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## MPs WELCOME DECISION TO RETURN SOME CITIZENSHIPS

CABINET REINSTATES NATIONALITIES OF SIX FAMILIES: REPORTS



Min 28°  
Max 40°  
High Tide 09:37 & 22:18  
Low Tide 03:22 & 16:10

### IN JERUSALEM, TRUMP LASHES OUT AT IRAN

JERUSALEM: US President Donald Trump visited Jerusalem and the Western Wall yesterday as he sought ways to achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace, but also used the opportunity to again lash out at Iran. Trump became the first sitting US president to visit the Western Wall in the disputed city, placing his hand on one of the most sacred sites in Judaism in a highly symbolic move. Trump's visit is part of his first trip abroad as president and follows an initial stop in Saudi Arabia, where he urged Islamic leaders to confront extremism while also criticizing Iran.



JERUSALEM: US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City yesterday. — AFP

It comes as he contends with a raft of problems back home, including a special counsel investigating whether his associates colluded with Russia. Trump landed in Tel Aviv yesterday afternoon, welcomed by officials including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as he walked along a red carpet ahead of a brief ceremony. He later travelled by helicopter to Jerusalem and, in remarks at Israeli President Reuven Rivlin's residence, launched another salvo against Iran.

"The United States and Israel can declare with one voice that Iran must never be allowed to possess a nuclear weapon - never ever - and must cease its deadly funding, training and equipping of terrorists and militias," Trump said. "And it must cease immediately."

Continued on Page 13

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Several opposition lawmakers yesterday welcomed the government's decision to reinstate a number of revoked citizenships, including those of opposition figure and former MP Abdullah Al-Barghash and his family members. Reports said the Cabinet in its weekly meeting yesterday decided to return revoked citizenships to six families, including Barghash and 57 members of his family.

According to the reports, Barghash and his family members will get their citizenships as they were before they were revoked almost three years ago, allegedly for obtaining them with false documents. Along with Barghash, the government revoked the citizenships of another opposition figure, a pro-opposition TV owner and an Islamist preacher. Opposition groups, activists and human rights bodies strongly criticized the move, amid calls for reinstating all the revoked citizenships.

A large number of candidates in the November parliamentary polls made the issue of the revoked citizenships one of their top priorities. After the election, opposition MPs, who won almost half of the seats, pressed the government to reinstate the revoked citizenships. But the breakthrough came after a group of lawmakers met HH the Amir over two months ago, and the meeting resulted in an agreement to return the citizenships.

The government immediately formed an independent committee to study cases of all those who had their citizenships revoked. The committee submitted its first report last week.

Continued on Page 13

## CONDOLENCES

We, the Management and staff of Sefeena deeply mourn the sad demise of



MR. M. MATHEWS  
(Sunnichayan)  
Managing Director  
Sefeena Group of Companies

The Funeral service will be held on 24/05/2017 at National Evangelical Church (NECK), Kuwait from 11am to 11.50am. This will be the time to pay your last respects to Late Mr. M. Mathews.

The Funeral service in India will be held in his hometown Kumbanad, Kerala on Friday, 26/05/2017. As mark of respect, Sefeena Group of companies will remain closed on 24th & 25th May 2017.

May his soul rest in peace

### SAUDIS, IRAQ AGREE ON OIL CUT

BAGHDAD/VIENNA: OPEC heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Iraq agreed yesterday on the need to extend a global cut in oil supply by nine months in an effort to prop up crude prices, removing a potential stumbling block as producing countries prepare to meet this week. Saudi Energy Minister

Khalid Al-Falih said he did not expect any opposition within the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to extending the curbs for a further nine months, speaking after he met his Iraqi counterpart in Baghdad.

Continued on Page 13

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.— Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

# AMIR, CROWN PRINCE MEET SENIOR OFFICIALS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness later received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received the President of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. He later received Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

## CABINET HOLDS WEEKLY MEETING

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti cabinet held its customary weekly meeting at Bayan Palace yesterday under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. At the onset of the meeting, the ministers congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of the approaching holy month of Ramadan. Then, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed his colleague on the outcomes of His Highness the Amir's participation in the seventh Consultative Meeting of the GCC leaders and the Gulf-US summit and Arab-Islamic-US summit held in Riyadh between May 20 and 21. The Riyadh gatherings focused on a host of regional and international issues and efforts to maintain security and stability in the region, as well as coexistence and tolerance among different world countries.

The cabinet was also apprised on the results of talks held between His Highness the Amir and US President Donald Trump on ways of promoting and developing cooperative relations between both friendly countries in all fields, along with an invitation by His Highness the Amir to the US president



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

to visit the State of Kuwait. The First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister thanked Saudi Arabia for warm welcome, hospitality and proper arrangements for the successful gatherings held in Riyadh. Finally, the cabinet congratulated the newly reelected Iranian president Hassan Rouhani, hoping that he would seek to promote regional peace, stability and development.—KUNA

## RIYADH SUMMITS PROMOTE GLOBAL PEACE, COUNTERTERRORISM: AMIR ARAB-ISLAMIC-US SUMMIT MESSAGE TO ISLAM OFFENDERS: FM

**KUWAIT/RIYADH:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said Sunday the three summits held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, would contribute to boosting global peace and tolerance, as well as fighting terrorism and extremism. His Highness the Amir, in a cable to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz, said the outcome of a summit meeting between leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the US would contribute to boosting international peace and security. He said he was pleased with outcome of the Arab-Islamic-US summit, which would contribute to promoting international cooperation to spreading tolerance and peace, as well as fighting extremism and terrorism.

His Highness the Amir commended the 'spirit of cooperation and understanding' among the GCC leaders in seventh consultative summit. His Highness the Amir thanked King Salman for hosting the summits and wished the Saudi people further prosperity under his leadership.

### Clear message

Meanwhile, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah stated that the Arab-Islamic-US summit in Riyadh has sent a clear message to those prejudicing the tolerant, and moderate Islam. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's remarks were

made in a statement on the sidelines of his participation in the inauguration of the Riyadh-based Moderation Center for Combatting Terrorism.

On His Highness the Amir's meeting with the US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the summit, the Kuwaiti top diplomat clarified that the meeting focused on reviewing bilateral relations and cooperation in various domains. He added that meeting also touched upon the latest developments in the region.

"It was a fruitful and mutually-beneficial summit," he said. He noted that the consultative Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Riyadh Sunday addressed a slew of key issues relative to security, military, political, economic and investment cooperation.

### Long-term partnership

On the GCC-US summit, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled pointed that the summit deliberated a long-term strategic partnership between both sides. President Trump has reaffirmed the US commitment towards the security, stability and prosperity of the Gulf countries, he said, adding that the meeting also tackled bilateral cooperation in various domains.

He added that they have also discussed the role of US and Gulf states in dealing with



**RIYADH:** Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah talks to reporters on the sidelines of his participation in the inauguration of the Moderation Center for Combatting Terrorism in Riyadh. — KUNA

regional and international crises of mutual interest. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said that the Gulf states and US have signed a memorandum of understanding on combatting terrorism finance and put up a similar memo for willing countries to join. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Ambassador of Argentina to Kuwait Jorge O A Biga and Kuwait's Minister of Oil Essam Al-Marzouq cut the cake during a reception hosted to celebrate Argentina's National day. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

## TRUMP'S VISIT HAS POSITIVE IMPACT ON GCC ECONOMIES: MINISTER MARZOUQ

**KUWAIT:** US President Donald Trump's visit to the region will have a positive impact on economies of the Arab Gulf countries, Kuwait's Minister of Oil Essam Al-Marzouq said on Sunday. "We are always optimistic in President Trump oil policy, and we think it is good and positive," Marzouq, also Minister of Electricity and Water, told reporters after attending a reception held by the Embassy of Argentina on the occasion of the Latin American country's National day. Trump was in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, to participate in three summits with Saudi, GCC, Arab and Islamic leaders. Meanwhile, Marzouq said he would

leave for Vienna, Austria, for a meeting of the technical committee monitoring the oil production cuts. He added that ministers from OPEC and outside OPEC would meet on May 25 to confirm a committee recommendation to extend output cut until next March. Marzouq said he met with Iraq's oil ministers three months ago, and agreed to form a committee to discuss border oil wells and gas imports. The minister said the government was reviewing fuel prices every three months. He said in the meantime that global annual oil consumption was between 1.2-1.4 million barrels per day. — KUNA



Senior officials, diplomats, media personalities and members of the Argentinean community in Kuwait participated the event, which took place at JW Marriot Hotel.



A general view of people in attendance.



Artists perform during the ceremony.



Representatives from various travel agencies attend the seminar.

## SOUTH AFRICAN ENVOY WOOS KUWAITI VISITORS

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Ambassador of South Africa to Kuwait Mzolisa Bona hosted a tourism seminar yesterday at his residence in Mishref, which was attended by representatives from various travel agencies. Around 1,400 Kuwaitis visited South Africa in 2016 for tourism purposes. "We also issued business, medical and education visas," he said.

The South African embassy regularly holds tourism events in Kuwait to encourage people from Kuwait to visit the country. "This is in addition to cultural cooperation and education exchange events that we organize during the calendar year. We want this embassy to be proactive," Bona said. The envoy also lauded the embassy's streamlined visa service that reduced processing time from one week to just three days. "South Africa is an attractive place to visit. We want this information to be available to our visitors, especially at the onset of summer because we want an increase of tourism from this part of the world," he added.

Bona said some Kuwaitis have invested in the hospitality industry in South Africa, including a company that bought an exclusive beachfront resort. "We are happy that Kuwaitis are investing in our country. Last year, our deputy minister visited Kuwait, while an official from the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters visited South



**KUWAIT:** Ambassador of South Africa to Kuwait Mzolisa Bona speaks during a tourism seminar he hosted at his residence yesterday.

— Photos by Joseph Shagra  
Africa. Currently, we are concluding negotiations on joint bilateral commissions. Once this is done, the foreign minister of Kuwait will go to South Africa for an inaugural ceremony. Several delegations from the trade and industry sector in South Africa recently visited Kuwait to promote business. I also paid a visit to the minister of commerce and industry in Kuwait to facilitate a visit of our minister of trade and commerce to Kuwait this year," Bona said.

## CUCUMBER PRICES HIKE, TOMATOES DROP AHEAD OF RAMADAN

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Times launched a campaign a month before the advent of Ramadan to monitor changes in prices of some basic commodities. The survey compares the prices per kilogram of five different kinds of commodities sold at co-ops on a weekly basis. These items are the most popular, whose prices usually hike during Ramadan. This year we also added eggs, milk and frozen chicken to the earlier list of minced meat, chicken, tomatoes, lemons and cucumbers. Comparing prices



two weeks ago with prices this week, we noticed a significant increase in the price of cucumber, and a drop in the price of tomatoes.

Kuwait Times will be monitoring the prices of these products to check if any increases occur until the middle of the holy month of Ramadan. Follow Kuwait Times next week to read our next report. Prices are the same in all co-ops for the same kind and brand of product, but may differ in other supermarkets. Also, co-ops hold weekly food festivals with discounts on fruits and vegetables.

Commodity	Co-ops		
	Week 3	Week 2	Week 1
One kilogram of fresh Saudi chicken	KD 1.760 (945 fils for frozen chicken)	KD 1.760 (KD 1.085 for frozen chicken)	KD 1.760
One kilogram of fresh minced meat (beef)	KD 2.750	KD 3.000	KD 2.750
One kilogram of local tomatoes	250 fils	550 fils	550 fils
One kilogram of African lemons	660 fils	660 fils	660 fils
One kilogram of local cucumbers	275 fils	100 fils	50 fils
One liter of local milk (KDCow)	430 fils	430 fils	430 fils
One carton of eggs (30 eggs per carton)	KD 1.100	KD 1.100	KD 1.100

Commodity	Supermarkets		
	Week 3	Week 2	Week 1
One kilogram of frozen chicken	600 fils (Ramadan special price)	KD 1.400	KD 1.400
One kilogram of fresh minced meat (beef)	KD 2.150	KD 2.150	KD 2.150
One kilogram of local tomatoes	500 fils	495 fils	495 fils
One kilogram of African lemons	760 fils	775 fils	775 fils
One kilogram of local cucumbers	295 fils	145 fils	145 fils
One liter of local milk (KDCow)	315 fils	315 fils	315 fils
One carton of eggs (30 eggs per carton)	750 fils	790 fils	790 fils

## SME OWNERS TO BE FINED FOR SUBLEASING PROJECTS TO EXPATS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The government plans to issue a decision soon on expanding the scope of citizens who can benefit from the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Development, said official sources. This step comes in view of the extremely limited demand for the fund's services, as the total spending on

entrepreneurial projects so far is only KD 6 million out of the fund's KD 2 billion capital, they noted. The sources explained that the government is considering including retirees and providing them with capital needed to start their projects to revive local markets and create more job opportunities for Kuwaitis. The sources also noted that the fund would impose fines on Kuwaiti entrepreneurs who sublease the projects

to expats and those who do not hire citizens.

**KD 1.5 million**

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare collected KD 1.5 million in fines from contractors who are behind schedule in executing housing projects currently under construction, said informed sources, explaining that the fines were collected as per penal clauses in the contracts of 29 projects.

## MINISTRY SPREADS AWARENESS ABOUT NEW POWER TARIFFS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) yesterday organized an awareness campaign at Al-Hamra Tower to introduce the new power consumption tariffs to the public by distributing brochures explaining the new procedures. Eqbal Al-Tayyar, MEW technical control manager and the head of GCC power conservation campaign, said that the campaign's purpose is to introduce the new five-fils tariff for commercial sector consumers (shops and markets), noting that Kuwait was the last GCC state to increase power tariffs. Tayyar added that the new charges would reduce electricity consumption and help reduce emissions. She added that Al-Hamra's shift to using LED lamps would help reduce power consumption as well as temperatures within the complex, especially after changing over 5,000 lamps.



**E-licenses**

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri yesterday launched the electronic construction license issuance system in Hawally governorate, to be the second after Mubarak Al-Kabeer. Speaking to reporters at a special ceremony held in the presence of Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi, Jabri said the new system aims at issuing construction licenses within hours compared to extremely long periods in the past.

Jabri added that the new system would be launched in the Capital governorate on July 4 before expanding the system in Ahmadi, Farwaniya and Jahra respectively before the end of the year. He added that the service actually began on May 2, but the official launch was postponed until 22 licenses had already been issued. Manfouhi said municipality officials managed to launch the second phase of the project and stressed that the new system includes issuing various types of licenses. "The new system helps in issuing licenses that used to take 2-3 months within two hours," he underlined.



## AMNESTY TO JAILED POLICE OFFICERS AHEAD OF RAMADAN

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior (MoI) pardoned yesterday members of the police force imprisoned for minor offenses, in a gesture of goodwill to mark the advent of the holy month of Ramadan. Deputy Prime Minister and Interior

Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah has commuted the sentences of the officers, thereby, giving them an early release just around the start of the holy month, MoI noted in a statement. — KUNA



**VIENNA:** Minister of Justice and Minister of State for the National Assembly Affairs Dr Fahel Al-Azb (center) leads the Kuwaiti delegation during the session. — KUNA

## KUWAIT URGES UNIFORM POLICIES TO COUNTER TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES

**VIENNA:** Kuwait has urged the international community to unify efforts and policies to counter transnational organized crime that poses a threat to the world's security and interests.

The dangerous and persistent development of crimes, especially organized cross-border ones, and their growing links with the terrorist activities and acts, necessitate paying more attention to their consequences and intensifying efforts to combat them, said Minister of Justice and Minister of State for the National Assembly Affairs Dr Fahel Al-Azb yesterday.

Azb made the statement in his address to the 26th session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna. He reiterated the significance of activating, and enhancing international cooperation, both bilateral and regional, for realizing more security and stability, developing a favorable climate for achieving the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Kuwait has applied for the membership of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (2019-2021) out of a desire to boost the frameworks of interna-

tional cooperation, Azb said. The minister referred to the cooperation among the world countries, both on the bilateral and regional levels, to consolidate the principles calling for combating and preventing crimes, as well as cooperation in the relevant legal procedures. This has been fruitful in curbing rates of international crimes, and increasing cooperation for undermining planning or inciting such crimes.

Kuwait has issued a host of relevant legislations, including the 2013 law on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, one for combating money laundering and financing terrorism, and a third for setting up the Anti-Corruption Authority, Azb said.

Concluding his address, the minister reaffirmed the principles of the Doha Declaration supporting the international community's efforts to prevent and combat crimes. Azb invited the participants in the 26th session to attend an event to be organized by the State of Kuwait on Thursday May 25 on the sidelines of the commission's meeting to review the country's efforts for countering terrorism. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with the visiting State Secretary at Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pascale Baeriswyl. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between Kuwait and Switzerland and the latest regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by several senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — KUNA

## 27 ILLEGAL RESIDENTS ARRESTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Residency detectives arrested 27 illegal residents of various nationalities, said security sources. Case papers indicate that detectives had been tipped off concerning a house in Riqqa harboring many illegal residents and absconders. The house was raided and the suspects, including illegal residents, absconders and wanted people, were arrested.

**Forgery**

Investigations are currently in progress at Farwaniya immigration department over the forging of a dependent's birthdate on a transaction form to renew a residency visa, said security sources, noting that the date on the form did not match the one stored on the system.

**Checkpoints**

Upon instructions from the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) acting assistant undersecretary for public security Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Tarrah, security forces set up 94 checkpoints from May 16-21, arresting 39 people wanted for criminal cases, 148 wanted for civil claims, 180 absconders, 160 illegal residents, 472 without IDs, 45 with drugs, six with alcohol, four for robbery, 22 marginal laborers and nine peddlers. Meanwhile, 31 vehicles wanted by authorities were impounded and 1,962 traffic tickets were issued, including 74 for parking in disabled parking spaces.

**Truck ban**

The Ministry of Interior's relations and security media department announced the truck ban timings on various roads would be adjusted during Ramadan to be from 8:30-10:30 am and from 12:30-3:00 pm. The department also announced that timings during which use of the left emergency lane would be allowed will be from 8:00 am till midnight.

In Brief

**MEDICATIONS TO REFUGEES IN GAZA**

**AMMAN:** Kuwait's Patients Helping Fund Society (PHF) will offer the Palestinian refugees in Gaza pharmaceuticals worth \$20,000. The PHF and UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) signed a medical aid agreement at the Kuwaiti embassy in Jordan. Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Hamad Al Duaij, PHF Chairman Dr Mohammad Al-Sharhan and UNRWA Senior External Relations and Projects Officer, Munir Mannah attended the signing ceremony. — KUNA



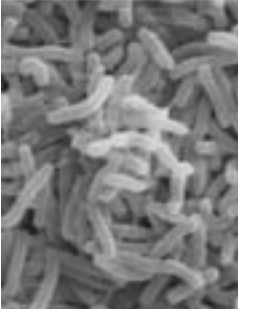
**FOOD BASKETS TO IRAQI REFUGEES**

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced yesterday it has distributed some 2,000 food baskets to Iraqi refugees in Basra, in coordination with the General Consulate of Kuwait and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. Deputy Director of Youth and Volunteers Department Ahmad Al-Faqaa said that the KRCS has continued its relief efforts in various Iraqi provinces, including Basra. Faqaa, who heads Kuwait's relief delegation to Basra, said the food baskets contained all sorts of food needed for Iraqi displaced people in Basra. — KUNA



**KUWAIT HELPS YEMENIS CURB CHOLERA SPREAD**

**RIVADH:** Kuwait has rushed and sent several medical supplies to Yemen to help counter the recent cholera outbreak in the civil conflict-ravaged Arab country. The 'Kuwait Besides You' humanitarian campaign distributed medical aid Sunday to the hospitals in the Abyan Governorate. Director of the Public Health and Population at Lawdar Health Directorate in Abyan Abdullah Mezahem said that 406 infection cases and two deaths were registered in this area. Meanwhile, Dr Emad Abdulrahim, a campaign official, said that the medical supplies comprise necessary medications and equipment to deal with the cholera spread. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** People pass under decorations outside shops in downtown Kuwait City yesterday ahead of the holy month of Ramadan which starts this weekend. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**PRESERVING MARINE ENVIRONMENT ESSENTIAL FOR ITS SUSTAINABILITY**

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares yesterday stressed importance of preserving the marine environment to ensure its sustainability for successive generations through fruitful cooperation among the countries of the region.



**Education Minister Dr Mohammad Al-Fares**

"Such scientific events contribute to the strengthening of international cooperation in the field of marine environment studies," Fares said at the opening of the sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-VI) and the preceding IOCINDIO Strategic Revitalization Scoping Workshop. He added that man had resorted to the oceans after increasing population growth and declining resources, as the oceans became an important

food resource and an economic base for industries such as fishing and tourism.

He explained that the meeting today includes a group of scientists and researchers from specialists and experts in the field of the marine environment to raise issues related to the environment of the Indian Ocean and propose studies that will help decision-makers to achieve effective management of natural resources based on the marine environment in a sustainable manner.

He noted that this meeting plays a very important role in educating the communities of the Indian Ocean regarding the marine environment and the oceans, expressing hope that the session will succeed in presenting proposals and scientific ideas to raise awareness of the peoples of

the region. Meanwhile, Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Dr Samira Al-Sayed Omar said that Kuwait's hosting of this session coincides with its broad recognition of the important role played by the oceans in their interaction with the climate and their contribution to achieving sustainable development.

She added that Kuwait recognizes that the oceans have made important contributions to human life and the preservation of the biological balance of the earth, in addition to its belief that the seas, oceans and bays are important sources of human food and energy.

She pointed out that the scarcity of fresh water in Kuwait is a major driver of the trend towards seawater desalination to provide drinking water, referring to the efforts of the Institute and its research studies on water, Arabian Gulf, fisheries and aquaculture since its establishment in 1967. — KUNA

**STATE PINS HIGH HOPES ON CREATIVE KUWAITI YOUTH: DEPUTY SPEAKER**



**KUWAIT:** Students display their innovations during the event. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Essa Al-Kandari stated Sunday that Kuwaiti youth have a high sense of creativity that qualifies them to compete in international competitions, considering them as the real wealth of Kuwait.

The State is pinning high hopes on national youth to raise its flag high in different regional and international scientific forums, Kandari told reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony held by Kuwait University and sponsored by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem to declare the winners of Startup Kuwait innovation competition for university students.

He lauded Kuwait University's support to youth who have achieved great success in this creative competition, held for the second year in a row. He expressed his pleasure for seeing the distinguished projects which won the prizes of this year's edition.

These are a tangible proof of the creativity of Kuwaiti youth and their ability to transform the country and contribute to its comprehensive development, he said. For his part, Kuwait University President Dr Hussein Al-Ansari said Startup Kuwait competition is based on the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for turning Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub. A total of 29 projects competed this year, and they covered various domains such as computer, food and other fields, he said.

Ansari highly praised the students who participated in the contest. Dr Reda Behbehani, of the Faculty of Administrative Sciences, announced the winning projects. He identified them as: "Habbah" of student Mohammed Alwan from the Arab Open University; "the Magniscope" project of Areej Ahmad, Batul Dashti, Lamees Waleed and Sajida Hussein from the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering at Kuwait University; "Playground Drop and

Drag" project of students Ali Ashkanani, Salman Al-Ahmad, Hassan Fayrouz, Ahmed Al-Azmi from the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering at Kuwait University; and "AlZaheGlass" of students Aisha Al-Enezi and Al-Ajmi from the same faculty. They also included "The 3rd Eye" of students Fatima Al-Doub, Sara Al-Kassar and Nora Al-Yousef from the Faculty of Engineering and Petroleum at the University of Kuwait;



"Italk" of students Hessa Al-Shammari and Eida Al-Azmi from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training; "Techno Fun Games" of students Mashari Al-Fulaj of the Gulf University of Science and Technology; "Diabetic Breathalyzer" of students Asmaa Al-Hamdan, Bashair Al-Mutawa, Munira Al-Rabah and Sara Ali from the Faculty of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University has been awarded two awards, the first for getting the highest public vote and the second for social service; and "Your Doctor in Your Office" of students Rehab Gad, Razan Al-Samhan and Hajar Al-Bolushi from the Faculty of Engineering and Petroleum at the University of Kuwait. The winners will receive initial grants and will then have the opportunity to apply for financing from the Kuwait Fund for Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises. — KUNA



**Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi**

**KUWAIT COORDINATES WITH ARAB STATES ON HEALTH ISSUES: MINISTER**

**GENEVA:** Kuwaiti Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi said yesterday that Arab ministers of health have been engaged in coordination prior of the 70th session of the World Health Organization's general assembly. Minister Harbi said in a statement that Kuwait, in its capacity as chair of the executive bureau of the Arab Health Ministers Council, regularly coordinates Arabs' stances at the UN quarters regarding afflicted regions. Members of the Arab council have reached consensus on supporting the

health sector in the Palestinian territories, dispatching medical expeditions to Somalia in addition to financial and administrative by the Arab Fund for Health Development.

Kuwait is particularly interested, during the WHO meeting, in files on chronic non-communicable diseases, containing epidemics and following up on medical technological development. The WHO general assembly, scheduled May 22-27, groups health ministers of various countries. — KUNA

**KFAED PROVIDES \$1 MILLION TO OFFER CANCER TREATMENT TO SYRIANS IN JORDAN**

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) is set to provide \$1 million to provide treatment to Syrian refugees suffering from cancer in Jordan.

The fund signed a grant agreement yesterday with Jordan's King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF) for the noble purpose. The document was signed by KFAED Director General Abdulwahab Al-Bader and KHCF's chairperson Princess Ghaida Talal during a ceremony held at the KFAED's headquarters, attended by the Jordanian ambassador to Kuwait Mohammed Al-Kayed.

The grant will help treat the Syrian

refugees afflicted by cancer in Jordan, as part of the fund's efforts to offer them humanitarian support, Al-Bader told KUNA. He added that the agreement is part of Kuwait's commitment to support the Syrian refugees through KFAED.

Meanwhile, Princess Ghaida said that the KHCF is a grand Arab edifice that provides due cancer treatment to thousands of Arabs, including the Syrian refugees in the Kingdom. The center provides treatment to 5,000 annually, and has a waiting list of about 37,000 patients, she added. Expansions are underway to treat more people. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** KFAED Director General Abdulwahab Al-Bader and King Hussein Cancer Foundation's chairperson Princess Ghaida Talal sign the agreement. — KUNA



KUWAIT: German Ambassador Karlfried Bergner and Minister of Oil, Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq tour the embassy's fair. —KUNA Photos



People visit a mobile fair on energy conversion held by the German embassy in Kuwait.



Signs set up at the fair.



German Ambassador Karlfried Bergner and Minister of Oil, Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq inaugurate the fair.



Signs set up at the fair.

### GERMAN MOBILE FAIR ON RENEWABLE ENERGY IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Germany is seeking to secure half of its energy needs from renewable resources by 2030 and cut consumption by half by 2050. Germany's embassy in Kuwait has held a mobile fair on energy conversions in the European nation, shedding light on schemes on securing easy and sustainable energy. The fair was inaugurated by the German Ambassador Karlfried Bergner. It was attended by Minister of Oil, Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq. —KUNA



## AZZOUR NORTH ONE POWER AND WATER PLANT AWARDED AT MEED QUALITY AWARDS MEGA PROJECT OF THE YEAR AND POWER PROJECT OF THE YEAR


KUWAIT: Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula KSC, the owner and operator of Azzour North One Power and Water plant, has won two major industry awards for its success as one of the Gulf region's leading projects during the seventh edition of the MEED Quality Awards for Projects.

Walking away with the 2017 award for Mega Project of the Year and Power Project of the Year, Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula KSC picked up two of the three awards awarded to Kuwait during the ceremony held at Westin Mina Seyahi, Dubai. The winners were chosen by a jury of 12 industry leaders from among more than 120 entries and announced on May 3.

Shamal Az-Zour CEO Andy Biffen said: "Following the successful launch of Kuwait's first independently owned power and water facility, we are honored to be recognized in the region as one of the Gulf's leading projects through not only one, but two awards that reflect the dedication, effort, skills, strength and expertise of the team at Shamal Az-Zour. We thank you for your recognition and support, and look forward to continuing our success for years to come."

Laying the foundation for long-term sustainable development in support of the Gulf's ambitions for the future, the annual MEED Quality Awards for Projects recognizes and celebrates the best achievements of the region's projects.

Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula is 40 percent owned by a private consortium comprising ENGIE (formerly GDF SUEZ), Sumitomo Corporation, and AH Al-Sagar and Brothers. The remaining 60 percent, owned by the Government of Kuwait, through the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA: five percent), the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS: five percent) and Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP: 50 percent). The Government of Kuwait is mandated to sell 50 percent of the total ownership through an Initial Public Offering (IPO) to Kuwaiti citizens after construction is completed. The government will retain 10 percent stake following the IPO.



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A Wonderful World

Crime

Report

MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING HIS NEIGHBOR'S CAMEL

**KUWAIT:** A citizen filed a complaint accusing his neighbor of deliberately killing a prized camel he owned. The man told police that on finding the camel missing from his ranch, he looked around and found it dead about three meters away from his neighbor's ranch. The man said that he suspects his neighbor because he previously complained many times from 'noise' the camels were making. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress. In another camel-related incident, an Asian man was rushed to Jahra Hospital and admitted inside the ICU with serious injuries after he was thrown off the back of his sponsor's camel in Matraba desert.

Contrabands

An Asian was arrested in Farwaniya with 500 home-brewed liquor bottles ready for sale, said security sources, noting that finding out that he was drunk at a checkpoint, detectives searched the suspect's vehicle and found the alcohol. Separately, Jahra detectives arrested an Iranian and an Egyptian with ice and meth.

Assault

A female citizen reported that someone she knows barged into her apartment and assaulted her, said security sources, noting that the woman provided a medical report of her injuries. A case was filed and the man is being summoned for further investigations.

Mugging

Ahmadi detectives are searching for five Syrians and a citizen who allegedly attacked and assaulted a Jordanian, robbed him and stole his camera, said security sources, noting that the man provided the police with his assailants' description.

Smuggling

An Asian man was arrested on arrival at Kuwait International Airport with three kilograms of marijuana he had hidden in a box of mangoes, said security sources. On being asked about the gift-wrapped box in his luggage, the suspect told inspectors that it contained mangoes he brought as a gift for a friend, but on searching it, they found the drugs.

Accident

Motorists driving along Salmi highway escaped a disaster when two vehicles loaded on a tow truck slid off. No injuries were reported.

— Translated from the Arabic press



Al-Jarida

الجريدة Al-Jarida

SHAFE' E AND US

By Yousif Al-Jassem

Like many other writers and opinion-makers, I have repeatedly written about 'peaceful disagreements' and how to avoid turning our opinion, persuasions, religious and doctrinal differences into paths leading us to the current futile wars that made us a mockery before all other nations who feel sorry for a nation having its children's dreams killed, their weak bodies bleed and green spirits killed simply because adults disagree about an opinion, doctrine, faith or religion.

Despite the almost sixty-year long constitutional and parliamentary experience here in Kuwait, where we are supposed to have learnt how to democratically disagree without clashes and to debate without grudges, we seem to be continuously experiencing an endless state of tension and exchanged accusations; you are either with or against me.

Our role models in parliament managed to pass their low-profile speech, slander to their opponents and fist-fighting down to younger generations in universities, institutes and schools. Steel blades have become youth's favorite weapon to use in scuffles on various streets and in shopping malls for as trivial reasons as 'why are you staring at me', which end up in fatality and long grieves amongst the deceased's families.

I recently came across some quotes by wise Imam Mohammed Bin Idris Al-Shafe'e talking precisely about this problem. Allow me to mention some from a story he told. He said that Younis Ibn Obaid Al-A'la was one of his sharia students and that he once argued with him and angrily left his class. Hearing someone knock at his door at night, Younis learnt that it was Shafe'e himself. He opened the door and stood speechless before his teacher.

"Oh, my son, how come we come close after agreeing on hundreds of issues and get separated by disagreeing on a single one? My son, never try winning all arguments because having a winning heart is sometimes more important. Younis, do not pull down all bridges you have built and crossed because you might someday need them to go back. Always hate the wrong but never hate wrongdoers themselves, hate sins with all your heart but have mercy on sinners, criticize speeches but respect speakers because our job is to get rid of the disease, not to kill the patient," Shafe'e said. I wonder how far we are from such profoundness in the ethics of disagreement great people such as Imam Al-Sahfe'e used to have. —Translated by Kuwait Times

النهار Al-Anbaa

THE BAKER KILLER

By Saleh Al-Shayeji

Corruption is not limited to looting funds, unlawfully piling heaps of money, abuse of powers and positions and recommending the nearest and dearest for certain positions in order to them profiteer. It is not limited to theft, manipulation, forgery and cheating for the sake of profiteering and enlarging bank accounts, either. There is another serious type of corruption that is more spiritual and unseen; that is empowering inappropriate people and giving them more liabilities, enabling them to control the destiny of people and the country as a whole.

Those corrupt people will always find ways to seize opportunities without being deterred by shame, because they have none. They also lack the virtue of observing their dignity regardless of how many times they get scolded or insulted. Unfortunately, there are too many in our country. They have stolen our history, mutilated our present and darkened our future. They have given us their old worn out attires, dug graves of our ancestors and scattered their

remains out to be carried away by the wind.

They do not wish us to have any history or heritage. It really provokes them that our country still exists. They would like to push us into caves of darkness or even graves if they could. Those corrupt people are stealing an entire country with all its history, people, wealth and achievements. They are more dangerous than public fund looters because their corruption is more like an unseen cancer tumor silently spreading in this nation's body.

Unlike financially corrupt people who wish to steal more and more funds, this other type of unseen corrupt people wish that neither Kuwait nor the Kuwaiti people should exist. So, we are facing two types of corrupt people; those who steal our 'bread' and those who want to kill the 'baker' himself. Both are dangerous and both will remain enemies no matter how many times they change their appearances and sweet-talk us, hiding behind virtuous looks. —Translated by Kuwait Times

'JAHRA ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT' WINS ACI'S AWARD

**KUWAIT:** The American Concrete Institution (ACI) - Kuwait Chapter - granted the 'Jahra Road Development Project' the first ACI Special Award for an Infrastructure Project during their annual Awards Banquet which took place on the May 16, 2017. Minister of Public Works Engineer Abdul Rahman Al-Mutawa and ACI President Badr Al-Salman presented the award plaques and "Certificate of Excellence" to project executives, including the Ministry of Public Works' (MPW) Assistant Undersecretary of the Roads Engineering Sector, Engineer Ahmad Al-Hassan, and Engineer Tarek Shuaib, Managing Partner and Head Architect of Pace - the Kuwaiti leading design, architecture and engineering firm.

In a word from the Assistant Undersecretary Ahmad Al-Hassan, said: 'Jahra Road Development Project ranks as one of the largest transport infrastructure project in the world, as it aims to transform the existing road into an internationally standardized multileveled expressway extending for 10 km in the western region of Kuwait. Its large-scaled structural works include the construction of a 8 km mainline viaduct along Jahra Road, and 10.4 km of exit/entry ramps with five main multileveled interchanges and 620-meter underpass at the Second Ring Road intersection. A total of 18.5 kilometers of ground level service road will be developed with seven traffic signal-free roundabouts.'

Engineer Tarek Shuaib stated: "We are very delighted at this point to be awarded Excellency from ACI for the Jahra Road Development Project. The project, in both its design and construction, stands as an engineering marvel in which its caliber is measured with the advanced and large-scaled structural propositions employed. The undertaking of this grand infrastructure development entails a series of sophisticated large scaled operations. Its engineering, and complex location, required the utilization of the latest innovations in bridge constructions, including "Precast Segmental Erection", using overhead launching gantries. A purpose made hi-tech precast facility has been established to fabricate around 8400 bridge segments."

The project aims to segregate between bypass traffic and local traffic flow via elevated highways while increasing the Jahra Road Highway capacity thereby minimizing traffic congestions and reducing traffic accidents. The project will also improve road facilities and services and raise road safety standards, meeting the future demands of traffic for road users.

ACI-Kuwait Chapter was organized with the efforts of its members for a non-profit, public service in gathering, correlating and disseminating information for the improvement of the design, construction, manufacture, use and maintenance of concrete products and structures. Also, to further enhance educational and technical practices, as well as scientific investigations and research. ACI-Kuwait Chapter's Awards Banquet is a highly anticipated and grand annual event during which the Chapter recognizes outstanding projects and individuals. Two main honors were bestowed this year, namely the Award of Excellence and the Award of Achievement.



ZAIN VOLUNTEERS DELIVER 'MACHLA BOXES' TO NEEDY FAMILIES

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced that its volunteers delivered essential food supplies - at the company's main headquarters and delivered them to underprivileged families in Kuwait. The initiative came as part of the company's preparations to welcome the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Distributing 'Machla boxes' is one of the main pillars of Zain's annual Ramadan campaign, which comes in line with the company's Corporate Social Responsibility and

Sustainability strategy. Zain's own team of volunteers packed the boxes - containing essential food supplies - at the company's main headquarters and delivered them to underprivileged families who are in need of support during the month of fasting. The distribution covered multiple areas of Al-Jahra governorate.

Zain's distribution plan assured the delivery of essential food supplies to those in need before the arrival of the Holy

Month in order to ensure families have enough quantities of the most basic supplies. This initiative is part of a series of programs the company is planning to conduct throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan with the aim of having a deep positive impact on the community's various segments, especially the most vulnerable ones.

