | OFFENSE      | TAG         |
| CLASSROOM  | GROUND BALL    | OUTFIELDER   | THROW       |
| CLOCK      | IN FLIGHT      | OVERSLIDE    | TIE GAME    |
| COURSES    | INFIELD FLY    | PENALTY      | TRIPLE PLAY |
| DESK       | INFIELDER      | PITCHER      | UMPIRE      |
| DOORS      | DUGOUT         | PIVOT FOOT   | WILD PITCH  |
| ENROLL     | FAIR BALL      |              |             |

Yesterday's Solution

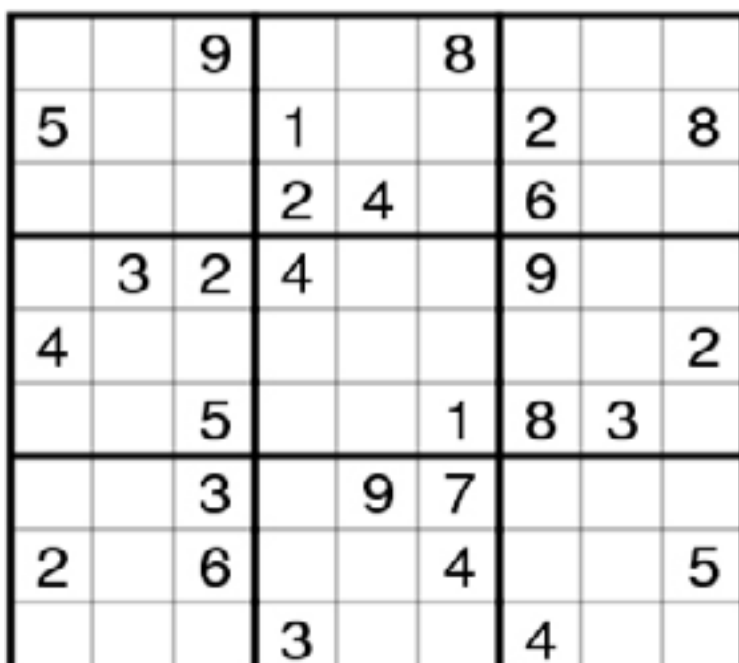
Back to School



- |             |               |             |                |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| ASSIGNMENTS | ERASER        | LUNCHROOM   | ROLL CALL      |
| BACKPACK    | EXAMS         | MATH        | RULES          |
| BATHROOM    | FIRST DAY     | NEW FRIENDS | SCHOOL BUS     |
| BELL        | GYMNASIUM     | NOTEBOOK    | SCHOOL OFFICE  |
| BINDER      | HALLWAY       | NURSE       | SCHOOLYARD     |
| CAFETERIA   | HOMEWORK      | OLD FRIENDS | SCIENCE        |
| CHALKBOARD  | INTERCOM      | PADLOCK     | SECRETARY      |
| CLASSROOM   | JANITOR       | PAPER       | SEPTEMBER      |
| CLOCK       | LANGUAGE ARTS | PENCILS     | SOCIAL STUDIES |
| COURSES     | LEARNING      | PENS        | STUDENT        |
| DESK        | LIBRARY       | PRINCIPAL   | STUDY          |
| DOORS       | LOCKER        | QUIZZES     | TEACHER        |
| ENROLL      |               |             |                |

The hidden message is: I HAVE NEVER LET MY SCHOOLING INTERFERE WITH MY EDUCATION.

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Sabah Hospital            | 24812000   |
| Amiri Hospital            | 22450005   |
| Maternity Hospital        | 24843100   |
| Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital | 25312700   |
| Chest Hospital            | 24849400   |
| Farwaniya Hospital        | 24892010   |
| Adan Hospital             | 23940620   |
| Ibn Sina Hospital         | 24840300   |
| Al-Razi Hospital          | 24846000   |
| Physiotherapy Hospital    | 24874330/9 |

### Clinics

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Kaizen center       | 25716707 |
| Rawda               | 22517733 |
| Adaliya             | 22517144 |
| Khalidiya           | 24848075 |
| Kaifan              | 24849807 |
| Shamiya             | 24848913 |
| Shuwaikh            | 24814507 |
| Abdullah Salem      | 22549134 |
| Nuzha               | 22526804 |
| Industrial Shuwaikh | 24814764 |
| Qadsiya             | 22515088 |
| Dasmah              | 22532265 |
| Bneid Al-Gar        | 22531908 |
| Shaab               | 22518752 |
| Qibla               | 22459381 |
| Ayoun Al-Qibla      | 22451082 |
| Mirqab              | 22456536 |
| Sharq               | 22465401 |
| Salmiya             | 25746401 |
| Jabriya             | 25316254 |
| Maidan Hawally      | 25623444 |
| Bayan               | 25388462 |
| Mishref             | 25381200 |
| W Hawally           | 22630786 |
| Sabah               | 24810221 |
| Jahra               | 24770319 |
| New Jahra           | 24575755 |
| West Jahra          | 24772608 |
| South Jahra         | 24775066 |
| North Jahra         | 24775992 |
| North Jleeb         | 24311795 |
| Ardhiya             | 24884079 |
| Firdous             | 24892674 |
| Omariya             | 24719048 |
| N Khaitan           | 24710044 |
| Fintas              | 23900322 |



## PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

| GOVERNORATE | PHARMACY  | ADDRESS  | PHONE  |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| Ahmadi      | Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan   | Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd   | 23915883<br>23715414<br>23726558   |
| Jahra       | Modern Jahra Madina Munawara  | Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92   | 24575518<br>24566622   |
| Capital     | Ahlam Khaldiya Coop   | Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop  | 22436184<br>24833967   |
| Farwaniya   | New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan  | Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11   | 24734000<br>24881201<br>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<br>25647075<br>22625999<br>22564549<br>25340559<br>25326554<br>25721264<br>25380581<br>25628241 |

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



|                       |         |                      |        |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|--------|
| Afghanistan           | 0093    | Lithuania            | 00370  |
| Albania               | 00355   | Luxembourg           | 00352  |
| Algeria               | 00213   | Macau                | 00853  |
| Andorra               | 00376   | Macedonia            | 00389  |
| Angola                | 00244   | Madagascar           | 00261  |
| Anguilla              | 001264  | Majorca              | 0034   |
| Antiga                | 001268  | Malawi               | 00265  |
| Argentina             | 0054    | Malaysia             | 0060   |
| Armenia               | 00374   | Maldives             | 00960  |
| Australia             | 0061    | Mali                 | 00223  |
| Austria               | 0043    | Malta                | 00356  |
| Azerbaijan            | 00994   | Marshall Islands     | 00692  |
| Bahamas               | 001242  | Martinique           | 00596  |
| Bahrain               | 00973   | Mauritania           | 00222  |
| Bangladesh            | 00880   | Mauritius            | 00230  |
| Barbados              | 001246  | Mayotte              | 00269  |
| Belarus               | 00375   | Mexico               | 0052   |
| Belgium               | 0032    | Micronesia           | 00691  |
| Belize                | 00501   | Moldova              | 00373  |
| Benin                 | 00229   | Monaco               | 00377  |
| Bermuda               | 001441  | Mongolia             | 00976  |
| Bhutan                | 00975   | Montserrat           | 001664 |
| Bolivia               | 00591   | Morocco              | 00212  |
| Bosnia                | 00387   | Mozambique           | 00258  |
| Botswana              | 00267   | Myanmar (Burma)      | 0095   |
| Brazil                | 0055    | Namibia              | 00264  |
| Brunei                | 00673   | Nepal                | 00977  |
| Bulgaria              | 00359   | Netherlands          | 0031   |
| Burkina               | 00226   | Netherlands Antilles | 00599  |
| Burundi               | 00257   | New Caledonia        | 00687  |
| Cambodia              | 00855   | New Zealand          | 0064   |
| Cameroon              | 00237   | Nicaragua            | 00505  |
| Canada                | 001     | Niger                | 00227  |
| Cape Verde            | 00238   | Nigeria              | 00234  |
| Cayman Islands        | 001345  | Niue                 | 00683  |
| Central African       | 00236   | Norfolk Island       | 00672  |
| Chad                  | 00235   | N. Ireland (UK)      | 0044   |
| Chile                 | 0056    | North Korea          | 00850  |
| China                 | 0086    | Norway               | 0047   |
| Colombia              | 0057    | Oman                 | 00968  |
| Comoros               | 00269   | Pakistan             | 0092   |
| Congo                 | 00242   | Palau                | 00680  |
| Cook Islands          | 00682   | Panama               | 00507  |
| Costa Rica            | 00506   | Papua New Guinea     | 00675  |
| Croatia               | 00385   | Paraguay             | 00595  |
| Cuba                  | 0053    | Peru                 | 0051   |
| Cyprus                | 00357   | Philippines          | 0063   |
| Cyprus (Northern)     | 0090392 | Poland               | 0048   |
| Czech Republic        | 00420   | Portugal             | 00351  |
| Denmark               | 0045    | Puerto Rico          | 001787 |
| Diego Garcia          | 00246   | Qatar                | 00974  |
| Djibouti              | 00253   | Romania              | 0040   |
| Dominica              | 001767  | Russian Federation   | 007    |
| Dominican Republic    | 001809  | Rwanda               | 00250  |
| Ecuador               | 00593   | Saint Helena         | 00290  |
| Egypt                 | 0020    | Saint Kitts          | 001869 |
| El Salvador           | 00503   | Saint Lucia          | 001758 |
| England (UK)          | 0044    | Saint Pierre         | 00508  |
| Equatorial Guinea     | 00240   | Saint Vincent        | 001784 |
| Eritrea               | 00291   | Samoa US             | 00684  |
| Estonia               | 00372   | Samoa West           | 00685  |
| Ethiopia              | 00251   | San Marino           | 00378  |
| Falkland Islands      | 00500   | Sao Tome             | 00239  |
| Faroe Islands         | 00298   | Saudi Arabia         | 00966  |
| Fiji                  | 00679   | Scotland (UK)        | 0044   |
| Finland               | 00358   | Senegal              | 00221  |
| France                | 0033    | Seychelles           | 00284  |
| French Guiana         | 00594   | Sierra Leone         | 00232  |
| French Polynesia      | 00689   | Singapore            | 0065   |
| Gabon                 | 00241   | Slovakia             | 00421  |
| Gambia                | 00220   | Slovenia             | 00386  |
| Georgia               | 00995   | Solomon Islands      | 00677  |
| Germany               | 0049    | Somalia              | 00252  |
| Ghana                 | 00233   | South Africa         | 0027   |
| Gibraltar             | 00350   | South Korea          | 0082   |
| Greece                | 0030    | Spain                | 0034   |
| Greenland             | 00299   | Sri Lanka            | 0094   |
| Grenada               | 001473  | Sudan                | 00249  |
| Guadeloupe            | 00590   | Suriname             | 00597  |
| Guam                  | 001671  | Swaziland            | 00268  |
| Guatemala             | 00502   | Sweden               | 0046   |
| Guinea                | 00224   | Switzerland          | 0041   |
| Guyana                | 00592   | Syria                | 00963  |
| Haiti                 | 00509   | Serbia               | 00381  |
| Holland (Netherlands) | 0031    | Taiwan               | 00886  |
| Honduras              | 00504   | Tanzania             | 00255  |
| Hong Kong             | 00852   | Thailand             | 0066   |
| Hungary               | 0036    | Togo                 | 00228  |
| Ibiza (Spain)         | 0034    | Tonga                | 00676  |
| Iceland               | 00354   | Tokelau              | 00690  |
| India                 | 0091    | Trinidad             | 001868 |
| Indian Ocean          | 00873   | Tunisia              | 00216  |
| Indonesia             | 0062    | Turkey               | 0090   |
| Iran                  | 0098    | Tuvalu               | 00688  |
| Iraq                  | 00964   | Uganda               | 00256  |
| Ireland               | 00353   | Ukraine              | 00380  |
| Italy                 | 0039    | United Arab Emirates | 00976  |
| Ivory Coast           | 00225   | United Kingdom       | 0044   |
| Jamaica               | 001876  | Uruguay              | 00598  |
| Japan                 | 0081    | USA                  | 001    |
| Jordan                | 00962   | Uzbekistan           | 00998  |
| Kazakhstan            | 007     | Vanuatu              | 00678  |
| Kenya                 | 00254   | Venezuela            | 00582  |
| Kiribati              | 00686   | Vietnam              | 0084   |
| Kuwait                | 00965   | Virgin Islands UK    | 001284 |
| Kyrgyzstan            | 00996   | Virgin Islands US    | 001340 |
| Laos                  | 00856   | Wales (UK)           | 0044   |
| Latvia                | 00371   | Yemen                | 00967  |
| Lebanon               | 00961   | Yugoslavia           | 00381  |
| Liberia               | 00231   | Zambia               | 00260  |
| Libya                 | 00218   | Zimbabwe             | 00263  |
| Lesotho               | 00266   |                      |        |

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

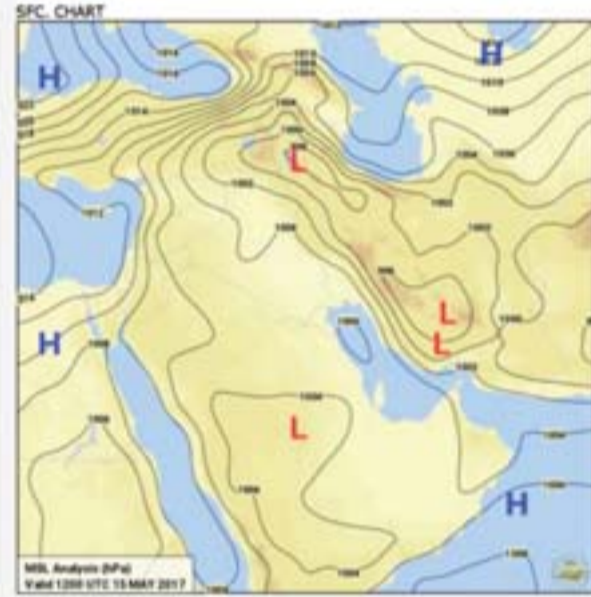
#### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 15/05/2017-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

#### MIN Temperature 25 °C

By Night : Fair with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south westerly later on wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h

By Day : Hot with light to moderate south westerly changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h



#### Four-Day Forecast

|                  | Tuesday                                   | Wednesday                   | Thursday                         | Friday   |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Expected Weather | hot                                       | hot + scattered clouds      | hot + scattered clouds           | hot  |
| Min Temp °C      | 25  | 27                          | 27                               | 26   |
| Max Temp °C      | 46  | 44                          | 44                               | 45   |
| Wind Direction   | South westerly changing to north westerly | Northerly to north westerly | North westerly to light variable | Variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly |
| Wind Speed km/h  | 12 - 32                                   | 15 - 35                     | 08 - 28                          | 10 - 32  |

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

#### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

#### Kuwait Forecast

| Station         | MIN °C | EXP | Max °C |
|-----------------|--------|-----|--------|
| KUWAIT CITY     | 29     |     | 41     |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT  | 25     |     | 42     |
| ABDALY          | 25     |     | 42     |
| BURAYAN         | 23     |     | 37     |
| JAHRA           | 26     |     | 44     |
| FALAKA ISLAND   | 25     |     | 40     |
| SALMIYAH        | 31     |     | 36     |
| AHMADI          | 28     |     | 37     |
| JAL ALYAH       | 25     |     | 42     |
| QAROH ISLAND    | 27     |     | 32     |
| UMH AL-MARADIEH | 26     |     | 33     |
| NUWASIB         | 25     |     | 42     |
| WAFRA           | 25     |     | 42     |
| SALMIY          | 25     |     | 41     |
| MUTRIBA         | 22     |     | 44     |