Zain affirmed that its social and CSSR campaign during the upcoming Holy Month of Ramadan will include an extensive array

of initiatives and programs that will focus on helping less fortunate people to enjoy Ramadan happily, as well as celebrating the true spirit the Holy month brings.

Zain's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference to people's everyday lives.



**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) participated in a training program for newly graduated legal trainees, organized recently by the Public Institution for Social Security in cooperation with a number of state departments.



## EU'S BARNIER EYES BREXIT TALKS

Page 10



**MANILA:** This file photo shows Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte gesturing as he speaks during a press conference at the end of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders' summit in Manila. —AFP

## PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE HEADS TO RUSSIA IN BLOW TO US

**MANILA:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte flew to Russia yesterday to meet his hero, seek arms and steer his nation's foreign policy further away from longtime ally the United States. The five-day trip will cement a dramatic improvement in relations with Russia since Duterte came to power last year and began unraveling his country's decades-long alliances with the United States, which he accuses of hypocrisy and bullying.

"Russia must cease to be at the margins of Philippine diplomacy. Overdependence on traditional partners has limited our room to maneuver in a very dynamic international arena," Duterte told reporters before leaving. "This is a strategic oversight that has led to many missed opportunities for our country. I am determined to correct this."

The trip will also be personal for Duterte, who has described Russian President Vladimir Putin as his "favorite hero" and proclaimed a bond because of mutual passions such as guns and hunting. The pair are due to meet on Thursday. Since assuming the presidency Duterte has sought to build strong alliances with China and Russia while moving away from the United States, the Philippines' former colonial ruler and most important military ally.

He has scaled down the number and scope of annual military exercises with the United States, barred Filipino

forces from joint patrols in the disputed South China Sea and called for the withdrawal of US troops from the Philippines.

US military ties have been loosened even though China is expanding its presence into Philippine-claimed waters in the South China Sea. Duterte said last week that Chinese President Xi Jinping had threatened to go to war with the Philippines over the territorial row.

But Duterte, a self-described socialist, has been determined to reduce the Philippines' reliance on the United States and build much closer ties with China and Russia. "My visit underscores the independence of the Philippines' foreign policy and the firm resolve to broaden the horizons of friendship and cooperation with other nations," he said yesterday. China and Russia have supported or at least not criticized Duterte's controversial war on drugs, which has left thousands of people dead and led to warnings by rights groups that he may be orchestrating a crime against humanity.

### Ideological flow

Duterte has railed against the United States, particularly when Barack Obama was president, for criticizing the drug war. On a state visit to China last year he announced the Philippines' "separation" from the United States. "I've realigned myself in your ideological flow and maybe I will

also go to Russia to talk to Putin and tell him that there are three of us against the world-China, Philippines and Russia. It's the only way," he said at that time. Duterte and Putin first met on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific summit in Peru last November. Since then, two Russian Navy flotillas have visited Manila.

"The Russians are with me, I shall not be afraid," Duterte said while touring the Russian Navy's guided missile cruiser Varyag during a port visit to Manila last month. Duterte said last week one of the top priorities of his trip to Russia was to secure precision-guided bombs to use on Islamic militants in the southern Philippines. He had also previously said he hoped the Philippines would soon be able to start acquiring other Russian weapons.

The Philippines and Russia established diplomatic ties 41 years ago but until Duterte took office relations remained relatively low-key. This was partly due to Manila's alliance with the United States. Philippine-Russian trade last year totaled just \$226 million, according to government data, while Philippine-US trade was worth more than \$18 billion last year. Duterte's visit to Moscow will be a "propaganda victory for Putin and a soft-power coup for Russia," analyst Richard Javad Heydarian said. "It will be their way of poking the eye of America."—AFP

## TENSE TRIAL OPENS OF ALLEGED TURKEY COUP RINGLEADERS

**SINCAN:** More than 220 suspects, including over two dozen former Turkish generals, went on trial yesterday accused of being among the ringleaders of the attempted coup last year aimed at ousting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Furious protesters outside the court called for the death penalty for the accused and flung rope nooses at the defendants as they were paraded into court handcuffed and held by the security forces.

Turkey blames the attempted July 15 putsch on the US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, a claim he strongly denies, and has launched a relentless purge under a state of emergency against those deemed to have backed the plot. Gulen is among 12 of the 221 suspects in the current trial who remain at large, with the remainder appearing in court for the first time inside a prison complex in Sincan outside Ankara. The suspects were paraded into the courtroom by heavily armed security forces forming two columns in front of television cameras.

Dozens of protesters holding Turkish flags booed at the suspects, with placards saying: "For the martyrs and veterans of July 15, we want the death penalty." "We want the death penalty, we don't want them to be fed and housed here. We want these traitors to be buried without any flag," said protester Cengiz Ozturk. Turkey abolished the death penalty as part of its drive to join the European Union but Erdogan has on occasion indicated it could be re-imposed to deal with the coup plotters.

### 'Martyrs don't die'

Twenty-six generals are among those charged, including former air force chief Akin Ozturk and Mehmet Disli, the brother of senior ruling party lawmaker Saban Disli. Also on trial is colonel Ali Yazici, Erdogan's former military aide, and Lieutenant Colonel Levent Turkkan, who was the aide of Chief of Staff General Hulusi Akar. The most prominent figure among the suspects, Ozturk was dressed crisply in a

black sweater and held a blue file as he was led into the court.

His appearance contrasted with the last known image of him which showed him bearing injuries including a bandaged ear after his capture two days after the coup bid. In a tense start to the trial, relatives of coup victims shouted "martyrs don't die, the motherland cannot be divided", a refrain often used by the public and politicians in tribute to those killed during the putsch.

A mother of one of those killed yelled at the suspects before she was taken away by force. The case is being heard in Turkey's largest courtroom, which was purpose-built to hear coup-related trials and has space for 1,558 people. There was heavy security in place, with a drone flying overhead and armored security vehicles on site as well as snipers on the roof.

### Largest legal process

Almost 40 of those on trial are accused of being part of the "Peace At Home Council", the name the plotters are said to have given themselves on the night of the failed coup. The charges against them include "violating the constitution", "using coercion and violence in an attempt to overthrow" the parliament and the Turkish government, "martyring 250 citizens" and "attempting to kill 2,735 citizens", Hurriyet daily reported on Sunday.

The attempted putsch left 248 people dead, according to the Turkish presidency, not including 24 coup-plotters killed on the night. The trial is one of many being held across the country to judge the coup suspects in what is the biggest legal process of Turkey's modern history. The vast Sincan courtroom hosted in February the opening of the trial of 330 suspects accused of murder or attempted murder on the night of July 15. More than 47,000 people have been arrested on suspicion of links to the Gulen movement in an unprecedented crackdown under the state of emergency.—AFP

**AUSTRALIAN BEEF AND LAMBS CLEAN, SAFE AND GUARANTEED HALAL**

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORISED HALAL PROGRAM (AGAHP)**

All Australian meat processing operations exporting to the Middle East must have a registered Australian Government Authorised Halal Program (AGAHP) – this is a collaborative program between Islamic societies and the Australian government. The integrity of the program is supported by Australian law.

**INSPECTION BY GOVERNMENT AND ISLAMIC ORGANISATIONS**

Facilities must be inspected and accepted as suitable for Halal slaughter and/or production. All inspections are carried out by recognised Islamic organisations and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR). DAWR is an official Australian government agency.

**WELL TRAINED MUSLIM SLAUGHTERMEN**

Processors must only employ registered Muslim slaughtermen. These Muslim slaughtermen must carry an official permit with photo ID.

**SHARP KNIFE**

Halal slaughter men must use a sharp knife and carry out the slaughter in accordance with Islamic Shariah.

**HALAL GUARANTEE**

For all exports, only recognised Islamic organisations can certify Halal meat and meat products. The certification is also backed by Australian government assurance that the product has been produced in accordance with Islamic Shariah standards.

For more information about the Australian Halal Program, please visit [www.AustralianHalal.com](http://www.AustralianHalal.com)

## TURKEY DETAINS TWO HUNGER STRIKERS DISMISSED IN PURGES

**ANKARA:** Turkish authorities detained an academic and a teacher in Ankara who have been on a hunger strike for over two months in protest against their dismissal in the purge that followed last year's failed coup, media reported yesterday. Nuriye Gulmen and Semih Ozakca were sacked under the state of emergency imposed after the July 15 attempted coup seeking to overthrow President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that has seen tens of thousands lose their jobs.

Former primary school teacher Ozakca and academic Gulmen began their hunger strike 75 days ago and have been surviving on water alone. Both were detained by police in the early hours yesterday after arrest warrants were issued at the weekend, NTV broadcaster reported. The charges were not made clear. Their lawyers and Ozakca's wife Esra tried to stop officers detaining the two but found themselves also taken into custody, NTV said. Gulmen said on

Twitter that police from the "political department were trying to enter the house. They are breaking the door at this moment".

"Damn fascism! Long live our hunger strike resistance! We want our jobs back! We have not surrendered and we will not surrender!" Ozakca also wrote on Twitter around 1.00 am (2200 GMT) saying: "Our home is being raided". Recent images of them showed their declining health and weight loss as they continued to hold

demonstrations begun nearly 200 days ago by a statue celebrating human rights. Necati Yilmaz, a lawmaker from the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), said on Twitter they were detained because of the risk "their protest would become a death fast and spark new Gezi protests". He was referring to the protests in early summer 2013 against the planned redevelopment of Gezi Park in Istanbul that snowballed into national demonstrations against Erdogan's

Islamic-rooted government. Over 100,000 people from the public sector including judges, teachers, doctors and members of the armed forces have been dismissed in a series of purges criticized by the West and human rights activists. Amnesty International criticized the "arbitrary dismissals" in a report released yesterday, calling on the Turkish government to set up a "prompt and effective appeal mechanism" for those dismissed.—AFP

## IRANIAN PRESIDENT CALLS US RELATIONS A CURVY ROAD

'AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS MADE MISTAKES IN OUR REGION'

**TEHRAN, Iran:** Iran's newly re-elected President Hassan Rouhani yesterday called relations with the United States "a curvy road," saying he hoped the Trump administration will "settle down" enough for his nation to better understand it.

on Friday, securing another four-year term.

The vote served as a referendum on Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, as well as a vote of confidence that his government will be able to help the country's sputtering economy.

cannot be solved through giving money to superpowers," Rouhani said.

### Role in the pacification

Rouhani made a point to stress that Trump's visit came amid Iran's presidential election, saying that such elections "are not in their (Saudi's) dictionary." "I hope that the day will come that Saudi Arabia will adopt this path," he said. "They should have polling stations in place for the people and let the rulers not be on a hereditary basis. They should be picked by the people."

The Sunni kingdom and Shiite power Iran haven't had diplomatic relations since early 2016. That's when Saudi Arabia executed a prominent Shiite cleric and protesters in Iran attacked two of the kingdom's diplomatic posts. Saudi Arabia immediately cut diplomatic ties and other Sunni Arab countries in the Gulf have taken a harder line on Iran since.

Trump repeatedly has criticized Iran in speeches on his first foreign trip. In Israel on Monday, he warned of "the threat posed by Iran" through the possibility of it acquiring nuclear weapons and its support of militant groups. Also yesterday, the foreign ministers of France and Germany said their countries want to work with Iran following Rouhani's re-election but are pressing Tehran to keep to the nuclear deal and to help deescalate Mideast conflicts.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said France is convinced that Iran under Rouhani will have "an important role in the pacification" of the region. "We expect Iran to behave responsibly ... not to support terror," said his German counterpart Sigmar Gabriel. At the Tehran press conference, Rouhani also defended Iran's ballistic missile program, something heavily criticized by Trump's new administration. The Trump administration in February sanctioned more than two dozen people and companies in retaliation for a ballistic missile test, warning it had put the Islamic Republic "on notice."

"The US leaders should know that whenever we need a missile test because of a technical aspect, we will test," he said. "We will not wait for them and their permission." Rouhani added: "Our missiles are for peace, not for attack."—AP



**TEHRAN:** Iranian President Hassan Rouhani speaks in a press conference in Tehran, Iran.—AP

Rouhani also criticized Saudi Arabia after it just hosted President Donald Trump's first foreign trip, saying that the kingdom "has never seen a ballot box" while Iran just hosted a successful presidential election in which over 40 million people voted.

"The Americans do not know our region, that's what the catch is," Rouhani said in response to a question from The Associated Press. "Those who provide consultations or advice to the Americans, unfortunately, they are the rulers who either push America away or with money, they just buy some people in America." Rouhani decisively won a presidential election

Trump has threatened to try to renegotiate the deal. Rouhani said that Iranians are "waiting for this government to become stable intellectually" and that "hopefully, things will settle down ... so we could pass more accurate judgments."

"Unfortunately, Americans have always made mistakes in our region," Rouhani said. "When they attacked Afghanistan (and) Iraq, when they made sanctions against Iran. In Syria, they made mistakes, and also in Yemen." Rouhani further criticized the Saudi summit that Trump attended on Sunday, describing it as a "show-off" that "will not have any political and practical values." "The issue of terrorism

## IRAN REFORMISTS TAKE POWER ACROSS CITIES

**TEHRAN:** Iran's coalition of reformists and moderates has swept to power in major cities across the country, results showed yesterday, redrawing the political map and amplifying the resounding re-election of President Hassan Rouhani. The coalition now has control of the six largest Iranian cities, including Tehran, the holy city of Mashhad and tourist hotspot Isfahan and could capture more when final results are announced.

Almost all major cities were previously in the hands of conservatives, but Friday's vote showed that new tactics by the reformist camp were helping them beat the system's restrictions. The intelligence services and conservative-dominated judiciary can effectively veto candidates, and have blocked hundreds of reformists over the years. That left many voters unsure who to back in the past, so the reformist leadership started providing lists of their preferred candidates, sharing them via social media.

This tactic showed resounding success at parliamentary elections in 2016, when the reformist "list of hope" swept all 30 seats for Tehran. They repeated the trick at the weekend, taking all 21 council seats in the capital and displacing the conservatives for the first time since 2003. "This trend for lists has just now reached other cities," said Ali Tajerinia, a former reformist lawmaker in Mashhad. "In 2013, we won the presidential election but not the city councils. This year, we were successful in both," he told the Aftab Yazd reformist newspaper.

Reformists joined forces with the more centrist faction after their movement was decimated by a brutal crackdown against anti-regime protests in 2009. Two of its key leaders remain under house arrest, while the godfather of the movement, former president Mohammad Khatami, is banned from appearing in the media. But Khatami's influence remains strong, and he has thrown his support behind moderate cleric Rouhani, helping him win a resounding re-election victory over hardliner Ebrahim Raisi.

### 'Must protect this trust'

The moderate-reformist coalition has also taken power in symbolic cities such as Shiraz, Yazd and the port town of Bandar Abbas. "The people have voted and put their trust in the reformists after many years," said Zahra Nejadbahram, one of six women elected to the Tehran city council. "We must protect this trust in any way possible," she told the Shargh daily.

Among the newly elected officials gaining attention was a 42-year-old street sweeper who joins the Rasht city council on the Caspian coast. In Khoramabad, a city of 500,000 near the Iraqi border, a 60-year-old bird seller took first place after a simple campaign that involved walking the streets from dawn to dusk introducing himself to people. Iran's presidential and council elections were held alongside each other on Friday.

Councils in Iran look after day-to-day affairs such as public transport, infrastructure and cultural centers. Women have boosted their presence on councils in many parts of the country, doubling their number in the capital. In the traditional Sunni-majority province of Sistan-Baluchistan, the total number of female city and village councilors increased from 185 to 415, according to the ISNA news agency.—AFP



**MOSUL:** In this file photo, a long trench created by Kurdish forces to demarcate their border, is seen at an open field in the Nineveh plain, northeast of Mosul, Iraq.—AP

## BOUNDARY BETWEEN IRAQ, KURDISH TERRITORY DIVIDES COMMUNITIES

**ABU JARBUAH, Iraq:** As Omar Rashad's combine clutters down the barley field in northern Iraq, the farmer shields his eyes from the scorching sun and points at the tall berm at the end of his land, just past a cluster of agricultural buildings. The berm he points to marks the de facto border between federal Iraq and its self-governing Kurdish region in the north. It was built in November after Kurdish Peshmerga forces pushed about 5 kilometers into the Nineveh plains outside Mosul with the support of the US-led coalition, retaking a cluster of towns and villages from the Islamic State group.

Now, more than half of Rashad's land, some 20 hectares, is on the other side of the line in Iraqi federal territory. Crossing over to it is so complicated - requiring daily approval from both Iraqi and Kurdish authorities - that he has given up. "This is our village and here is the berm. The berm divides our land into two halves," said Rashad, an Iraqi who fled to Kurdish territory when IS militants came to his town. "It's our land and we want to plant and harvest there. But now we can't. You can say that we lost that half."

Since 2014, Iraq's Kurds have expanded the territory they control by about half at the expense of Iraq. The status of some of these areas, such as the city of Kirkuk, is supposed to be decided by plebiscite under Iraq's constitution. Others, including most of the governorate of Nineveh, technically belong to Iraq. The berm, with fortified positions every half kilometer (half mile) or so, cuts through the land in a fairly straight line, but it separates some communities from their land, from their adminis-

trative centers and from each other. "If you want to do anything on the other side, you can't. The berm has paralyzed everything," Rashad said. "This is my land, my father's and grandfather's land, how can they divide our land like this?" On the Iraqi side of the berm, in the village of Darawish, farmer Raad Khalil is faced with an additional problem. He, too, has lost access to land - about 8 hectares - leaving him dependent on aid. But he has also in effect been left without a government.

"All government functions are in Bashiqa," he said, referring to the biggest town in the area that is now on the Kurdish side of the line. "Health care, education, electricity. Now you have to go to Mosul for everything but then they tell you that we belong to Bashiqa and I must go there." Crossing from Iraq into the Kurdish region is even more complicated than the other way around because the Peshmerga demand a Kurdish residency permit or a sponsor.

The berm separates these some small communities from themselves, though for now not everybody seems to mind. Arriving in Abu Jarbua on the Iraqi side of the berm, Shamsaadeen Nouraddeen, a Kurd, said he had been given a day permit to come over for a relative's funeral. He said he hoped the berm would eventually be removed but added that for now it made him feel safer because he was worried there were still IS sleeper cells in some of the villages on the Iraq side. The situation is made more delicate by the fact that the inhabitants of these villages are a mix of Sunni and Shiite Shabaks, a Kurdish-speaking minority in northern Iraq. — AP



**JERUSALEM:** US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and his wife Nehama after signing the guest book at the President's Residence in Jerusalem.—AFP

## JERUSALEM: CITY OF PRAYER AND CONFLICT

**JERUSALEM:** Donald Trump was yesterday to become the first serving US president to visit the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray, located in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem. The city is revered by three major faiths but mired in political, as well as religious, disputes and its status is one of the thorniest issues of the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

### Whose capital?

Jewish Israelis consider Jerusalem to be their 3,000-year-old capital and the inalienable birthright of Jews everywhere. Since the destruction in ancient times of two separate Jewish temples in the city and the exile of the Holy Land's surviving Hebrews, Judaism has looked for a return of its people to their biblical home. According to scripture, King David made Jerusalem the capital of a unified kingdom of Israel around 1000 BC. The Palestinians, who make up about a third of the modern city's population, claim east Jerusalem as the capital of the state to which they aspire. It also has great religious significance for Muslims as it houses the al-Aqsa mosque complex, Islam's third-holiest site.

### City of controversy

A 1947 United Nations plan prescribed partitioning British-run Palestine into three separate entities: a Jewish state, an Arab state and a separate enclave, or "corpus separatum", consisting of Jerusalem, nearby Bethlehem and holy places in the vicinity to be under UN control. The proposal was accepted by Zionist leaders but rejected by the Arabs. Following the departure of the British in 1948, the Jews declared an independent state of Israel, followed by fighting with local Palestinians and neighboring

### Capital without embassies

Until the annexation, ruled as a breach of international law by the United Nations, 13 countries maintained their embassies in Jerusalem: Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, The Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, The Netherlands, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela. They all relocated to Tel Aviv, where other states had their legations. Costa Rica and El Salvador returned to the city in 1984 but headed back to Tel Aviv in 2006.

### US policy on holy city

In 1995 the US Congress passed an act stating "Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel and the United States embassy in Israel should be established in Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999." Since then, implementation has been blocked by successive US presidents.

Trump vowed during his election campaign to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and to recognize the disputed city as Israel's capital. He has since backed away, saying the move was still being studied. The traditional US position on the city has been that its status must be negotiated between the two sides.—AFP

## AT REFUGEE CAMP, HALEY VOWS US WON'T ABANDON SYRIANS

**ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP, Jordan:** His skull and jaw wrapped in bandages, the young Syrian refugee stared nonchalantly into a small black box at a supermarket in this sprawling, dust-swept refugee camp. The box scanned his iris to identify him, charged his account and sent him on his way. If the boy noticed US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley watching intently from just a few feet away, he didn't show it.

But Haley would later tout the iris-scanners as a fraud-cutting tool boosting efficiency for the more than \$6.5 billion the US has spent helping those whose lives have been upended by Syria's harrowing civil war. Yet as Haley pledged Sunday that the US would increase support, her message was diluted by President Donald Trump's own vow to put "America First," his planned budget cuts and hardline position on admitting refugees.

"We're the No. 1 donor here through this crisis. That's not going to stop. We're not going to stop funding this," Haley said. "The fact that I'm here shows we want to see what else needs to be done." It was a theme the outspoken ambassador returned to over and over in Jordan at the start of her first trip abroad since taking office. In her stops here and in Turkey - another Syria neighbor - Haley is witnessing first-hand the strains placed on countries absorbing the more than 5 million Syrians who have fled the Islamic State group, President Bashar Assad's government, or both.

She climbed into the trailer of an 18-wheeler staged at the Ramtha border crossing less than a kilometer from Syria, inspecting boxes of peas, tuna and canned meat stacked shoulder-high. The truck was to join 19 others in a convoy into opposition-held territory in Syria, carrying supplies from UN agencies and other groups, many US-funded. "This is all in the name of our Syrian brothers and sisters," Haley told aid workers in a nearby tent, swatting away flies in the summer heat. "We want you to feel like the US is behind you." The US presi-

dent's message to Syrians couldn't be more different. Trump, who was in Saudi Arabia on his first overseas trip, once called his predecessor "insane" for letting in Syrian refugees. As president, he tried to bar them from the US, describing them as a national security threat. A court blocked that move, but the number of Syrian refugees admitted

has nonetheless dropped, from 5,422 in the four months before Trump's inauguration to 1,566 in the four months since, US statistics show.

And Trump has called for drastic cuts to US funding for the United Nations and its affiliated agencies - such as those aiding people still in Syria and those who've fled. Trump plans to release his budget blueprint today, but his initial proposal in March called for a one-third cut to diplomatic and overseas programming while boosting the US military by \$54 billion. Haley told reporters accompanying her to Jordan that the US was "not pulling back" and was in fact "engaging more."

### Smiles and tears

She cited Trump's stepped-up action to try to hasten a political solution to the war, including a strike punishing Assad's forces for using chemical weapons that the Syrian opposition and its backers have enthusiastically applauded. She echoed Trump's defense of his plan to temporarily halt refugee admissions from all countries - which was also blocked in court - by saying the US needed to protect Americans by first improving its refugee-vetting capabilities. And she pointed to a group of women in the camp who'd overwhelmingly told her their hope was to return to Syria, not relocate to the US. —AP



**Nikki Haley**



## VENEZUELA HOLDS RUSSIAN SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES

**CARACAS:** Venezuela possesses 5,000 Russian-made MANPADS surface-to-air weapons, according to a military document reviewed by Reuters, the largest known stockpile in Latin America and a source of concern for US officials amid the country's mounting turmoil. Venezuela's socialist government has long used the threat of an "imperialist" invasion by the United States to justify an arms buildup.

Much of that arsenal was obtained from Russia by Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez, whose tenure lasted from 1999 until his death in 2013. The missiles, which are shoulder-mounted and can be operated by one person, pose a serious threat to commercial and military aircraft. Weapons experts said there have long been fears that the weapons could be stolen, sold or somehow channeled to the wrong hands, concerns exacerbated by the current civil unrest in Venezuela and the economic crisis roiling the oil-producing nation.

According to a Venezuelan military presentation seen by Reuters, the South American country has 5,000 SA-24 Man-Portable Air-Defense System (MANPADS) missiles, also known as the Igl'a-S. The document seen by Reuters provides the most complete count to date of the size of the arms stockpile. Public weapons registries confirm the bulk of the numbers seen on the Venezuelan military presentation. Venezuelan government and military officials did not respond to requests for comment about the report.

### Coveted by insurgents

First deployed by the United States and Soviet Union in the 1960s, shoulder-mounted missiles have

become popular within insurgent groups around the world because they are portable, effective and relatively easy to operate. The US for years has funded efforts to destroy MANPADS stockpiles in unstable regions as worries have grown about the weapons getting into the hands of militant groups. Some missiles unaccounted for in Libya following the 2011 death of strongman Muammar Gaddafi, for example, are believed to have made their way to other parts of the Middle East.

US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Mike Pompeo expressed concern about the Venezuelan missiles at a Senate hearing earlier this month, though he was clear that he had no evidence that arms transfers had taken place. "This risk is incredibly real and serious to South America and Central America in addition to just in Venezuela," Pompeo said. "The situation in Venezuela continues to deteriorate. (Venezuelan President Nicolas) Maduro gets more desperate by the hour."

Conservative US politicians such as Florida Republican Marco Rubio have long accused Venezuela of collaborating with a host of global militants, including Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah and Colombia's FARC rebels, who are disbanding this year. The Venezuelan government has long mocked such claims as lies used to justify potential foreign aggression. Some intelligence experts agree the allegations are exaggerated. "The whole Hezbollah line has been distorted for political purposes by the more extreme elements of the US right wing," a former CIA senior official said.

What's certain is that Venezuela is home to a

thriving illicit weapons trade. Pistols, rifles, machine guns, even grenades are easily available on the black market and in the country's notoriously violent prisons. There are frequent reports of military and police officials stealing weapons. Colombia has in the past accused Caracas of arming guerrillas with all manner of weaponry. Officials in neighboring Brazil have voiced concerns that local drug gangs may be acquiring military weapons from Venezuela, which has been rocked by seven weeks of anti-government protests.

A former Venezuelan senior army general and minister, who asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the information, said the MANPADS missiles are held mainly on the coast due to government fears of a US attack. He told Reuters that Venezuela also holds 1,500 launchers, or grip stocks, which are fundamental to the operation of the missiles. Venezuelan officials did not respond to a request for comment about the location and other details of its arsenal.

### US worries

Venezuela's MANPADS missiles, similar to the US Stinger system, were purchased towards the end of Chavez's rule. The former paratrooper was briefly toppled in a 2002 coup endorsed by the United States. The US denied any pretensions to meddle in Venezuela, but Chavez warned his followers continually about the threat of American aggression up until his death. "We don't want war," Chavez said on TV in 2009 as dozens of soldiers marched in front of him with camouflaged MANPADS missiles on their shoulders. "But we need our armed forces to be ever

better trained and equipped to secure the sovereignty of this great nation." Russia, a close ally, lent Venezuela \$4 billion to buy weapons when Chavez visited Moscow in 2010. It is unclear if any MANPADS missiles were part of that deal.

The UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA) and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) show the shipment of 3,800 MANPADS missiles from Russia to Venezuela over the last decade. Those records rely on voluntary reports and are often incomplete. In 2009, then-US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton asked Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to stop selling MANPADS missiles to Venezuela because of concerns over the South American country's management of weapons, according to cables released by Wiki Leaks.

That same year, Colombia said Sweden's government confirmed that three rocket launchers found in a FARC guerrilla camp in Colombia were part of a batch that Sweden had sold to Venezuela in the 1980s. Internal FARC documents seized by Colombia during a 2008 raid in Ecuador appeared to show that the guerrilla group entered into talks with Venezuela to obtain MANPADS missiles, though there was no evidence any weapons changed hands. Venezuela did not respond to a request for comment on those documents. Venezuelans have taken to the streets in recent weeks to protest the nation's collapsing economy and the Maduro government's efforts to solidify its hold on power. Millions are struggling with severe shortages of food, medicine and other basics. The government blames the problems on its political opponents and the United States. —Reuters

## DEATH OF BLACK US ARMY OFFICER PROBED AS POSSIBLE HATE CRIME

**WASHINGTON:** Police have charged a white University of Maryland student with the on-campus stabbing death of a newly commissioned black US Army lieutenant, and the FBI is investigating the case as a possible hate crime, authorities said on Sunday. The suspect, Sean Urbanski, of Severna Park, Maryland, is facing a first-degree murder charge in the stabbing death of Second Lieutenant Richard Collins III, 23, early on Saturday, University of Maryland Police Chief David Mitchell said.

Urbanski, 22, approached Collins and two friends on a campus side walk and told Collins, who was commissioned as an officer on Thursday, "Step left, step left if you know what's good for you," Mitchell said. When a puzzled Collins said, "No," Urbanski stabbed him in the chest, the police chief told a news conference. Collins, who was to graduate from Maryland's Bowie State

University on Tuesday, was pronounced dead at a hospital, he said.

An investigation showed that Urbanski was part of the Alt-Reich Facebook group, which carries racially and sexually charged material, and triggered a probe into whether Collins' death was a hate crime, Mitchell said. The Facebook site "is despicable. It shows extreme bias against women, Latinos, members of the Jewish faith, an especially African-Americans," he said.

Gordon Johnson, the special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's field office in Baltimore, said: "We are here to evaluate that, as an ongoing concern with respect to whether or not this was a hate crime." Police arrested Urbanski on the campus, which is in College Park, Maryland, Washington suburb. He also is charged with second-degree murder and first-degree assault. —Reuters

## BUS PLUNGES OFF MEXICAN ROADSIDE KILLING AT LEAST 12

**MEXICO:** At least 12 people were killed and up to 30 were injured when a bus plunged some 90 meters off a roadside in a mountainous region of southern Mexico near the Guatemalan border, authorities said on Sunday. The accident occurred near the town of Motozintla when the bus ferrying people home from a spiritual retreat on the Pacific coast came off the road and fell down a steep slope, emergency services in the state of Chiapas said

in a statement. The passengers come from the nearby municipality of LaTrinitaria and at least 12 died, the statement said.

Officials in the area said as many as 30 people were also injured. It was not immediately clear what caused the accident. Rescuers were working to free people from the bus, which photographs from the scene showed had been reduced to a mangled wreck in a wooded gully. —Reuters



**INDIANA:** Notre Dame students walk out of the commencement ceremony in opposition opposed to the Trump administration's policies as Vice President Mike Pence is introduced at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, Indiana. —AP

## INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WALK OUT OF VP PENCE SPEECH

### GRADUATES VOICE OBJECTIONS TO TRUMP'S THREAT TO CIVIL LIBERTIES

**WASHINGTON:** Dozens of students at Indiana's Notre Dame University protested White House policies on Sunday by walking out of a commencement speech by Vice President Mike Pence, who criticized political correctness at American colleges. The members of the graduating class dressed in cap and gowns together with some two thousand classmates stood up and quietly left the school's football stadium when Pence began delivering his speech, videos posted online showed.

Others cheered and some booed. Notre Dame, in the city of South Bend, is one of the country's most prominent Catholic universities. Pence, who received an honorary degree from the university, said that "far too many campuses across America have become characterized by speech codes, safe zones, tone policing, admin-

istration-sanctioned political correctness all of which amounts to nothing less than suppression of the freedom of speech."

"These all-too-common practices are destructive of learning and the pursuit of knowledge, and they are wholly outside the America tradition," he added. A religious social conservative, Pence is a former Indiana governor who was born in the state and also served as one of its representatives in Congress for 12 years. The protest comes amid a mounting controversy over what constitutes free speech at college campuses since the election of Donald Trump as president in November, with students objecting to appearances by divisive conservative figures. Some schools have canceled events.

In addition to Pence's record as governor, the protesters said they wanted to voice objec-

tions to Trump's threat to civil liberties and policies such as his attempts to ban travelers from some Muslim-majority countries. "The participation and degree-conferring of VP Pence stand as an endorsement of policies and actions which directly contradict Catholic social teachings and values and target vulnerable members of the university's community," Notre Dame student Xitlaly Estrada said in a statement by the student group WeStandForND, which organized the protest.

More than 100 people walked out, organizers said. Many wore rainbow pins or flags, a symbol of gay pride. Pence delivered his speech while Trump was on the first day of his first trip abroad as president. In a speech in Saudi Arabia, he called on Middle Eastern leaders to help defeat Islamist extremism.



**HWACHEON:** A photo shows an aerial view of an art installation featuring Korean war-era tanks painted in different colors around a globe with a slogan reading: 'Peace All Around the World', at the Peace dam, north of Hwacheon near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea. —AFP

## MAN SET AFIRE DURING VENEZUELA PROTEST

**CARACAS:** Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro is accusing protesters of setting fire to a government supporter, saying what he calls "Nazi-fascist" elements are take root inside the opposition's ranks. Maduro on Sunday said that 21-year-old Orlando Zaragoza suffered burns to almost all his body when he was doused with gasoline and set on fire at a protest in Caracas a day earlier.

Videos circulating on social media show a man covered in flames fleeing a small mob. The incident is under investigation. Also on Saturday, a 23-year-old was killed with gunshot wounds to the chest during a protest in western Venezuela. His death brings to at least 48 the number of people killed since anti-government unrest began two months ago. —AP



**CARACAS:** Opposition demonstrators set an alleged thief on fire during a protest against the government of President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas. —AFP

## CHINA, DR CONGO MOST AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENTS IN 2016

**UNITED NATIONS:** More than 31 million people were displaced in their own countries by conflict, violence and disasters in 2016, with China and the Democratic Republic of Congo among the worst affected, a new report by a monitoring center said yesterday. The Democratic Republic of Congo had a spike of 922,000 new displacements caused by conflict last year, more than Syria with 824,000 and Iraq with 659,000, said the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Disasters displaced three times more people than conflicts, with most of the 24 million people affected hit by sudden-onset weather hazards such as floods, storms, wildfires and severe winter conditions.

China tops the list of new displacements due to disasters, with 7.4 million people driven from their homes, followed by the Philippines (5.9 million), India (2.4 million) and Indonesia (1.2 million).

These displacements are expected to increase in the future as the impact of climate change becomes more

acute, said the report. Jan Egeland, the head of the NRC, said the shocking figures show the need to focus as much on people displaced inside their countries than on refugees who flee across borders. "Internally displaced people now outnumber refugees by two to one. It is urgent to put internal displacement back on the global agenda," said Egeland. Afghanistan ranked fourth in terms of displacement caused by conflict, with 653,000, followed by Nigeria with 501,000 and Yemen with 478,000.

Of the 6.9 million people driven from their homes due to conflict, 2.6 million live in sub-Saharan Africa. Internal displacement is overshadowed by the current global focus on refugees and migrants, said the monitoring center. More aid was spent last year on refugee resettlement than in the countries where the crises began, it added. There was a total of 40.3 million people displaced by conflict and violence in their countries by the end of 2016 a figure that has nearly doubled since 2000 and has increased sharply over the last five years. —AFP

## OUTCRY AT PHILIPPINE BAN ON RELIGIOUS DISTRACTIONS

**MANILA:** Philippine authorities have banned hanging rosaries and religious icons off car dashboards because of safety concerns, prompting an outcry from the Catholic Church which insists they offer divine intervention on the nation's chaotic roads. The ban, which will take effect on Friday, is part of a wide-ranging new law aimed at eliminating distractions for drivers.

These include talking or sending messages on mobile phones, putting on make-up, and eating or drinking coffee while driving, according to Aileen Lizada, spokeswoman for the national transport regulatory agency. But it is the ban on the religious icons and trinkets which visitors to the Philippines inevitably see hanging off rearview mirrors in taxis and the colorful mini-buses known as jeepneys that has stirred the most controversy.

Roughly 80 percent of the Philippines' 100 million people are Catholic, a legacy of centuries of Spanish colonial rule that ended in 1898, and the religious icons in vehicles are seen by many as offering God's protection while driving. "This is an overreaction, insensitive and lacks common sense," Father Jerome Secillano, executive secretary for public affairs at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said yesterday.

"With these religious images, drivers feel they are safer, that there is divine intervention and they are being guided and protected." Piston, an association of jeepney drivers and owners, also criticized the plan, saying there was no data showing rosaries and religious trinkets caused accidents. "Do not meddle with the drivers' faith in God," Piston president George San Mateo said. —AFP

## UNDER-PRESSURE BRITISH PM AMENDS KEY CAMPAIGN PLEDGE



**GRESFORD:** Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May speaks during a launch event for the Welsh Conservative general election manifesto at Gresford Memorial Hall in the village of Gresford, near Wrexham, North Wales. —AFP

**GRESFORD:** British Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday amended an unpopular campaign proposal for elderly care just days after unveiling it, prompting accusations that she could not be relied upon in upcoming Brexit negotiations. May came under fire following a speech in Wales, where her Conservatives are hoping to make historic gains against the opposition Labor party in the June 8 general election.