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Max Temp (°C)                       | 41   |
| Min Temp (°C)                       | 28   |
| Max Rel Hum (%)                     | 37   |
| Min Rel Hum (%)                     | 07   |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 46 N |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR             | 0 mm |

#### Sunrise & Sunset

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Sunrise | 04:56 |
| Sunset  | 18:33 |

#### Tomorrow Prayer Times

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Fajr    | 03:26 |
| Sunrise | 04:56 |
| Zuhr    | 11:44 |
| Aer     | 15:20 |
| Sunset  | 18:33 |
| Isha    | 20:00 |



## PRIVATE CLINICS

| Ophthalmologists              | Plastic Surgeons          |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor       | 25622444                  |
| Dr. Samy Al-Rabea             | 25752222                  |
| Dr. Masoma Habeeb             | 25321171                  |
| Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy           | 25739999                  |
| Dr. Mohsen Abel               | 25757700                  |
| Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl        | 25732223                  |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly        | 25732223                  |
| Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)      | Family Doctor             |
| Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner        | 24555050 Ext 510          |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali           | 25644660                  |
| Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel   | 25646478                  |
| Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah         | 25311996                  |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory         | 25731988                  |
| Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary          | 22620166                  |
| Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz           | 25651426                  |
| General Practitioners         | Psychiatrists             |
| Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi         | 24555050 Ext 123          |
| Dr. Yousef Al-Omar            | 24719312                  |
| Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem        | 23926920                  |
| Dr. Kathem Maarafi            | 25730465                  |
| Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah     | 25655528                  |
| Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi          | 24577781                  |
| Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea    | 25333501                  |
| Urologists                    | Internists, Chest & Heart |
| Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy        | 22641534                  |
| Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul          | 22639955                  |
| Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi | 22616660                  |
| Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)  | 25313120                  |
| Dr. Leons Joseph              | 66703427                  |

| Paediatricians  | Endocrinologist           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Dr. Khaled Hamadi   | 25665898                  |
| Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed   | 25340300                  |
| Dr. Zahra Qabazard  | 25710444                  |
| Dr. Sohail Qamar  | 22621099                  |
| Dr. Snaa Maarouf  | 25713514                  |
| Dr. Pradip Gujare   | 23713100                  |
| Dr. Zacharias Mathew  | 24334282                  |
| Dermatology   | Physiotherapists & VD     |
| Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University  | 23845955                  |
| Dr. Anil Thomas   | 3729596/3729581           |
| Dr. Shamah Al-Matar   | 22641071/2                |
| Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed   | 22562226                  |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer  | 22561444                  |
| Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan   | 22619557                  |
| Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash  | 22525888                  |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan  | 25637555                  |
| Dr. Bader Al-Ansari   | 25620111                  |
| Neurologists  | Rheumatologists:          |
| Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri  | 25633324                  |
| Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan   | 25345875                  |
| Gastrologists   | Internist, Chest & Heart  |
| Dr. Sami Aman   | 22636464                  |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly   | 25322030                  |
| Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali  | 22633135                  |
| Dr. Deyaa Shehab  | 25722291                  |
| Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees   | 22666288                  |
| Dr. Adel Al-Awadi   | 25330060                  |
| Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah  | 25722290                  |
| DR.Mohammes Akkad   | 24555050 Ext 210          |
| Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital | 25339667                  |
| Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC  | 2611555-2622555           |
| Inaya German Medical Center   | Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123 |

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Dr. Divya Damodar          | 23729596/23729581  |
| Dr. Esam Al-Ansari         | 22635047           |
| Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan      | 22613623/0         |
| Dr. Adrian arbe            | 23729596/23729581  |
| Dr. Verginia s.Marin       | 2572-6666 ext 8321 |
| Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan    | 22655539           |
| Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami | 25343406           |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly        | 25739272           |
| Dr. Salem soso             | 22618787           |
| Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer     | 22610044           |
| Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher | 25327148           |
| Dr. Adnan Ebil             | 22639939           |
| Dr. Mousa Khadada          | 22666300           |
| Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan     | 25728004           |
| Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra        | 25355515           |
| Dr. Mobarak Aldoub         | 24726446           |
| Dr. Nasser Behbehani       | 25654300/3         |

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Psychologists /Psychotherapists | Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688 info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com |
| Kaizen center                   | 25716707   |
| Noor Clinic                     | 23845955   |
| William Schuilenberg, RPC       | 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677  |



This file photo shows Australian actress Nicole Kidman posing during a photocall for the film "Grace of Monaco" at the 67th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.

## Daring Kidman is the queen of Cannes

Nicole Kidman is the undisputed queen of the Cannes film festival which opens tomorrow in the French Riviera resort, starring in three of its most eagerly awaited films. The Australian actress is in two in the running for its top prize, the Palme d'Or, and plays a fashion and music maven in "How to Talk to Girls at Parties" in the official selection. The film, adapted from a Neil Gaiman short story, has Kidman adopting Elle Fanning's alien as her protegee.

Kidman also shows her trademark mix of hauteur and vulnerability as a pent-up governess of a Mississippi girls school in Sofia Coppola's highly touted remake of "The Beguiled". The film, set against the backdrop of the American Civil War, has Colin Farrell as an injured Union soldier who seduces Kidman's charges and drives her wild with desire. She teams up with the Irish actor again in Greek maestro Yorgos Lanthimos's "The Killing of a Sacred Deer", this time as his wife in the story of a surgeon who gets disastrously drawn into the life of a dysfunctional family. While the 49-year-old has never won a prize at Cannes, she has long been a festival favorite,



This file photo taken in Hollywood shows actress Nicole Kidman attending the 89th Annual Academy Awards. — AFP photos

Tom Cruise. It was one of many reinventions that have taken the high-school dropout from Australian teen movies like "BMX Bandits" to the top of her profession. Kidman has never lacked daring, risking working with the notorious Danish auteur Lars Von Trier, who was later banned from Cannes after saying he was a Nazi. "One day it would be a fairy tale, the next it a nightmare," she said of working with him on "Dogville". Others told how she had to grin and bear humiliations and mind games on the set.

### Whip-smart

Even when she was headlining big-budget blockbusters like "Batman Forever" in 1995, Kidman made time for whip-smart roles in indie films like Gus Van Sant's satire on fame, "To Die For", which confirmed her as a major talent. But she had to wait until 2003 for a best actress Oscar for her depiction of tortured novelist Virginia Woolf in Stephen Daldry's "The Hours". Two more nominations have followed, the latest for "Lion" last year. Its storyline, of a young man from India adopted by an Australian family who searches for his long-lost relatives on Google Earth, resonated with Kidman.

She adopted two children-Isabella and Connor-with Tom Cruise, and has had two others since with New Zealand-born country singer Keith Urban. She said she felt an immediate connection with the woman she portrayed, Sue Brierley. "I told her a lot about myself, and it was almost like she already knew," Kidman said. "I just felt ever since I was young that I was going to adopt a child," she added.

### School dropout

Kidman was born in Honolulu where her psychologist father was working at the time, and her family returned to Australia when she was four, where she took to drama from a young age, eventually quitting school to study acting. She first caught the eye as a 14-year-old in the 1983 Australian television film "Bush Christmas" and won plaudits internationally for the thriller "Dead Calm" in 1989. Her life was transformed the following year when she met "Top Gun" star Cruise on the set of the racetrack romance "Days of Thunder". The two married in 1991 only to split a decade later in one of Hollywood's most famous divorces.

Once one of the highest-paid stars in Hollywood, she took a step back from acting after falling for Urban. They married in 2006 and have two daughters. But not even an unfortunate brush with Botox could stop her coming back. "I did try Botox, unfortunately, but I got out of it. Now I can finally move my face again," she confessed. She was back to her best in the low-budget drama "Rabbit Hole" in 2011, which won her another Oscar nod.

Like many top actors and directors, Kidman has been drawn by the lure of top-drawer television series, winning plaudits for her roles in "Hemingway and Gellhorn" and most recently with "Big Little Lies". Indeed, she will also be on the red carpet for the fourth time at Cannes for a special screening of her friend Jane Campion's second season of "Top of the Lake" in which Kidman is almost unrecognizable as a foil to Elisabeth Moss's small-town detective. — AFP

# After break, Katy Perry announces new album and tour



This file photo shows Katy Perry arriving at the Costume Institute Benefit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. — AFP photos

Pop superstar Katy Perry yesterday announced a new album and tour, promising a more mature and reflective side after taking time off. The 32-year-old singer said that "Witness," her first album since 2013's mega-hit "Prism," would come out on June 9. She also announced an extensive tour, for now just in North America, to begin on September 7 in Columbus, Ohio. Perry, who will close the North American tour on February 5 in Vancouver, separately will perform next month at the Glastonbury festival in England.

The singer announced the album news on Twitter where she has more followers than anyone else at more than 98 million. Perry has already released two tracks from "Witness." The first, "Chained to the Rhythm," has echoes of the disco era along with a reggae off-beat and an appearance by Bob Marley's grandson Skip Marley. Perry's follow-up track, "Bon Appetit," also has a dance feel but heads in a trap direction with a collaboration by Atlanta hip-hop trio Migos. "Bon Appetit" was also startling for its open sexuality, Perry and Migos



This file photo shows Katy Perry as she attends 102.7 KIIS FM's 2017 Wango Tango at StubHub Center in Carson, California.

singing about reaching orgasm. Perry, a favorite among young girls, rose to fame with songs of first-time experiences such as "Teenage Dream" and "I Kissed a Girl."

In an interview published last week, Perry-born as Katheryn Hudson to a conservative Christian family in California-said the album reflected her life in her 30s after closing out her 20s. "I've embraced. I've surrendered. I've healed some of my issues with my family, with my relationships," she told Entertainment Weekly. "I built up Katy Perry and she was so fun. And I still am Katy

Perry and I love her so much but, at the core, I'm Katheryn Hudson and I think that's being revealed as I embrace who I really am," she said.

Perry also told the magazine that one song on the album would explore her feelings after Hillary Clinton's ill-fated presidential campaign, of which she was one of the most prominent celebrity backers. The Clinton campaign was one of the few public appearances in 2016 for Perry, who said she needed time off after her 151-date tour for "Prism." — AFP



In this file photo, Beyonce performs at the 59th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

## Beyonce, Bruno Mars lead BET Awards nominations

Beyonce dominated last year's BET Awards with "Lemonade," but there's more juice in her cup. The pop star is nominated for seven awards at the 2017 BET Awards, the network told The Associated Press yesterday. The show will take place June 25 at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. Bruno Mars follows Beyonce with five nominations. Beyonce, who won video of the year with "Formation" last year, is nominated for the top prize again with "Sorry." Her competition includes her sister Solange ("Cranes In the Sky"); Mars' playful "24K Magic"; Migos' No. 1 hit "Bad and Boujee"; and Big Sean's anthem "Bounce Back."

Beyonce and Solange - will go head-to-head for best female R&B/pop artist, along with Rihanna, Mary J. Blige and Kehlani. Beyonce's other nominations include album of the year for "Lemonade," the viewer's choice award and video director of the year. She's nominated twice for best collaboration with the songs "Freedom" (with Kendrick Lamar) and "Shining" (shared with Jay Z and DJ Khaled).

The winners in the 19 categories,

including film and sports awards, will be selected by BET's Voting Academy, comprised of entertainment professionals and fans. Mars, whose latest album was inspired by '90s R&B, is also nominated for best male R&B/pop artist, album of the year, the viewer's choice award and video director of the year. Chance the Rapper, who

scored four nominations and won three Grammys this year, will battle Lamar, Drake, J. Cole, Future and Big Sean for best male hip-hop artist. Nicki Minaj will compete with rival Remy Ma for best female hip-hop artist, an award Minaj has won since 2010. Hip-hop trio Migos also scored four nominations. — AP



In this file photo, Bruno Mars performs at the 59th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. — AP photos

## Ukraine prankster 'doesn't regret' mooning Eurovision final



Vitaliy Sediuk

A Ukrainian prankster told a court yesterday that he didn't regret mooning the audience during the live broadcast of the Eurovision Song Contest final in Kiev. Vitaliy Sediuk, 28, jumped onto the stage with an Australian flag wrapped around his shoulders, dropped his trousers and wiggled his bare bottom at the audience during Saturday night's performance by last year's winner of the contest, Ukrainian singer Jamala. "I don't regret it," said Sediuk, who has been known to ambush celebrities. "I don't have anything against Eurovision. This time I just wanted to do something that would be remembered."

The Kiev court yesterday ordered the confiscation of Sediuk's travel documents and imposed restrictions on his movements as an investigation into the incident continues. A security guard tackled Sediuk off the stage in Saturday night's incident, and the prankster later resisted arrest by police and was placed in detention for 72 hours, interior minister Arsen Avakov said Sunday. Avakov said Sediuk's offence fell under legislation against hooliganism, which in Ukraine can carry up to five years in prison.

"The country's embarrassment can practice his 'hobby' in a prison cell at a temporary detention center," Avakov wrote Sunday on his Facebook page. The contest's organizing committee in Ukraine slammed Sediuk's behavior as "inadmissible" and assured that the "highest level of security" had been observed during the final. "We are outraged and in no way support such provocations," Pavlo Grytsak, the executive producer of this year's contest, said in a statement. "The offender should be held responsible for what he did."

In September, Sediuk tried to kiss the bottom of US reality TV star Kim Kardashian as she was walking into a Paris restaurant. Her bodyguard pinned him to the ground before he managed to do so. Portuguese crooner Salvador Sobral, who suffers from a serious heart condition, triumphed in this year's edition of Eurovision with the melancholy ballad "Amar Pelos Dois". Ukraine was hosting Eurovision amid an ongoing armed conflict with pro-Russian rebels in the country's industrial east that has now killed more than 10,000. — AFP

# U2 scans new political landscape at US 'Joshua Tree' tour debut

With evocative montages of American west scrolling on screens behind them, Irish rockers U2 kicked off the US leg of their "Joshua Tree" tour on Sunday with a few jabs at the new political landscape. The tour was billed as a look back at the band's 1987 breakthrough album "The Joshua Tree" with its globe-spanning hits "With Or Without You" and "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For." U2 started with one of their even earlier songs, "Sunday Bloody Sunday" and its opening lines "I can't believe the news today", before roaring through "New Year's Day", "Pride," and the whole Joshua Tree LP played in the order of its tracklist.

Bono largely steered clear of the overt references to President Donald Trump that had peppered his performances during the election campaign. But more guarded references to modern-day events kept breaking through. "Some of you think that the dream is dead. Maybe that dream is just telling you to wake up," Bono said during "Pride," as the words of Martin Luther King were projected behind

him. The screen switched to images of models in front of a faded American flag and vast desert landscapes. Other scenes showed the destruction in Syria and a girl there appealing

for help. Speaking about the band's charitable organization One, which fights poverty, Bono urged the crowd to "organize" for change. "Nothing scares ... politicians like

people getting organized. That's how it should be, the government scared of the people, not the other way around," he said. The lead singer gave a shout out to Bill and Melinda Gates, who were both in the sold-out audience at Seattle's CenturyLink Field venue, hailing them as "luminary figures" for their charitable work.