In the speech she announced a cap on the amount people would be asked to pay, which was in response to a backlash against proposals in her party's manifesto on paying for elderly care. "We are proposing the right funding model for social care... We will make sure there's an absolute limit on what people need to pay," she told supporters in Gresford, a village in north Wales.

May denied the cap amounted to a U-turn, repeating three times that "nothing has changed" when ques-

tioned by journalists on the announcement. The initial proposal did not include an upper limit, leaving it open to accusations that people could be forced to use their assets to pay for care. She did not detail how much the limit on elderly care would be.

Labor said the prime minister's change of heart had thrown her campaign into "chaos and confusion", just four days after the Conservative Party manifesto was published. "This is weak and unstable leadership. You can't trust the Tories-if this is how they handle their own manifesto, how will they cope with the Brexit negotiations?" said Andrew Gwynne, Labor's election co-ordinator. Negotiations on Britain's departure from the European Union are expected to start later in June after the general election.

The former leader of the UK Independence Party, Nigel Farage, said May's change was the second such turnaround following an earlier shift

on the government's budget plans. "U-turn on the budget and now a U-turn on the manifesto. This lady is for turning," he wrote on Twitter, in reference to a famous phrase used by former prime minister Margaret Thatcher. Pressure has mounted on the Conservatives following their manifesto being published on Thursday, with weekend polls showing their considerable lead over Labor narrowing.

The landslide predicted by the earlier 20-point lead has shifted to put the Conservatives on 44 percent and Labor up to 35 percent, according to a YouGov poll for the Sunday Times newspaper. The ruling party's manifesto also promised MPs a vote on scrapping a ban on fox hunting, a pursuit unpopular with the electorate but which has the backing of a minority of dedicated Conservative supporters. An anti-fox hunting protester was arrested yesterday morning, outside the venue where May was to speak. —AFP

## EU'S BARNIER EYES BREXIT TALKS

### 27 EU STATES SUPPORT MANDATE

**BRUSSELS:** EU ministers yesterday unanimously gave Michel Barnier the green light to start Brexit talks, with the Frenchman hoping to sit at the table from June 19 after Britain's general election. Barnier said the backing of the remaining 27 countries was a further show of "determination and confidence" in what promise to be two years of bruising negotiations with London.

The former European commissioner and French foreign minister

tough negotiating mandate for the talks. Barnier said the EU's new Brexit team would meet today to finalize its negotiating position, which would be sent "very quickly" to London after the June 8 election in which Prime Minister Theresa May is seeking to strengthen her own mandate. "I hope to organize the first round of negotiations as soon as possible, hopefully in the week of the 19th of June," Barnier said. Maltese Deputy Prime Minister

divorce process on March 29, gave a similar timeline for the start of talks. "There are just 17 days to go until this crucial general election. Just 11 days after that, the European Union wants the Brexit negotiations to begin," she told a campaign event in Wales. "There will be no time to waste and no time for a new government to find its way."

She added: "If we don't get this right, the consequences for the United Kingdom and for the eco-

nomics of the often divided bloc.

The EU insists on making "sufficient progress" on three key divorce issues before talks can start on a future UK-EU trade deal. These are the rights of EU citizens in Britain and British citizens on the continent; London's exit bill; and arrangements for the border between Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland. Britain however wants the divorce settlement and the future relationship to be discussed in parallel.

#### Walk away

The most contentious issue in the talks threatens to be the exit bill. Brexit minister Davis at the weekend reiterated an earlier threat to quit the talks if the EU does not moderate its demands. "We don't need to just look like we can walk away, we need to be able to walk away. Under the circumstances, if that was necessary, we would be in a position to do it," he told the Sunday Times newspaper.

Barnier, who previously dealt with Davis when they were ministers in the 1990s, said quitting was not an option for the EU side. He warned that Britain could in doing so also harm prospects for a trade deal, saying: "No one should forget the perspective of the new partnership." EU ministers warned that talks would be tough as they stood firm on Britain's bill.

German foreign ministry state secretary Michael Roth said as he arrived for the meeting: "We all have to prepare for very difficult negotiations... the clock is ticking." Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn warned Britain that while it will leave the EU in 2019, it could be paying up for years more on financial obligations it agreed to while a member of the EU. "That goes until 2020 and of course beyond," Asselborn said, referring to the seven-year budget Britain agreed to with the other EU states in 2014. —AFP



**BRUSSELS:** European Commission member in charge of Brexit negotiations with Britain, Michel Barnier, reacts during a press conference at the end of a general affairs council at the European Council in Brussels. —AFP

also warned his British counterpart David Davis against further threats to walk away from the talks as Brussels pushes a reported 100-billion-euro (\$112-billion) divorce bill. "We are ready and well prepared. We have a clear mandate supported by all 27 EU member states," Barnier told a news conference after EU ministers formally approved his

Louis Grech, whose island nation holds the rotating EU presidency, said yesterday's decision "shows that the unity and consensus is being clearly continued" in the bloc.

#### Dire consequences

May, who took over from David Cameron after last June's seismic Brexit vote and triggered the

economic security of ordinary working people will be dire. If we do, then the opportunities ahead are great." Barnier's Brexit mandate comes from "negotiating directives" approved by the EU 27 ministers. They are a toughened version of guidelines that EU leaders adopted in just four minutes-one for each decade of Britain's membership-at



**POMFRET:** A graffiti is pictured on a wall of a dilapidated building in the desert town of Pomfret, close to the Botswana border on the edge of the Kalahari desert in the North West province of South Africa. —AFP

## ANGOLAN APARTHEID TROOPS BATTLE TO SURVIVE IN S AFRICA

**POMFRET, South Africa:** Angolan soldiers recruited by South Africa's apartheid government to fight against their homeland now live in squalor, forgotten and unwanted. Without healthcare, jobs or basic services, some 3,000 Angolan-born men call home the town of Pomfret in a far-flung northern corner of South Africa on the edge of the Kalahari Desert. Dilapidated buildings crumble by the side of the town's sun-baked main road, water and power are cut off, and the asbestos factory that once sustained the region was abandoned long ago.

Former soldier Jose Lourenco, 69, a black Angolan, pointed to yellowing photos of "32 Battalion"-his elite and much-feared South African unit-in action in Angola against communist government forces. "We didn't fear anyone, we were the best unit in the world," he said in his shabby home, one of the few still standing in the town. In the 1980s, while still living in Angola, he joined the apartheid-era unit that had been formed to fight communism across southern Africa, including in Namibia and Zambia.

It was a cause that meant taking up arms against his mother country, but Lourenco remembers that time with pride, saying he fought in a close-knit, professional unit that won great battlefield honors. Souvenirs of those years cover the walls and a sniper rifle rests on his dining table "to hunt birds." A television sits unused in the corner, covered in a white sheet-a reminder that Pomfret is cut off from the rest of the rainbow nation.

#### Why are they punishing us?

"The government should tell us what we did wrong? Why are they punishing us like this?" he said, speaking in Angolan Portuguese. "There was no apartheid in 32 Battalion. Where the whites drank, we drank, where the whites slept, we slept," said Lourenco as he gestured to the unit's uniform patches, emblazoned with a stylized black and white buffalo. When the Cold War ended and as Pretoria ceased its shadowy regional wars against supposed communist threats, 32 Battalion was relocated to Pomfret with the promise that its members would be integrated into the regular South African army.

Life was initially good in the extreme northern outpost. The town had its own public swimming pool, tennis courts and a large,

well-stocked supermarket. Despite its remote location, the community functioned well. "Here there was a club where the senior men partied. There was even a ballroom," said Makamba Tchimocho, the son of a former battalion member, pointing to a derelict complex of buildings.

#### Disbanded

But the whirlwind political change of the 1990s swept away the white-minority government, brought Nelson Mandela's ANC to power and shattered the town's sheltered existence. The battalion was disbanded in 1993 and a number of the soldiers left Pomfret along with their families. Many of the men of Angolan heritage waived their right to be incorporated into the reformed army in return for a significant cash hand-out worth \$32,000 (30,000 euros) in today's terms. Gradually families who had contributed to the small community began to drift away and the town started its slide into decline.

By the 2000s, the government signaled its intention to close the base in Pomfret and to relocate the remaining families. But a hard core of ex-servicemen refused to budge. "We arrived here with many promises. Then the new government wanted us to go, leaving us without a future. Why should we leave our homes?" asked Lourenco. The police service left the town, homes were ransacked and the hospital was trashed. The modest graveyard, which stood as a reminder to the men of 32 Battalion lost in South Africa's "border wars", became overgrown.

#### Staying is useless

Finally in 2014, authorities cut the power to the town. Water is only supplied once a week. "The biggest challenge for Pomfret is that it's 200 kilometers from the first city," said a white South African, who served in 32 Battalion and now helps Pomfret's remaining residents. "There's no economy," he said, declining to be named.

"Most of the shops have closed and buildings have been destroyed to prevent people from staying here." Just one school remains open to serve the entire town, educating students up to the age of 18. Antonio Isaac, an 18-year-old relative of a 32 Battalion fighter, said: "Staying here is useless for me. It's not a good place; after school, I will go." —AFP

## PAKISTAN OPPOSITION PARTY TO SUE GOVT FOR DETAINING SUPPORTERS

**ISLAMABAD:** A Pakistani opposition party led by former cricketer Imran Khan will take legal action against the government for detaining its vocal online activists under a controversial cybercrime law, a spokesman said yesterday. At least 23 supporters of the Pakistan Tehreek Insaaf (Movement for Justice) party have been detained and threatened with action under the Prevention of Electronic Crime Act, Fawad Hussain Chauhdry, a spokesman for the party, said. It is the first time the new law has been used in a broad crackdown against political opposition.

Two have been charged under the law, including one for sharing a satirical picture of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and are on bail pending further investigation. "One of our supporters was abducted from Quetta and brought to Islamabad in an armored car. People are being harassed and it is spreading fear," the spokesman said. He added the party would sue the government for intimidation and harassment in the Islamabad High Court.

In addition to the party activists, a Pakistani journalist said he had received an intimidating phone call from the Federal Investigation Agency last Thursday and was asked to appear in person to explain his social media activity.

Taha Siddiqui, who won France's Albert Londres journalism prize in 2014 for a documentary he produced for France 2, said the call amounted to an attempt to intimidate him and he also planned to sue the government.

The interior ministry has declined to comment on the cases. Parliament passed the cybercrime law last August, despite opposition from rights activists which said its wording was overly broad and would curb free speech. Of particular concern was a clause that empowered the government to ban speech considered "against the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defense of Pakistan". Free speech campaigners have long complained of creeping censorship in the name of protecting religion or preventing obscenity.

In January five secular activists known for their outspoken views against religious extremism and the powerful military disappeared presumed abducted by state agencies, according to opposition parties and international rights groups. Four of them were returned to their families weeks later, but not before they were tarnished by a virulent campaign to paint them as enemies of Islam deserving execution. One of them later said they had been held and tortured by the shadowy Inter Services Intelligence agency. —AFP



**PARIS:** French President Emmanuel Macron looks on as he delivers a joint press briefing with Italian Prime Minister (unseen) during their meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris. —AFP

## MACRON TO HOST PUTIN AT VERSAILLES PALACE ON MAY 29

**PARIS:** French President Emmanuel Macron will host Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin for talks at the Versailles palace on May 29, the French presidency said yesterday, as the countries look to reset strained relations. The meeting has been arranged to coincide with an exhibition celebrating 300 years of Franco-Russian ties since the visit of Russian tsar Peter the Great to France in 1717. The visit comes three weeks after Macron's election and seven months after Putin cancelled a trip to Paris for the opening of a Russian cathedral complex near the Eiffel Tower in a spat with then president Francois Hollande. The Socialist leader had said Russia's bombing of the Syrian city of Aleppo could amount to war crimes.

Speaking last Friday, Russia's ambassador to France, Alexander Orlov, said Moscow had a "positive perception" of Macron, describing him as "very intelligent, realistic and pragmatic." "I think he's not very ideological compared with his predecessors," Orlov told a meeting of business leaders. "With him we have more chances of moving forward than before." Macron's campaign was subject to repeated cyberattacks and aides to him accused the Kremlin of mounting a "smear campaign" against him. —AFP

## TUNISIA FORCES FIRE TEAR GAS AT PROTESTERS AFTER ENERGY SITES SHUT

**TUNIS:** Tunisian security forces fired tear gas yesterday to disperse hundreds of protesters trying to take over a gas pumping station, as weeks of unrest over jobs and funding in the country's southern provinces escalated into violence. Protesters briefly forced the closure of the Vana pumping station, one of several oil and gas stations impacted over the weekend, after the army allowed an engineer to shut it to avoid a confrontation.

The defense ministry warned on Sunday it would use force to protect and retake southern oil and gas facilities, and clashes broke out at Vana yesterday when the military took back control to restart the pump, two witnesses said. Protesters pressing demands for jobs and a share of the country's energy wealth forced the closure of two oil and gas pumping sta-

tions, where Italy's ENI SpA, Austria's OMV AG and France's Perenco operate, and where Prime Minister Youssef Chahed had already deployed troops. Tunisia is a small oil producer with an output of about 44,000 barrels per day.

But the closures represent a clear challenge to the authority of Chahed's government as it tries to enact economic reforms demanded by international lenders and consolidate Tunisia's transition to democracy six years after an uprising ended the autocratic regime of Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali. "The defense ministry warns citizens of the risk of prosecution following altercations with military units, and bodily harm resulting from aggression or violations accessing facilities under their control," it late on Sunday.—Reuters

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## CHINA CONFIRMS DETENTION OF SIX JAPANESE AMID REPORT OF SPYING

**BEIJING:** China confirmed yesterday that it is investigating six Japanese citizens, following a Japanese news report that Chinese authorities had detained six men possibly for spying. Foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular briefing that six Japanese nationals are suspected of engaging in "illegal activities," but did not give details. Japan's Kyodo News reported earlier that three Japanese were detained in Shandong province and three in Hainan province - two regions with major Chinese naval facilities - in March.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said yesterday that China told Japan that authorities detained six Japanese in Hainan and Shandong provinces in March for violation of domestic law. He said he would not provide further details. China has periodically detained Japanese citizens on suspicion of spying, including four in 2015.

Last December, a Chinese military-run newspaper lashed out at Kyodo for publishing photos of an under-construction aircraft carrier and suggested that the incident highlighted the need for China to

better protect its military secrets, even though satellite images of the vessel were publicly available at the time. China's government and state media have repeatedly warned of the country's vulnerability to foreign spies.

Beijing, the capital, has encouraged neighborhood patrols and offered cash rewards of more than \$70,000 for tips about foreign agents, while the national government has introduced an annual "National Security Education Day" and disseminated cartoon posters warning government workers to stay

vigilant against attractive foreigners who might seek to seduce them.

China's government crippled a US spy network in China by killing or imprisoning more than a dozen CIA sources between 2010 and 2012, The New York Times reported Sunday. Hua, the foreign ministry spokeswoman, declined to comment about the Times article yesterday but said that as a general matter, China's state security apparatus investigates threats to national security and carries out its duties effectively and according to law.—AP

## BOMB STRIKES THAI ARMY HOSPITAL

### LOW INTENSITY BOMB INJURES 21

**BANGKOK:** A bomb struck a Bangkok military hospital yesterday and wounded 21 people — one seriously — three years to the day after the Thai army seized power in the politically unstable kingdom. The small device—which

her jaw," he said. Thailand has remained starkly divided since the May 22, 2014 coup, but dissent has broadly been smothered by a military with sweeping security powers. While it was not immediately clear who was behind the

device, while similar in size, was more serious because it was packed with nails.

"The people who did this are brutal," national police chief Chakthip Chaijinda, told reporters. "If they (the nails) had directly impacted, they could cause death." The clinic in central Bangkok is often used by serving and retired members of the armed forces but also treats civilians. Saroj said no senior military officers were near the blast. Regardless of the motive, the blast will raise the political temperature in Thailand where violence had declined under the military's stranglehold.

#### Forced stability

Despite a veneer of stability Thais remain divided and uncertain over the future three years after the ousting of the elected government of Yingluck Shinawatra. Protest and political gatherings are banned while dissidents have been rounded up on charges of sedition or breaching junta orders, or under draconian royal defamation legislation. Militant elements among pro-democracy groups have either been arrested or gone to ground.

The one region where daily violence and large bomb blasts persist is the country's "Deep South", where Malay Muslim militants have fought a long insurgency. But they rarely strike outside their region—an exception being in August 2016 when a series of coordinated blasts hit a string of tourist towns. The country's notoriously fractious domestic politics have incubated the worst violence.

Over the past 10 years Thais have witnessed repeated rounds of deadly protests, a string of short-lived governments and two military coups that deposed elected leaders. The junta says its 2014 coup—the 12th time generals have successfully seized power—was needed to bring stability and root out corruption. But critics say the military is deeply hostile to ousted premiers Thaksin Shinawatra and his sister Yingluck, whose parties have won every poll since 2001.

Their billionaire clan is popular among Thailand's rural and urban poor and they have urged a return to elections. But the Shinawatras are hated by Bangkok's military-backed elite, who accuse the family of corruption and nepotism. In a statement on Facebook to mark the coup Yingluck decried a lack of "concrete reform" and warned that three years of military rule risked becoming a "waste of time".—AFP



**NORTH KOREA:** This undated picture released from North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) shows North Korean ground-to-ground medium-to-long range strategic ballistic missile Pukguksong-2 being launched in a test-fire.—AFP

## N KOREA DECLARES MISSILE READY FOR DEPLOYMENT

**SEOUL:** North Korea yesterday declared its medium-range Pukguksong-2 missile ready for deployment after a weekend test, the latest step in its quest to defy UN sanctions and develop a weapon capable of striking US targets. The state-run Korean Central News Agency said the North's leader Kim Jong-Un oversaw Sunday's launch, which sparked a fresh chorus of international condemnation and threats of tougher sanctions. It was the latest in a series of launches this year, as Pyongyang steps up its efforts to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to the continental United States—something President Donald Trump has vowed "won't happen".

The launches, and a threatened sixth nuclear test, have fuelled tension with the Trump administration, which has warned that military intervention was an option under consideration, sending fears of conflict spiraling. The latest missile tested was the Pukguksong-2, which uses solid fuel that allows for immediate firing, KCNA said. So far almost all the North's missiles have been liquid-fuelled, which have to be time-consumingly filled with propellant before launch.

Solid fuel missiles can be fired far more rapidly, dramatically shortening the time available for any attempt to intervene and prevent a launch. Kim said "with pride" that the Pukguksong-2 was a "very accurate" missile and a "successful strategic weapon", KCNA said, adding he "approved the deployment of this weapon system for action". The launch "completely verified" the reliability and accuracy of the device, and its late-stage warhead guidance system, KCNA said, adding the test results were "perfect".

Images carried by the Rodong Sinmun—the official mouthpiece of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea—showed a smiling Kim clapping surrounded by his aides in an outdoor observation post as the missile shot up into the air. It also had several pictures of the Earth said to have been taken from the rocket from space—the first such pictures released by the North. Kim "said he was very happy to see pictures of the Earth taken by our rocket and that the world looks beautiful", KCNA said, adding that he ordered the missile to be "rapidly mass-produced".

#### UN emergency talks

Seoul military officials have previously said the Pukguksong-2 — a land-based version of Pyongyang's submarine-launched weapon—uses solid fuel. The missile, which was described by Washington as medium-range, was fired from Pukchang in South Phyongan province and travelled about 500 kilometers before landing in the Sea of Japan, according to the South's armed forces. The rocket used a cold-launch system, KCNA said. The technology uses compressed gas to propel a missile upwards before its engine ignites in mid-air. It is considered safer and also makes it easier to hide the launch location. A spokesman for Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff told reporters that according to South Korean and US intelligence authorities, the launch had provided the North with data to improve its missiles' reliability. But he added: "Our position is that the stable re-entry of the warhead needs more verification."

The US, South Korea and Japan sharply denounced the launch and jointly requested an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, which will be held today. The test-firing came just one week after the North launched a Hwasong-12 intermediate-range missile, which according to Pyongyang was capable of carrying a "heavy" nuclear warhead.

Analysts said that at 4,500 kilometers the Hwasong-12 had a longer range than any previous ballistic missile successfully tested by the North, putting US bases on the Pacific island of Guam within reach—and that it could serve as a platform to develop a long-range ICBM. Sunday's Pukguksong-2 launch was unlikely to be the last, said Kim Dong-Yub, a missile expert at Kyungnam University's Institute of Far Eastern Studies. "This will ultimately lead to the development of a solid-fuel ICBM," he said. So far Washington has opted for sanctions and diplomatic pressure, while looking to China, the North's closest ally, to help rein in Pyongyang.

South Korea's new President Moon Jae-In has previously taken a more conciliatory line towards Pyongyang than his conservative predecessors, but has reacted strongly to the latest two missile tests. Seoul's foreign ministry slammed the "reckless and irresponsible" weekend firing as "throwing cold water on the hope and longing of the new government and the international community" for denuclearization and peace on the Korean peninsula.

Pyongyang has long had missiles that can reach targets across South Korea and Japan, and South Koreans have been somewhat desensitized to the constant nuclear threats hurled by their belligerent northern neighbor. But some residents in the capital said the latest string of launches was becoming disturbing. "Every time North Korea fires a missile, I feel nervous," said college student Yoon Shin-Hong. "Because we're in a situation where we don't know when war might break out, it's nerve-wracking".—AFP



**BANGKOK:** Thai soldiers block the entrance of Phramongkutklao Hospital in Bangkok after a bomb wounded more than 20 people, in Bangkok.—AP

police said was potentially deadly — went off near the VIP section of King Mongkut hospital as patients and their families waited for prescriptions, shattering glass and sending smoke into the corridors. Hospital director Saroj Keokajee said the "low intensity bomb" injured 21 people, among them retired military officers. "Eight people were admitted to hospital to observe their condition... among them is one woman who needed surgery because of shrapnel buried in

blast, Thailand has a long history of bomb attacks on symbolic dates—carried out by militant political factions or separatists linked to an insurgency in the Muslim-majority south.

Investigators said the bomb may be linked to two other similarly small devices that went off in recent weeks, one outside Bangkok's National Theatre a week ago and another left in a Bangkok bin in early April. Both were too low yield to cause significant injury. But police said yesterday's

## INDIAN ACTIVISTS HAIL MINISTER'S CALL TO END FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

**MUMBAI:** Women activists campaigning to end female genital mutilation (FGM) in a minority Muslim community in India hailed a minister's pledge to introduce a law to end the centuries-old custom. FGM is secretly carried out by the close-knit Dawoodi Bohra community, a Shiite Muslim sect thought to number up to 2 million worldwide that considers the practice a religious obligation.

Maneka Gandhi, the Minister for women and child development, told the Hindustan Times newspaper this weekend she would write to state governments and the Bohra spiritual leader - the Syedna - to issue an edict to end FGM because it is a crime. "If the Syedna does not respond, then we will bring in a law to ban the practice in India," she was quoted as saying.

Debate on the subject has long been taboo, even as a group of Bohra women subjected to FGM as girls called for the government to ban the ritual, called khatna. In most cases, part of the clitoral hood is cut, but in some cases girls have had part or the entire clitoris cut. "This is a huge victory for us," said Masooma Rana of Speak Out on FGM, whose change.org petition to end FGM in India has garnered more than 90,000 signatures.

"There is a deep division within the community, and even a law will not end the practice immediately. But at least the issue is out in the open now." A spokesman for Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin in Mumbai did not respond to an email seeking comment. A spokeswoman for Syedna Taher Fakhruddin, who

leads one faction of the community, said Fakhruddin stood by an earlier statement that khatna should only be allowed after women "attain legal adulthood" and are free to make their own decisions.

UNICEF estimates about 200 million girls worldwide have undergone FGM, which often causes serious physical and psychological problems. Campaigners say this is an underestimate because it is only based on data from 27 African countries along with Yemen, Iraqi Kurdistan and Indonesia. Earlier this month, India's Supreme Court asked the government and four states to respond to a petition seeking a ban on FGM.

The practice among Dawoodi Bohras captured international attention when a court in Australia last November found two members of the diaspora community guilty of cutting two girls. A Bohra religious leader was convicted of being an accessory. More than a dozen Bohra communities in Europe and the United States have passed resolutions against the practice.

A similar resolution is what is needed in India, not a new law, said Flavia Agnes, a lawyer and co-founder of legal centre Majlis for women's rights. "FGM is clearly a sexual assault against a minor and can be prosecuted under existing sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "This is an educated, progressive community; they have to resolve to end the practice themselves. It is not the lack of a law that is the problem, it is the lack of a will."—Reuters



**NEPAL:** In this photograph Mount Everest (Background) and the Nupse-Lohtse massif (Foreground) are seen from the village of Tembuche in the Kumbh region of north-eastern Nepal.—AFP

## MT EVEREST TOLL MOUNTS TO FOUR AS RESCUERS FIND BODY

**KATHMANDU:** Rescuers on Everest found the body of a missing Indian climber yesterday, taking the toll from a deadly weekend on the world's highest peak to four. Three other climbers died on Everest over the weekend, one of the deadliest episodes since an avalanche swept through base camp two years ago, killing 18. All the fatalities appear to be related to altitude sickness. Indian climber Ravi Kumar, 27, reached the summit on Saturday but lost contact shortly after. His Nepali guide managed to reach Camp 4, just below 8,000 meters, but sustained severe frostbite.

"A search and rescue team saw his body," Thupden Sherpa of Arun Treks and Expeditions said. Sherpa said that Kumar's body was spotted about 200 meters from the main route and the team was assessing the feasibility of retrieving it. An American doctor Roland Yearwood and Slovak climber Vladimir Strba both perished on Sunday above the 8,000 meter mark—an area known as the mountain's "death zone" where the thin air heightens the risk of altitude sickness.

An Australian climber died on the Tibet side of the mountain, local media reported, quoting the Tibet Mountaineering Association. The 54-year-old from Queensland was reportedly hit by altitude sickness after reaching 7,500 meters and died as he was trying to descend. His name has not yet been officially released.

#### Ongoing climbs

More than a dozen climbers have been rescued from the 8,848 meter mountain in

the last three days after running into difficulties on the world's highest peak, helicopter rescue operators said. The season has been marked by strong winds and unusually cold temperatures, the weather calmed over the weekend, opening a narrow window for climbers to make a bid for the top. Despite the large numbers crowding towards the peak, there have been no reports of long queues.

Over a hundred climbers are expected to attempt to summit from Nepal's south side yesterday before the weather changes in the next few days and brings strong winds, according to forecasts. "Today there might be as many as 150 climbers reaching the top from the Nepal side, but it isn't a record number," Ang Tsering Sherpa, head of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, said. In 2012, 255 climbers summited from both sides of the mountain in a single day, Sherpa said.

Legendary Swiss climber Ueli Steck died in late April while on an acclimatization climb, and 85-year-old Min Bahadur Sherchan perished in May while attempting to reclaim his title as the world's oldest person to summit Everest. More than 120 climbers have successfully summited Everest from the south side so far this season, with another 80 reaching the peak from the Tibet side. Hundreds are still waiting to summit before the monsoon arrives in early June, marking the end of the short spring climbing season. Last year Everest claimed the lives of five climbers, while a total of 640 people summited from both sides of the mountain.—AFP

## PHILIPPINES, CHINA PLAY DOWN DUTERTE'S WARNING OF WAR IN DISPUTED S CHINA SEA

**MANILA:** The Philippines and China played down yesterday a warning by President Rodrigo Duterte that China would go to war if the Philippines drilled for oil in the disputed South China Sea. The outspoken Philippine president has been facing criticism at home for being what some people see as too soft on China over a long-running territorial dispute. Duterte met China's President Xi Jinping for talks in Beijing last week and later said Xi had warned him there would be war if the Philippines tried to explore for oil in a disputed stretch of sea.

Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said their meeting was frank and friendly, and the discussion was largely about preventing conflict, not threatening it. "The conversation was very frank.

There was mutual respect, there was mutual trust," Cayetano told reporters. "The context was not threatening each other, that we will go to war. The context is how do we stabilize the region and how do we prevent conflict." He added: "I will not contradict the president's words. I am just telling you... my interpretation: there was no bullying or pushing around, it was not a threat."

Speaking in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying also

sought to make light of Duterte's comments, noting he and Xi had agreed to "strengthen communication" on important bilateral issues. China was willing to work with the Philippines to handle disputes peacefully, she told reporters. Duterte made no mention of the issue during an unusually news briefing yesterday before he left for Russia.

Duterte's critics have made much of his refusal to push China to comply with a ruling last year by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, at the end of a case brought by the Philippines against China, which was largely in favor of the Philippines. China has never recognized the case. The court said the Philippines had a sovereign right to access offshore oil and gas fields in its Exclusive Economic Zone. Duterte's rivals have likened his refusal to insist that China abide by the ruling as akin to surrendering sovereignty.

Senate minority leader, Frank Drilon, said the government "should not allow our country to be bullied and threatened," while former foreign minister Albert del Rosario said Manila should do joint maritime patrols with traditional ally the United States, an idea he said Duterte had jettisoned as part of his "full embrace of China". — Reuters

## IN JERUSALEM, TRUMP LASHES OUT AT IRAN

Continued from Page 1

When meeting Netanyahu, Trump said Iran should have thanked the United States for the 2015 nuclear accord between Tehran and world powers because it led to the lifting of sanctions. "Instead of saying thank you to the United States, they now feel emboldened," Trump said. In Tehran yesterday, Iran's newly re-elected President Hassan Rouhani ridiculed US strategy in the Middle East, dismissing Trump's summit with Arab leaders in Saudi Arabia as "just a show".

Security was extremely tight for the Israeli leg of the visit, with police deploying some 10,000 officers. The alleys and passageways of Jerusalem's ancient Old City, which Trump visited later in the day, were essentially under lockdown. Trump toured two iconic sites in Jerusalem, a city holy to Muslims, Christians and Jews. The first was the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built at the site where Christians believe Jesus (PBUH) was crucified, buried and resurrected.

Afterwards, wearing a black skullcap, he made his symbolic visit to the Western Wall, placing what appeared to be a written prayer or note between its stones, as is custom. He was not accompanied by any Israeli leaders during the visit to the site in east Jerusalem. Allowing them to do so could have led to accusations that Washington was implicitly recognizing Israel's unilateral claim of sovereignty over the site, which would break with years of US and international precedent.

The status of Jerusalem is ultra-sensitive and has been among the most difficult issues in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Israel occupied east Jerusalem and the West Bank in 1967 in moves never recognized by the international community. It later annexed east Jerusalem and claims the entire city as its capital. The Palestinians see east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.

Trump has spoken of reaching the "ultimate deal" - Israeli-Palestinian peace - brushing off years of failed attempts by his predecessors. Speaking just after his arrival, he said: "We have before us a rare opportunity to bring security and stability and peace to this

region and to its people, defeating terrorism and creating a future of harmony, prosperity and peace."

Today, Trump will meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Bethlehem in the West Bank, visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem and give a speech at the Israel Museum. Any leader would face an enormous challenge in seeking to bring the Israelis and Palestinians together for meaningful talks, and Trump's inexperience and domestic political struggles will only add to it. He has spoken of his self-described deal-making prowess in vowing "we will get it done".

Trump has sent mixed signals about how he will approach the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He cast uncertainty over years of international efforts to foster a two-state solution when he met 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 most of the West Bank annexed. At the same time, he urged Israel to hold back on settlement building in the West Bank, a longstanding concern of Palestinians and much of the world.

Trump advocated during his campaign breaking with decades of precedent and moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, deeply alarming Palestinians. He has since said the move was still being looked at. Trump's seeming openness to at least some of Abbas' concerns has given Palestinians more reason for hope than many may have expected, but still reason to remain wary, some analysts say.

On the Israeli side, Netanyahu heads what is seen as the most right-wing government in the country's history, and members of his coalition were elated with Trump's election. Trump's actions since have left them disappointed, with the embassy remaining in Tel Aviv - at least for now - and the White House seeking to restart peace efforts. However, the United States remains Israel's most important ally, providing it with more than \$3 billion in defense aid annually. After Israel and the Palestinian territories, Trump will head to the Vatican along with Brussels and Italy for NATO and G7 meetings. — AFP



BAGHDAD: Iraqi Oil Minister Jabar Ali Al-Luaibi (right) and Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih hold a joint press conference yesterday. — AP

## SAUDIS, IRAQ AGREE ON OIL CUT

Continued from Page 1

OPEC meets in Vienna on Thursday to consider whether to prolong the original deal reached in December in which OPEC and 11 non-member countries, including Russia, agreed to cut output by about 1.8 million barrels per day in the first half of 2017. The Saudi minister told a joint news conference with his Iraqi counterpart Jabar Ali Al-Luaibi that Iraq had given the "green light" to a proposal for a nine-month extension that would be presented to the meeting in the Austrian capital. He said a new agreement would be similar to the previous pact, with minor changes. He said any decision would not be finalised until OPEC meets.

Falih was paying a rare visit to Iraq in the latest effort by the top oil producer to convince its fellow OPEC member to extend supply cuts to ease a global glut. Luaibi said he agreed with Saudi Arabia on the need for a nine-month extension. Saudi Arabia and non-OPEC Russia have been pushing to extend the cuts from the end of June until March 2018. Iraq, OPEC's second-largest and fastest-growing oil producer, had until yesterday voiced support only for a six-month extension.

It is the first time in nearly three decades that a senior Saudi energy official has visited Baghdad. OPEC wants to reduce global oil inventories to their five-year average but so far has struggled to do so. Stockpiles are hovering near record highs, partly because of rising production in the United States, which is not part of the existing deal. "I believe we have a growing consensus (on the duration of

cut extension)," OPEC's Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo told reporters in Vienna. Iraq and Iran were the main stumbling blocks for OPEC in reaching its last output-cutting decision in December.

Baghdad argued it had just started enjoying production growth after years of stagnation and Tehran said it needed to raise output after the lifting of Western sanctions. Iraq ended up agreeing to cap output in the first half of 2017 while Iran was allowed a slight rise in production. Nigeria and Libya were granted exemptions from cuts as their output suffered from unrest. Both have regained some volumes in recent months and are expected to add more soon, adding to OPEC's challenge in rebalancing the market.

Goldman Sachs, one of the most active banks in commodities trading, said yesterday a nine-month extension would help rebalance inventories in 2017 and keep Brent prices near \$57 per barrel. Brent futures were trading 0.6 per cent higher at \$53.92 a barrel yesterday at 1638 GMT. Goldman said OPEC should put pressure on American shale oil producers by creating a market structure known as back-wardation, when the future trading price of a commodity is below the current spot market value.

By extending cuts into 2018 and promising to boost output next year, OPEC could force the oil market into back-wardation that would scare away private equity and other investors who have been funding the American shale producers. "The binding force to sustainably slow shale growth lies on the funding side," Damien Courvalin, a Goldman analyst, wrote in the research note to clients. — Reuters

## MPs WELCOME DECISION TO RETURN SOME...

Continued from Page 1

Islamist opposition MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei said the pressure of the grillings of the prime minister helped to accelerate the process of reinstating the citizenships. He congratulated those who got their citizenships back and said others will follow.

MP Khaled Al-Otaibi called on the government to end this issue and return all the citizenships. The lawmaker thanked HH the Amir and said he and other MPs will press for the return of all revoked citizenships. Opposition MP Jamaan Al-Harbash congratulated those who got their citizenships and said others will be returned. Opposition MP

Mohammad Hayef praised the cooperation between the Assembly and the government and said they are looking for others to get their citizenships back too.

Supervisor of the National Assembly MP Nayef Al-Merdas said yesterday the Assembly's office has decided to hold more Assembly sessions to finalize debating the state budgets and budgets of state institutions. He said the Assembly will hold an additional session on Thursday and two sessions weekly and the possibility of a third one on Thursdays. He said the office has not decided when the Assembly will start its summer recess. Under the law, the assembly cannot end the sessions before approving the state budget.