Pearl Jam frontman Eddie Vedder, joined the band on stage for "Mothers of the Disappeared", the last track on The Joshua Tree's flipside. The band saved more recent hits for the encore, belting out "It's a Beautiful Day" and "Elevation" as Bono called on women to "unite to rewrite history as her-story". Bono also acknowledged US Mother's Day on Sunday, dedicating the song "Ultraviolet" to "women who stood up or sat down for their rights, who insisted, resisted, persisted for their rights." U2 will play 33 shows to 1.7 million people during the "Joshua Tree" tour. The tour is also the top-selling concert in the US this summer, according to ticket seller StubHub, with most shows already sold out. — Reuters



Members of U2 perform during the opening concert of their "Joshua Tree" tour in Vancouver, Friday. — AP



People take part in a yoga class by the pool at the Green Valley Ranch hotel and casino in Las Vegas.— AP photos



Bri Ryan, left, and Summer Smith wait to take part in a yoga class by the pool at the Green Valley Ranch hotel and casino in Las Vegas.

## The new Vegas namaste

# Yoga on a Ferris wheel, near dolphins

Surrounded by imposing Las Vegas hotel-casinos in the foreground and desert mountains in the background, the group breathed deeply and loudly as an instructor guided them through their poses: upward dog, downward dog, lord of the dance. The participants, though, weren't the only ones shifting positions in this mirrorless space with Instagram-enviable views. The three women and a man were inside a cabin of the world's tallest Ferris wheel, stretching and holding poses as the marquees of The Mirage, Linq, Harrah's and Caesars Palace appeared and faded from sight.

This gambling oasis isn't known for mind-steadying experiences. But as the city broadens the range of interests and wallets it appeals to, companies have carefully selected an array of unique, picture-perfect sites where visitors and locals can say "Namaste." Call it yoga a la Vegas, and picture dolphins, helicopters, red rocks and ritzy high-rises. "High plank, low plank, up dog, down dog," Raffi Yozgadlian said as he



Chelsea Potts, left, and Michael Skinner take part in a yoga class by the pool at the Green Valley Ranch hotel and casino in Las Vegas.

guided the group at the High Roller observation wheel through a series of yogi calisthenics at about 550 feet (168 meters) above ground.

The instructions stopped three-quarters into the class, and out came the cellphones. It was time for a few photos of handstands and other poses with the Bellagio, Cosmopolitan and an Eiffel Tower replica in the background. "I was like, whoa. You have the Strip and you can take that in, or you have the mountains and you can take that in," said Carly Benson, a Las Vegas resident whose tripod headstand photo is now on Instagram. "I was a little concerned about how my balance was going to be, and surprisingly, being able to zone in the landscape, I had better balance there than I sometimes do on the ground."

Visitors and locals in need of their downward dog also can take classes surrounded by an outdoor installation of neon signs in the summer; by request, poolside at the MGM Grand; or on the grassy fields of a recreation area just outside the city in the shade of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. For those who prefer the indoors, the studio with floor-to-ceiling glass windows on the eighth floor of the opulent Mandarin Oriental hotel offers views of the Las

Vegas Strip. The unorthodox settings fit with a nationwide trend of yoga instruction moving out of the studio and into parks, breweries, museums and other locations. Some classes incorporate goats and butterflies.

Caesars Entertainment, which owns the High Roller, thought the Ferris wheel would be a good place for a fitness class and decided yoga was the perfect fit. Each cabin fits up to 40 people standing and in benches. "It's a one-hour class, so it's a fulfilling practice, and whether you are a yoga enthusiast or first-timer or someone who just wants to have that amazing Instagram yoga moment here in Vegas, it presents a unique experience," said Lindsay Sanna, Caesars' senior director of marketing. The class is \$75 per person.

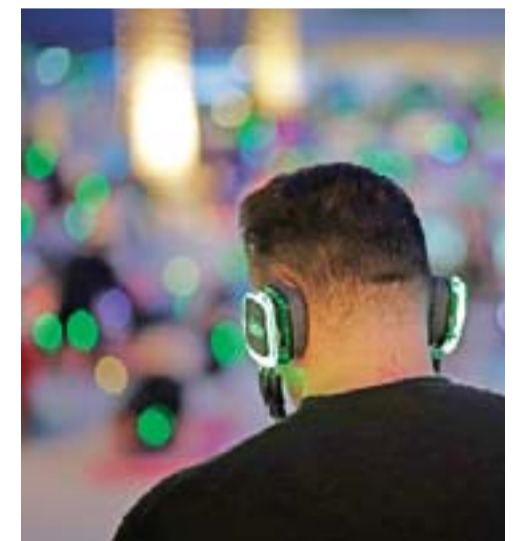
### Dolphins through glass windows

At the Mirage, yogis of all skill levels can sign up for an hour long class in the underwater viewing area of the studio and into parks, breweries, museums and other locations. Some classes incorporate goats and butterflies. On a recent Friday morning, a group began the experience by taking a few breaths while sitting on their mats facing bottlenose dolphins through glass windows. "Of course, you can pop your eyes open if you want to see the dolphins," Janet Ziter told the class, which included devoted and beginner yoga practitioners. Dolphins swam next to three windows while soothing music played.

This class, too, incorporated a mini-photo shoot. And so a guest held the crow pose - hands planted on the floor, shins resting on the back of his upper arms and feet lifted up - for a few seconds until a dolphin swam behind him and a friend snapped a photo. Instructors with the yoga-focused company Silent Savasana teach the classes at the High Roller and also lead what's perhaps Las Vegas' most luxurious of yoga experiences: a helicopter ride from the airport to a nearby state park and a class atop bright red Aztec sandstone outcrops.

The class in a remote area of the 63-square-mile (163-square-kilometer) Valley of Fire State

Park allows participants to take in a breathtaking view of bright blue skies and sandstones while flowing from pose to pose. The exact location of the 75-minute, six-person class depends on the day's wind conditions. The experience concludes with a flight over the Las Vegas Strip. Some may be priced out of the \$3,499 experience, which includes champagne. But Maverick Helicopters, which for years has offered trips to other desti-



A DJ plays music at a yoga class by the pool at the Green Valley Ranch hotel and casino in Las Vegas.

nations in the US Southwest, says at least six groups have participated this year.

Shandelle Troy practices yoga regularly and recently celebrated her birthday by taking the class. Outfitted with typical black yoga pants and a teal tank top, she assumed a spot close to the helicopter and a few yards (meters) from the instructor. "Yoga is so spiritual, so being out there in nature makes it so much better," the resident of Henderson, Nevada, said between sips of bubbly. —AP



## Splash launches Fashion @ Value

New product category targeted at value shoppers

Splash, the Region's fast fashion retailer has launched its fashion-value label 'Fashion at Value'. With a fresh interpretation of styles, this collection includes elements of ease and practicality, and is always characterized by quality fabrics and young silhouettes. With FAV, the brand aims to design a new kind of essential for the consumer.

**FAV MAN:** Long line tees with placement prints and stripes added with color blocking. Casual joggers and shorts along with hooded tees & printed shirts which can all be easily thrown upon to give a more enhanced look.

**Fabrics:** Light-weight cottons and poly/cotton blends with a soft hand-feel.

**FAV WOMAN:** Crop tops/ trendy silhou-

ettes in flowy bodies with long tunics & printed bottoms to keep up your style statement.

**Fabrics:** Soft lightweight rayon, poly/viscose and cotton/poly blends for drapes. FAV Collection is available across all Splash stores in Centrepoint and at Splash -The Avenues, Phase II and at Salam Mall- Salmiya.

Status 2013 which is fourth in a row for the brand. Also listed in Forbes Arabia's "Top 40 Arab Brands" list, Splash has also been awarded first runner at the Grazia Style Awards 2010, as 'Best place to Spend AED 500'. A winner of several marketing awards of great significance, Splash has recently won the Most Admired Marketing Campaign at the Retail ME Awards 2011 along with the Most Admired Retailer award.



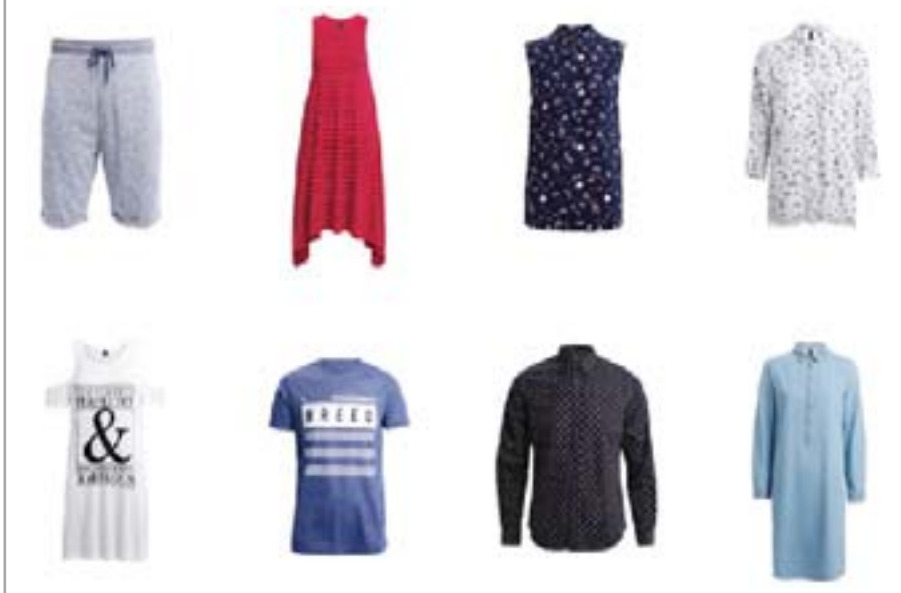
People take part in a yoga class at the High Roller observation wheel in Las Vegas.



Carly Benson takes part in a yoga class at the High Roller observation wheel in Las Vegas.



People take part in a yoga class by the pool at the Green Valley Ranch hotel and casino in Las Vegas.



# Miss District of Columbia crowned as

# MISS USA

The District of Columbia has won back-to-back Miss USA titles. Kara McCullough, a 25-year-old scientist working for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, was crowned Sunday at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center on the Las Vegas Strip. She will go on to compete on the Miss Universe contest. "I'm extremely thankful for this opportunity," she said after the event. "I just want to encourage so many women nationwide to find their passion in any subject possible and understand that nothing is difficult if you really, truly put the work in for it."



Miss District of Columbia USA Kara McCullough reacts after she was crowned the new Miss USA during the Miss USA contest in Las Vegas. — AP photos

Fifty-one women representing each state and the nation's capital participated in the decades-old competition. The runner-up of the night was Miss New Jersey Chhavi Verg, a marketing and Spanish student at Rutgers University, while the second runner-up was Miss Minnesota Meridith Gould, who is studying apparel retail merchandising at the University of Minnesota. McCullough was born in Naples, Italy, and raised in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She said she wants to inspire children to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Last year, District of Columbia resident Deshauna Barber became the first-ever military member to win Miss USA.

The top five finalists were asked different questions that touched on the pros and cons of social media, women's rights and issues affecting teenagers. McCullough was asked whether she thinks that affordable health care for all US citizens is a right or a privilege. McCullough said it is a privilege. "As a government employee, I'm granted health care and I see firsthand that for one to have health care, you need to have jobs." McCullough's office at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission focuses on emergency preparedness. She said she will be discussing with her work supervisor whether she will take a leave of absence. Later in the competition, McCullough, Verg and Gould were asked to explain what they consider feminism to be and whether they consider themselves feminists. Miss District of Columbia replied she likes to "transpose" the word feminism to "equalism." After the pageant, McCullough expanded on her views on feminism.

#### Offending Hispanics

"I believe we've come a long way and there is more work to be done," McCullough, who graduated with a chemistry degree from South Carolina State University. "I think domestically we are making progress and I do believe that we

will become equal one day." The beauty pageant this year included five women who immigrated to the US at a young age and now as citizens hoped to represent the nation on a global stage. Verg and the women representing Florida, North Dakota, Hawaii, Connecticut and New Jersey told The Associated Press this week they have faced challenges and opportunities as immigrants.

Verg told The Associated Press days ahead of the competition that she and her parents immigrated from India to the US with only \$500 in their pockets when she was 4 years old. Her first winter she did not have a winter coat and the family struggled to adjust. "I want to show Americans that the definition of what it means to be American is changing," the 20-year-old said. "It's not just one face. There are many different people who are Americans, and I feel like Asian-Americans often times are left out of the conversation."



Miss District of Columbia USA 2016 Kara McCullough competes in the evening gown competition.

The contestants' remarks stand in stark contrast to the scandal that enveloped the pageant in 2015, when then-part owner and now US President Donald Trump offended Hispanics when he made anti-immigrant remarks in announcing his bid for the White House. Trump co-owned The Miss Universe Organization with NBCUniversal, but the network and the Spanish-language broadcaster Univision quickly cut ties with him, refusing to air the show. Trump sued both networks, eventually settling and selling the pageant to talent management company WME/IMG. The show kicked off with a performance from a Cirque du Soleil show - a Las Vegas staple - based on Michael Jackson songs. The contestants took the stage as Jackson's "Black or White" played and acrobats performed.

CMA Award-winner Brett Eldredge performed his new single "The Long Way" as the women modeled their evening gowns. They modeled their final looks of the night during a performance of Pitbull's "Options" featuring Stephen Marley, Julianne Hough, Ashley Graham and Terrence J. hosted the show. Now that her preparation toward the pageant is over, McCullough said she is looking forward to eating a Texas cheesesteak at Waffle House. "All you need is mayonnaise," she said. — AP



Miss District of Columbia USA 2016 Kara McCullough (center) is surrounded by fellow contestants after she was crowned Miss USA 2017.



(From left) Recording artist Stephen Marley sings while escorting Miss District of Columbia USA 2016 Kara McCullough onstage as rapper Pitbull performs on stage.



Co-host Terrence J (left) high-fives Miss New York USA 2017 Hannah Lopa after she was named a top 10 finalist.



Miss Minnesota USA Meridith Gould reacts after she won second runner up.



Miss District of Columbia USA 2017 Kara McCullough smiles after being named a top 10 finalist.



Photo provided by her mother, Anupama Poliyedath, show Ananya Vinay, 12, of Clovis, Calif., with her awards after winning the California State Elementary Spelling Bee for the third year in a row in Stockton, Calif. — AP

## 12-year-old wins 3rd straight California State Spelling Bee

Dipsomaniac was the winning word for a 12-year-old girl from Central California who won the State Spelling Bee for the third year in a row. Ananya Vinay, who attends Fugman Elementary in Clovis, told the Fresno Bee she's no longer as nervous on stage as she used to be because she's improved so much over the years. Vinay clinched the victory Saturday at the competition in Stockton. She describes the experience as

a 'journey' and now looks forward to the Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington, DC. She first competed there last year after qualifying out of a Fresno County competition. Ananya said she wants to do well in the Scripps competition, aiming for the top 10 and eventually a championship. For the record, Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the noun dipsomania as an uncontrollable craving for alcoholic liquors. — AP

## Japan's 'Superhuman' athletes mix legends with high tech

When it comes to culture and entertainment, Japan has a rich history spanning ancient legends and sport to popular comics and video games. Now a new generation of inventors is drawing on this culture to create sports with a 21st-century twist—helping players feel "superhuman" through technology or other special equipment. The Superhuman Sports Society, a Tokyo-based group of researchers and game designers, has certified 12 new sports since its launch in 2015, including "HADO", or "wave motion" in English.

In "HADO", players in head-mounted augmented-reality displays and armband sensors dodge waves of light as they fire energy balls at each other in a virtual arena. The game is similar to the action seen in the "Dragon Ball" manga-animation franchise and "Street Fighter" video games. Some games are low tech such as "Rock Hand Battle", in which each player wears an oversized arm and tries to knock off small rocks attached to an opponent's "rock hand".