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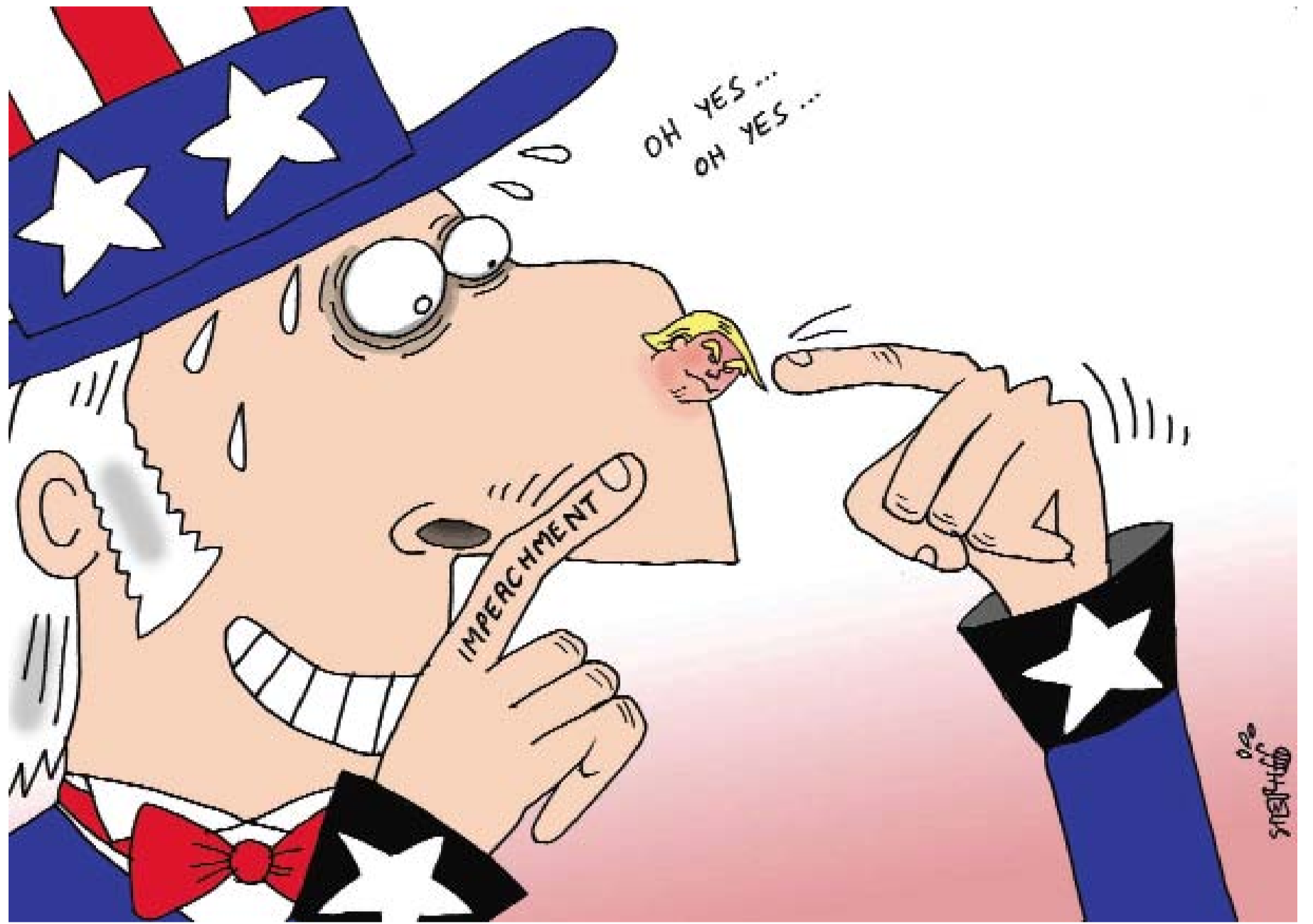
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## TENSIONS DEEPEN BETWEEN SAUDI, IRAN, US

The yawning gap between Tehran and Washington has grown even wider with US President Donald Trump's latest efforts to isolate Iran, which accused the United States of "milking" Saudi Arabia for petrodollars. Trump's choice of Saudi Arabia, Iran's bitter regional rival, for his first official foreign visit reflects the deep antagonism of his administration towards the Islamic republic. The US president signed a giant list of deals, worth a total of \$380 billion, including \$110 billion for weapons that will invariably find their way into the numerous conflicts of the region - including Syria, Yemen and Iraq - where Riyadh and Tehran often find themselves on opposing sides.

Trump also vilified Iran as the greatest source of instability in the Middle East, though many observers noted the irony that his claims came on the same day that 41 million Iranians enthusiastically took

part in elections, with a sizeable majority backing President Hassan Rouhani and his policy of engagement with the world. Relations with the US and Iran have been under deep freeze since the Islamic revolution of 1979, which deposed the Washington-backed shah.

Trump's team is dedicated to reversing his predecessor's efforts at rapprochement with Iran, which saw a nuclear deal signed in 2015, lifting many sanctions. "From Lebanon to Iraq to Yemen, Iran funds, arms and trains terrorists, militias and other extremist groups that spread destruction and chaos across the region," Trump said in Riyadh on Sunday. He called on all countries to work together to isolate Iran "until the Iranian regime is willing to be a partner for peace."

Analysts fear tensions are growing out of control. "Battle lines are being drawn and it's worrying, especially when it comes just

a day after the election victory of Rouhani which showed a real dynamic in favor of democratization and opening in Iranian society," said Azadeh Kian of Sciences Po University in Paris.

**'Bastion of democracy'**

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who spearheaded the nuclear negotiations, reacted sarcastically, comparing this weekend's elections in Iran to the lack of democracy in Saudi Arabia. "Iran - fresh from real elections - attacked by @POTUS in that bastion of democracy and moderation," Zarif tweeted, referring to the US president. Is that a serious foreign policy, he asked, or is the US "simply milking" Saudi Arabia for billions of dollars?

Tehran sees itself as the vital force holding back the advance of the Islamic State group both in Syria and Iraq, and finds it hard to comprehend US bellicosity.

"Unfortunately, with the hostile and offensive policies of American officials, we see once again the reinforcement of terrorist groups in the region... and the dictators that support them," said Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi yesterday.

The US and its Arab allies in the Gulf respond that Iran and Russia's support for Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad has helped perpetuate the chaos. And they say Iran's support for Lebanese militia Hezbollah and Shiite Huthi rebel forces in Yemen are deeply destabilizing. But Iran's Press TV wrote on Sunday that the aggression coming from Riyadh this weekend ultimately reflected the Saudis' realization that they are losing in conflicts across the Middle East. "The Riyadh regime has... failed to achieve its objectives despite going to great expense," it wrote in an editorial. — AFP

Focus

### AFRICA STILL HOOKED ON DOLLARS DESPITE DEBT FORGIVENESS

When rich countries wrote off billions of dollars of African debt in 2005, they hoped governments would think twice about borrowing again in costly foreign currencies. Over a decade later, most sub-Saharan African countries still rely on US dollar-denominated debt to finance their economies. Some investors say this is sowing the seeds of future debt crises if local currencies devalue and make dollar debt repayments more expensive.

Aside from South Africa and Nigeria, governments have not yet done enough to develop capital markets that would have allowed them to raise more money in their own currencies, investors say. United Nations trade body UNCTAD estimates that Africa's external debt stock rapidly grew to \$443 billion by 2013 through bilateral borrowing, syndicated loans and bonds. But since then sharp currency devaluations across the continent have pushed up the cost of servicing this debt pile, which continues to grow.

"We all thought (Africa) was going to be the next emerging market. Governments should have been getting rid of dollar liabilities and moving into local currency liabilities, which is what Brazil did 20 years ago and Mexico 30 years ago," said Bryan Carter, head of emerging debt at BNP Paribas Investment Partners. In 2007 Carter was optimistic enough to hold a third of his fund in sub-Saharan local debt. Now he has zero exposure outside of South Africa, he said, adding: "They just fell back into the 'original sin' trap of borrowing in dollars."

After the debt, owed to multilateral organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, was wiped out, investors such as Carter were prepared to accept the risks of buying local currency bonds, in exchange for higher returns. That would have allowed governments to run their economies, regardless of exchange rate moves between the US dollar and domestic currencies. Currency and interest rates fluctuations have long been a source of emerging market crises. Stimulating local bond markets, could have helped start a domestic savings and investment industry and also helped to reduce the reliance on commodities exports - a major source of the dollar income needed for debt repayments.

Little Progress

But there's been little progress on the steps needed to foster local debt markets - pension reform, inflation targeting and making currencies more flexible. Those markets that have emerged are small and with low trading volumes, a similar story to many African equity markets. Data from Frankfurt-based index provider Concerto Financial Solutions shows 37 sub-Saharan African nations with outstanding local currency debt of just under \$260 billion by end-2016.

Of that \$146 billion is from Africa's most developed economy, South Africa, while Nigeria accounted for \$40 billion - the only African markets big and liquid enough to qualify for the GBI-EM index, widely used by emerging debt investors. Concerto said stripping out South Africa, 16 African countries have borrowed roughly \$30 billion in bonds since 2007. In addition, China has extended tens of billions of dollars in loans and some countries have new debts to multilateral lenders.

"While Africa's current external debt ratios currently appear manageable, their rapid growth in several countries is a concern and requires action if a recurrence of the African debt crisis of the late 1980s and the 1990s is to be avoided," UNCTAD warned last year. Other emerging markets in contrast have shifted almost entirely to borrowing at home. Debt denominated in emerging currencies totals about \$15 trillion, or 80 percent of the developing world's bond stock.

Efforts and Achievements

Investors do note some positives such as better regulation, growing pension assets and longer 10-20 year bond tenors in many countries. Kenya recently sold the world's first mobile phone-based bond to ordinary citizens and Ghana last month auctioned \$2.2 billion in debt, the largest ever daily transaction in sub-Saharan Africa. The deal attracted Michael Hasenstab, Franklin Templeton's high-profile fund manager.

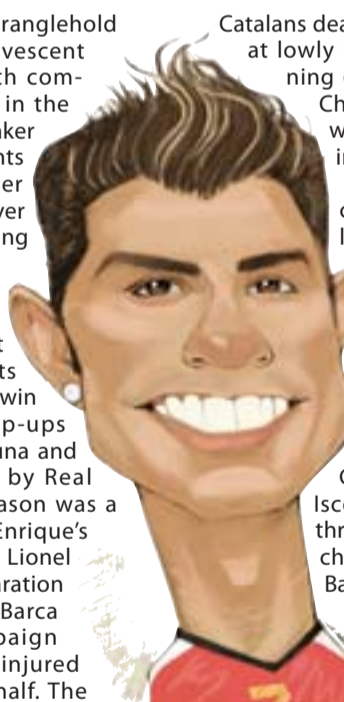
A Ghanaian official said, speaking on condition of anonymity, the government would focus this year on extending the maturity of domestic bonds and would not issue Eurobonds. Zambian finance minister Felix Mutati too said he wanted domestic borrowing to be the first port of call in future, noting the 2017 budget was being financed largely on domestic markets. "The domestic market, you cannot just go and dip a bucket into it. It is a delicate operation, the reason being that government borrowing can crowd out the private sector," Mutati told Reuters, when asked why the government had continued borrowing from overseas. Some argue external borrowing is key in the early stages of a country's development. — Reuters

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## ZIDANE'S CLEVER SQUAD ROTATION KEY TO TITLE

Real Madrid broke Barcelona's recent stranglehold on the La Liga title due to their effervescent squad and superior strength in depth compared with their arch-rivals, who delivered in the biggest games but came unstuck against weaker opposition. Luis Enrique's side earned 14 points from 18 in their six games against the other sides in Spain's top four, doing the double over Sevilla, winning at Atletico Madrid and beating Real Madrid at the Bernabeu.

Barca fared better against the top sides than the champions, who clinched a 33rd title, their first in five years, by winning 2-0 at Malaga on Sunday. Madrid took eight points from top-four opponents, yet Barca failed to win a third successive title due to surprise slip-ups against Alaves, Celta Vigo, Deportivo La Coruna and Malaga, all of whom were swatted aside by Real Madrid. The Catalans' first defeat of the season was a shock 2-1 home loss to Alaves, when Luis Enrique's heavy squad rotation backfired as he rested Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Andres Iniesta in preparation for a Champions League game with Celtic. Barca suffered their second defeat of the campaign against Celta Vigo, losing 4-3 without the injured Messi and with Iniesta rested for the first half. The



Catalans dearly missed Neymar when they lost 2-1 at lowly Deportivo just days after their stunning 6-1 win over Paris St Germain in the Champions League, and they struggled without Gerard Pique and Ivan Rakitic in a 2-0 loss at Malaga.

By contrast, Madrid won all of the corresponding fixtures which Barca lost as well as easily beating Real Sociedad and Real Betis, who held the previous champions to draws, even when coach Zinedine Zidane made wholesale changes. The Frenchman has been able to leave talisman Cristiano Ronaldo out of nine league games and survived long spells without record signing Gareth Bale through injury. The likes of Isco, Marco Asensio and Alvaro Morata thrived in their places. Zidane made nine changes from the team that lost 3-2 to Barcelona in April against Deportivo and watched his side run riot in a 6-2 win with five different goalscorers. The same players thrashed Granada 4-0, Leganes 4-2 and Eibar 4-1.

**Careful Management**

The Spanish media have dubbed these second-string players "the B team", with some even arguing that they are stronger than the first-choice players. Zidane, however, has reaped the benefits of his rotation system in Europe as his well-rested first-choice players out-gunned Napoli, Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid to reach the Champions League final against Juventus on June 3 where they could seal their first European Cup and Liga double since 1958.

Zidane's careful management of Ronaldo, 32, has been another factor behind ending their five-year wait for the Liga title, with the Portuguese hitting peak form in the final stretch of the season. Ronaldo's 14 goals in his last nine games in all competitions - including the first after two minutes at Malaga on Sunday before Karim Benzema's second-half strike - contrasts with the bedraggled state in which he ended the last campaign.

Another of Zidane's achievements was convincing the usually restless forward of the benefits of reduced game time. "Everything is decided at the end of the season and Zidane has managed the team very well, and we also have a great, young squad," Ronaldo said after the 4-1 win at Celta Vigo which took Real to the brink of the title. — Reuters

## WHAT NEXT FOR BARCA AFTER LOSING LA LIGA?

Barcelona face a summer of reconstruction after their grip on the La Liga title was ended by newly-crowned champions Real Madrid. Here, AFP Sports looks at five key issues the Catalans have to address in the coming months to gain ground on their rivals from the Spanish capital.

**New deal for Messi**

Undoubtedly Barca's number one priority is to ensure that Lionel Messi's future remains at the Camp Nou. Barca's failure to win La Liga or the Champions League this season has been no fault of Messi. The five-time World Player of the Year has been at his brilliant best in carrying his side for large parts of the campaign - most notably in scoring twice to win a thrilling El Clasico 3-2 away to Madrid last month.

Messi's contract is up in June 2018 meaning he could freely speak to other clubs as early as January about moving on a free transfer. Thankfully for Barca that doesn't seem likely with Messi very much settled at the club where he has spent his whole career. However, by allowing his contract to run down, it will cost the Barca board a fortune to tie Messi down which could impact on their ability to make moves in the transfer market.

**Appoint a new coach**

Luis Enrique took the heat out of the debate surrounding his future back in March by announcing he will not stay on as coach for next season after three years in charge. Plenty of high-profile names were then linked with the job, but all signs indicate the Barca hierarchy will opt for the understated option of Athletic Bilbao's Ernesto Valverde as the man to step into the breach.

Valverde doesn't have the glamour the likes of Enrique

or Pep Guardiola had when taking the job, but like them he is a former Barca player and has a wealth of experience in La Liga as a coach with over 400 games in charge of Bilbao, Espanyol, Valencia and Villarreal.

**Reconstruct the midfield**

Barca have undergone a dramatic change in style in recent years from Guardiola's team of metronomic passers built around Xavi and Andres Iniesta in midfield, to a top heavy side reliant on the firepower of Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar up front. With Xavi gone and Iniesta playing a far more limited number of games at 33, Barca's attempts to find successors for two of the greatest players in the club's history have understandably ran into problems.

Andre Gomes has so far proven to be an expensive mistake at 35 million euros (\$39.2 million), as has Arda Turan and graduates from the club's academy like Rafinha and Denis Suarez are better in wider roles. Losing Thiago Alcantara to Bayern Munich four years ago is now coming back to bite as finding a true midfield gem to gradually fulfil Iniesta's role will be an expensive and challenging process.



**Right-back a priority**

Before the midfield, Barca's first priority in the transfer market is a right-back. Poor planning also let Dani Alves go for free to Juventus at the end of last season and his scintillating form allied to Barca's inability to replace him has been another stick with which to beat Barca's beleaguered board. Sergi Roberto has deputized as best he can, but he remains a converted midfielder player and exposed defensively when faced with real quality.

**Injection of young blood**

Barca also missed out on the title because Madrid were able to field a team filled with young back-ups for various games down the stretch to rest their first team stars without suffering any dip in performance. By contrast, Barca face the problem of fending off the ageing process with most of their key men. Messi, Suarez and Gerard Pique all turn 30 this year, whilst Javier Mascherano and Iniesta are already well beyond that mark. Indeed, only Neymar, Samuel Umtiti, Roberto and Marc-Andre ter Stegen can count themselves as regulars with their prime years still ahead of them. — AFP

**CONTE: ARSENAL ARE FA CUP FAVORITES**

**LONDON:** Arsenal are favorites to beat Chelsea in the FA Cup final as they will be motivated to end their season on a high after failing to qualify for the Champions League, the Premier League champions' manager Antonio Conte said. Chelsea began their title celebrations after beating relegated Sunderland 5-1 on Sunday and can win the domestic double by beating Arsenal, who fell short of a top four finish despite a 3-1 win over Everton, on Sunday. "If you ask me who is the favorite now, it's Arsenal," Conte told reporters on Sunday. "They have this chance to find a good season, to have a successful season. "Arsenal missed out on the Champions League and we must prepare in the right way. I'm not talking about tactically - I'm talking about motivation. "The right fire in our soul and heart. If we have more than Arsenal then we'll have the possibility to win." Conte can become the second manager to win the double in his first season after fellow Italian Carlo Ancelotti achieved the feat in the 2009-10 campaign. — Reuters



**RANGERS FACING CHALLENGES AFTER WINNING STREAK ENDS**

**DALLAS:** The Texas Rangers put themselves in some impressive company with their 10-game winning streak - but if the season ended now, they wouldn't make the playoffs. The Rangers still face their share of challenges, especially since they're in the AL West, where Houston has baseball's best record and a 5 1/2-game lead. Texas won 10 in a row before Saturday's loss at Detroit, but all that run did was help erase a poor start to the season. It was the eighth time since the start of 2015 that a major league team won at least 10 in a row within the same season. Seven different teams have accomplished it, with Toronto pulling it off twice in 2015. The six teams that did it besides the Rangers all went on to make the postseason. Right now, Texas is 1 1/2 games behind the American League's second wild card. The Rangers rank toward the bottom of the AL in batting average (.237) and on-base percentage (.316), yet they're fourth in runs (215). Players such as Joey Gallo (.184 average with 13 home runs) and Mike Napoli (.188 with 10 homers) have come to typify the way their offense has worked in 2017. — AP

**SARAH TAYLOR BACK IN ENG WOMEN'S SQUAD**

**LONDON:** Wicket-keeper Sarah Taylor was included in the England squad announced yesterday for the Women's World Cup after taking nearly a year out of the game due to a stress-related illness. Taylor, 28, widely regarded as one of the best keepers in the women's game and, on her day, a dynamic batsman, stepped away from cricket after revealing she was struggling with anxiety issues. But she returned last month and has been included, together with captain Heather Knight, in a 15-strong squad provided they both complete their "return to full fitness". Top-order batsman Knight suffered a stress fracture in her foot earlier this month but she hopes to be fit in time to lead hosts England in their World Cup opener against India in Derby on June 24. Taylor joined the squad for a training camp in the United Arab Emirates last month for the first time since taking an indefinite career break in May last year. — AFP



ATLANTA: Atlanta Braves shortstop Dansby Swanson, right, is tagged out at home by Washington Nationals catcher Matt Wieters while trying to score on a single by teammate Ender Inciarte in the sixth inning of a baseball game. — AP

**STRASBURG LEADS NATIONALS OVER BRAVES**

**ATLANTA:** Stephen Strasburg struck out a season-high 11 batters, allowing five hits in 7 2/3 innings as the Washington Nationals beat the Braves 3-2 in Major League Baseball on Sunday to stop a four-game losing streak. Strasburg (5-1) improved to 7-1 in his last nine starts against Atlanta. After Dansby Swanson hit a two-run double in the eighth that chased Strasburg, Koda Glover struck out Nick Markakis to end the inning and finished the six-hitter for his third save. Daniel Murphy hit a second-inning homer off Jaime Garcia (1-3) and the Nationals added two unearned runs in the third.

runs and four hits in five-plus innings, and Dellin Betances got four outs for his second save. Chris Archer (3-3) struck out a season-high 12, giving up three runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings.

the first inning off Wade Miley (1-2) following a two-out error and a single. Joe Smith struck out Chris Davis with two on in the eighth, and Roberto Osuna got three outs for his sixth save.

best record to 28-17. Freeland (5-2) gave up four runs - three earned - in 5 2/3 innings. Joey Votto and Scott Schebler homered off him in the sixth. Freeland doubled and hit his first major league homer off Arroyo (3-4), connecting on a 71 mph pitch for a drive to right field. Carlos Gonzalez, DJ LeMahieu and Pat Valaika also had solo shots off Arroyo, who has given up 15 homers. Greg Holland remained perfect in 19 save chances. Cincinnati has lost eight of nine, with none of its starters going more than 5 1/3 innings.

Vazquez had three hits apiece. Oakland's three errors raised its total to a major league-leading 42.

**WHITE SOX 8, MARINERS 1**

Yolmer Sanchez had a two-run single in Chicago's five-run first inning, and Derek Holland (4-3) gave up six hits in eight innings. Tim Anderson had three hits and two RBIs for the White Sox. Nelson Cruz hit his 11th home run for the Mariners, who have lost three straight. Seattle starter Chris Heston (0-1), recalled from Triple-A Tacoma before the game to make his first major league start since Oct. 2, 2015, was roughed up for seven runs and seven hits in three innings. He walked the bases loaded in the first before giving up four straight hits.

**DODGERS 6, MARLINS 3**

Brandon McCarthy (4-1) retired his first 14 batters before Derek Dietrich's double and allowed one run and three hits in six innings. Adrian Gonzalez had three RBIs and his first three-hit game of the season for the Dodgers. Yasmani Grandal had three hits, including a pair of doubles. Vance Worley (0-1) made his Marlins debut and allowed three runs and six hits in four innings.

**PADRES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 1**

Clayton Richard (3-5) pitched a five-hitter and struck out six in his fourth career complete game as San Diego ended a five-game losing streak. The 33-year-old Richard also had an RBI single during a three-run, fifth-inning rally off Zack Godley (1-1) that was cut short due to fan interference.

**RANGERS 5, TIGERS 2**

Mike Napoli homered to the camera platform beyond center field, helping Yu Darvish beat Detroit yet again. Darvish (5-2) has won all seven of his starts against the Tigers, although this one was a bit of a struggle. He allowed two runs and five hits in five innings, but Napoli put the Rangers ahead 3-2 with his solo shot in the fifth off Matthew Boyd (2-4). Pete Kozma also went deep for Texas, and the Rangers shut down Detroit after Darvish exited. Relievers Alex Claudio and Sam Dyson allowed one hit apiece, and Keone Kela pitched a perfect ninth for his first save. Ian Kinsler homered for the Tigers. — AP

**YANKEES 3, RAYS 2**

Brett Gardner hit his eighth home run, one more than this 2016 total, and CC Sabathia won consecutive starts for the first time since last June to help New York avoid a three-game sweep. Rookie Aaron Judge made a full extension diving backhand catch on the right field warning track in the sixth to rob Evan Longoria of a tying extra-base hit, starting a double play that doubled up Corey Dickerson at first. Didi Gregorius had four hits, including an RBI single, as New York won for just the fourth time in 11 games. Sabathia (4-2) allowed two

**ANGELS 12, METS 5**

Mike Trout homered, doubled and drove in three runs. C.J. Cron hit a grand slam and Los Angeles built a 9-0 lead by the third inning as it avoided a three-game sweep. Andreton Simmons and Jeffrey Marte also homered for the Angels. Matt Reynolds, Curtis Granderson and Jay Bruce hit home runs as the Mets tried to rally. Cron's long slam highlighted a five-run first, and Trout hit his 14th homer and Marte followed with a home run in the second that brought the withdrawal of Tommy Milone (1-2), who tied a career high by allowing eight runs. Jesse Chavez (4-5) gave up five runs in 5 2/3 innings.

**BLUE JAYS 3, ORIOLES 1**

Marco Estrada (3-2) matched his career high with 12 strikeouts in 7 2/3 innings, Devon Travis hit a three-run homer and Toronto prevented a three-game sweep with its second win in nine games against Baltimore this season. Travis connected in

**ROYALS 6, TWINS 4 TWINS 8, ROYALS 4**

Robbie Grossman, Max Kepler and Chris Gimenez all homered to help the Minnesota salvage a split of the doubleheader. Grossman and Kepler each hit two-run homers in the first inning, and Brian Dozier had an RBI double in the second off Ian Kennedy (0-4) in his first game back from the disabled list. Minnesota's offense helped left-hander Adalberto Mejia (1-1) earn his first career big league win. Mejia was the Twins' 26th active player for the second game and allowed three runs in seven innings, on two home runs by Salvador Perez - who also went deep in the first game. In the first game, Brandon Moss hit two of Kansas City's four home runs, and Perez and Jorge Bonifacio each hit two-run homers. Mike Minor (1-1) pitched 1 1/3 innings to win for the first time since Aug. 28, 2014. Minor, a 29-year-old left-hander who missed two seasons with a shoulder injury, relieved Jake Junis with a 5-2 lead in the fifth, two outs and two on. He walked Max Kepler, retired Kennys Vargas on a popout then pitched a perfect sixth. Kelvin Herrera pitched a one-hit ninth for his ninth save. Phil Hughes (4-3) gave up five runs and six hits - including three homers - in four innings.

**INDIANS 8, ASTROS 6**

Yan Gomes homered and tied a career high with five RBIs as Cleveland completed a three-game sweep. Gomes' third-inning homer off Joe Musgrove (3-4) gave the Indians a 3-1 lead, and Cleveland added three more runs in the fourth. The Indians are 5-1 against Houston this season, dealing the Astros two of their three series losses. Danny Salazar (3-4) yielded three runs and four hits in 5 2/3 innings with seven strikeouts.

**ROCKIES 6, REDS 4**

Rookie pitcher Kyle Freeland hit one of Colorado's four solo homers off Bronson Arroyo (3-4) and Colorado improved the NL's

**MLB results/standings**

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

American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB		Washington				
NY Yankees	25	16	.610	-	Atlanta	18	23	.439	7
Baltimore	25	17	.595	0.5	NY Mets	18	24	.429	7.5
Boston	22	21	.512	4	Philadelphia	15	26	.366	10
Tampa Bay	23	23	.500	4.5	Miami	15	28	.349	11
Toronto	19	26	.422	8					
Central Division					Central Division				
Minnesota	22	18	.550	-	Milwaukee	25	19	.568	-
Cleveland	23	19	.548	-	St. Louis	22	19	.537	1.5
Detroit	21	21	.500	2	Chicago Cubs	22	20	.524	2
Chicago White Sox	20	22	.476	3	Cincinnati	20	23	.465	4.5
Kansas City	18	25	.419	5.5	Pittsburgh	20	24	.455	5
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	29	15	.659	-	Colorado	28	17	.622	-
Texas	24	21	.533	5.5	Arizona	26	19	.578	2
LA Angels	23	23	.500	7	LA Dodgers	26	19	.578	2
Oakland	20	24	.455	9	San Francisco	19	26	.422	9
Seattle	20	25	.444	9.5	San Diego	16	30	.348	12.5



COLONGE: Members of team Sweden celebrate following the Ice Hockey World Championships final match between Canada and Sweden in the LANXESS arena. —AP

## SWEDEN BEATS CANADA TO WIN ICE HOCKEY WORLDS

**COLOGNE:** Telling himself to stay calm, Henrik Lundqvist stopped all three shots he faced in the shootout and Sweden dethroned two-time defending champion Canada to win the world hockey championship 2-1 on Sunday night. Nicklas Backstrom and Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored shootout goals for the Swedes to win their first title since 2013 and prevent Canada from a three-peat.

"It was pretty nerve-wracking in the end, but we pulled it off," said Lundqvist, the New

York Rangers star who made 41 saves in regulation and overtime to get it to a shootout. "What a game. It was so exciting. It's been an amazing week. Lundqvist and Canadian counterpart Calvin Pickard, who saved tournament MVP William Nylander's first shootout attempt for Sweden, were outstanding in a game in which the Canadians narrowly outshot their opponents 43-42.

"This is how close it should be when you get to the final game," Swedish coach Rikard

Gronborg said. "It's a huge win for Swedish hockey." The respect between the sides was evident from the off as defenses held firm in the opening two periods. The breakthrough came against the odds, with Backstrom penalized for slashing, when Victor Hedman scored short-handed with 20.8 seconds left in the second period.

It was a strange goal from distance as the defenseman just lifted the puck and it somehow bounced in through Pickard's legs. The

presence of Joel Lundqvist, Henrik's twin brother, may have distracted the Canadian goaltender. "It was a fluke goal," Swedish forward Marcus Kruger said. O'Reilly tied it in the third period on a rebound after an initial shot from Mitch Marner. It was tense, and fans were left gasping as the action swung from end to end. Lundqvist said he hoped fans enjoyed now neither team sat back in the third period or overtime.

Nate MacKinnon missed a good chance to

clinch the win for Canada on a power play before overtime, when both goaltenders maintained their exceptional form. "I want to congratulate Sweden. They were an exceptional team, it was a lot of fun to play them," Canadian coach Jon Cooper said. "If we were going to lose to somebody, I'm glad those guys won." Earlier, Nikita Kucherov sealed a 5-3 win for Russia in the bronze-medal game against Finland. "It's not the medal we wanted," Russian coach Oleg Znarok said. —AP



INDIANAPOLIS: Fernando Alonso, of Spain, drives into turn one during a practice session for the Indianapolis 500 IndyCar auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. — AP

## ALONSO OVERCOMES LEARNING CURVE, ENGINE TO START FIFTH

**INDIANAPOLIS:** For a few brief moments Sunday, Fernando Alonso was on top of the IndyCar world. The two-time Formula One champion conquered an unexpected engine change and Indianapolis' usually tricky 2 1/2-mile oval with the fastest four-lap qualifying average in 15 years. Then reality set in when four of the last five drivers went even faster. But after only eight days on his first oval, the Spaniard couldn't quibble with the results. He'll start fifth next Sunday, from the inside of Row 2.

"The car was on the limit," he said. "I don't know if it was possible to be on pole position, but definitely very close. I had an overboost problem in lap 2 out of the last corner, and it was like hitting the brakes. I nearly came to the pit lane because this qualifying run is over with this problem." It looked like the 35-year-old had a lot to learn when he started driving in traffic for the first time last Monday. At one point, when two other drivers tried to make it three wide in a first turn Alonso had previously described as narrow, he backed out.

Things started changing when he turned to two former F1 drivers and current teammates with Andretti Autosport - defending Indy winner Alexander Rossi and Japan's Takuma Sato - for advice. Whatever they said helped. Alonso moved into contention for the pole after series officials bumped up the horsepower in Friday's practice. He made a daring qualifying run just to qualify for Sunday's nine-car pole shootout and in that, he was even better. If Alonso keeps it up, his competitors know he could become the second straight rook-

ie to win IndyCar's marquee race.

"He's proving why he's one of the best in the world," Rossi said after qualifying ended. Even under the most extreme conditions, Alonso didn't fret. Less than three hours before Sunday's pole shootout began, Honda engineers were concerned enough with some data from Alonso's earlier practices that they decided to install a new engine. It took crew members about an hour to make the switch and about another 50 minutes to put the car back together.

The crew members pushed the No 29 car out of the garage with eight minutes left before they had to go through a technical inspection. "It was stressful in the morning, with the change of the engine, that we were not sure if we were able to go out again or not," Alonso said. "I think the whole team was working on my car. Crews from all six cars from Andretti, they were working on my car to make it happen."

Once he was on the track, though, Alonso never fretted. He was the first driver all week to put down four consecutive laps over 231 and found himself in briefly position to become the first rookie pole-winner since Teo Fabi in 1983. Former IndyCar driver Tony Stewart started from the pole as a rookie in 1996 after Scott Brayton, the pole-winner, was killed in a practice crash. But it wasn't enough to withstand the ensuing runs from the eventual winner, Scott Dixon, the runner-up, Ed Carpenter or Rossi or Sato. "Obviously it makes me happy with the reception, the welcome, from the fans here," Alonso said. "Now, let's put on a good show for them." —AP

## HORSCHEL OUTDUELS DAY TO WIN BYRON NELSON IN PLAYOFF

**DALLAS:** American Billy Horschel parried the first playoff hole to beat world number four Jason Day on Sunday to win the PGA Byron Nelson tournament, registering his first victory since 2014. Horschel came into the tournament having missed four consecutive cuts but turned his fortunes around with some incredible putting this week at the TPC Four Seasons resort near Dallas. Australia's Day missed a short putt on the 18th hole that would have extended the playoff to hand Horschel the victory. "That's not the way I wanted to win it," said Horschel. "Four missed cuts to come in here and I played this well-someone is looking out for me."

Both Horschel and Day finished 72 holes on 12-under par 268. Day fired a two-under 68 Sunday while Horschel shot 69, each finishing one stroke ahead of American James Hahn, who was third after

shooting 71. American Jason Kokrak finished fourth on 270. Horschel had the top putting percentage this week while world number four Day had made 95 percent of his putts inside five feet this season before missing what appeared to be a routine four-footer to drop the playoff.

"When you're in the position like that, you have to go for it and try to win," Day said. "I can't just lag it down there two feet short and keep going back and forth. Overall, it was a pretty good week, but obviously I'm disappointed that I didn't get the win." Day, Horschel and Hahn all played in the final group, creating a match-play type scene. Horschel's two-putt birdie on the par-five 16th moved him back into a tie for the lead with Day while Hahn's par on the hole all but ended his chances. Both Day and Horschel parred 17 and 18. —AFP

## PREDS WIN FROM OUSTING DUCKS TO REACH 1ST STANLEY CUP FINAL

**NASHVILLE:** The Nashville Predators don't have their top center, and their captain is day to day with an upper-body injury. They still have Pekka Rinne in net. And the Predators have a chance at history on their own ice, a win away from the first Stanley Cup Final berth in the franchise history. As coach Peter Laviolette put it, the guys know what's at stake.

Standing in their way? The Anaheim Ducks, the only team to beat them in their home rink in the playoffs over the past two postseasons. The Predators returned home with a 3-2 Western Conference finals lead after a 3-1 victory over the Ducks in Anaheim on Saturday led by Rinne, who is 7-3 in the Honda Center in the postseason. To avoid a return trip for a Game 7 to test that once again, they can eliminate the Ducks in Game 6.

"We obviously know what's at stake," forward Colin Wilson said Sunday. "It is one game at a time, but we know our next win puts us in contention for the Stanley Cup. So it's something we're focused on, but it is just about that next game, getting the next win." The Predators are 10-1 at Bridgestone Arena the past two seasons, and another record crowd is expected for what will be the biggest sporting event in Nashville history not counting the fans watching just outside the building. They could hear the cheering fans the instant they stepped off the plane, and Laviolette said he knows Monday night will be crazy. That leaves it up to the Predators to handle business on the ice. "We got to put our foot on the gas pedal again, and make sure we're ready to play," Laviolette said.

### TOP SCORER

Being in position to win the Campbell Bowl on home ice seemed remote Friday when the Predators announced their top scorer, center Ryan Johansen, would miss the rest of the post-season after emergency surgery to repair compartment syndrome on his left thigh. They also were without captain Mike Fisher because of injury. Laviolette simply tapped Rinne, the three-time Vezina Trophy finalist and Nashville's strong farm system for help.

Pontus Aberg, who played only 15 games with the Predators all season, scored the winner on his first career playoff goal. Of Nashville's 11 wins, 10 Predators have winning goals. Frederick Gaudreau, another Milwaukee call-up, helped fill in at center in his postseason debut and won 10 of 14 face-offs against the best team on the dot in these playoffs.

Rinne, who shut out the Blackhawks twice in Chicago to open this postseason, played arguably his best game yet. He made 32 saves and aggressively played the puck to help hold off the Ducks. Rinne is 11-4 in these playoffs, and his 1.62 goals-against average is the fourth-lowest with his .942 save percentage the fourth-highest in NHL history with a minimum of 15 games played. "He's been great all playoffs, and the team has so much confidence in him," defenseman Roman Josi said about Rinne. "It's awesome playing in front of him, and he's been unbelievable." Nothing can be taken for granted in this series. The Ducks and Predators have been tied or within a goal for 284 minutes, 38 seconds of the 319:49 played. Scoring first has been no guarantee either with the winner coming back four times. That's how Nashville has won each time in this series for their fifth comeback victory this postseason and the 31st overall of this postseason. "They're never out of the game, out of a series, so yeah, got to make sure we're prepared," Josi said.

### RESILIENT

The Ducks have been resilient all postseason, from scoring three goals to tie Edmonton in Game 5 of the second round before winning in overtime to snapping Nashville's 10-game winning streak on home ice. That had been the longest playoff winning streak since the 1997-98 Detroit Red Wings before Anaheim won 3-2 in overtime Thursday night. Defenseman Kevin Biaksa said the Ducks just have to go out and win. "We're capable of winning. That's for sure. We've proven that time after time," Biaksa said.



PITTSBURGH: Pittsburgh Penguins' Matt Cullen (7) celebrates with Carl Hagelin, left, Mark Streit (32), and Ian Cole after scoring against the Ottawa Senators during the second period of Game 5 in the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Eastern Conference. — AP

"We have the team, and we're against the wall right now facing a little bit of adversity," The Ducks are dealing with injuries as well. Rickard Rakell missed Saturday's game with a lower-body injury, and forward Patrick Eaves has missed nine with his injury. Neither traveled to Nashville. Goaltender John Gibson left Saturday's game after the first period with a lower-body injury and will be re-assessed at Monday morning's skate.

If Gibson can't play, Jonathan Bernier will make the first playoff start of his career. He went

7-4 in the regular season and has appeared in three games this postseason. The Ducks rebounded from losing Game 3 by taking a day off in Nashville to shoot pool and throw darts. The schedule doesn't allow such a break with both the Predators and Ducks back on planes Sunday for the return trip to Tennessee. "Well, it seems that when the pressure's been applied, we've responded in the proper manner, and I would expect the same," Ducks coach Randy Carlyle said. —w AP

## DOPING: RUSSIA GETS A 2018 WINTER PARALYMPIC WARNING

**LONDON:** Russia have been warned they will be barred from sending a team to the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships in London and the 2018 Winter Games unless "something dramatically changes" regarding doping. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) issued a blanket ban on all Russian competitors at last year's 2016 Rio Summer Paralympics.

IPC president Philip Craven, speaking at a news conference in London, on Monday said Russia also faced the very real possibility of being excluded from July's event in London and the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang as well. Russia were suspended by the IPC in August last year following revelations of widespread doping uncovered in a report by Professor Richard McLaren, which also saw the country's track and field team banned from the 2016 Rio Olympics. The IPC established a task force to monitor and assist the Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC) in a process of reforming its procedures. But while encouraged by aspects of the RPC's "progress," Craven told reporters: "With 291 days to go until Pyeongchang 2018, there is not a moment to waste." "The IPC task force will next update the IPC governing board in September and if the obligations have not been fully met by then, it will be very difficult for the (Russian Paralympic Committee) to have its suspension lifted in time to enter its athletes into the Paralympic Winter Games. "Clearly, with this timeline in mind, unless something dramatic changes in the next few weeks, the Russian Paralympic Committee will not be able to enter its athletes into the London 2017 World Para Athletics Championships."

### KIDS TO CHOOSE TOKYO 2020 MASCOTS

In other news, despite several high-profile gaffes in their 2020 Olympic preparations, Tokyo 2020 organizers reckon choosing the

Games mascots will be child's play-so much so they're leaving the decision to school kids. Japanese organizers announced Monday that the official 2020 mascots would be decided by a nationwide competition, in which members of the public will submit designs before elementary schoolchildren across the country select winners from a shortlist.

Budding designers have a two-week window from August 1-14 to submit entries, after which a mascot panel will compile a shortlist in December. Japanese schoolchildren, who could have a better handle on the squiddy mascots than organizers who have hitherto bungled the rollout of the Olympic stadium and official logo, will finish voting on the shortlist in January.

The winning designs will be announced in March, with the mascots to be given official names by August 2018. Mascots-often referred to in Japanese as 'yuru-kyara' (soft characters) are big business in Japan and have become part of the cultural landscape. The market for characters like Kumamon, a giant black bear with red cheeks which represents Kumamoto prefecture, and his bitter rival Funassyi-a hyperactive 'pear fairy' with a love for heavy metal-is an eye-watering \$30 billion a year, with mascots adorning everything from key-chains to planes.

Tokyo organizers are battling to rein in runaway costs for the 2020 Olympics which have cast a shadow over preparations. The city's bid committee estimated costs of \$7 billion and projected an economic windfall in excess of \$25 billion. But a panel of experts have warned the overall budget could exceed that without drastic cuts. That warning came after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe tore up the original plans for the Olympic stadium over soaring costs and organizers scrapped the first design for the 2020 Games logo after accusations of plagiarism. —Agencies



## RUGBYU: PLAYERS' UNION SLAMS PLAN TO EXTEND ENGLISH SEASON

**LONDON:** England's Rugby Players' Association hit out yesterday at a "detrimental" plan to extend the top-flight Premiership season to 10 months, saying it was not "viable" and would jeopardize the welfare of players. There have long been concerns about the toll an increasingly physical and fast-paced professional game is taking on players, with worries about concussion-related injuries a particular issue.

At the same time there has been an

attempt to bring greater harmony between club and international fixtures worldwide, with rugby union traditionally a winter sport in both the northern and southern hemispheres. March saw World Rugby announce plans for a new global calendar from 2020, which raised the possibility that European-based players could be left with an 11-month season once overseas Test tours were taken into account.

Premiership Rugby responded by say-

ing the 2019/20 domestic season would be extended to provide more club rugby after the Six Nations concludes in March. The season will still start at the beginning of September with the Premiership final played at the end of June, rather than the end of May as happens now. Premiership Rugby chief executive Mark McCafferty, said the new set-up would "significantly reduce or eliminate overlaps between the international and club game", adding this was good news for club fans as their teams

would not be missing "important players for significant chunks of the season". McCafferty, who insisted player welfare was a "priority", stressed the 32-game season limit would remain in place.

But the unimpressed RPA said yesterday in a strongly-worded statement that "extending an already arduous season from nine months to ten has serious implications for players, given the potential increase to the game, training and psychological loads they face". The RPA said reducing the off-

season from three months to two would have a "seriously detrimental effect on player welfare unless substantial guaranteed safeguards are introduced", adding that Test stars would be particularly badly hit by the proposed changes. "Perhaps most worryingly is the incredible strain these proposals would place on international players." If the Premiership season retains its current start date, the addition of a July tour schedule will lead to an 11-month season for these players. —AFP

## NO SIGN OF AN END TO FRENCH MEN'S TITLE DROUGHT IN PARIS

**PARIS:** No French man has lifted the Musketeers' Cup in over three decades and there is no sign of the frustrating and painful wait ending for one of tennis' leading nations at this year's French Open. A lack of consistency at the highest level, fragile bodies and an outstanding generation barring their way make it difficult to imagine a French successor to their last men's singles champion Yannick Noah any time soon at Roland Garros. After it became an international tournament in 1925, the first eight titles went to French men but since then, they have claimed only two titles, Marcel Bernard winning in 1946 and Noah in 1983. "If you want a chance to win the French Open, you need to arrive full of confidence, having won great matches on the surface and, let's face it, it is not happening with the French male players," former French technical director Patrice Hagelauer, the coach who led Noah to the title, told Reuters. "For the French Open especially you need to be in top shape physically and mentally. Gael (Monfils) played the odd semi-final but then you've already reached your maximum and in the quarter or semi-finals, they hold on for a set or two."

Since Noah beat Mats Wilander 34 years

ago, only the mercurial Henri Leconte has reached the final of the claycourt grand slam, losing in straight sets to the same Swede in 1988. In the last 10 years, only Monfils (2008) and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (2013 and 2015) have given some hope to the vociferous home support when they reached the last four.

"Since 1983, we've had great talents—Leconte, (Guy) Forget, (Cedric) Pioline, Monfils, (Richard) Gasquet, Tsonga, but never players who started Roland Garros with the favourite tag. It was the case for Yannick, it's not the case anymore," Hagelauer added. "In the last 15 years, incredible things happened, notably Rafa Nadal winning the French Open nine times. 'The Big Four generation (Nadal, Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray) also complicated things. These guys are monsters. It never happened in the history of tennis, even at the time of the Musketeers when there were fewer players.' Pressure is a factor, too, according to Wilander. "No person in tennis can understand the pressure on a player from Britain, the US, from Australia nor especially, I think, from France," he told Reuters. While Noah was a pure claycourter, none of the actual French men are real specialists of the slowest surface. "I think French players are more complete now. I don't think you have seen a true French claycourter since Yannick Noah," Wilander said. "Yannick was so athletic and moved so well. That's why he was a claycourter even though he came to the net so much. Today, their best surface generally isn't clay." Even if Noah remains the last French man to win a grand slam singles title, France have at least enjoyed more success on other surfaces, even if it all ended in anti-climax. Arnaud Clement reached the Australian Open final in 2001, Tsonga also made the final in Melbourne in 2008, while Pioline reached the finals of both the US Open (1993) and Wimbledon (1997).

Would Wilander be tempted to coach a French man to try to take him to Roland Garros glory? "No!" he said, before adding with a laugh: "I am happy with my life, my work as a commentator for Eurosport—I have made the finals of every grand slam since 2002." Wilander still thinks that no French man is close to winning again on the red dirt in Paris. "I think the longer it (the drought) goes on, the harder it gets. Yannick transcended sport in the way that Andre Agassi did, and Bjorn Borg," said Wilander. "Kids who would otherwise have played soccer wanted to play tennis. But the longer it goes without a grand slam champion, the smaller the pool of kids you influence." —Reuters



MUMBAI: Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma, center, Parthiv Patel, left, and bowling coach Shane Bond pose for a picture with the Indian Premier League (IPL) trophies from last three wins after a press conference after their IPL 2017 win. —AP

## JOHNSON KEY TO MUMBAI'S IPL SUCCESS, SAYS SHARMA

**HYDERABAD:** Veteran paceman Mitchell Johnson, who took key wickets in Mumbai Indians' IPL final triumph over Rising Pune Supergiant, has been hailed as an influential force off the field too by captain Rohit Sharma. The 35-year-old Australian struck two crucial blows in the final over to drive Mumbai to a one-run victory in Hyderabad on Sunday.

Pune, who required 11 to win off the 20th over, buckled as Johnson snagged two successive wickets, including a dangerous Steve Smith on 51. Johnson (3-26), India's Jasprit Bumrah (2-26) and Sri Lankan veteran Lasith Malinga (0-21) choked Pune of runs in the final three crucial overs, denying them their target. Johnson, who retired from international cricket in 2015, was not first choice for Mumbai's playing XI but an injury to Mitchell McClenaghan saw him star in the final two matches.

"We have got some proven match winners in our squad. It comes in healthy when the team requires them the most," Sharma said. "Mitchell McClenaghan, who was playing well for us, was injured and unfortunately he couldn't find a place in the finals, but we always knew we had a great back up in Johnson, who is again a proven customer. 'He has done it for Australia and for Mumbai as well. He has been in this atmosphere as well. I could happily rely on him when I needed (him) the most.'"

Johnson, who played a key role in Mumbai's 2013 IPL (Indian Premier League) triumph, returned for a second stint after being picked in the February auctions. Johnson only played five games for Mumbai this season, with younger quicks Bumrah (20 wickets) and New Zealand's McClenaghan (19 wickets) carrying the pace attack. But despite playing limited games, the Australian also played a role behind the scenes, Sharma said, working closely with bowling coach Shane Bond to sharpen Mumbai's fast bowlers. "To have him throughout the season is fantastic. He's been talking to younger bowlers, sharing his experience, all those things have helped our youngsters," said Sharma. "You will hear (Jasprit) Bumrah talk about him in the future and how Johnson was helpful to him."

## MISSING STOKES

Meanwhile Pune coach Stephen Fleming rued the absence of England's Ben Stokes, who was key to Supergiant's surge to the play-offs before being recalled to play for England. Stokes-whose \$2.16 million contract broke the IPL signing record for a foreign player-scored 316 runs in 12 matches, with a highest of 103 not out, and took 12 wickets.

"We would have loved having Ben Stokes the full time but we knew he would not be there. We did not spend too much time lamenting that," said Fleming, a former New Zealand captain. "From his point of view, he would have loved

this situation. He is a big game player. Playing in the final, whatever competition it is, it is special." However he was "proud" of the team for turning around their fortunes after finishing seventh in last year's tournament.

"We are not a skilled side in the IPL. In this campaign, we have had some players stand up

from nowhere. We take real pride in that," said Fleming. "We have created an environment where some players excel. Jaydev (Unadkat) has been extraordinary, so has been Rahul Tripathi and (Manoj) Tiwary. Big stars have stepped up at key times. Ben Stokes was fantastic for us." —AFP

## IPL-10: FIVE MAJOR THINGS WE LEARNED

**HYDERABAD:** Five things we learned from the 10th Indian Premier League after Mumbai Indians beat Rising Pune Supergiant in Sunday's final:

## BIG BUY STOKES A 'PERFECT FIT'

Ben Stokes finally repaid the \$2.16 million worth of faith Rising Pune Supergiant placed in him. The Englishman was the most expensive foreigner ever signed for the IPL and the best paid player this season. He was key in Pune's impressive campaign to reach the knockout phase. After some poor early performances the Stokes' deal was questioned, but the 25-year-old eventually hit 316 runs in 12 matches, with a high of 103 not out. He also took 12 wickets to bust the big buy, big waste tag. Pune skipper Steve Smith heaped praise on Stokes, terming him a "perfect fit" for the team.

## FOREIGN INTEREST ON THE RISE

Big guns like Chris Gayle and David Warner have always raised the IPL entertainment quotient but the influx of England players this year made it even more cosmopolitan. IPL teams welcomed them with open arms at the February auctions and the eight-strong English contingent was double the number last season. Stokes, Eoin Morgan (Kings XI Punjab), Chris Woakes (Kolkata Knight Riders) and Jos Buttler (Mumbai Indians) were important performers for their teams. The season also saw the first Afghan players signed up, with Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi going to Sunrisers Hyderabad. "The participation of players from around the world makes it the biggest draw," said IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla.

## IPL PICKS UP THE PACE

Fast bowlers are back. Bhuvneshwar Kumar (Sunrisers Hyderabad), Jaydev Unadkat (Rising Pune Supergiant) and Mitchell McClenaghan (Mumbai Indians) made up the top three in the IPL bowlers rankings and the impact of

seamers was evident this season. While Kumar took 26 scalps to get the purple cap for highest wicket taker in season 10, Unadkat (24 wickets) was instrumental in Pune's success. Mumbai also rode on McClenaghan's incisive bowling in the first six overs and fellow pacemen Jasprit Bumrah and Mitchell Johnson's ability to choke the opposition in the dying overs. "It's a huge achievement for fast bowlers to have made an impact in T20 cricket which is not an easy format for the quicks," former India paceman Chetan Sharma told AFP.

## MATCH FIXING GHOST RETURNS

Just when the match-fixing specter seemed to have disappeared from the world's most lucrative cricket league, a betting ring was busted after a Gujarat Lions-Dehli Daredevils game. Three suspected bookies were arrested at the hotel used by the teams in Kanpur. While the Indian board boasted of their anti-corruption team working overtime to keep the league clean, the presence of fixers in the hotel raised eyebrows. A spot-fixing scandal in 2013 led to the Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals being suspended in 2015 for two seasons.

## IPL RAIN RULES CAUSE A CLOUD

Debate erupted over the IPL's rain rules after an eliminator between holders Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders ended at 1.27 am. Rain stopped play after the Sunrisers managed a modest 128-7 in 20 overs and Kolkata were then given a revised target of 48 in six overs. Many believe the current Duckworth-Lewis method should not be used in the 20 over format as it gives an undue advantage to the team batting second—Kolkata won by seven wickets. But the bone of contention remained the IPL ruling of not having a reserve day for play-offs except the final and thus allowing the match to stretch to get a result. Kolkata paceman Nathan Coulter-Nile said: "You can't be playing cricket at 2 am." —AFP



GENEVA: Japan's Kei Nishikori (L) poses with Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka next to the Jet d'Eau (the landmark fountain of Geneva) during a photo session ahead of his first game at the Geneva Open ATP 250 Tennis tournament. —AFP

## LATHAM WANTS MORE FROM NZ AGAINST BANGLADESH

**DUBLIN:** New Zealand captain Tom Latham is still looking for improvement when the Blackcaps aim for a clean sweep of victories in the final match of the one-day international Tri-Series against Bangladesh in Clontarf tomorrow. An emphatic 190-run success against hosts Ireland at Malahide on Sunday ensured the Blackcaps will win the trophy but for Latham the important point was that a team missing many leading players was getting better with every game.

"You try to improve each game and we did that today," said Latham, who led from the front with a century against Ireland as New Zealand continued their build-up to next month's Champions Trophy tournament in England. "You talk about each player doing their jobs and playing their role and everybody did that today and that was the most pleasing thing," said Latham who is filling in as skipper until Kane Williamson returns from the Indian Premier League. "We want to improve again against Bangladesh and give the selectors plenty to think about going into the Champions Trophy."

The first two New Zealand players back from the IPL, Matt Henry and Corey Anderson, played on Sunday with Henry the most successful bowler, taking three for 36 as Ireland were dismissed for just 154 in response to the Blackcaps' 344 for six. "It was nice to have the experienced guys back from the IPL and playing a part," added Latham.



DUBLIN: Bangladesh's Tamim Iqbal bats during the fourth ODI match of the Ireland Tri-Nation Series between Ireland and Bangladesh at the Malahide Cricket Club. —AFP

## BADMINTON: DANES BEAT INDIA IN SUDIRMAN CUP

**GOLD COAST:** Denmark overcame early resistance to beat India and make a successful start to their BWF Sudirman Cup badminton campaign on Australia's Gold Coast yesterday. India had the chance to win the opening mixed doubles but lost a three-game struggle before the Danes went on to win the Group 1 tie 4-1. "It was their experience that made the difference," India's Ashwini Ponnappa said. "We made some silly mistakes at the end. It was really close today." Ajay Jayaram had a 3-2 career record against Viktor Axelsen

going into their men's singles encounter, but the Dane was too strong in a 21-12 21-7 victory in just 27 minutes.

Hosts Australia overcame a setback in the men's singles to beat USA in their sub-group 2B tie, with Sagan Serasinghe and Setyana Mapasa winning both their matches. Serasinghe and Mapasa took the mixed doubles over Vinson Chiu/Jamie Subandhi, but the Americans levelled the score as Timothy Lam got the better of Anthony Joe, 21-14 21-18. Serasinghe and Chau

ensured the lead once again beating Kyle Emerick/Darren Yang in men's doubles before Wendy Chen got the third point for the hosts in women's singles against Jennie Lai. Mapasa returned with Gronya Somerville in the women's doubles to overcome Annie Xu/Kerry Xu, 21-15 21-18 to give the Australians a 4-1 win. Singapore, another prime contender for top honours in Group 2, eased past Austria 5-0 in sub-group 2B. Macau China also wrapped up their sub-group 3A tie against Guam without losing a match. —AFP

## GUARDIOLA WARNS MANCHESTER CITY 'DECADES BEHIND' EUROPE'S ELITE

**WATFORD:** Pep Guardiola insisted that Manchester City are "decades" behind Europe's largest clubs despite the 5-0 win away to injury-hit Watford that clinched Champions League qualification. The City manager was delighted with the result on the final day of the Premier League season for one of the richest clubs in world football, but former Barcelona and Bayern Munich head coach Guardiola said that wealth did not count as much as experience and status.

"When Real Madrid and Barcelona want one player other teams cannot compete," said the Spaniard. "It's not just money. It's Real and Barca. (Money) is not enough. To compete against them we need time, decades. For years this club (City) was not playing in Europe, and now we've been there seven years. But to achieve the next step, the gap is shorter but it's more difficult to compete head to head against the big clubs in Europe, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Juventus.

"Atletico Madrid made that step but even they could not win the Champions League even though they deserved to," Guardiola revealed that Sergio Aguero, who scored twice against Watford and could have had more, will remain at the Etihad Stadium next season, along with captain Vincent Kompany, who opened the scoring with a free header from a corner. Despite his misgivings about City's chances against the top clubs in Europe next season, the manager was relieved to have secured third place in the Premier League and so avoided a qualifying round.

### 'NO SECOND CHANCE'

"It was in our hands, not depending on anything, and Watford had trouble in defense, a lot of injuries, but always when you play for something on the last week-

end of the season it is complicated, there is always pressure, there is no second chance," said Guardiola. "But we showed many good things and we are so happy," added the manager whose initial campaign in England ended without a trophy.

Guardiola said his first season in the Premier League, "was what I expected." "Big, big teams, we knew it wouldn't be easy. Knowing Chelsea play one game a week, how strong they are. Tottenham were second and one of the best teams of the world playing football. The gap is like this, we were not good enough but we want to play better next season to reduce that gap and fight to the end.

"In terms of how many times Man City have been in Europe, we cannot compare against Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal or Chelsea. "Every year qualifying for the Champions League will be tougher and tougher, and we are there." "We are satisfied because we are in the Champions League. Tomorrow we will think about what to do next season and the pressure will be the same, to try to win. And if it's not possible to improve, to try to find out why and make changes."

Watford manager Walter Mazzarri left the club after six successive defeats, their worst run for 44 years, but he cited injuries as the reason. "While we had a complete squad we were fighting for seventh place, reached 40 points and were 10th. But today we had absolutely no defenders, I would like to see which team could do better," he said. "I gave everything and with such a difficult situation a less experienced manager would have done worse. We were safe with six games left. It's another objective in my career. "I'm experienced enough to know you cannot have 20,000 people on your side. I know the majority understood what was going on." —AFP



**BARCELONA:** Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi gestures after missing a goal opportunity during the Spanish league football match FC Barcelona vs SD Eibar at the Camp Nou stadium. — AFP

# BARCELONA: THE SPANISH LEAGUE THAT GOT AWAY

**BARCELONA:** For Barcelona, this season's Spanish league title will go down as the one that got away. A league-high 116 goals scored, four fewer goals conceded than champion Real Madrid, and the competitions' top two scorers in Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez should have been enough to win the title for the third straight year. But the statistics didn't mean much in the end because those great numbers and Messi's continued excellence couldn't compensate for costly losses to underdog sides and the subpar contribution of Barcelona's role players. The Catalan club rallied from two goals down to beat Eibar 4-2 on Sunday at Camp Nou, but Madrid won 2-0 at Malaga to finish three points ahead. Here's a look at Messi's season and how his team let him down:

### ALL FOR NAUGHT

Messi did his part, and then some. At 29 years old, Messi had another superb individual season worthy of the player widely considered to be the best in the world. The club's all-time top scorer broke the 50-goal barrier for the fifth time in his career, scoring a league-high 37 goals to go with 16 in other competitions. Beyond the goals, he was the team's best playmaker, showing his unequalled sense of knowing when to fall back into midfield to pass, and when he needed to take it straight at the defense. Messi added another memorable

match to his archive by upstaging Cristiano Ronaldo in a thrilling 3-2 victory at Madrid in April, when he scored a brilliant equalizer to make it 1-1 before snatching the victory with a stoppage-time goal to stun the crowd at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

### SLOW START

Barcelona only won three of its first seven home matches, digging itself a hole that it could never recover from. But of its four losses this season, the one it will rue the most was a perplexing 2-1 defeat to promoted Alaves back in September at the Camp Nou. That stumble proved to be the only home loss of the season, and those three points ended up making the difference.

### IRREPLACEABLE INIESTA

Barcelona coach Luis Enrique had the plan to not overwork Andres Iniesta, who was entering his 15th season at the age of 32. So last off-season, the club brought in reinforcements Andre Gomes and Denis Suarez to help Sergi Busquets, Ivan Rakitic, Rafinha and Arda Turan give Iniesta time off. Those extra options let Iniesta play only the important games, and start in just 13 of 38 matches. But the plan backfired when his substitutes failed to come even close to replicating his passing and playmaking skills. That meant Barcelona lost its signature dominance in midfield, leaving its

defense exposed to too many counterattacks while Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar waited too long to get the ball.

### MISSED OPPORTUNITY

If there is one date when Barcelona had the perfect chance to catch Madrid and take control of the title race it was April 8. Madrid stumbled at home against cross town rival Atletico Madrid, which earned a 1-1 draw on a late goal by Antoine Griezmann. That opened the door for Barcelona to move in front if it could win at Malaga hours later. Instead, Barcelona self-destructed, falling 2-0 after Neymar was sent off for two senseless yellow cards.

### TIRED COACH

A coach who says he is tired of managing is not the ideal candidate to rally the troops. Luis Enrique even admitted he was burned out midway through the season. The former Barcelona midfielder will leave the club following three seasons that can only be judged as very successful despite his team's dip in form during his last year. Under Luis Enrique, Barcelona has won the Champions League, the Club World Cup, two Spanish leagues and a pair of Copa del Rey titles. It will have a chance for a third Copa del Rey when it plays Alaves in the final on Saturday in Luis Enrique's last match. — AP

## MAN UNITED'S SEASON HINGES ON WINNING EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL

**MANCHESTER:** Losing the Europa League final is a prospect that doesn't bear thinking about at Manchester United. Not for the players, who would face another season out of the prestigious Champions League the bonus prize for winning Europe's second-tier competition - not to mention the pain of defeat in a high-profile title match.

Not for the club's owners, who would be hit with a big reduction in sponsorship money and, potentially, prize money from European competition next season. And not for its famous manager, whose first year at United would be widely viewed as a failure. "This game," United striker Marcus Rashford said, "is our season." So much hinges on the match against Ajax in Stockholm on Wednesday that United's players and their manager, Jose Mourinho, have to be feeling the pressure heading to the Swedish capital.

United even gave up on its Premier League campaign with a few weeks remaining to give its full focus to the Europa League. For England's biggest club, it's time to deliver. In a year of highs and lows under Mourinho, United has won the League Cup to claim a trophy for the second straight season but finished in a disappointing sixth place in the Premier League. Missing a top-four finish - for the third time in four years - meant United failed to earn a qualification spot for next season's Champions League, the minimum requirement for Mourinho and the club's American owners. The only way to achieve that now is by winning the Europa League, which has become a more attractive competition since 2015 when the rules changed to offer the winner an automatic spot in the group stage of the Champions League. And that's where United, a 20-time English champion and three-time winner of the European Cup, feels it belongs: on the game's biggest stage. Not slumping it with the continent's also-rans in the Europa League.

### IMMEDIATE SUCCESS

Mourinho was hired last year to bring immediate success to United. For all his perceived downsides - a cautious, pragmatic style on the field and a confrontational, fight-picking approach off it - he has been

a rapid hoarder of trophies throughout his coaching career. Two cups and Champions League qualification would amount to a successful first season at United. One trophy and no Champions League would be a huge let-down.

"It makes sense to say it," Mourinho said, when this point of view was put to him, "but I don't feel like that. I don't want the players to feel like that. I don't think the board feels like that." That's because, in Mourinho's opinion, United has made progress this season, recovering some of its aura of old, only for a mixture of injuries and a gruelling schedule to set the team back. The last two months have been hard going, with a game every three or four days as a consequence of United going deep in every competition it entered.

The game against Ajax will be United's 64th of the season. Mourinho has cut a grumpy figure of late, carrying an air of negativity toward the media for some of its criticism of recent performances and clearly dismayed by his team's injury problems that will deprive him of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, in particular, for the final. Mourinho might also be weighed down by the enormity of the occasion. Rightly or wrongly, this is a defining game for him and the club.

"That's in a lot of people's minds," United defender Daley Blind said of the pressure of achieving Champions League qualification, "but, for us, the most important thing is to lift that trophy. Thinking only about Champions League is not enough." Looking purely in financial terms, United would see a 30 percent reduction in the value of its 10-year jersey deal with Adidas - and equivalent of 21 million pounds (\$27 million) - if the team doesn't qualify for the Champions League for the second straight season.

In soccer terms, another season in the energy-sapping Europa League is hardly ideal if United plans a genuine shot at the Premier League title. No Champions League might even stop some of its biggest transfer targets, like Antoine Griezmann, coming to Old Trafford next season. Then there's the fact that the Europa League - or its predecessor, the UEFA Cup - is the only major trophy missing from United's resume. Ninety minutes can change all that. — AP

## MACLAREN RECALLED FOR CRUNCH SAUDI QUALIFIER

**MELBOURNE:** Australia coach Ange Postecoglou has recalled Germany-bound striker Jamie Maclaren in a preliminary 30-man squad for the Socceroos' crunch World Cup qualifier against Saudi Arabia and the Confederations Cup in Russia. The former Brisbane Roar forward won Australia's 'Golden Boot' with Melbourne Victory's Besart Berisha after scoring 19 goals in the domestic A-League's regular season, and is back in the frame after missing the previous two qualifiers against Iraq and United Arab Emirates.

The 23-year-old, who has signed for Darmstadt in Germany's second division, joins veteran striker Tim Cahill and Tomi Juric in the squad, as Postecoglou looks for more firepower to help secure a fourth successive World Cup appearance. "He gets an opportunity I guess, certainly his back half of the year was very strong and scored goals," Postecoglou said of Maclaren, who has been capped twice for Australia after representing Scotland at youth level. "We're certainly going to need some depth in all areas. It's going to be a challenging month."

Australia ended a run of four successive draws with their 2-0 win over the UAE in Sydney in March but sit third in Group B of Asian qualifying, three points behind Japan and Saudi Arabia. Only the top two teams qualify automatically for Russia, with the third-placed team going into a playoff. Australia host Saudi Arabia in Adelaide on June 8 before heading to Japan in August and returning home for the last qualifier against Thailand in September.

Postecoglou has included six uncapped players, including Portugal-based defender Dylan McGowan, the younger brother of Socceroos regular Ryan McGowan, and 20-year-old Netherlands-based winger Ajdin Hrustic. "Ajdin's been on our radar for a while and this year he's had a bit of a breakthrough in Holland and did very well at the under-23 camp," said Postecoglou. "He's technically very good and one we think would benefit from being in that environment." Midfielder Tom Rogic returns from injury after winning another Scottish championship with Celtic but former stalwart defender Rhys Williams has been cut. The squad, which will be trimmed to 23 next week, will also play Brazil in a friendly in Melbourne on June 13 before heading to Russia for the June 19-July 12 Confederations Cup where Australia have been drawn with Germany, Chile and Cameroon in Group B. —Reuters



**AMSTERDAM:** Ajax's Dutch midfielder Daley Sinkgraven (L) and assistant manager Dennis Bergkamp speak during a training session. — AFP

## AJAX TEAM AIMS TO RELIVE PAST GLORIES IN EUROPA

**AMSTERDAM:** A year ago, Ajax could dominate possession but struggled to stamp its authority on quality opponents. After one season in charge, coach Peter Bosz has transformed the long-dormant Dutch powerhouse into a dynamic team of young players who swarm forward in attack and are just as aggressive in defense. What has he changed to achieve the turnaround?

"Almost everything," Bosz said ahead of his team's Europa League final against Manchester United in Stockholm on Wednesday. "When I started, I knew how to play, but I didn't know with which players," Bosz said. "Now the players understand exactly what I mean - pressing, high pressing and high ball tempo, how we build up from behind, these kinds of things." That philosophy is hardly new to Ajax. It's the swift-passing style of play that won the Amsterdam club three straight European Cups in the early 1970s and the Champions League in 1995.

But since its 1-0 victory over AC Milan in Vienna 22 years ago, and a loss on penalties against Juventus in the Champions League final the following year, Ajax has been largely left behind by free-spending European powers. Bosz believes his team's trip to Stockholm to play Manchester United is proof clubs with limited budgets but talented young players can still have an impact, at least in Europe's second-tier club competition.

### TALENTED STARS

"For a long time people in Holland said it's not possible for a Dutch team to play any finals anymore because the financial difference between the big clubs in Europe and the Dutch clubs is so big now," he said. "But we've made it." Ajax, runner-up to Feyenoord in the Dutch league this season, is back in a European final thanks to its renowned youth program, which has for decades churned out talented stars, and the club's knack for scouting stars of the future.

Amsterdam was the first overseas stop for Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who will miss the final in his home country because of injury. Ajax has uncovered another Scandinavian star in Kasper Dolberg, the 19-year-old striker who already has six goals in the Europa League this season and whose cool finishing has earned comparisons to Marco van Basten. Dolberg scored a goal in each leg of Ajax's semifinal victory over Lyon.

Partnering Dolberg up front will be 21-year-old Burkina Faso forward Bertrand Traore, who is on loan from Chelsea and set to again run into the manager who lured him to London - Jose Mourinho. "He gave me so many chances to stay in Chelsea. I am excited to meet him again," Traore said. Ajax's mix of home-grown talent and bargain basement - by current European standards - signings is also familiar. —AFP



**MANCHESTER:** In this Thursday, May 11, 2017 file photo, Manchester United's manager Jose Mourinho celebrates after the end of the Europa League semifinal second leg soccer match between Manchester United and Celta Vigo at Old Trafford. — AP

# A look back on the 2016-17 EPL season

## THE TEAM OF THE SEASON

AFP Sport's London football reporters pick the team of the Premier League season, deployed in the 3-4-3 formation used so successfully by champions Chelsea:

**DAVID DE GEA (MANCHESTER UNITED)**  
In a season when United's Achilles heel has been their failures in front of goal, keeping the opposition out at the other end has been more crucial than ever. Fortunately for United manager Jose Mourinho, he has a goalkeeper who remains the gold standard in the top flight.

**CESAR AZPILICUETA (CHELSEA)**  
Converted from right-back to one of Chelsea's three central defensive anchors, the 27-year-old has been a model of consistency for the champions. Azpilicueta's clever reading of the game never lets him down and he is also comfortable in possession.

**DAVID LUIZ (CHELSEA)**  
During Luiz's previous stint at Chelsea, former Manchester United captain Gary Neville opined that the Brazilian played like he was being "controlled by a 10-year-old on a PlayStation". Yet Luiz has enjoyed sweet redemption on his return to Stamford Bridge this season, performing with such steel and style that Neville now say he fits "perfectly" into Antonio Conte's defence.

**TOBY ALDERWEIRELD (TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR)**  
Possessing the strength and aerial prowess to cope in the rough and tumble Premier League, Alderweireld also has the football intelligence required to thrive in Tottenham's fluid formation. His value was clear to see last month when the club reportedly offered to double their Belgian defender's wages in a bid to fend off interest from Europe's leading teams.

**VICTOR MOSES (CHELSEA)**  
When the Nigerian turned up for pre-season training at the start of the Conte era, it seemed only a matter of time before he was sent packing from Chelsea once and for all. But despite spending most of his five-year Chelsea career on loan elsewhere, Moses became one of the season's most pleasant surprises as Conte turned the inconsistent winger into a powerful presence at right wing-back.



LONDON: Chelsea's French midfielder N'Golo Kante poses with the English Premier League trophy, as players celebrate their league title win at the end of the Premier League football match between Chelsea and Sunderland at Stamford Bridge. — AFP

**N'GOLO KANTE (CHELSEA)**  
An unassuming figure on and off the field, Kante's performances once again did the talking for him as he scooped up a host of awards. After playing a major part in Leicester City's title triumph 12 months ago, Kante's peerless play in the midfield holding role helped transform Chelsea from a rudderless shambles to worthy champions.

**DELE ALLI (TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR)**  
Alli was named Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Young Player of the Year for the second consecutive campaign as the 21-year-old continues to develop into a midfielder of genuine guile and grace. Combining an eye for goal with clever movement and deft passing, Alli is now the fulcrum of one of Europe's most vibrant teams.

**MARCOS ALONSO (CHELSEA)**  
When Alonso was signed for 23 million (\$30 million, 27.7 million euros) from Fiorentina just before the transfer deadline, many pundits dismissed the former Bolton Wanderers defender as a panic buy. But just months later, the Spaniard has silenced the critics and cemented his place as Chelsea's left wing-back.

**ALEXIS SANCHEZ (ARSENAL)**  
Almost single-handedly, the Chile forward has kept spluttering Arsenal from completely imploding during a trying year for the player and his club. Despite stalling over a new contract, Sanchez has been unstoppable at times, scoring 24 goals while also hitting double figures with his assists.

**HARRY KANE (TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR)**  
Having become only the fourth player to score at least 20 goals in three consecutive Premier League seasons, the England striker is rapidly emerging as one of the world's top finishers. His goals helped Tottenham finish above Arsenal for the first time in 22 years and although they missed out on the title, Kane's star is on the rise.

**EDEN HAZARD (CHELSEA)**  
He may have missed out on the individual awards to Kante, but Hazard's return to form was just as significant in Chelsea's title triumph. After struggling for much of the previous season, the Belgian playmaker's bewitching skills and cool finishing were on display as he was revitalized by Blues boss Conte. —AFP



LONDON: Arsenal's Welsh midfielder Aaron Ramsey (R) celebrates with teammates after scoring their third goal during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Everton at the Emirates Stadium. — AFP

## THE FIVE BEST MATCHES

### ARSENAL 3 LIVERPOOL 4 (AUGUST 14)

Kicking off the season in style, Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool left Arsenal with what would become a familiar sinking feeling. Theo Walcott fired Arsenal ahead moments after missing a penalty. But Philippe Coutinho equalised with a brilliant free-kick before Adam Lallana put Liverpool in front after the break. Coutinho poked in his second and Sadio Mane slammed home after a brilliant run, before Arsenal's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain scored a fine solo goal and Calum Chambers headed in to set up a tense finale as Liverpool held on.

### TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 3 WEST HAM UNITED 2 (NOVEMBER 19)

Tottenham maintained their unbeaten start to the league season in sensational fashion as Harry Kane struck twice in the final moments of a classic London derby at White Hart Lane. Michail Antonio's first-half header for West Ham was cancelled out by a Harry Winks goal on his full league debut for Tottenham. A Manuel Lanzini penalty put West Ham back in front, but Kane's late show turned the contest on its head. In the 89th minute, the Tottenham star converted Son Heung-Min's cross and two minutes later the South Korean was brought down in the area by Havard Nordtveit and Kane tucked away the resulting spot-kick. Kane's heroics meant Mauricio Pochettino's team were 12 games unbeaten—the first time they managed that since the 1960-61 season.

### CHELSEA 2 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1 (NOVEMBER 26)

Chelsea returned to the top of the table and delivered a crucial blow en route to the title as they came from behind to inflict Tottenham's first Premier

League defeat this season. Christian Eriksen's superb strike gave the visitors a flying start, but Pedro curled in a spectacular effort to draw Chelsea level. Spurs' miserable record at Stamford Bridge was extended to 30 games without a win after Victor Moses scored the winner six minutes into the second half.