Noriya Kazami, 25, a cartoonist and an inventor of "Rock Hand Battle" (above), said she took inspiration from the legend of Mitsuishi (Three Rocks) and the Demon's Handprint. She also created a comic book series based on the legend, in which a devil was tied to rocks and made to stop harassing the local people. The devil left a handprint on one of the rocks, making

a "rock hand". We asked other players for their thoughts on playing "Superhuman Sports".

#### Bubble-wrapped sumo

Ryoichi Ando, 27, a virtual-reality researcher and an inventor of "Bubble Jumper", said he felt as if he were wearing the kind of augmented body suit found in science-fiction movies that boosts the wearer's strength. In "Bubble Jumper", players walking on stilts and wearing inflatable bubble protectors crash into each other like sumo wrestlers.

#### Tokyo drift

"Technology can improve and supplement human ability," said Isao Uebayashi, 38, a sports science researcher and an inventor of "Slide Lift". "Anyone can do 'drift racing' with this wheelchair," he said. Equipped with special wheels, the motor-assisted wheelchair can be moved by "Slide Lift" racers in any direction, including in racing car-like drifts.

#### In another world

Tomohiro Hamamura, 25, who works in IT sales and is a "HADO Kart" player, said: "When I play this sport, I don't need to think seriously. I just feel the existence of another world which is different from my real world."

#### Internet idol

Piyohina, an Internet idol and singer of animation songs, said: "When I play HADO, I always simulate in my head the best way to fire an energy ball."

#### Energy sensation

Junpei Sasaki, a singer and "HADO" player, said: "Sometimes I can feel the sensation of the energy ball leaving my hand when I play HADO. It makes playing the sport really exciting."

#### Up in the air

Hirohiko Hayakawa, 26, a Ph.D. student in media design and an inventor of "ToriTori", said: "The drone in the air is a part of the player's body and this sport integrating human and machine makes me experience the feeling of flying." Hayakawa said he was inspired by the bird catchers ("tori tori" in Japanese) in Kenji Miyazawa's classic 1934 fantasy novel "Night on the Galactic Railroad".

#### Taking the reins

Kosuke Sato, 25, a Ph.D. student in human informatics and an inventor of "Carry Otto", said he wanted to create a sport anyone could enjoy regardless of age, gender or disability. Carry Otto is a motorized wheel device with reins that pull a rider seated on a dolly. Riders race each other. — Reuters



Syrian refugees from Minbej, nine-year-old Mostafa Abdallah (right) and thirteen-year-old Hanadi Al-Hajj Abdallah (center) film a scene with their friends in Beirut's southern suburb of Shatila as part of a refugee program called the Refugee Film Project. — AFP photos

# Syrian refugee kids in Lebanon act, direct, 'escape'

*'When I play, I feel like a huge star'*



Eleven-year-old Syrian refugee Mostafa Abdallah from the Syrian town of Minbej films his friends.

Three, two, one, action! shouts Syrian refugee Mostafa Abdallah, 11, energetically directing his fellow child actors in a musical being filmed in a Palestinian camp in the Lebanese capital. Members of the cast spring into action, belting out a chaotic but charming rendition of a traditional Arabic folk song about love and loss, accompanied by tambourines. The musical is part of the Refugee Film Project, an initiative by international organization SB OverSeas that is helping Syrian refugee children in Lebanon write, direct and act in their own short movies.

Since Syria's conflict erupted in 2011, its children have often been center stage in heartbreaking images capturing the brutality of the war or the tragedy of the ensuing refugee crisis. But the Refugee Film Project aims to turn the camera around, giving young refugees the chance to shape their own stories—including from behind the camera. Every day for six weeks, around 30 child actors gathered in front of the Bokra Ahla (A Better Tomorrow) NGO, which provides education services in Shatila, a Palestinian camp in Beirut. Mostafa turns away from the digital

camera just long enough to tell AFP: "In the past, I used to film from my cellphone. But here, we learned how to film on camera—we learn a ton and have so much fun."

A year and a half ago, he and his family fled the northern Syrian town of Manbij, held at the time by the Islamic State group, and eventually made their way across the border into Lebanon. More than one million Syrians—including over 500,000 children—are registered in Lebanon as refugees.

#### Green screens, storyboards

Many live in informal camps on agricultural land, but others settled in urban Palestinian camps like Shatila, whose original population of 10,000 people has swelled with the arrivals of Syrians fleeing the conflict. Gangly Mostafa is a natural director, giving firm commands to his peers. "I hope that when I grow up I can be a real director and journalist, and I can teach children how to use a camera," he says. The project has already produced several films, including a horror story about three witches and "Betrayal in Beirut," a six-minute tale of love, kidnapping, and greed. It is the brainchild of British teacher



Nine-year-old Syrian refugee Tahani Al-Shaalan from the Syrian town of Minbej films her friends who are acting in Beirut's southern suburb of Shatila.

Aphra Evans, 24, and filmmaker Shyam Jones, 25, who work with the children to come up with storyboards and scripts. "Then we come to school and organize the kids to act, use the camera, and... rehearse their lines," says Jones.

The children have been taught technical skills such as adjusting camera exposure and focus, shooting fake fight scenes and using a green screen. Once shooting is complete, "we edit the film at home and show it to the kids, then they get to see themselves on screen being little actors," says Jones, who was on his first trip to Lebanon. The short films will then be incorporated into a broader documentary that Jones says will provide a behind-the-scenes look at "real life in Shatila".

#### Flipping the camera around

"There's always a Western lens looking at the kids, and we wanted to turn that around and have the kids in control of the photograph and in control of the video to change things a little bit," says organizer Evans. The children are able to escape the grim reality of camps like Shatila while filming, Evans says, while viewers are

impressed by the actors' enthusiasm, creativity and unexplored talent. "You're always seeing the kids covered in dust in Aleppo. That's not what these kids are like—that's something that happened to them, but then they have a whole lifetime after that moment," says Evans.

Thirteen-year-old Hanadi Al-Hajj Abdallah is one of those children. Her fingernails painted a firetruck-red, she plucks at her oud—the pear-shaped stringed instrument beloved in the Arab world. "We're using the oud in our scene today, and this is the first time I've played it on camera. When I play, I feel like a huge star," Hanadi tells AFP. Hanadi, who is wearing a burgundy headscarf and loose dress over denim trousers, fled her home near Damascus four years ago. The multi-talented teen even performs Syrian rap songs, including "People did you wrong" by rapper Ismail Tamer. "This song is about war, shelling, and destruction—it's about Syria," Hanadi says. She steadily recites the lyrics that she and her brother memorized together: "People did you wrong, they destroyed you. When they saw your beauty, they envied you so much." — AFP



Thirteen-year-old Syrian refugee Hanadi Al-Hajj Abdallah (center) from the Syrian town of Minbej sings with friends while being filmed in Beirut's southern suburb of Shatila.

## Bizarre News

### Grandmother becomes internet hit with comedic resignation letter

A grandmother has become an internet sensation because of her comedic resignation letter. Marlene from Glasgow decided to quit her cleaning job and in her letter informing her boss at her cleaning job Mr MacGillivray she vented her frustration towards him, and wished him luck finding "some other mug to clean the place", according to The Daily Mirror newspaper. Marlene wrote: "The job's c\*\*\* and I'm leaving. I'll no be back after June 30. Canny wait. "Good luck getting some other mug to clean the place. Cheerio.(sic)" Marlene's granddaughter Kaitlyn McGrory shared a picture on Twitter of the message, and her honest grandparent was dubbed a "legend" by social media users who retweeted the post.