### MANCHESTER CITY 1 CHELSEA 3 (DECEMBER 3)

Chelsea's eighth successive league win cemented their place at the top of the table and sparked a furious response from City as Sergio Aguero and Fernando were sent off in a spiteful finish. Chelsea trailed to Gary Cahill's own goal on the stroke of half-time, but Diego Costa equalised and Willian came off the bench to put Chelsea ahead. Eden Hazard's strike completed a significant statement of intent from the champions elect.

### BOURNEMOUTH 4 LIVERPOOL 3 (DECEMBER 4)

Bournemouth staged the comeback of the season as they recovered from 3-1 down to rock Liverpool with three goals in the last 14 minutes at Dean Court. Sadio Mane and Divock Origi scored to put Liverpool in control, but the second-half introduction of Bournemouth winger Ryan Fraser was the turning point. Fraser quickly won a penalty that was converted by Callum Wilson. Emre Can restored Liverpool's two-goal advantage, but Fraser gave Bournemouth hope with his first Premier League goal and Steve Cook equalized two minutes later. The drama was not over and in the third minute of stoppage time, Loris Karius spilled Cook's shot and Nathan Ake slotted home. — AFP

### DIMITRI PAYET (WEST HAM UNITED 1-1 MIDDLESBROUGH)

Payet became a pariah at West Ham after forcing through a move to his former club Marseille in January, but he left the club's fans with one last shimmering memory of his talent. With West Ham trailing 1-0 at home to Middlesbrough in October, Payet picked the ball up wide on the left and span around Antonio Barragan. He drove into the box, cut inside Marten de Roon, threw Calum Chambers with a step-over and forged past Ben Gibson and the sliding George Friend before easing a shot into the bottom-left corner.

### HENRIKH MKHITARYAN (MANCHESTER UNITED 3-0 SUNDERLAND)

Mkhitaryan made a slow start to his United career, but he was well on his way to becoming a fan favorite by the time he scored with a dazzlingly innovative volley against Sunderland in December. Zlatan Ibrahimovic's cross from the right arrived just behind the Armenian as he moved towards the near post. But he adjusted brilliantly, throwing himself to the ground and using his right heel to ping the ball inside the far post. To the chagrin of United's rivals, the goal was allowed to stand despite a clear offside.

### OLIVIER GIROUD (ARSENAL 2-0 CRYSTAL PALACE)

You wait ages for a bus and then two come along at once. Just six days after Mkhitaryan's 'scorpion kick' at Old Trafford, Giroud scored one of his own against Palace at the Emirates Stadium. This time, the build-up was even better. Giroud was involved early on, cleverly back-heel-

## THE FIVE BEST GOALS



Henrikh Mkhitaryan

ing Hector Bellerin's pass into the path of Granit Xhaka, who helped it on to Alex Iwobi. Iwobi played it down the left flank to Alexis Sanchez, who cut inside and crossed. Giroud had got ahead of the ball, but he juttied out his left heel and hooked a volley over his own head, over the despairing dive of Wayne Hennessey and into the net via the underside of the crossbar. "Oh my gosh," said Gary Neville on Sky Sports' commentary. "What is that?!"

### ANDY CARROLL (WEST HAM UNITED 2-0 CRYSTAL PALACE)

Maligned by home and away fans alike, West Ham's London Stadium nonetheless provided the scene for two of the season's outstanding goals. Palace number one Hennessey was again

the hapless goalkeeper as Carroll netted a textbook scissors kick in a 2-0 win in mid-January. Michail Antonio picked him out with a cross from the left and the giant striker launched himself into a sublime mid-air bicycle kick that sent the ball crashing into the top-right corner.

### EMRE CAN (WATFORD 0-1 LIVERPOOL)

A forgettable early May encounter at Vicarage Road was illuminated by a jaw-dropping piece of athleticism from Liverpool's German midfielder Can. Lucas Leiva floated a pass into the box from deep and with Nordin Amrabat standing off, Can produced a magnificent scissors kick from 15 yards out that catapulted the ball past Heurelho Gomes. Can described it as "the best goal I've ever scored". — AFP

## CONTE IN THE CROSSHAIRS FOR ENGLAND'S MIGHTY MANAGERS

LONDON: Left in the starting blocks by Chelsea's Antonio Conte this season, the Premier League's all-star cast of super managers will be desperate to hit the ground running in 2017-18. The 2016-17 title race was billed in some quarters as a shootout between Pep Guardiola's Manchester City and Jose Mourinho's Manchester United, with Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool and Arsene Wenger's Arsenal heading the chasing pack. Instead it was Chelsea who shot to the front, closely pursued by Mauricio Pochettino's enterprising Tottenham Hotspur, leaving Conte as the man who must be toppled.

"He is going to have the two Manchester clubs, who are going to be throwing 300 million (\$390 million, 350 million euros) to 400 million at it between them," predicts former United captain Gary Neville, the Sky Sports pundit. "They are hurting and they are under significant pressure next season to deliver. And if they don't deliver there's going to be a big problem."

Having brought the smiles back to Stamford Bridge following the emotionally sapping final months of Mourinho's tenure as Chelsea manager, Conte's next challenge is to equip his squad for a return to the Champions League. Chelsea benefited from having no European distractions, allowing Conte to lean heavily on a very tight group of first-team players, and adding depth to his squad is now of fundamental importance. "With the right

additions and a little bit of time, Chelsea can really challenge for (the Champions League), but next season it is going to be a huge burden on them," former Chelsea goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer told the BBC.

After his City side lost to Monaco in the Champions League last 16 and fell by the wayside in the two domestic cups, Guardiola achieved his minimum objective of securing a place in next season's Champions League. City dazzled at times, but were also made to look remarkably vulnerable, notably in one-sided defeats at outgoing champions Leicester City (4-2) and Everton (4-0).

Guardiola seems content with his attacking set-up, particularly since the January arrival of Gabriel Jesus, but in defence and in goal, where Claudio Bravo vanished after arriving to replace Joe Hart, work is needed. United won the League Cup, defeating Southampton in the final, and are favourites to beat Ajax in Wednesday's Europa League final, which will yield a berth in the Champions League.

But while Mourinho has brought a bit of belief back to Old Trafford, United have looked desperately short in attack, their failure to secure a top-four place the legacy of a league-high 15 drawn games. Wenger has endured his most difficult season at Arsenal, one which divided the club's support and ended without the promise of Champions League football for the first time in 20 years.—AFP

## BUNDESLIGA'S KING OF GOALS AUBAMEYANG IN DEMAND

PARIS: Gabon star Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was pondering his future Monday after finishing the German Bundesliga season as leading scorer with 31 goals. Reports have linked the Borussia Dortmund striker and 2015 African Footballer of the Year with Chinese club Tianjin Quanjian, Paris Saint-Germain and AC Milan. Ghanaian brothers Andre and Jordan Ayew scored for their English Premier League clubs, as did Kenyan Victor Wanyama.

### GERMANY PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (Borussia Dortmund)

The Gabon hot-shot kept his future open after being crowned the German league's top-scorer as his double in Dortmund's 4-3 win over Werder Bremen left him on 31 goals—one more than rival Robert Lewandowski. Aubameyang, 27, followed up a brilliant first-half volley by converting an 89th-minute penalty for Dortmund's fourth goal to seal an automatic Champions League place next season. Although under contract until 2020, Aubameyang says he will decide his future after talks with the club following Saturday's German Cup final. He reportedly has offers from China's Tianjin Quanjian, where it is said he could earn around \$560,000 (500,000 euros) a week, Paris Saint-Germain and AC Milan.

### ENGLAND VICTOR WANYAMA (Tottenham)

Kenya midfield enforcer Wanyama has been a diamond for Tottenham this season and with the pressure off in the final two matches he has been able to show more of his creative side. The

25-year-old deservedly got on the scoresheet with a header in a 7-1 thrashing of Hull City.

### JORDAN AYEWE (Swansea)

The stylish Ghana striker got his first goal for the club to level affairs with West Brom at 1-1 with a header at the far post before they confirmed they were one of the form teams in the closing stages of the season going by going on to win 2-1. He should be an integral part of the team next season having only had half a campaign with them since moving from Aston Villa in the January transfer window.

### ANDRE AYEWE (West Ham)

Former Swansea star and older brother of Jordan, Andre Ayew ended on a high note in a season that started with a devastating injury just 35 minutes into his first appearance for the Hammers. He set up Algeria winger Sofiane Feghouli for the equaliser against Burnley and then scored with a close-range header to seal a 2-1 win. It took his total to six for the season.

### YAYA TOURE (Manchester City)

The Ivory Coast midfielder capped a roller-coaster season by earning Pep Guardiola's praise as his dominant display inspired City's 5-0 thrashing of Watford. Needing a point to qualify for the Champions League, it was Toure who rose to the occasion at the end of a season that had started with the former Barcelona frozen out by Guardiola following a row between the City boss and the Ivorian's agent. By the time Toure came off in the 63rd minute at Vicarage Road, City were five goals up and Guardiola was quick

to salute the 34-year-old. "I said thank you to Yaya Toure. He has played amazing and especially when we were in trouble in games."

### ITALY MOHAMED SALAH (Roma)

Roma's 5-3 win at Chievo kept the capital club firmly in contention for a second-place finish and direct entry to the Champions League—and Salah was the inspiration. A typically incisive performance from the Egypt front man saw him add to Stephan El Shaarawy's 28th-minute opener on the stroke of half-time to bring the scores level at 2-2 by the break. Salah scored again to give Roma a 4-2 lead on 76 minutes.

### KEITA BALDE (Lazio)

Balde fired an 18th-minute penalty past Inter Milan goalkeeper Samir Handanovic but despite an otherwise positive performance from the pacy Senegal striker, he was partly to blame as nine-man Lazio suffered a 3-1 defeat in their final home game of the season. Balde was cautioned on the hour and when booked for simulation five minutes later, saw red.

### FRANCE YOUNOUSSE SANKHARE (Bordeaux)

The Senegalese midfielder headed in a cross to give Bordeaux a seventh-minute lead at Lorient as they sought to overhaul Marseille in fifth place. But Vincent Le Goff's second-half equaliser earned Lorient a 1-1 draw to send them into a relegation play-off with Troyes and leave Bordeaux needing PSG to beat Angers in the French Cup final in order to qualify for Europe. — AFP

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JOHNSON KEY TO MUMBAI'S IPL SUCCESS, SAYS SHARMA

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CLEVELAND: Marcus Smart #36 of the Boston Celtics fouls Iman Shumpert #4 of the Cleveland Cavaliers in the second half during Game Three of the 2017 NBA Eastern Conference Finals at Quicken Loans Arena. — AFP

## LAST-SECOND SHOT STUNS CAVS 111-108

**CLEVELAND:** Leprechauns are imaginary. Celtic pride is very real. Avery Bradley's 3-pointer danced on the rim and dropped with less than a second left and Boston, blown out in the first two games of the Eastern Conference finals and playing without star Isaiah Thomas, stunned the Cleveland Cavaliers 111-108 on Sunday night in Game 3 to end the champions' 13-game postseason winning streak. Bradley's shot from the left wing - off a play designed by coach Brad Stevens - bounced on the rim four times before going down. It capped a furious, focused comeback by the Celtics, who trailed by 21 in the third quarter before rallying to tighten up a series that appeared to be over. "We have guys who have chips on their shoulders," Boston coach Brad Stevens said. "We knew that Friday (Game 2) was a disaster. It wasn't worth all four. It was worth one. So we got back together."

Smart, who started in place of Thomas, made seven 3-pointers and scored 27 points, and Bradley had 20 for the Celtics, who were given little chance after losing by 44 in Game 2 and then losing Thomas for the rest of the postseason

because of a hip injury.

"Everybody had to step up their game tonight especially with one of our brothers down," Smart said. "Our love and support goes out to Isaiah. We wish he could be here but we understand. We just kept fighting. Everybody did their part." Kyrie Irving scored 29 points, and Kevin Love had 28 for Cleveland. The Cavaliers dropped to 10-1 in the postseason with their first loss since Game 4 of last year's Finals.

LeBron James had one of the worst games of his postseason career, finishing with 11 points and six turnovers. On his way to the postgame news conference, the superstar got into an exchange with a fan who heckled him about his rough night. "I didn't have it," said James. "You let a team like that grab momentum you almost knew a shot like that was going in."

Despite James' struggles, the Cavs led 77-56 in the third quarter after making 14 3-pointers in the first half. But Cleveland got complacent, Smart got hot and the Celtics, who arrived at Quicken Loans Arena on Sunday morning for their shootaround

without Thomas and looking somewhat defeated, never gave up. "We decided were going to go out and play hard, swinging," Bradley said. "We never counted ourselves out."

The Celtics tied the Cavs at 95-all on Smart's 3-pointer and then matched the James and Co. basket for basket in the final minutes in one of the most entertaining games of what has been a mostly boring postseason. Boston's Jonas Jerebko's baseline jumper put the Celtics ahead 108-106 with 30 seconds left before Irving scored on a drive to tie it with 10.7 seconds left. Following a timeout, the Celtics perfectly executed a play drawn up by Stevens and worked the ball to Bradley, who found himself open and then calmly knocked down a shot that goes straight into Celtics lore.

For Cleveland, the loss was a wake-up call on their march toward a possible third straight Finals and a seemingly inevitable rematch with Golden State. The Cavs had been playing a glorified game of H.O.R.S.E. with the Warriors, who are undefeated and can complete a sweep of San Antonio on

Monday night. "I'm kind of glad it happened the way it did," James said. "We have to play a lot better. I feel some adversity is part of the postseason. If it's going to happen, let it happen now. Let's regroup and get back to playing desperate basketball, which they did tonight. We've got to be a lot better for sure."

### STREAK OVER

James' run of scoring at least 30 points ended at eight straight playoff games. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar did it nine straight times in 1970. James helped Boston's comeback by going 0 for 6 and scoring just one point in the final 18 minutes.

### FLOP HOUSE

Jerebko took exception to being called for a foul when Love hit the floor after the two got tangled up in the fourth quarter. "I thought he flopped," Jerebko said. "I don't like people flopping. I don't flop. I had to tell him. He kind of laughed. He knew he flopped. He's a great player, but stand up. Don't flop. That's my motto at least."

### TIP-INS

**Celtics:** Stevens said Thomas will visit hip specialists over the next few days and may need surgery. ... Stevens didn't review much of the Game 2 tape, but there's a mental image in his head of the Cavs making tough shot after tough shot. "As good as they are and they are tremendous, that might have been the best game I've ever seen a team play against us," he said. Does that mean college too? "Yeah, I think they would have beaten all those teams, too," he said, drawing laughter.

**Cavaliers:** James needs 62 points to pass Michael Jordan as the top scorer in postseason history. ... Cavs coach Tyrone Lue was an assistant in Boston and said his team reminds him of those Celtics teams with Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Rajon Rondo. "That was a tight group," he said. "They did everything together, dinners and everything." ... Browns defensive end Myles Garrett, the No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft, and fellow rookie Jabrill Peppers took a few shots on the floor before the teams came out for warmups. — AP

## NONSTOP CELEBRATIONS FOR REAL AFTER WIN

**MADRID:** Real Madrid's title celebrations show no sign of abating. The Spanish champions celebrated through the night after winning their 33rd league title on Sunday, and continued the festivities yesterday by meeting with local officials and fans at some of the city's iconic sites. The players arrived in Madrid at about 2:30 am (0030 GMT) and went to meet the estimated 50,000 fans who had been waiting since the end of team's match in the southern coastal city of Malaga.

Madrid won 2-0 to finish three points ahead of Barcelona. Players went to the club's traditional celebration spot, the Plaza de Cibeles, on top of an open bus which carried the No. 33 and the words "champions" and "thank you madridistas," which is what the team's fans are called. Fans chanted the club's songs and anthem, and provoked rivals Atletico Madrid and Barcelona. Defender Gerard Pique, the outspoken defender for the Catalan team, was their main target throughout the night. Even some of the players took shots at Pique, who recently accused Madrid of being benefitted by referees.

Team captain Sergio Ramos took the walkway set up over the plaza's fountain and draped the statue of the goddess Cibeles with a Spain flag that carried Madrid's name on it. Veteran defender Marcelo then put a team scarf around the goddess' head to a huge ovation from the crowd as confetti blasted into the air behind the players. The song "We Are The Champions" was played the whole time. Ramos, who last year also draped the Cibeles goddess with a flag after Madrid won the Champions League title, recorded the moment on his cell phone and shared it with the fans.

### 'WE HAVEN'T SLEPT'

Players also talked to the crowd, with Cristiano Ronaldo, who scored one of the goals against Malaga, singing one of the traditional songs fans chant during Madrid matches. Many of the team's supporters stayed at the plaza long after the squad had left. "We haven't slept a lot," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said later yesterday before the squad met with the capital city's mayor and the regional president, giving them shirts autographed by all the players.

"We knew that the fans wanted this title," Madrid club president Florentino Perez said.

"And we did it thanks to this amazing group. We had a formidable season, overcoming all the obstacles." The team ended the official celebrations by addressing thousands of fans at the Puerta del Sol square, one of the city's main locations. Players came out on a terrace to salute the crowd. "Thank you for being here with us," Ronaldo said. "This trophy is yours, for all the support that you have shown us. Now we go for the Champions League title and we will need you again."

Madrid will be trying to win its third Champions League title in four seasons in a final

against Juventus in Cardiff on June 3. It hadn't won the league since 2012, and the last time it went five consecutive seasons without lifting the trophy had been from 1981-85. "We worked hard for this and now we have to enjoy it," Madrid midfielder Mateo Kovacic said. "The fans have been with us from the start and they deserve to be celebrating." A victory over Juventus next month will give Madrid its first European Cup-Spanish league double in nearly six decades. "Now for the 12th (Champions League title)," said the words on the back of Madrid's bus as it left the Puerta del Sol. — AP



MADRID: Real Madrid team pose with the President of Madrid, Cristina Cifuentes at the Madrid Community headquarters during the celebrations after the team won the Spanish league football tournament. — AFP

## MOYES RESIGNS

**LONDON:** David Moyes has resigned as Sunderland manager following their relegation from the Premier League, the club announced yesterday. The 54-year-old Scot was appointed last July and oversaw a desperate season that saw Sunderland finish 16 points adrift of safety at the foot of the table. "I would like to thank (chairman) Ellis Short and the board for giving me the opportunity to manage Sunderland and the fans for always being so passionately supportive of their club," Moyes said in a statement. "I wish the players and my successor well in their efforts towards promotion back to the Premier League."

Sunderland's relegation after 10 years in the top flight was confirmed following a 1-0 home defeat by Bournemouth last month. Moyes's departure completes a sorry few weeks for the former Everton manager, who has been charged by the Football Association after jokingly threatening to "slap" a female reporter. It is his third successive short-lived stint at a club, following previous disappointments at Manchester United, where he lasted just 10 months, and Real Sociedad.

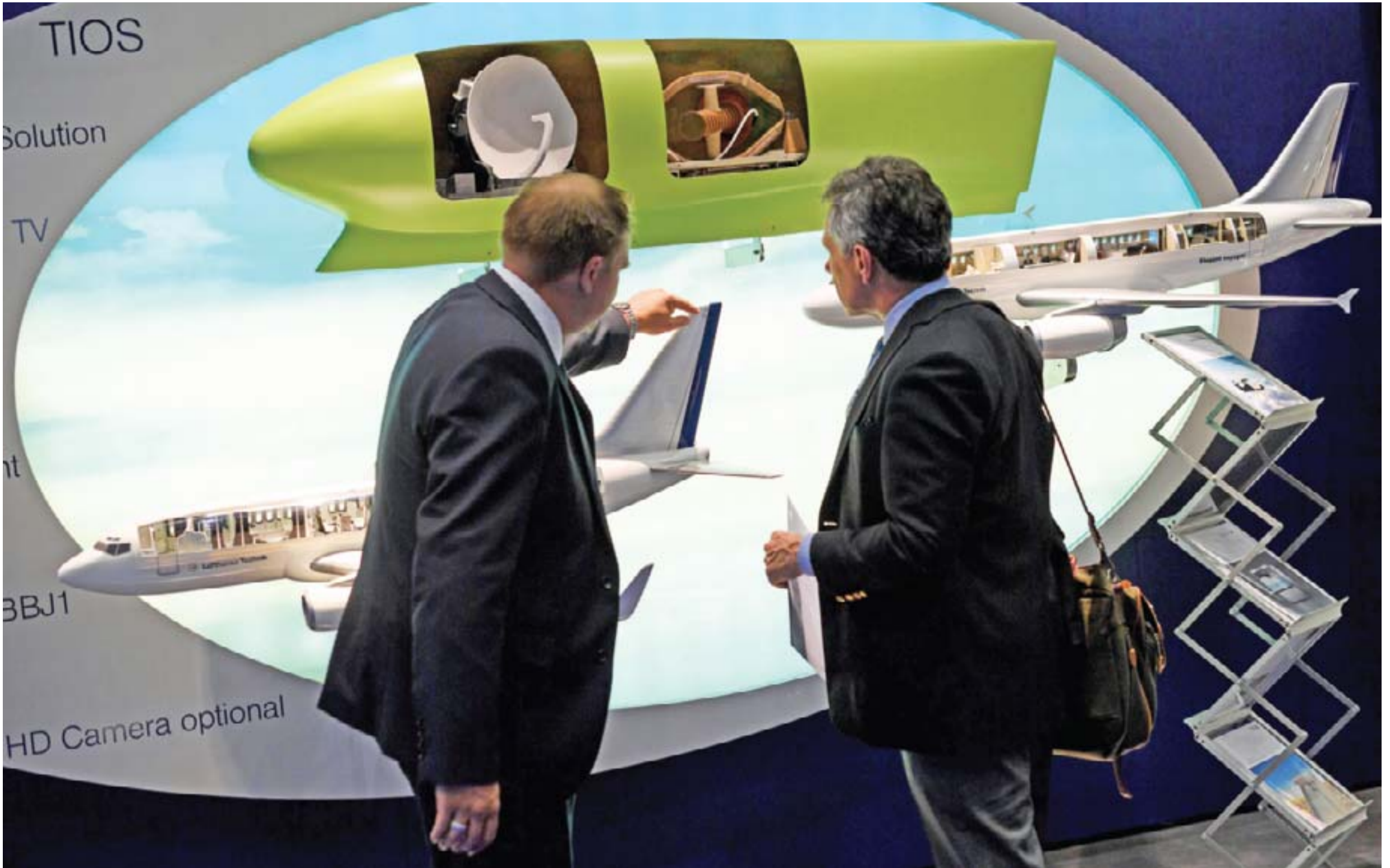
"I pursued the services of David Moyes for a considerable period prior to his appointment last summer, which makes the announcement of his departure difficult for everyone concerned," said Sunderland chairman Ellis Short. "Having worked tirelessly throughout the campaign to avoid relegation from the Premier League, David has chosen to leave the club without compensation, which is testament to his character." — AFP



David Moyes



KFH, KCB sign protocol  
 agreement for e-payments



GENEVA: Visitor look at aircraft models displayed at a stand of Lufthansa Technik group, a subsidiary of German airline company Lufthansa, during the European Business Aviation Convention and Exhibition (EBACE) yesterday at the Palexpo fairground, adjacent to Geneva-Cointrin International Airport. The event runs until May 24, 2017. — AFP

# BUSINESS AIR TRAVEL TAXYING TO TAKE OFF

EXECUTIVES BEING LURED WITH ONBOARD CONNECTIVITY, SUPER-COMFY SEATS

**GENEVA:** The business aviation sector, in the doldrums for nearly a decade, could be ready to take off again, as plane makers seek to lure company executives with onboard connectivity and super-comfy seats, experts say. The 2008 global financial crisis and subsequent geopolitical and economic woes sent the business air travel sector into a tailspin, particularly in countries with very high potential such as China, Russia and Brazil. Since then, any nascent hopes of a rebound have often proved to be a chimera. But for some industry players, gathered in the Swiss city of Geneva for the business aviation trade fair EBACE, "an improvement" or at least the tentative beginnings of one could be finally be taking shape.

"The market is improving. We had a very solid year for orders so far," said Scott Neal,

global sales director at US business jet maker Gulfstream Aerospace. "We see very good activity in the United States, in the Asia Pacific region. We also see very good activity in Europe, especially in western Europe," Neal told AFP.

Peter Likoray, sales director at rival manufacturer Bombardier, agreed. "I believe the market has recovered and to a certain extent it continues to do so. By far the number one is still North America, number two is Europe. In Asia, we have actually very strong demand and that makes me very happy," he said. The huge Chinese market for business aviation has so far been hampered by a lack of infrastructure and the global economic slowdown. But there are still some skeptical voices.

"Despite being a closely guarded secret, it is now understood that most manufacturer

backlogs are at near record lows—even lower than during the aftermath of 2008," said Dan Hall, an analyst at Flight Ascend Consultancy told the specialist website, Flightglobal.

### 'Flying offices'

French plane maker Dassault Aviation is expecting the market to rebound in 2018. "The market is still somewhat difficult, but things are slowly beginning to move a little," said Dassault Aviation chief Eric Trappier. "You can feel the tingle of anticipation in used aircraft," the prices and sales of which are starting to regain some altitude, the first tentative sign of an upturn, Trappier said.

Despite the continuing uncertainty, Dassault Aviation has, its chief said, some draft projects for a new plane. In the meantime, the challenge is to better satisfy a customer base

that is making longer and more numerous business flights.

Broadband internet allowing business executives to hold and take part in video conferences while up in the air has, for example, become imperative. "Increasingly, the airplane must be a flying office or a flying home," said Trappier. As early as this summer, Dassault Aviation will launch its first Falcon model equipped with broadband connection.

Brazilian maker Embraer will deliver its Lineage 1000 E with broadband connectivity at the start of next year and connected versions of Bombardier's Global 6000 and Global 7000 executive jets have been on the market for a year.

While companies and governments are remaining prudent about splashing out on big-ticket investments, there is in the sector "a

certain category of client who is ready to spend \$50-60 million" to buy a new plane in order to take advantage of new technologies or increased safety and security features, said Brandon Mitchener, director of the European Business Aviation Association.

He said he was more "optimistic" that the "historically cyclical" sector could be ready to take off again. For the first time since 2007, business air travel in Europe increased consistently over the past six months, he said, adding that growth reached 6.7 percent year-on-year in the first quarter.

Mitchener attributed growth to the improved economic situation in the United States and in Europe. But he also suggested growth could be boosted by the entry of companies into the sector that offer plane-sharing or plane rentals online and via apps. — AFP

## BERLIN, PARIS VOW TO SPEED UP EUROZONE INTEGRATION

**BERLIN:** Core EU powers France and Germany vowed yesterday to accelerate eurozone integration, with a new bilateral panel to work out ways to kickstart the reform process.

"We've been talking about progress in eurozone integration for years, but things are not moving fast enough," said France's new Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire in Berlin after talks with his German counterpart Wolfgang Schaeuble. "We have now decided to get things going more quickly and further in a very concrete manner," he said. Schaeuble agreed that "we are convinced that Germany and France must take a leading role" in strengthening the European Union in challenging times.

The new working group will look at how the currency bloc can better coordinate economic policies, harmonize its tax regime and find potential Franco-German investment projects, according to a joint statement. "Not only our compatriots in France and Germany but also others in the eurozone are expecting concrete proposals and concrete investments that can generate economic activity and jobs," said Le Maire. The bilateral panel will report to a joint ministerial meeting of the eurozone's two biggest players in July.

Le Maire and Schaeuble's meeting came a week after German Chancellor Angela Merkel hosted France's new President Emmanuel Macron and the two leaders vowed to give a new impetus to Europe.

Anti-EU sentiment has been rising in the bloc which has also suffered from the body blow of Britain's decision to quit the union.

Underlining the need to improve the EU's relevance to Europeans, Le Maire pointed to France's bitterly fought presidential election in which both the far-right and the far-left scored their highest margins since the end of World War II. "If we

don't succeed, then it will be those in the extremes who will succeed us," warned Le Maire, adding that "our compatriots will only judge us by our results."

### Brexit 'an opportunity'

Mindful that any election outcome in France would not only affect Europe's second biggest economy, but also have a pro-

found impact on the EU itself, Merkel and her government have pledged their support to help Macron succeed. At a talk in Berlin, Merkel reiterated her backing for Macron's "Republique En Marche" movement with an eye on legislative elections on June 11 and 18 in France.

"We know that there are many disappointed people who are on an anti-European track and that's why we need to help him and ensure that he really succeeds," said Merkel. Le Maire said France and Germany will now work towards getting the EU members on the same page in building a "big strong economy" that stands up to competition against China or the United States. This means improving competitiveness, lowering costs for companies, financing innovation, as well as improving capacity to better defend the eurozone's economic interest, he said. The French minister also urged the financial sector to seize the opportunity of Brexit to improve their attractiveness vis-a-vis their British counterparts. "With Brexit, we see the possibility for our financial companies to become more attractive than they were before," said Le Maire, adding that this meant "jobs and wealth for our countries."

Many financial sector firms based in London are now looking to move operations to cities in the eurozone as Brexit could see London banks lose their "passporting rights" to sell services to clients on the continent. — AFP



BERLIN: German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble (left) and the new French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire prepare to give a press conference yesterday in Berlin. — AFP

## MERKEL SAYS EURO IS 'TOO WEAK' DUE TO ECB POLICY

**BERLIN:** The euro is "too weak" due to the European Central Bank's monetary policy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday, pointing out that this helped explain Germany's relatively high trade surplus. Speaking to students at a secondary school in Berlin, Merkel said that the German trade surplus was propelled by two factors over which the government had no influence, namely the euro's exchange rate and the oil price.

The centre-right chancellor said that the euro currently is "relatively weak". And then she added: "The euro is too weak ... due to the ECB's policy and with this, German goods are comparatively cheap." Merkel told the students that another factor behind the German trade surplus was the relatively low oil price. If energy prices were higher, the trade balance of the German economy which relies on oil imports would look different, she said. The German government has repeatedly pushed back against US criticism of its trade surplus, saying nobody could blame Berlin for the competitiveness of 'Made in Germany' products.

"We can invest more at home," Merkel said, but added that vibrant domestic demand was already the main driver of overall economic growth in Germany. Turning to France, Merkel said the German government must help new French President Emmanuel Macron to succeed, saying she hoped Macron manages to fight unemployment in France and adding that the best way to counter populists was to solve problems. Earlier yesterday the finance ministers of Germany and France agreed their first meeting since Macron's election to strengthen the eurozone and to set up a joint working group that would present ideas by July on deepening integration within the currency union. — Reuters

# ABK MARKS 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS! A JOURNEY TO SIMPLICITY

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday marks the Bank's 50th year of service in Kuwait, celebrating half a decade of successful banking services. Opening its doors in 1967 to serve the Kuwait community, ABK has grown to become one of the most respected and innovative banks in the region.

Today, ABK proudly stands for easier, simpler and superior customer service and its innovative range of financial products are now offered across three main markets; Kuwait, UAE and Egypt.

Commenting on this occasion, Talal Behbehani - Chairman of ABK said: "Today we proudly celebrate the 50th anniversary of Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait; a significant milestone that commemorates the Bank's journey since its inception. Our celebration is not so much a festivity, but a solemn moment to pause and look back at this fifty year journey and pay tribute to the founders of this great financial institution."

I would like to extend my profound thanks to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the Kuwait Government for their unstinting support of the Bank in its first five decades of operations. I would also like to thank our loyal and dedicated staff, and

our customers, partners and shareholders. With their advice, trust and commitment we look forward to the next 50 years with confidence, knowing that Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait is well positioned and on a secure footing for future growth." Michel Accad, Group CEO of ABK said: "It is a privilege to be part of this significant milestone and an honor to be a member of the ABK team."

The achievements recorded over the past 50 years demonstrate the strong leadership and stability that the Bank has enjoyed over the years. Today we stand tall and proud and more committed than ever to elevating this Bank to new levels. I am confident that we will continue to progress and build on all the elements of success established to date. Moving forward, our aspirations and leading strategies will continue to be a driving force for ABK, and our people will remain the backbone of this operation."

ABK is commemorating this occasion through a series of events throughout the year starting with the employee ghabqa with a 50th Anniversary theme. The event will enjoy draws, the unveiling of the 50th anniversary movie which tells the successful story of the Bank since its establishment and last but not least staff will enjoy a grand

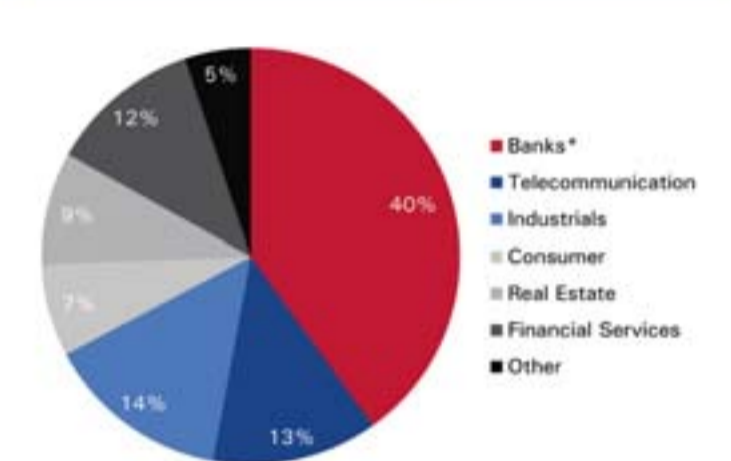


Chart 1: Profits and losses (KD billion)



Source: Boursa Kuwait

Chart 3: Profits by sector



Source: Boursa Kuwait

# Q1 RALLY OF LISTED COMPANIES BOOSTS CORPORATE EARNINGS

## NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

**KUWAIT:** The financial results of Kuwaiti exchange-listed companies for Q1 17 show a notable rise in profits. Strong investment gains primarily by the financial services sector were the main contributor to growth. Meanwhile, results in other sectors, mainly consumer companies, reflect a more lackluster business environment. Despite the strong figures, profit announcements did not appear to have much impact on stock prices, with equities continuing to slip after the Q1 17 rally.

Earnings of listed corporates were up a strong 20 percent y/y. The aggregate profits of 136 reporting companies, out of a total of 156 Kuwaiti companies listed on Boursa Kuwait, rose to KD 474 million. There was also a significant drop in aggregate losses which came in at KD 8.9 million, down 66 percent y/y as the number of loss-making companies fell by a third to 24.

The financial services sector benefited from the stock market rally in Q1 17. Boursa Kuwait's value-weighted index advanced 9.3 percent during the quarter, which saw financial services companies with large exposures to the local market make strong gains. Total profits for this sector quadrupled compared to Q1 16 reaching KD 56 million. The strong results of the sector were broad-based. More than half of the loss-reporting companies in Q1 16 saw loss reversals in Q1 17 and more than 60 percent of profitable companies in both periods saw strong growth in net income.

The industrial sector was the second largest contributor to profit growth in Q1 17. Profits for this sector were KD 68 million, up 29 percent y/y. Most industrial companies saw healthy profit growth with only one company reporting a loss in Q1 17 compared to three in Q1 16.

Bank profit rose a decent 6.6 percent to a total of KD 190 million. Most banks contributed

Table: Profits by sector (KD million)

	Net profits		Growth
	Q1 16	Q1 17	% y/y
<b>Banks*</b>	178	190	6.6%
Basic Materials	1	5	821.5%
Consumer Goods	24	23	-0.3%
Consumer Services	13	11	-17.1%
Financial Services	14	56	297.6%
Healthcare	2	2	20.2%
Industrials	53	68	28.8%
Insurance	12	12	4.5%
Oil & Gas	4	4	11.2%
Real Estate	35	41	18.7%
Technology	5	0	-92.5%
Telecommunications	57	61	5.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>19.8%</b>

Source: Boursa Kuwait

\* Adjusted for NBK's consolidation of Boubyan Bank.

to the growth with only one bank seeing a sharp drop in earnings. Growth was primarily in core income and boosted by investments gains.

The consumer sector was one of the weakest in Q1 17. Total profits were KD 34 million, down 5.6 percent y/y with almost half of the companies seeing declines in profitability. The decline in consumer sector profitability serves as a further confirmation of a normalizing sector as seen in other data such as consumer spending, imports of consumer goods, confidence indicators and household debt.

The strength of investment income during

the quarter masked continued weakness in revenues. A sample of 37 non-bank listed companies saw a drop of 2.5 percent y/y in total revenues. Negative revenue growth is a reflection of the softness we continue to see in business activity.

Profit announcements did not appear to have much impact on equity prices. Despite the overall strong numbers, a sample of 11 companies announced profits which were on average 3 percent lower than expectations. The value-weighted index retreated 3.5 percent during the reporting period.

# SHAREHOLDERS TAKE AKZO NOBEL TO COURT TO OUST CHAIRMAN BURGMAANS

**AMSTERDAM:** Akzo Nobel shareholders angered by the Dulux owner's rejection of a 26.3 billion euro (\$29.5 billion) takeover offer from US rival PPG Industries took their fight to an Amsterdam court yesterday.

Activist hedge fund Elliott Advisors, supported by several long-term institutional investors, asked the Amsterdam Enterprise Chamber to order an investigation into possible mismanagement by Akzo's board and force an extraordinary meeting of shareholders to vote on dismissing Chairman Antony Burgmans. Elliott Advisors and the other institutional investors together represent 18 percent of the Dutch paint maker's shares.