### Elvis Presley's hair sells for £1,000

Elvis Presley's hair has reportedly been sold for £1,000. A lock of hair belonging to the late 'Jailhouse Rock' hitmaker, which was believed to have been obtained by his personal barber Homer Gill Gilleland, was a huge hit at a Catawiki auction and was snapped up for the large sum forty years after the singer's death. Mark Borgman, a worker at the auction, told the Metro newspaper: "For fans and super-fans of music icons, there is the assumption that if you own a lock of hair that once belonged to someone famous, you would feel like you own a part of them forever."

### Loch Ness Monster alive? New video emerges of legendary Nessy

New footage of the Loch Ness monster has emerged online. The mythical creature which inhabits Loch Ness in Scotland has been spotted by a YouTuber, who posted video footage of the monster's head and neck bobbing up and down in the choppy waters of the famous lake. The footage shows a boat sailing past and not taking any notice of legendary Nessy. Excited voices can be heard over on the video, shot on May 7, suggesting that there were other witnesses to the sighting other than the camera-person. The video was uploaded by Sweetie, who asked in the description: "What the hell was it? Did anyone else see it?" However, YouTube users weren't convinced and one commented: "Just a piece of wood or something."

### Lawson likes her tea 'strong and milky'

Nigella Lawson likes her tea "strong but milky". The brunette beauty stars in the new Typhoo advert and discovers the nation's favourite way to drink the delicious brew in a series of scenes, including in the back of a London black taxi and in a tent on a stormy mountainside. A miniature sized Nigella is then seen sipping Typhoo from a giant mug while looking around for a slice of cake, and is wearing an eye-popping red dress in the promo video. The 57-year-old chef admitted she has a ritual when it comes to her own cuppa, revealing: "I often drink my tea with the teabag still in the mug." And she confessed she might struggle to share if she found herself with only two teabags left. She added: "I have a terrible feeling that I might keep both for myself. "But if there were anyone near me gasping for a cuppa, I'd like to think that actually I'd give it away happily." Typhoo CEO Somanth Saha is delighted to have the celebrity chef on board and added: "We're so happy to have Nigella - a genuine Typhoo lover - working with us again. "We all know the perfect cup of tea is a very personal thing, and everyone's taste is different. "This campaign celebrates those subtle, but significant, preferences." The 30-second advert debuts on TV screens on May 12 and will be shown during "Take Me Out" on Saturday on ITV.

### Teenager goes to prom in a coffin

A student turned up to her prom in a coffin. Megan Flaherty, 17, from New Jersey wore a stunning blue dress with her hair in an elegant updo to her junior prom, but decided to make a unique entrance by turning up in a wooden box, a decision she made based on her dreams of becoming a funeral director. The student was driven in the ceremony by a hearse, and carried out of the box to be greeted by her prom date Stephen Caldwell. She told NJ.com: "I made sure my prom date was OK with it. "I don't think they were really processing it. I'm a quiet person in school, so people didn't expect it." And speaking about backlash she received for her decision, she added: "Anything people do these days, people judge it. "People have opinions." — Bang Showbiz



This handout computer generated image released by CARTIVATOR Resource Management yesterday shows the flying car dubbed 'SkyDrive'. — AFP

## Riding high: Toyota eyes 'flying car' future

Toyota has its sights set on a Blade Runner future as the Japanese automaker backs a move to launch a flying car in time for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The company is giving about 42.5 million yen (\$375,000) to the Cartivator project, which is developing the three-wheeled sci-fi car that relies on drone technology to take flight. The manned vehicle, dubbed SkyDrive, will have four sets of propellers and at 2.9 meters (9.5 foot) long and 1.3 meters wide—is aiming to be the world's smallest flying car, according to the project.

A promotional video graphic shows the little car lowering its retractable wings before zipping off for a flight around Tokyo and then lighting the flame at the Olympic stadium. The car is expected to have a top flight speed of around 100 kilometers (62 miles) an hour, hovering some 10 meters off the ground. It will have a top land speed around 150 kilometers an hour. — AFP

# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

Riding high: Toyota eyes 'flying car' future

39



Photo shows Rabab Hamadeh, CEO of Kuwait International Fashion Week, left, with the CNN reporter/model Carolien Ter Linden during the KIFW.



Models showcase Abayas for the Kuwaiti designer Rasha Al-Wazzan in collaboration with the Jewelry designer Zainab Ali during the KIFW.



## reflects an image of creativity, art, elegance and beauty

*KIFW in strategic partnership with Al-Hamra Tower and sponsored by Maserati*



Photo shows Toni Salameh, CEO of La Bourjoisie (second right) with other attendees during the event.



Photo shows MP Safaa Al-Hashem (left) and Kuwaiti designer Rasha Al-Wazzan during the event.



Photo shows attendees during the event.

By Sahar Moussa

The Kuwait International Fashion Week, in collaboration with Oriental Fashion Show, the unique event that puts Kuwait on the map of global fashion, kicked off last week in strategic partnership with Al-Hamra Tower and Maserati.

The charming experience held at the highest skyscraper, the 60th floor of Al-Hamra Tower on May 7-11 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. New surprises were featured every day during that period.

Al-Hamra expressed gratitude for hosting this exceptional event, which reflects its social responsibility towards Kuwait, and highlighting its position as touristic and marketing destination in the Arab world. The Kuwait International Fashion Week was the only Kuwaiti platform that showcases unique and high-end designs. The fashion designs were made specifically to meet the elegant Kuwaiti taste.

Meanwhile, the CEO of Kuwait International Fashion Week Rabab Hamadi thanked Al-



Mohammed Al-Matook Deputy General Manager, Al-Hamra

Hamra for their cooperation to organize this huge event in Kuwait which was a prominent and successful event in Fashion. She also praised the exceptional organization and facilitation provided by Al-Hamra which helped make this event a success. During the event, the Maserati medallion was the backdrop for the catwalk. The Levante S, Maserati's first-ever SUV, was on display in Al-Hamra mall during the entire duration of the event. The attendees had the opportunity to test drive the Levante.

Ziad Bou Chacra, Brand Manager of Maserati Kuwait said: "We are proud to sponsor Kuwait International Fashion Week 2017. Maserati is renowned for its Italian craftsmanship, design and performance. And just like the fashion designs showcased throughout KIFW, each and every Maserati is a piece of art that provokes one's emotion. We see ourselves as a natural partner of the event and we look forward to participating in similar events."

Twenty collections for spring and summer of 2017 showcased their designs, featuring

over 20 international designers from Paris, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria and Kuwait, and that to meet expectations of those looking for fine Arab and international designs.

Al-Hamadi said that this pattern in design combines readymade garments and high-end fashion, and focuses on apparel that is designed according to international fashion standards. She added that one of the main goals that the higher committee was seeking to achieve through the Kuwait International Fashion Week was to "strengthen Kuwait's role and presence among the fashion capitals of the world, since it has all the capabilities, uniqueness, and historical style of the Kuwaiti woman."

Al-Hamadi further noted that Kuwait has become home for mega malls that attract a lot of tourists every year. The Kuwait International Fashion Week serves as a marketing platform for tourism and shopping, and for increasing the current capacity of hotels and recreational facilities.

Several leading and important trademarks participated in the event such as: Lancome, Beidoun, YSL, Ali Hussein Al-Arbash, Noble Clinic, Twaq Fragrances, Bon Voyage travel agency, re7lah.com, Spa and More, Abdul Wahab Company, Misk Flowers Perfumes, Auguri company for advertising and publishing



(From left) Photo shows MP Safaa Al-Hashem and Rabab Hamadeh, CEO of Kuwait International Fashion Week, right, giving an interview to Al-Qabas television during the first day of the event.

— Photos by Paparazzi



A model showcase an Abaya for the Lebanese designer and winner of Project Runway Alaa Najd.



Photo shows attendees during the event.



(Right) Photo shows Kuwaiti designer Nadia Bou Shihri.



Photo shows attendees during the event.



A model showcase an outfit for La Bourjoisie on stage.