"A large group of shareholders has lost confidence in Mr. Burgmans and has asked to call him to account at an extraordinary shareholders meeting," said Jan Willem de Groot, representing Elliott. "That's a vote of no confidence by itself."

Akzo was to respond later. At the start of the hearing, presiding Judge Gijs Makkink granted a request by PPG to address the court as an "interested party," allowing it to speak after shareholders and before Akzo.

PPG lawyer Arnold Croiset van Uchelen

told the court the US company remains willing to enter talks with Akzo, regardless of the composition of its management and supervisory boards. As dozens of lawyers and journalists packed the courtroom for the hearing in the high-stakes corporate battle, PPG's Chief Executive Michael McGarry shook hands with Burgmans.

A ruling is expected within a week, soon enough for PPG to decide whether it wants to submit a formal bid to Dutch regulators without the support of Akzo's board by a June 1 deadline or walk away for at least six months. Despite impassioned pleas by several shareholders, experts in Dutch corporate law say it will be tough for the shareholders to convince judges that Akzo's corporate governance has been so poor as to warrant an investigation.

Akzo, meanwhile, faces a potentially awkward public questioning of its reasons for rejecting PPG's offer on May 8. Shares in Akzo opened nearly flat at 75.48 euros on Monday, well below PPG's 96.75 euros per share offer made on April 20, suggesting investors have significant doubts as to whether a PPG bid will ultimately succeed. —Reuters



AMSTERDAM: Akzo Nobel Chairman Antony Burgmans (third left) looks on while in court yesterday in Amsterdam. —AFP

# IMF OFFERS THREE-PILLARED REMEDY FOR AFRICA GROWTH

**LONDON:** Countries in sub-Saharan Africa need to get their budgets in order, diversify their economies and look after their poorest people. If they do that, there is no reason why the region cannot have the strong growth needed to meet the aspirations of a young and growing population.

That, at least, is the three-pillared prescription from the International Monetary Fund as expressed by one of its top Africa researchers, Celine Allard, in an official IMF blog post and podcast.

Allard co-authored the Fund's regional economic outlook, released earlier this month. It found that sub-Saharan economic growth hit only 1.4 percent last

year, the lowest level in two decades and well off the 5-6 percent rates normally reached. It was also well below the population growth rate. "This is a quite broad-based deceleration because we see about two-thirds of the countries having slowed down last year, which is quite substantial," she said in the podcast.

While some of the reasons for the slowdown are beyond the region's immediate control-low global commodity prices, drought etc.-Allard said some problems are down to a lack of governmental response. "Part of the deteriorated outlook is a reflection of limited policy adjustment in the region," she said. —Reuters

# EXCHANGE RATES

## AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.734
Indian Rupees	4.706
Pakistani Rupees	2.899
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.987
Nepali Rupees	2.940
Singapore Dollar	221.240
Hongkong Dollar	39.095
Bangladesh Taka	3.755
Philippine Peso	6.099
Thai Baht	8.837

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.117
Qatari Riyal	83.606
Omani Riyal	790.541
Bahraini Dinar	808.290
UAE Dirham	82.877

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.730
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.222
Tunisian Dinar	127.280
Jordanian Dinar	428.810
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.028
Syrian Lira	2.169
Morocco Dirham	31.523

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.200
Euro	342.990
Sterling Pound	398.500
Canadian dollar	226.340
Turkish lira	85.810

Swiss Franc	315.230
Australian Dollar	229.060
US Dollar Buying	303.000

### GOLD

20 Gram	255.560
10 Gram	130.700
5 Gram	66.190

## 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	0.390437	0.400437
Czech Korune	0.004551	0.016551
Danish Krone	0.041062	0.046062
Euro	0.330822	0.339822
Norwegian Krone	0.031495	0.036695
Romanian Leu	0.084611	0.084611
Slovakia	0.009141	0.019141
Swedish Krona	0.030685	0.035685
Swiss Franc	0.303396	0.314395
Turkish Lira	0.080734	0.091034
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.218775	0.230775
New Zealand Dollar	0.205392	0.214892
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.218478	0.227478
Georgina Lari	0.137890	0.137890
US Dollars	0.301200	0.305600
US Dollars Mint	0.301700	0.305600
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003422	0.004006
Chinese Yuan	0.042805	0.046305
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037278	0.040028
Indian Rupee	0.004169	0.004857

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002638	0.002818
Kenyan Shilling	0.003049	0.003049
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066591	0.072591
Nepalese Rupee	0.003016	0.003186
Pakistan Rupee	0.002717	0.003007
Philippine Peso	0.006014	0.006314
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.212865	0.222665
South African Rand	0.016734	0.025234
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001638	0.002218
Taiwan	0.009774	0.009954
Thai Baht	0.008479	0.009029
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.803243	0.811743
Egyptian Pound	0.014058	0.019966
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000195	0.000255
Jordanian Dinar	0.425248	0.434248
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.00257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020404	0.044404
Nigerian Naira	0.001264	0.001899
Omani Riyal	0.786566	0.792246
Qatar Riyal	0.083047	0.084497
Saudi Riyal	0.080327	0.081627
Syrian Pound	0.001295	0.001515
Tunisian Dinar	0.124617	0.132617
Turkish Lira	0.080734	0.091034
UAE Dirhams	0.081641	0.083341
Yemeni Riyal	0.000993	0.001073

## ITALY'S GROWTH LAGS BEHIND NEIGHBORS

**MILAN:** Italy's economy will grow slower than any other in the EU this year and business figures say an ongoing credit squeeze, the lack of a clear industrial strategy and political uncertainty mean they can see no sign of improvement. National data body ISTAT said yesterday it was anticipating output to increase one percent in 2017, slightly less than the centre-left government's prediction of 1.1 percent but better than the 0.9 percent and 0.8 percent forecasts of, respectively, the European Commission and the IMF.

Italy is lagging behind its partners in the eurozone and political instability has been a key factor in that, says Fabio De Felice, founder and director of engineering consultancy Protom.

"The rules of the game are not clear," he told AFP. "And there is no clear industrial policy or any strategy about where we want to go, which markets we are targeting and how," said the entrepreneur from Naples. It is a view shared by Angelo Brusino, who chairs the youth branch of the Confapi association of small and medium-sized companies. "Nobody can tell you what Italy's strategy is for energy, for dealing with bureaucracy ... these kind of questions get pushed to one side by the day-to-day political debates."

Brusino said former prime minister Matteo Renzi's reform-focused administration had been responsible for "positive initiatives and signals". "But everything stopped," once Renzi was forced to resign

after losing a December referendum on constitutional reform, one of the key planks of his plan for shaking up how Italy is governed and does business. "There are still around 100 decrees that need to be approved for some of the laws Renzi passed to come into force."

### 'No certainty'

With Renzi due to attempt a comeback at elections expected early next year, Italy is now being run by caretaker Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni and the uncertainty over what comes next is seen as dampening an economy saddled with unemployment over 11.5 percent of the workforce. "Italy needs a shock, a big acceleration of reforms, a broad industrial

policy, especially in favor of small and medium-sized companies that are the motor of our economy," says Brusino, whose company, Ambiente Spa, specializes in advanced recycling. Fabio De Felice says the fragmented nature of Italy's entrepreneurial class is also driving underperformance.

While the made-in-Italy brand is as strong as ever in fashion-related luxury and food and drink, in other sectors the country is suffering from declining competitiveness while international rivals forge ahead on that front. A snail-paced legal system and mountains of red tape are also long-established complaints of the Italian business community. "There is no certainty about how long

it will take to complete court proceedings, no certainty about what rules are," says De Felice. Brusino says he was involved in a Franco-German-Italian project to create an innovative plant in the Naples region: "The struggle to get all the necessary authorizations from the local authorities delayed everything by 18 months," he says. Now, in an ever more competitive world, such barriers to innovation can threaten the survival of companies, particularly young ones, the 37-year-old says.

And all of these problems are compounded by the ongoing credit squeeze created by the crisis in an Italian banking system laboring under the burden of nearly 350 billion euros worth of non-performing loans. — AFP

## EUROZONE FISCAL STANCE STRONGER, FRANCE STRUGGLING TO COMPLY

**BRUSSELS:** Eurozone countries improved their fiscal stance, a sign of growing financial stability, the EU Commission said yesterday, but it called on France to take new action to comply with EU deficit limits and warned Italy faced "urgent" challenges.

Every spring the EU executive publishes an assessment of the fiscal positions of each of the 28 EU member states, along with its recommendations for economic reforms and for disciplinary measures against those with unbalanced budgets. The 19-country eurozone has lowered its total budget deficit to 1.5 percent of the bloc's gross domestic product in 2016. The Commission forecasts the gap is to fall further this year and next, well below the 3 percent of GDP limit.

The EU as a whole had an aggregate deficit of 1.7 percent last year, which is also set to decrease. In its report the commission recommended an end to disciplinary procedures against Portugal and Croatia due to improvements in their public finances. The commission's recommendations must be approved by EU finance ministers to come into force. But around the bloc economic recovery and budget improvements were "uneven," Economics Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said in a statement.

France, along with Spain, Greece, Britain, will continue to face disciplinary procedures for its excessive budget deficit. Disciplinary steps against France, the eurozone's second largest economy, have been in place since 2009. It has until the end of this year to bring the budget shortfall below the EU ceiling of 3 percent of GDP.

The Commission forecasts France's deficit will this year shrink to 3.0 percent this year but rebound again to 3.2 percent next year, unless the government appointed by French President Emmanuel Macron takes action.

"France needs to stand ready to take further measures to ensure compliance in 2017 and ... further measures will be needed

as of 2018 to comply with the provisions of the Stability and Growth Pact," the Commission said.

### Structural deficit

France must cut its structural deficit—the measure that excludes business cycle swings and one off spending and revenue—by a minimum of 0.4 percent of GDP next year, but under existing policies that deficit is predicted to rise 0.5 percent of GDP. But the Commission also signalled it would apply discretion in the application of its budget rules to allow France to take any measures to strengthen its economy that would help it comply.

"In that context, the Commission intends to make use of the applicable margin of appreciation in the light of the cyclical situation of France," the Commission said. Italy, which after Greece has the bloc's largest public debt, faces "urgent challenges," the Commission said, though it sees additional budget measures adopted by Rome in April as sufficient to keep Italy's accounts in line with EU rules for this year. Nonetheless the Italian government needs to make "substantial fiscal efforts" and carry out important reforms next year, targeting taxation, excessively long civil trials and the reduction of bad loans in troubled banks.

Italy has asked for more time to sell non-performing loans in an attempt to obtain better prices and reduce capital shortfalls in ailing banks. Any austerity measures imposed by the EU on Italy could strengthen the country's eurosceptic parties, which are on the rise as the country gears up for elections due by May 2018. The bloc's pact for fiscal accountability is already unpopular in Italy.

The Commission pledged to use all possible leeway to review the agreed target of a structural correction of at least 0.6 percent of the Italian GDP next year.

Italy is forecast to have the slowest growth in the EU this year and next at around 1 percent of GDP. — Reuters



**HANOI:** Trade ministers of 16 countries from the Asia-Pacific region stand for a group photo during the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) ministerial meeting in Hanoi yesterday. — AP

## ASIA MINISTERS IN PUSH FOR CHINA-LED FREE TRADE PACT

### US TRADE REP URGED TO FORGE STRONGER COOPERATION

**HANOI:** Asian trade ministers met yesterday to hammer out the terms of a massive China-led pact that has taken center-stage as Washington pulls away from regional free trade deals in favor of bilateral agreements.

The 16-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is poised to become the largest free trade agreement in the world, covering about half of its population. It notably excludes the United States, which had been leading another regional trade pact—the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) — until US President Donald Trump abruptly abandoned it in January after calling it a "job killer."

At a meeting in Hanoi yesterday, the 19th time RCEP negotiators have met, the rhetoric in favor of free trade stood in stark contrast to Trump's "America First" campaign speeches. "In the context that protectionism is emerging in a number of major economies in the world, we believe that the conclusion of the RCEP Agreement negotiations will convey a clear and consistent message of the opening-up and economic integration-enhancing policy of the countries in the region," said Vietnam's Trade Minister Tran Tuan Anh, who was chairing the meeting. Apart from Beijing, the planned RCEP pact would group the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus India, Japan, South

Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

The deal has gained attention since the US pullout from the TPP, which was billed as the world's biggest trade pact when it was signed in February 2016 following years of negotiations.

Under then-US president Barack Obama it was sold to American allies as a unique opportunity to seize the initiative on worldwide trade and ensure China does not get to dictate global terms of commerce.

On Sunday in Hanoi the 11 remaining TPP nations vowed to resuscitate the deal without the US. They are eager to lock in future free trade and strengthen labor and environmental rights despite the loss of the world's most dynamic economy. But Beijing is now keen to use Washington's rejection of TPP to build enthusiasm for its own deal and increase influence in the region.

RCEP is a more modest deal that prescribes lower and more limited regulatory standards. China is also pushing a major global infrastructure and investment drive called the One Belt, One Road initiative, which aims to revive ancient land and sea trade routes.

### Cooperation

Meanwhile, China's commerce minister Zhong Shan told new United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer the two

sides should strengthen cooperation and manage disputes in trade, according to a statement on the website of China's Ministry of Commerce yesterday.

The two met on Sunday on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Lighthizer said in the meeting with Zhong Shan that trade wars are not in the interest of either country, according to the statement from China's commerce ministry. Disagreements over global trade negotiations came to the fore at the APEC forum, which failed to agree on its usual joint statement after US opposition to wording on fighting protectionism.

With the US balking at multilateral trade agreements, Asian trade ministers met to discuss the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which would create a free trade area of more than 3.5 billion people, bringing together China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand as well as Southeast Asian nations. RCEP talks include the largest geographic area, the most dynamic economies, and the largest population of any regional trade pact, Zhong said, according to a statement on the website of the ministry of commerce.

He said RCEP parties should accelerate RCEP talks and that all sides should show more flexibility to overcome differences. — Agencies



**KAMENZ:** (L-R) Member of the Divisional Board of Mercedes-Benz Cars, Markus Schaefer, CEO of German carmaker Daimler and Mercedes-Benz, Dieter Zetsche, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Saxony State Premier Stanislaw Tillich, unidentified and director of Deutsche Accumotive GmbH & Co KG, Frank Blom make the opening of the new plant of the Accumotive company producing accumulators for cars in Kamenz, eastern Germany yesterday. Accumotive is a subsidiary of German carmaker Daimler AG. — AFP

## IRAQ SAYS ACHIEVED OPEC OIL CUT SHARE

**LONDON:** Iraq has achieved its share of the production cuts agreed by OPEC and non-OPEC producers at the end of last year but remains ready to meet future oil demand growth, Iraqi oil minister Jabar Al-Luaibi said in a speech yesterday.

"Iraq as the second-largest producer in OPEC confirms its achievement to the commitment to implement the production cut and has recently announced its readiness to a further extension to the cut agreement," Falah Alami, head of oil marketer SOMO, said delivering the speech at an industry event in London on the minister's behalf.

However, the minister's speech also said that Iraq is ready to meet any growth in global oil demand by maintaining spare production capacity, improving export infrastructure and the adoption of modern

technology in exploration and production. Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other producers led by Russia agreed last year to cut output by about 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) to tackle bloated crude inventories and support higher prices.

Under the deal, Iraq agreed to cut its production by 210,000 bpd. Last week Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said Iraq was in favor of extending the current deal but did not specify for how long. Al-Luaibi had previously said that Iraq would support a six-month extension.

Alami reiterated yesterday that Iraq supports the extension of OPEC cuts for a further six months. Al-Luaibi is due to meet Saudi energy minister Khalid Al-Falih in Baghdad yesterday and OPEC ministers meet in Vienna on Thursday. — Reuters

## EUROZONE MULLS GREECE DEBT RELIEF, FRESH AID

**BRUSSELS:** Under pressure from the IMF, eurozone finance ministers will consider major debt relief and fresh aid for Greece yesterday despite the deep reservations of bailout-weary Germany.

Ministers from the 19-member single currency bloc must confront the sensitive topic at talks in Brussels after Greek lawmakers fulfilled the eurozone's latest demands for painful reforms last Thursday. The vote in parliament, which was met by angry protests, satisfied the conditions of Greece's bailout and opened the way for debt relief as well as fresh loans so that Athens can repay loans of 7.0 billion euros (\$7.8 billion) in July. "Our country... has fulfilled its obligations totally and on time," Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said on Sunday ahead of the crunch talks, which begin in Brussels at 1300 GMT.

"There is no excuse for further delay on the issue of the debt relief," he said. Newly elected French President Emmanuel Macron said he backed debt relief for Greece in a phone call with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. Macron told Tsipras he was in favor of "finding a deal soon to alleviate the weight of Greece's debt over time," a statement from the presidency said.

But Macron's position puts him at odds with Germany where Greek debt relief following three different bailouts since 2010 — is seen as a vote loser ahead of general elections in September. Greece's debt stands at a towering 180 percent of annual output, the legacy of a crisis that brought panic to the markets and nearly forced the country out of the eurozone. Germany has led several eurozone governments that have dragged their heels on tackling the debt mountain over the long term, insisting on more reforms before doing Athens further favours.

### 'Strong willingness'

In opposition to Berlin is the International Monetary Fund, which has made more debt relief a condition of taking part in Greece's third and latest 86-billion-euro (\$94-billion) bailout.

"We have to find a scenario on debt that holds for years to come and that everyone can accept, including the IMF," an EU diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

The discussion will be "rather difficult and long," the diplomat said. Led by tough negotiator and former French finance minister Christine Lagarde, the IMF says Greece's debt is unsustainable and will be "explosive" in the long run, requiring a more ambitious plan from Europe. This would include dramatically extending grace periods and maturities on the loans far beyond what the eurozone has committed to so far.

The question has served as a point of contention for months between the IMF and the eurozone's most influential official, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble.

Schauble opposes debt relief, but at the same time refuses to unlock more loans to Greece without the partnership of the IMF, which he sees as a guarantor of financial rigor. "I feel a strong willingness by all parties without exception to reach an overall deal," the EU's Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici told a news briefing. The meeting will be the first for French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, named to his post last week by Macron, a pro-EU centrist. Le Maire attends the Brussels talks after a morning stop in Berlin where he met Schauble to discuss the future of the eurozone. Germany and France are Greece's biggest lenders.

Tsipras earlier this month grudgingly accepted the need to legislate more spending cuts to unlock the cash and win debt relief. — AFP



**ATHENS:** Employees from the municipal kindergardens protest outside the Greek parliament in Athens yesterday during their 48-hour strike. The Greek parliament adopted a new round of austerity cuts which the government hopes will secure a pledge of debt relief and loan disbursements by EU-IMF creditors. — AFP

# MERKEL LIFTS EURO, OIL UP ON OPEC HOPES

**LONDON:** The euro surged to a six-month high yesterday after Angela Merkel said it was "too weak" for Germany, though rumblings in Spain, Britain and Brussels reminded investors that Europe still has plenty of uncertainties to deal with. A one-month high for oil on hopes of OPEC output curbs had helped give Asian shares their best session in weeks but Europe had struggled to maintain the momentum and Wall Street also looked set for a subdued start.

Investors continue to focus on the problems that have engulfed President Donald Trump's US administration over the last week but there were other familiar and not so familiar issues to deal

with too. Currency markets flipped 180 degrees as Merkel, during a trip to a Berlin school, made a surprise reference to the euro being "too weak" due to the European Central Bank's ultra-low interest rates and money printing program.

Up until that point the single currency had been in the red but the comments saw it swiftly climb to a six-month high \$1.1250 and bring the morning's rebound in the dollar to an abrupt halt.

"The thing with euro/dollar is that you have quite a positive mood on the euro at the moment," said ABN Amro FX strategist Gerorgette Boele. "And when Merkel makes comments that

the euro is probably too low then this is taken as another positive reason to push it higher."

Stocks and European bonds remained soft, however, as one of the most outspoken critics of Mariano Rajoy's ruling party and Spain's austerity policies returned to front the opposition Socialists.

Britain's pound was also in the firing line, back to \$1.30, as polls showed the country's election race tightening and its chief Brexit negotiator again threatened to walk away from EU exit talks unless the bloc eased its demands. "Last week was all about US uncertainty but we have had a reminder that

Europe still has plenty of uncertainty too," said Alvin Tan at Societe Generale.

The euro's rally meant the dollar was pulled back to the six-month low it hit last week after concerns about Donald Trump's firing of a former FBI head and his administration's links to Russia had given the greenback a drubbing. The dollar index, which tracks the US currency against a basket of six major rivals, dropped from 0.2 percent higher to 0.2 percent lower to add to a fall of around 6 percent since the start of the year.

Net long positioning on the euro versus the dollar rose to its highest in more than three years last week, Commodity Futures Trading Commission data showed on Friday.

But Citi's 'economic surprise' indicators show the recent bout of negative US economic surprises may now be bottoming out. Analysts are also waiting for this week's release of the Federal Reserve meeting minutes. "Our bias is still dollar positive," said Adam Cole, currency strategist at RBC Capital Markets in London.

## Oil on the boil

Oil also rose yesterday, bolstered by confidence that top exporters will at least agree to extend supply curbs at an OPEC meeting this week, with suggestions that the cuts could even be deepened.

Brent crude was up 40 cents at \$54.00 a barrel, with US light crude 38 cents at \$50.71. Both benchmarks have climbed

more than 10 percent from lows hit earlier this month. "The decision (to extend cuts) seems to be almost a done deal," said Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodities analyst at SEB Markets. "There seems to be a very high harmony in the group."

Another familiar European story was also back on the radar. Euro zone finance ministers and the International Monetary Fund met yesterday to try to nail down a deal on Greek debt relief that balances the IMF's demand for a clear "when and how" with Germany's preference for "only if necessary" and "details later".

Without the loans, Greece would be liable to default. Athens, meanwhile, wants a deal to help it return to market financing when the country's latest bailout, the third since 2010, ends in mid-2018.

In Asia, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan enjoyed its best session in a month, helped by gains in Australia and Hong Kong stocks despite a mass downgrade of bank credit ratings in the former and new property market regulations in the latter. Chinese stocks were the only laggards in the region, with mainland indices ending 0.5 percent in the red as concerns also simmered about another dip in the economy.

The bounce in Asian stocks this year has helped MSCI's closely followed emerging stocks index notch up gains of more than 17 percent compared to 8 percent for the wider 'all-world' index which is near a record high. —Reuters

Index		Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▲ 14.18	6,774.34	6,760.16	6,774.34	6,721.16	
Weighted Index	▼ -1.97	402.49	404.46	404.64	401.60	
KSX 15	▼ -5.87	915.91	921.78	922.46	915.14	

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	65	65	9000	325	2	65	0.0
IPO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	0.0
NAFESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,820	0.0
ENERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.9	0.0
GPI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	0.0
ABAR	87	87	338	29	1	87	2.0
Oil & Gas			5,338	354	3	1062.22	▲ 6.98
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	0.0
BPCO	554	553	75,407	41,710	10	553	▼ 2.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	690	0.0
ALQURAN	335	333	76,646	25,531	22	333	0.0
Basic Materials			152,052	67,241	32	1288.94	▲ -0.90
KCEM	401	401	3,000	1,203	1	401	▼ 84.9
CABLE	432	420	240	101	2	432	▲ 2.0
SHP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	224	0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960	0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	275	0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	0.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	0.0
KBMAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	0.0
EQUIPMENT	54	53	542,400	28,941	26	53	▼ 1.2
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	0.0
GYPSSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	0.0
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	0.0
AGLY	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	650	0.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	295	0.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.5	0.0
KGL	65	65	30,000	1,935	3	65	▲ 0.5
KPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	0.0
HUMANSOFT	4,099	4,000	40,500	162,818	23	4,099	▲ 99.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	0.0
GFC	78	90	2,800	165	3	70	▲ 0.5
MAYADEEN	28.9	28.0	1,843,154	52,583	46	28.0	▼ -6.9
GGC	595	555	468,324	269,820	36	595	▲ 36.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	0.0
UPAC	875	704	891	529	2	875	▼ -4.0
ALAFCO	275	275	20,000	5,500	1	275	▼ -1.0
MUBARRAD	79	79	500,000	39,500	5	79	▼ -1.0
LOGISTICS	55	55	99,500	5,433	3	55	▼ -0.5
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	0.0
QIC	87	87	3,307	289	1	87	▲ 14.5
FCM	83	83	101,500	8,423	5	83	0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	103	0.0
SPEC	90	85	28,510	2,456	8	90	▼ -0.5
Industrials			3,683,926	579,737	165	1626.28	▲ 5.80
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	184	0.0
NGH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	48.0	0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	226	0.0
DANAH	77	77	23	2	1	77	▲ 0.1
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,860	0.0
Consumer Goods			23	2	1	1148.68	▲ -2.11
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	315	0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	260	0.0
Health Care			0	0	0	1412.25	0.0
KCN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,200	0.0
KHDT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	0.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.5	0.0
IFARS	445	420	214,038	95,007	6	445	▲ 25
IFHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	0.0
QULAFUEL	123	121	28,525	3,431	15	122	▲ 1
MUNTZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	0.0
JAZEERA	485	461	19,307	9,357	4	485	0.0
SOOR	122	115	40,524	5,505	15	121	▲ 5
FUTUREXO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	118	0.0
ALRAI	129	124	852	111	2	129	▲ 1
ZIMAH	54	53	81,539	4,298	6	54	▲ 1
Mazzan	999	990	4,181	4,143	2	990	▼ -10
Consumer Services			394,506	121,943	50	882.32	▲ 12.76
ZAIN	436	430	1,916,354	831,382	79	430	▼ -7
OOREDOO	1,200	1,200	1,490	1,788	2	1,200	0.0
HITSTELC	44.5	43.3	4,721,534	206,780	101	43.5	0.0
VIVA	850	826	58,381	47,176	82	849	0.0
Telecommunications			6,695,799	1,887,127	344	619.85	▲ -2.04
NBK	685	682	1,837,186	1,256,306	70	685	▲ 1
GRK	245	242	14,800	3,582	5	245	▲ 1
CBK	353	346	3,800	1,330	10	353	▲ 8
ABK	320	305	4,227	1,311	3	320	0.0
ALMUTAHED	420	413	64,000	28,465	9	420	▲ 5
KIB	247	246	52,174	12,885	3	246	▼ -2
BURG	328	328	20,596	6,572	2	328	▼ -3
KFIN	504	491	3,864,488	1,924,561	180	492	▼ -11
BOUBYAN	406	403	804,117	244,488	27	404	▼ -3
AUR	208	205	1,260,131	259,549	32	205	▼ -3
ITHMR	46.3	45.5	1,383,600	63,499	39	46.0	▼ 0
WARABANK	249	245	493,077	121,382	90	246	▼ -4
Banks			9,601,636	3,822,030	479	921.06	▲ -5.01
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	247	0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	490	0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	0.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	52	0.0
BKWWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	0.0
Insurance			0	0	0	1056.81	0.0
SOKOLK	51	49.8	62,610	31,360	31	51	▼ -0.1
KRE	58	58	375,035	21,759	12	58	▼ -0.1
URC	85	82	34,144	2,897	7	82	▼ -3.0
NRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	0.0
TAM	440	410	18,444	7,802	5	410	▼ -10.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	168	0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	48.0	0.0
ARABREC	36.0	35.0	449,696	16,029	17	36.0	▲ 0.1
ERESCO	39.9	38.7	114,000	4,502	5	38.7	▼ 1.3
MBANEE	790	789	92,924	73,366	28	790	▲ 0.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	92	0.0
INVESTORS	25.3	24.0	1,847,131	44,997	35	24.5	▼ -0.8
IRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.0	0.0
ALTUJARIA	75	74	574,968	42,831	15	74	▼ -0.2
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	0.0
AAYANRE	80	78	54,600	4,317	6	80	▲ 0.4
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	0.0
ALAGARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.9	0.0
MAZAYA	111	111	55,845	6,199	1	111	▼ 1.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	0.0
TUARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	0.0
TAAMEER	38.7	35.9	1,878,055	70,185	69	36.5	▼ -2.1
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	0.0
ALYASAR	26.0	25.5	1,810,150	41,747	19	25.7	▼ -0.2
MUNSHAAT	59	58	248,099	14,390	15	59	0.0
FIRSTDOUBAI	51	51	142,700				



## KIB AWARDED 'BEST CHANGE MANAGEMENT - KUWAIT'

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait International Bank (KIB) was recently awarded "Best Change Management - Kuwait" by The Banker Middle East, an organization specializing in financial news and analysis of banks and companies across the Middle East and beyond. KIB's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Said El Saka, received the award on behalf of the Bank at the Banker Middle East Industry Awards 2017 ceremony, which was recently held in Dubai.

KIB received this recognition as a result of the significant improvements in the Bank's products and services, both in terms of quality and diversity; as the Bank has continued to record strong growth across performance indicators. KIB's consistent solid performance has led to it offering some of the highest returns in the market for its deposits and savings products. The Bank has also witnessed enhanced customer service

levels; as it has successfully implemented key improvements to its online banking services.

El Saka described this latest award as an important achievement for the Bank, adding: "Given the factors considered for this award, the fact that KIB was bestowed with "Best Change Management - Kuwait" Award serves to highlight the exemplary efforts exerted by KIB's staff, its executive management team, and guidance from the Board of Directors. It is also a testament to KIB's stable and sustainable growth in all areas, as the Bank continues to implement a clear and focused approach that has reflected positively on its performance and enabled it to successfully achieve its strategic objectives."

El Saka further added that this prestigious award reaffirms the important role KIB plays in supporting the national economy, and the overall effectiveness

of its business strategy. He also noted that the innovative digital services that the Bank continues to offer its customers are one more crucial component that greatly contributed to its sustainably strong performance.

El Saka concluded by extending his appreciation for the Board of Directors, the Fatwa & Sharia Board, the Executive Management, as well as KIB's employees and customers for their support; and expressed his gratitude towards the Central Bank of Kuwait for its continuous guidance.

This accolade is the latest in a long string of international and regional awards garnered by KIB over the past couple of years, demonstrating KIB's strong financial position and the successful implementation of its strategy, as the Bank moves towards achieving its long-term goal of becoming the "Islamic Bank of Choice in Kuwait".



In this Jan 24, 2017 file photo, US President Donald Trump points to Ford Motors CEO Mark Fields (second right) as White House Senior Adviser Jared Kushner (right) looks on at the start of a meeting with automobile leaders in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. —AP

## FORD FIRES CEO FIELDS AS CHALLENGES MOUNT

**WASHINGTON/PARIS:** Ford Motor Co is replacing Chief Executive Officer Mark Fields with James Hackett, the head of the unit developing self-driving cars, the US automaker said yesterday, responding to investors' growing unease over its stock price and prospects.

The abrupt departure of Fields, 56, who spent less than three years in the job, is among a series of management changes at Ford. Hackett, 62, a former CEO of furniture manufacturer Steelcase Inc, will take the helm in a broader shake-up aimed at speeding up decision-making and improving operations.

Ford shares were up 1.4 percent in early trading. At Friday's close, they had fallen 37 percent since Fields took over three years ago, at the peak of the US auto industry's recovery. Now US sales are slipping, and Ford's profits are trailing those of larger rival General Motors, whose shares fell 13 percent over the same period. Executive Chairman Bill Ford Jr. and the board have been unhappy with the company's performance and sought reassurance that investments in self-driving cars, electric vehicles and ride services would pay off.

"With this transition, we are moving forward with great optimism," Bill Ford said in an employee email that Reuters reviewed. "We have the right team to sharpen our operational excellence, modernize our business, and develop and invent new business models for the future."

Hackett, a former football player at the University of Michigan and interim athletic director, was named chairman of the automaker's Ford Smart Mobility LLC subsidiary in 2016 to focus on emerging businesses that include ridesharing and autonomous vehicles.

Ford said in February it was investing \$1 billion in artificial intelligence company Argo AI to develop a virtual driver system for the automaker's autonomous vehicle coming in 2021.

The upheaval at Ford underlines pressure on all three Detroit automakers to prove they can avoid losses as the US market begins to slow from last year's record sales. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV is fighting diesel emissions-cheating allegations from US and California regulators following CEO Sergio Marchionne's failed bid to find a merger partner. GM CEO Mary Barra is fending off attacks from hedge fund Greenlight Capital, which wants to install

three new directors and split the company's stock.

### Management changes

In March, GM sold its money-losing Opel division to France's PSA Group, effectively exiting Europe in a move Barra promised would free cash for share buybacks. The shake-up at Ford may bring new scrutiny of its own plans in the region. Jim Farley, Ford of Europe chief since January 2015, will oversee all of the company's regions, global marketing and sales, as well as its Lincoln Motor Co.

Joe Hinrichs, head of the Americas since December 2012, will manage global product development, manufacturing and labor affairs, purchasing, and environmental and safety engineering, while Marcy Klevorn, vice president of information technology and chief technical officer since January, will oversee Hackett's Ford Smart Mobility.

The company is also replacing its head of communications. Ford posted a record \$1.2 billion profit in Europe last year but warned the impact of Britain's vote to leave the European Union would put a dent in 2017 earnings.

Fields, who earned \$22.1 million in 2016 and had a 28-year-career at Ford, also faced a clamor for share repurchases, which boost the value of stock, at the company's annual meeting earlier this month. "Confidence is created by hard currency, not proclamations that are often qualified," one investor said in a question read by the chairman.

Ford said last week it would cut 1,400 staff positions in North America and Asia, a small fraction of the 20,000 job reductions some news outlets had reported were imminent.

### Challenging times

Fields had outlined a variety of plans to confront challenges from technology companies such as Alphabet Inc that want to control a future of autonomous, data-intensive vehicles. "You have to have one foot in today ... but also one foot in the future," Fields told reporters last month. "I think investors understand our strategy."

Ford, who previously was CEO before replacing himself in 2006 with Alan Mulally, is the great-grandson of company founder Henry Ford and has warned in recent months about the dramatic challenges facing the automaker. —Reuters

has yet to make a formal request for bilateral trade negotiations in specific sectors with Tokyo.

In April, Japan logged a trade surplus in goods of 481.7 billion yen (\$4.3 billion), the finance ministry said, marking the third straight month in the black. Overall exports rose 7.5 percent thanks to brisk shipments of chip production machines, steel and motors, while imports jumped 15.1 percent on the back of growing domestic demand. Japan said last week that its economy—the world's third largest—grew 0.5 percent in the first three months of 2017, its fifth straight winning quarter and the longest expansion in more than a decade.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been trying for years to rejuvenate growth and end an extended period of on-and-off deflation through a policy blitz of easy money, stimulus and reform.

"Domestic demand is getting strong, which helped increase imports, while global economic recoveries boosted Japanese exports," said Japan Research Institute economist Yusuke Shimoda. "The trend-strong figures in both exports and imports is likely to continue for now," Shimoda told AFP.

The ministry said Japan's exports to the US gained 2.6 percent due to strong auto shipments, marking the third straight year-on-

year increase. "If Japan's exports to the US continue to expand, it could be used as evidence for the US argument over trade," Shimoda said.

He added that Trump may focus on trade rows in a bid to deflect media attention away from repeated national security questions surrounding his administration. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, a veteran Reagan-era trade negotiator with protectionist credentials, met his Japanese counterpart, Hiroshige Seko, in Vietnam on the sidelines of a regional trade meeting on Saturday.

The two agreed to "promote mutually ben-

eficial trade, fight trade barriers and trade-distorting measures," Seko said, adding that they did not discuss bilateral issues. Last month the US and Japan kicked off talks aimed at achieving a new economic relationship in line with Trump's vow to focus on bilateral trade deals rather than multilateral ones that he says have damaged the US.

Also last month Trump's administration kept Japan on a Treasury Department watch list covering foreign exchange policies of US trading partners, exerting tacit pressure on Tokyo to buy more American-made goods and services. —AFP

## AIRBUS HIRES MONITORS FROM OUTSIDE AMID FRAUD PROBES

### PANEL INCLUDES FORMER GERMAN AND FRENCH MINISTERS

**PARIS:** Airbus has appointed an independent panel including two former ministers to examine its anti-corruption practices after Britain and France launched fraud and bribery investigations into the sale of jetliners. Europe's largest aerospace group said yesterday the three advisers, who include former German finance minister Theo Waigel and former French European affairs minister Noelle Lenoir, will report to Chief Executive Tom Enders and the board.

Airbus is in the midst of an upheaval after acknowledging discrepancies in past applications for British financial support to sell passenger jets. The company's self-disclosure of "misstatements and omissions" regarding the use of middlemen to help win contracts prompted Britain's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) to launch a bribery and fraud investigation last year.

France opened a similar investigation in March and authorities in the two countries have said they will cooperate in the inquiries, the most far-reaching to target the 47-year-old company's civil activities. Airbus is also facing legal wrangles in Austria. Vienna prosecutors last month announced a fraud investigation into Enders and

other individuals in connection with a \$2 billion fighter order in 2003. The company has strongly rejected that move as a political gesture but has pledged to cooperate with all investigations.

The voluntary decision to bring in monitors appears designed to strengthen Airbus's chances of winning a deferred prosecution deal in the civil investigations in Britain and France, where U.S.-style bargains are now possible under a recent French law. In its 2016 annual report, Airbus said it may have to alter its business practices and could have a compliance monitor imposed on it due to the investigations.

It is also bracing for potentially significant fines and has warned it might get barred from some government contracts "for some period of time" following the investigations. Airbus shares fell 0.4 percent yesterday.

### Agent freeze

A deferred prosecution agreement is a court-supervised deal to suspend prosecution for a time in return for reparations, which in the aerospace industry tend to involve big fines. Following a four-year bribery investigation, UK

engine maker Rolls-Royce agreed in January to submit to external monitoring and pay 671 million pounds (\$872 million) as part of settlements in Brazil, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The third and possibly leading member of the Airbus panel, UK lawyer and House of Lords member David Gold, led a review of Rolls-Royce's anti-corruption policies and was appointed by the United States to monitor Britain's BAE Systems following a \$400 million bribery settlement in 2010.

The independent panel will take a "hard look" at Airbus's systems and culture, Enders said in a statement. It will set its own remit, a spokesman said. Airbus has meanwhile frozen the use of agents and overhauled its international marketing activities. But the freeze has caused some intermediaries to sue the company.

Sales agents are not illegal but many regulators view large payments to them as a potential avenue for corruption. In a 2014 study, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development said intermediaries were involved in three out of four bribery cases. —Reuters

## CATHAY PACIFIC TO SACK 600 STAFF IN MAJOR SHAKEUP

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong's flagship airline Cathay Pacific said yesterday it would cut 600 staff including a quarter of its management, as part of its biggest shakeup in two decades to repair its bottom line.

In March the company posted its first annual net loss in eight years, citing intense competition as lower cost airlines, particularly from mainland China, eat into its market share. It pledged at the time to slash costs by 30 percent after its \$74 million net loss in 2016 reversed a \$773 million profit in the previous year.

In a company statement yesterday, the airline said it would shed 190 management roles as well as 400 non-managerial positions at its Hong Kong head office.

"We have had to make tough but necessary decisions for the future of our business and our customers," said CEO Rupert Hogg. "Changes in people's travel habits and what they expect from us, evolving competition and a challenging business outlook have created the need for significant change." No pilots, cabin crew or frontline employees would be affected but they would be asked "to deliver greater efficiencies and productivity improvements," the statement said. Aviation analyst Corinne Png told AFP the company was moving "in the right direction" as it looked to transform the business and improve cost competitiveness. "The challenge is when you start to cut staff head count... you really have to keep the staff morale high," she said. "They haven't really touched the frontline—pilots, cabin crew, customer service—so at least this part hopefully will reduce the possibility of compromising the product."

### Growing competition

Singapore Airlines (SIA) also reported a net loss of Sg\$138.3 million (\$99.4 million) in the fourth quarter last Thursday, causing full-year net profit to drop by more than half from the previous year. It said in a statement that a "wide-ranging review" of the company's network, fleet, services and organizational structure was underway.

Intense competition has continued to hit premium carriers despite an expansion of international air travel in the region, as mainland Chinese airlines aggressively scale up long-haul routes. News of Cathay's layoff came as China's Hainan Airlines announced plans yesterday to buy 19 Boeing aircraft for \$4.2 billion to help meet rocketing demand. The company said in a



HONG KONG: In this file photo taken on March 15, 2017 a Cathay Pacific Boeing 777 passenger aircraft (top) taxis past a stationary plane on the tarmac at the international airport in Hong Kong. —AFP

statement to Shanghai's stock exchange that it would buy 13 Boeing 787-9 passenger jets and six 737-8s, citing the continued "rapid growth" in China's travel market as incomes rise.

Cathay announced a major restructuring program in January after posting its first annual net loss since 2008 at the height of the financial crisis. The airline is also losing premium travellers as it comes under pressure from Middle East rivals that are expanding into Asia and offering more luxury touches.

"Job cuts is obviously the most effective measure in the short term but Cathay's problem is not coming from within, it's growing competi-

tion from outside from full-service peers in the mainland and Middle East to budget carriers," Yu Zhanfu of Roland Berger Strategy Consultants told Bloomberg News.

"Cathay has been suffering decline in both yield and load factor. That's what Cathay needs to urgently address by sharpening their competitiveness externally," Yu added.

The staff cut is the first major announcement since Hogg replaced Ivan Chu on May 1 as part of a management overhaul. Cathay shares rose as high as 3.7 percent in early trade before easing to end 2.30 percent higher at HK\$11.58. —AFP

## EXPORTS PROPEL JAPAN TO 3RD STRAIGHT TRADE SURPLUS

**TOKYO:** Japan posted a trade surplus for the third straight month in April helped by a further rise in exports including to the United States, official data showed yesterday.

American President Donald Trump has vowed to root out "unfair" trade practices around the world and target countries, including Japan, that contribute to America's nearly \$50 billion a month trade deficit. Trump has assailed Japan for allegedly devaluing the yen to boost exports, grouping it with countries he says are taking "advantage" of the US. Despite the rhetoric, Washington—which cooperates closely with Japan on a range of global and security issues—

has yet to make a formal request for bilateral trade negotiations in specific sectors with Tokyo.

In April, Japan logged a trade surplus in goods of 481.7 billion yen (\$4.3 billion), the finance ministry said, marking the third straight month in the black. Overall exports rose 7.5 percent thanks to brisk shipments of chip production machines, steel and motors, while imports jumped 15.1 percent on the back of growing domestic demand. Japan said last week that its economy—the world's third largest—grew 0.5 percent in the first three months of 2017, its fifth straight winning quarter and the longest expansion in more than a decade.

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eficial trade, fight trade barriers and trade-distorting measures," Seko said, adding that they did not discuss bilateral issues. Last month the US and Japan kicked off talks aimed at achieving a new economic relationship in line with Trump's vow to focus on bilateral trade deals rather than multilateral ones that he says have damaged the US.

Also last month Trump's administration kept Japan on a Treasury Department watch list covering foreign exchange policies of US trading partners, exerting tacit pressure on Tokyo to buy more American-made goods and services. —AFP

# KFH, KCB SIGN PROTOCOL AGREEMENT FOR E-PAYMENTS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) and Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) have signed a protocol agreement for electronic payments, where KFH customers can pay their installments to KCB through KFH website. This facilitates banking transactions for KFH customers that benefit from KCB services.

KFH Group CEO, Mazin Al-Nahedh and Vice-Chairman and Director General of KCB Salah Al-Mudhaf signed the agreement at KCB's headquarters in the presence of officials from both sides.

Al-Nahedh indicated during the signing ceremony, that KFH spares no efforts in providing the best services to its customers to conduct their transactions with the KCB in a secure and streamlined manner. This includes electronic payments and other banking transactions that saves customers' time and efforts.

He added that KFH collaboration with the KCB reflects the bank's keenness to strengthen cooperation with the government and official institutions, which solidifies the key role of the private sector in the comprehensive development and boosting the economy.

Al-Nahedh said that KFH is keen on adopting the latest technology in efforts



**KUWAIT:** Mazin Al-Nahedh and Salah Al-Mudhaf sign the protocol agreement.

to develop processes and enhance service quality. Meanwhile, Al-Mudhaf praised the positive collaboration with KFH, expressing his thanks and appreciation to the bank in recognition of its efforts in implementing the electronic connectivity, while beating odds for the best interest of citizens.

He said that KFH enjoys huge client

base, and most of the KCB's customers prefer KFH, indicating KCB aims at expanding the network with local banks which affirms the confidence in the private sector and its major role in the development. KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic



banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

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

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

## BOURSA KUWAIT OFFERS IPTM 1 AND CORPORATE ACTIONS HELPDESK

**KUWAIT:** In its effort to ensure the maximum level of market awareness, Bourse Kuwait has taken the initiative of setting up a Helpdesk counter specifically to address any inquiries related to Interim Post-Trade Model (IPTM 1) and Corporate Action scheduled for launch from 21st May, 2017.

The counter is located in the Bourse Kuwait trading hall beside the main

entrance, and is available to all stakeholders. The counter will be fully functional from 21 May, 2017 and will be open on a daily basis for the duration of two weeks, during trading hours. Bourse Kuwait is keen to provide all channels of communication required to ensure that all stakeholders receive the adequate amount of information in order to efficiently manage their investments.



## JAZEERA AIRWAYS INTRODUCES AZERBAIJAN AS DESTINATION

**KUWAIT:** As part of its robust expansion plans, Jazeera Airways, the first private airline in Kuwait and the Middle East is proud to announce the launch of its new direct flights to Eurasia, starting with Baku, Azerbaijan as the first destination. Jazeera Airways' foray into emerging global hubs reveals more novel ventures as part of the airline's natural growth and its global ambition. Built on the fundamentals of creating a better connected world through innovation-led growth and customer centricity, the award winning airline is poised to fly to Baku, the capital and commercial hub of Azerbaijan on 23 June 2017.

Hailed as a popular destination for summer vacationers, Jazeera Airways will provide a frequency of two weekly flights scheduled on Mondays and Fridays with departure at 9:00 am and arrival at 12:10 pm and 13:10 pm with arrival at 14:25 pm respectively. The ever-growing Kuwaiti airline is the first to provide direct flights of increased frequency to this emerging holiday destination.

With the provision of efficient visa procedures, that enables visa on arrival for Kuwaitis, and starting from 10th January 2017, the state agency on Public Services and Social Innovations under the President of the republic of Azerbaijan began processing electronic visas through "ASAN Visa" system. E-Visa is issued within three working days and valid for 30 days for a fee of \$20.

"We are determined to break new grounds staying true to our brand essence of creating a seamless link to inspiration for our customers, who are always on the hunt for new adventures. The flight to Baku, en route to becoming a leading tourist destination, is only the beginning to setting course to new lands beyond the Middle East, as we continue to identify trends brought forth by our customers", said Rohit Ramachandran, CEO of Jazeera Airways.

"As a progressive service-oriented airline that anticipates customer needs, we remain committed to enriching lives by opening up new horizons and trade routes and building bridges for individuals and businesses. Travel is a unifying force that brings countries and different cultures together and Jazeera Airways, as a proud

Kuwaiti airline with global ambitions, is leading the way to bolstering cultural exchange and trade relations with countries that share our values", added Mr. Rohit Ramachandran.

Commenting on the venture, Azerbaijan Ambassador to Kuwait Elkhan Gahraman said, "This is a proud moment for us, as Jazeera Airways succeeds in establishing a strategic partnership that will bring our countries closer with stronger economic and trade ties and enable the discovery of Azerbaijan's beautiful culture."

As we move ahead, we hope the people of Kuwait will seize this unique opportunity to create lasting memories with their family and friends on their journeys to Baku, where modernity meets tradition. I thank Jazeera Airways for their bold vision and foresight in choosing this new exciting destination. Facing the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan has warm and dry summers with a minimum of 22 and maximum 30 degrees between June and August, making it the perfect summer spot for vacationers.

Where tradition meets antiquity, the old city is a maze of alleys, mosques, historic buildings and the Palace of the Shirvanshahs and the Maiden Tower, now listed among UNESCO's World Heritage Sites wherein the city is also proud of an emerging elite that develop innovative start-ups, design boutiques and lively co-working spaces. According to the Lonely Planet's ranking, Baku is also among the world's top ten destinations for urban entertainment amongst the youth and an important venue for international events as they gear to host the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games, Azerbaijan Grand Prix in 2017 and UEFA Euro 2020.

Fueled by a resilient ambition for growth through the exploration of new opportunities, routes and premium services for travelers to embark on, Jazeera Airways currently stands at over 16 destinations serving over 1.25 million passengers a year. Since its inception in 2004, the award winning airline has taken the lead on several new offerings that enhance customer experience, starting with a dedicated business lounge and the forthcoming brand new terminal equipped with state of the art present day technological solutions that will open its doors in 2018.



NCM team with tutors and attendees

## NOOR CAPITAL MARKETS HOLDS SEMINAR, PANEL DISCUSSION

BLOOMBERG ANALYST ATESAN ENRICHES SEMINAR WITH INSIGHTS



Haddoud, Arafat, Atesan and Hanna during the panel discussion.



Atehan delivers his speech as delegates attend the seminar.

**KUWAIT:** An interesting seminar was held by Noor Capital Markets about "How to become a successful investor" in which they tackled vital subjects. The main speaker Omar Atehan is a well-known Bloomberg analyst with a long history in portfolios' management and international markets. Atehan introduced a proficient analysis for the global economics platforms, the factors influencing the markets and the markets psychology.

"We explored interesting topics today about the successful approaches of investment, the sound mentality of market analysis and actions

of the markets so that the investors can acquire the know-how of market analysis. It is vital to create a logical mindset to people who invest in the same domain, thus they'll be able to define the factors of success and fruitful investment components," Atehan stated.

"Out of trends of investments, the international markets contribute with the biggest markets' shares globally. To invest smartly and generate better profits is our main endeavors for investors and potential investors." Dr Yousef Haddoud - panel discussion member said.

"Basing on of the attendees questions, our elaborations came to explain the basic applications and products of the online trading business such as oil, gold and currencies and smart approaching to them." Haitham Arafat panel discussion member comments.

"The seminar achieved a lot of its objectives and that was notable in the positive discussions. We are going to conduct tailored seminars for beginners, also customized ones for women," Nada Sulaiman - Asst. manager - Business development concluded.

## GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 21 May 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 14 May - 18 May 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

**The winners are:**  
(Sunday 14/5): Zainab Shehadah Ayoub, Ayham Rasheed Fadal  
(Monday 15/5): Khaled Fahed Ali Al-Jefain, Abdulkareem Jasem Mnshed Al-Enizi  
(Tuesday 16/5): Abdullah Mansour Abdullah Al-Mansour Al-Arfaj, Hussain Ghouloum Hussain Haji Karam  
(Wednesday 17/5): Hasan Salah Al-Sadiq, Aseel Kamel Jawad Khalaf  
(Thursday 18/5): Abdullah Nawaf Yaqoub Al-Enezi, Wala'a Mohammed Abdullah Al-Arabi

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al-Danah's 2nd Quarterly draw for the prize of KD 250,000 will be held on 29 June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

**Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:**  
1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million



2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD 500,000  
3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day  
4) The most chances to win  
5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year  
Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.  
Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: The Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner. Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti

residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2017 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches for assistance and guidance.



FDR-X3000R



RX100 V



Sony a99II

## SONY CELEBRATES TRIPLE SUCCESS AT TIPA AWARDS

**KUWAIT:** The highly renowned Technical Image Press Association has recognised Sony's innovation and performance in the digital imaging industry with three TIPA awards.

**Best DSLR professional: A99 II**

The 799 II has a 42.4MP Exmor R CMOS sensor inside its magnesium alloy body and an enhanced buffer that can handle up to 12 frames per second shooting with AF/AE tracking. ISO range is 100-25,600 expandable to 102,400. The hybrid phase-detection AF system combines a 79-point dedicated sensor with 399-point focal plane sensor,

resulting in a 79 hybrid cross AF point array that delivers very impressive high-speed and high accuracy tracking focus. The 799 II records 4K video with full pixel readout (with no pixel binning) in the XAVC S format at 100 Mbps. It also incorporates 5-axis image stabilization (a 4.5 stop advantage).

**Best expert compact camera: DSC-RX100 V**

The RX100 V has a 20MP 1-inch Exmor RS CMOS sensor and a high resolution OLED EVF as well as a 3.0 inch TFT LCD, all within a camera that fits easily

in the pocket. ISO sensitivity ranges from 125 to 12,800 and to 25,600 by overlay burst shooting. Fast Hybrid AF combines 315 focal plane phase detection points with contrast detection AF to yield a very fast AF acquisition speed of 0.05 seconds. Continuous 24fps shooting, with AF/AE tracking, is made possible by the new front end LSI. The (equivalent) 24-70mm f/1.8-2.8 ZEISS(r) Vario-Sonnar T\* zoom lens can focus as close as 0.17 ft (5cm) at the wide focal length setting. The camera offers numerous video modes and frames, including 4K, as well as built-in SteadyShot(tm) image stabilization.

**Best actioncam: FDR-X3000R**

The 4K-capable FDR-X3000R is built around an 8.2MP Exmor R CMOS sensor and features a ZEISS(r) Tessar f/2.8 lens with wide angle. The compact unit has a unique Balanced Optical SteadyShot(tm) image stabilization system that works even in 4K and high speed recording modes. The FDR-X3000R offers built-in Wi-Fi, with a new version of Live-View Remote control, GPS and a stereo microphone, plus a stereo mini jack. Numerous shooting effects include Time-lapse capture, high-speed recording and 120 fps shooting rate. As is, the camera is splash proof, but a housing is available to shoot at depths of up to 60 meters.



**JIANGSU PROVINCE:** In this image taken from a Nov 9, 2016 video footage by AP Video, a drone takes off to deliver JD.com parcel from Tiantong'an village near Suqian city. —AP

## CHINA RETAILER ANNOUNCES ONE-TON DELIVERY DRONES

**BEIJING:** China's biggest online retailer, JD.com Inc., announced plans yesterday to develop drone aircraft capable of carrying a ton or more for long-distance deliveries. The company said it will test the drones on a network it is developing to cover the northern Chinese province of Shaanxi. It said they will carry consumer goods to remote areas and farm produce to cities. JD.com, headquartered in Beijing, says it made its first deliveries to customers using smaller drones in November. Other e-commerce brands including Amazon.com Inc. also are experimenting with drones for delivery.

"We envision a network that will be able to efficiently transport goods between cities, and even between provinces, in the future," the chief executive of JD's logistics business group, Wang Zhenhui, said in a statement. JD.com operates its own nationwide network of thousands of delivery stations manned by 65,000 employees. The company says it has 235 million regular customers. Drones are part of the industry's response to the challenge of expanding to rural areas where distances and delivery costs rise.

Drone delivery in China and other countries faces hurdles including airspace restrictions and the need to avoid collisions with birds and other obstacles. In the United States, regulators allow commercial drone flights only on an experimental basis. A 1 ton payload is heavier than what most drones available now can carry, though some can carry hundreds of kilograms and major drone makers are working on devices able to carry more.

China is home to the world's biggest manufacturer of civilian drones, DJI, in the southern city of Shenzhen.

JD.com said its planned drone delivery network in Shaanxi would cover a 300-kilometer (200-mile) radius and have drone air bases throughout the province. The company said it will set up a research-and-development campus with the Xi'an National Civil Aerospace Industrial Base to develop and manufacture drones. JD.com earlier reported first-quarter revenue rose 41.2 percent over a year ago to 76.2 billion yuan (\$11.1 billion). It reported profit of 843.1 million yuan (\$122.4 million) compared with a loss of 864.9 million yuan a year earlier. —AP

## MADA WINS SEVERAL ISO AWARDS

**KUWAIT:** The MADA Telecom Company announced being awarded the Quality Management System certificate ISO 9001:2015, the Environmental Management System certificate ISO 14001:2015 and the Occupational Health & Safety Management System certificate OHSAS 18001, which are usually awarded to companies with the highest management quality levels that match international specifications.

Notably, The QMS, ISO 9001 helps monitor quality levels and companies operations while the international standard specifications system ISO 14001 is usually awarded to companies with effective environmental management to ensure their commercial

sustainability while maintaining and protecting the surrounding environment. The International Occupational Health and Safety Management Standard; OHSAS 18001 is usually awarded for companies using standard related conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, MADA's board chairman and CEO, Saheb Saleh Khajjah said that such achievements match the company's strategic priorities and vision based on providing customers with the latest wireless telecom services and quality broadband internet services. Khajjah added that MADA was working hard on becoming Kuwait and the Middle East's leading data communication service providers.

## FLEXIBLE CONSUMPTION MODELS FOR IT: FROM THE DESKTOP TO THE DATA CENTER

DELL EMC WORLD 2017

**LAS VEGAS:** Dell Technologies announces its company-wide approach to simple and predictable flexible consumption models designed to accelerate IT Transformation. Organizations are looking for new ways to procure their technology and solutions to reduce large up-front capital investment costs in a rapidly-changing technology landscape. Dell Technologies is uniquely positioned to respond to this industry shift with its broad portfolio of client and data center products, award-winning services and support, and industry-leading payment solutions from Dell Financial Services (DFS).

Whether implementing a hyper-converged infrastructure solution for the first time, planning a PC refresh or modernizing an entire data center, Dell Technologies has a consumption model tailored to the technology being implemented. This gives organizations more flexibility with their IT planning and strategy - they can scale capacity up or down with changing business demands, respond to unpredictable spikes in demand, or rollout new technologies incrementally without large upfront capital costs.

"Many IT leaders worry about unforeseen costs and risks when adopting new or different technologies, but organizations that do not invest in IT Transformation initiatives risk falling behind their competitors," said Howard Elias, President, Dell EMC Services and IT. "With flexible, simple and predictable payment solutions, we help organizations adopt the technology-from the desktop to the datacenter-that best suits their business needs today and allows a more pay-as-go model for modernizing and transforming IT."

**Introducing DFS Flex on demand**

Initially available for all Dell EMC storage solutions, Flex on Demand lets customers pay only for the storage capacity needed, which reduces costs associated with over provisioning. Importantly, Flex on Demand provides instant access to additional buffer capacity during

spikes driven by the business, with payments adjusting to match usage. DFS offers a low capacity commitment and a flexible payment period so customers may pay only for what is consumed, freeing up budgets for other projects.

**Introducing DFS CloudFlex for HCI**

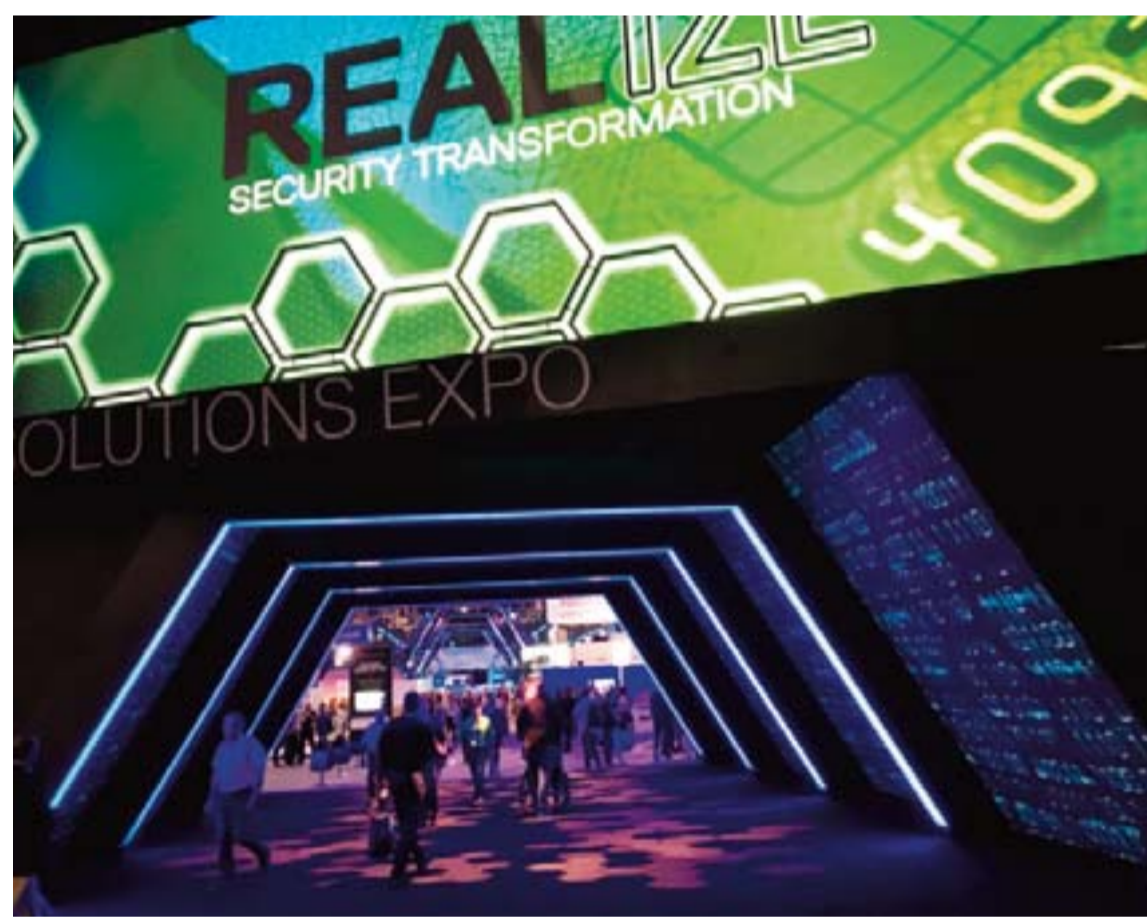
Initially available for Dell EMC's hyper-converged family of prod-

ucts, over 40% of respondents say they have engaged in the past 12 months, or are considering engaging in the next 12 months. The Dell Technologies PC as a Service solution combines the latest Dell Technologies PC hardware, software and end-to-end services including deployment, management, security and support, for a single, predictable price per seat per month. The solution helps

VMware Horizon, is based on VxRail Appliances or vSANReadyNodes(tm) so that customers can build their own VDI solution or buy a pre-configured, end-to-end solution.

**Transformational License Agreement (TLA)**

The Dell Technologies TLA is a single, simple software agreement for license and maintenance that makes annual spend



ucts, with CloudFlex for HCI customers can experience a cloud-like consumption model with simple monthly payments, built-in price reductions over time, and no upfront costs or obligation after the first year. Starting with Dell EMC VxRail Appliances and Dell EMC XC Series, this flexible, low-risk financing solution eliminates initial capital costs and spreads payments over time, and gives customers the ability to spend more time and resources on innovating and growing their businesses.

**Introducing PC as a service**

According to a recent IDC sur-

reduce the burden and cost of IT management over the complete lifecycle of the PC, allowing IT to focus on more strategic priorities and gets end-users into new technology faster.

For organizations that are contemplating desktop and application virtualization technologies, Dell EMC VDI Complete Solutions reduces the common barriers to adoption by making it easier to buy, deploy and manage with a single number for support. VDI Complete combines the infrastructure, software and services from a single vendor. The solution, powered by

more predictable and cost-effective. This highly customized software contract offers unprecedented flexibility in the way software titles are consumed and maintained, especially as requirements change over time. For example, customers can readily swap un-deployed software with any new title, including titles not in the agreement, and freely exchange any software, including titles that have already been deployed. Finally, pre-paid T-credits can be redeemed at any time for incremental software licenses, as well as professional, education and public cloud services.

## USING SMART PHONE TECHNOLOGY AGAINST SEX ASSAULTS IN SCHOOLS

**NEW YORK:** The same technology that keeps kids glued to their smart phones is being used by some schools as protection against sexual assaults. Using apps, victims and bystanders can alert school officials, police or parents to trouble. While the systems can be used by kids pranking each other, app developers and school officials say most claims end up being credible. Reporting happens as events unfold and administrators can respond immediately.

The real challenge is money. Not all schools can afford the apps, some of which base their cost on the number of users or size of a student population. However, school insurance companies increasingly are picking up the tab, seeing the apps as a tool to mitigate risk. Experts also warn that these apps should never be considered the sole way for a school to address the issue of student sexual assault. Here are a few of them:

**STOPIt**

New Jersey-based creator Todd Schobel launched this app in 2013. His inspiration was Amanda Todd, a 15-year-old who committed suicide after posting a video on YouTube in which she held up flashcards describing how her topless image ended up on the Internet, triggering a relentless barrage of bullying. The app - championed by Amanda's mom - allows victims and bystanders to report anonymously to administrators, teachers and virtually anyone the school deems appropriate. There are no parental controls.

Users can send either a single text or have a two-way chat, and can attach pictures, screenshots and video. The person who receives the alert can forward the information to law enforcement or suicide response teams, depending on the risk. The app stores all evidence and notes regarding incidents in a secure cloud-based server so school administrators can collect and analyze it over time.

**Number of users:** More than 2.5 million in K-12, according to the company.

**What it costs:** Schools pay \$1 to \$5 per head for the app, depending on the size of the student body. Some school insurers also have begun paying for the software for their clients' use because they see it as a way to mitigate risk.

**Available for download:** Apple's App Store or Google Play.

**Anonymous alerts**

The name pretty much says it. Students can overcome the social pressures associated with "ratting out" peers by sending in anonymous tips. This app has drop-down menus, asking users what type of school they attend and where the incident took place, where it be a bus, hallway or gym. Students can either send school administrators a single text or have back-and-forth conversations. They also can attach pictures, social media

screenshots or video. The president of the company, Gregory Bender, created his first emergency messaging system after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The computer software for his latest app - launched in 2013 to address all kinds of bullying - also collects alerts from students over time so schools can monitor trends. Number of users: Around 5 million in K-12 schools, according to the company. It is available only to participating schools with a license.

**What it costs:** 50 cents to \$2 per head.

**Available for download:** Apple's App Store or Google Play and Chromebook Store.

**Circle of 6**

Created by sexual assault survivors, this one was born out of the White House's "Apps Against Abuse" challenge in 2011. Though the company Tech 4 Good initially developed the app for colleges, it now has been customized for use by younger students. After down-

loading the app, students pick six trusted friends to join a "circle." If they are in a precarious situation, users click an icon that sends a prewritten text message telling their friends they may need help and what kind.

The app also includes informative links about sexual abuse and national hot lines. Prince William County Public Schools, the second-largest school district in Virginia with some 90,000 students, signed up its K-12 schools in 2016. The district says it doesn't know how many students have downloaded the app, but developers say it's the first grade school in the U.S. to sign on. Circle of 6 was customized and designed to provide an extra layer of protection for younger kids, with parental permission required for those under 13 to download the app.

**Number of users:** 350,000 (mostly colleges)

**What it costs:** \$1 to \$3 per head.

**Available for download:** Apple's App Store or Google Play. —AP

## OCEAN FARMER HATCHES PLAN TO GROW FOOD CHEAPLY

**TEPIC, Mexico:** After two hurricanes in a row wiped out the crop of oysters Bren Smith would hustle on the streets of Brooklyn, the fisherman decided to take his ocean farm among Connecticut's Thimble Islands "3D", and says the model could help boost food security. Firmly locked in place with hurricane-proof anchors, horizontal ropes sunk below the surface of the sea form the layered framework of Smith's 3D ocean farm.

Streamers of kelp grow downwards while scallops hang in nets and mussels in special socks, with oysters sitting in cages below. Clams grow under the mud on the sea floor. "We went 3D and started growing a whole mix of species - but only species that you don't have to feed, that are zero input. So no fresh water, no fertilizer, no feed, which makes it the most affordable food to grow," said Smith, who dropped out of school aged 14 to work on industrial ships hovering up vast quantities of fish, sometimes illegally.

Kelp, a form of seaweed, sucks up five times more carbon than land-based plants while oysters can filter 189 litres of water a day, said Smith. The easily assembled underwater farms prove a magnet for fish and help regenerate reefs. And if a hurricane threatens, they can be quickly packed up or simply sunk lower, he added. So far, the 3D concept, pioneered by Smith's non-profit GreenWave, has drawn interest from would-be farmers around the United States, as well as in Brazil, Chile, Britain, Trinidad and South Africa.

GreenWave has helped set up 10 farms in less than two years, and will soon start test farms in California, hoping to have 25 farms of up to 20 acres each in place by next year. It also has plans to build up "reefs" of farms, based around areas with a land-based hatchery and a pool of companies nearby to buy the seaweed and shellfish. With low capital costs and minimum skill requirements, ocean farming can use a "nail salon model of the sea" to

grow fast, said Smith. Farmers who cannot afford land are now eyeing ocean plots, which cost around \$20,000 plus a boat to set up in the United States, and can net up to \$150,000 a year, he noted. "If we have enough of these farms, we can have a major impact. It's not like some Brooklyn bee farm on a roof that produces honey for the farmers' market," said Smith by phone from Connecticut. "This is actually trying to address serious issues of food security and economic opportunity."

### Soy of the Sea

In the United States, ocean farmers can lease underwater land from towns or states for around \$25 an acre, growing 10 tonnes of kelp and 150,000 shellfish per acre and creating two full-time and a handful of part-time jobs per farm, said Smith. He described kelp as a "game changer" because it is so fast-growing and has wide uses, from food to cosmetics, animal fodder and fertilizers. "It's like

the soy of the sea, but not evil in a way as it's not destructive," said Smith.

While it might not yet be a common menu item, Smith sells kelp to companies like Google, which makes seaweed burgers for its cafeterias, and he ranks the roasted kelp noodles sold in a New York restaurant as his favorite way to cook the plant. "Imagine being a chef and there are thousands of kinds of vegetables you'd never seen or cooked or tasted before - it's the beginning of an entirely new culinary adventure in our oceans," he said. Alongside GreenWave, which trains farmers and provides seeds and equipment, a separate company takes responsibility for processing plants and market development for the ocean farms, promising to buy 80 percent of the produce at triple the market rate, selling the shellfish and kelp to local restaurants and other businesses.

### Seaweed on the Global Menu

According to a World Bank report last

year, global food security could be strengthened by large-scale seaweed production for human and animal use. An increase to 500 million dry-weight tonnes a year by 2050 could boost the world's food supply by 10 percent, it said. Massive seaweed farming expansion could help tropical developing countries reduce poverty and climate change-linked migration, and improve their ecosystem management, it added.

Growing seaweed in polluted waters can also soak up contaminants and later potentially be used to generate energy. Regions such as the Caribbean could be fertile ground for the next phase of 3D ocean farming, creating jobs and eco-tourism opportunities, although this would require different species and the participation of scientists, policy makers and chefs, said Smith. "We need to farm our way into a new economy and into a new revived ecology," he said. — Reuters

## WHO MEET REFUSES TO ADMIT TAIWAN AMID CHINA PRESSURE

**GENEVA:** Despite impassioned pleas from several countries, the World Health Organization's annual assembly refused yesterday to even discuss admitting Taiwan to the meeting, under pressure from China. Self-governing Taiwan, which China sees as a renegade province awaiting reunification, has been invited to attend the WHO's main annual meeting as an observer every year since 2009, but this year it did not receive an invitation. Relations with China have become increasingly frosty since Taiwan's Beijing-sceptic President Tsai Ing-wen took power almost a year ago and China has sought to block the island from a string of international events.

In an interview with AFP Sunday, Taiwanese Health Minister Chen Shih-chung said he was "very, very disappointed" to be excluded from the meeting. Representatives from 11 of WHO's 194 member countries, including Nicaragua, Paraguay and Belize, put forth a proposal yesterday - the first day of the assembly - to put offering Taiwan permanent observer status onto the agenda. But the assembly decided without a vote to reject the proposal, leaving the issue off the agenda. Pro-Taiwan protesters were demonstrating in front of the UN as the gathering was under way.

Robert Browne, the health minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines which was

among the countries behind the proposal, warned that "the exclusion of Taiwan erodes the credibility, integrity and effectiveness of this important assembly". His counterpart from Palau, Gregorio Ngirmang, agreed, asking the assembly how he could be permitted to represent the 17,000 citizens of Palau at the meeting "while we ignore the 23 million people in Taiwan."

But China hailed the decision to leave Taiwanese observer status off the agenda, insisting that was Beijing's decision alone. "Taiwan is part of China. Questions regarding Taiwan are China's internal affairs," the Chinese representative at the meeting said. Under Tsai's Beijing-friendly predecessor Ma Ying-jeou, a cross-strait agreement was reached allowing Taiwan to sit in on the World Health Assembly as an observer. Today "the political foundation for Taiwan China to participate in the assembly this year is not there anymore," the Chinese representative said Monday.

He rejected the notion put forth by the 11 countries that blocking Taiwan could hamper international cooperation and the rapid exchange of information on health matters. The proposal's real agenda, he said, was to help Taiwanese "authorities to manipulate health issues in an attempt to expand their so-called international space and challenge the One China principle." — AFP



A polar bear is seen in Svalbard, Norway. — AP

## TIME TO DITCH POLAR BEARS? NEW CLIMATE IMAGES SOUGHT

**LONDON:** What does climate change look like? For many people, the first - or perhaps only - image that comes to mind is of smokestacks, or polar bears perched on ice floes. "If you go to Google and click on climate change images, you have to go a long way before you hit many images of people," says Adam Corner, research director at Climate Outreach, an Oxford-based think-tank that aims to boost public engagement on climate change.

But climate change already is affecting billions of people around the world, from farmers in Zimbabwe experimenting with new crops to battle drought to grandmothers in India who earn cash selling solar home lighting systems, or children in the United States coping with a longer allergy season. Getting more of those people-focused images into the media, into NGO campaigns and into other public communications could help more people identify with the problem, see the opportunities and understand the need for action, Corner said.

"There's nothing wrong with polar bears," he said. "But they're very distancing images. They identify climate change as something that happens far away where most people's lives aren't. They don't do justice to the richness of the human experience of climate change." In an effort to widen that narrow view, Corner's organization has launched a new portal for climate change images. Inspired by Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg's Lean In effort - which has worked to make sure online searches for images

of women offer up more than just lingerie models - the Climate Visuals portal showcases a diverse range of climate change photographs drawn from stock photo agencies.

Images so far, provided by early partners such as US-based Aurora Photos, include US homeowners installing attic insulation, women in Burkina Faso pumping scarce water, and European researchers studying the migration of grasses in the Alps. There are scientists monitoring glaciers too - but no polar bears. "The question is, if you make a change upstream in what's available, can you politically influence the way people think about that issue?" Corner said. "Climate change has gotten stuck behind some iconic but limited images. We're trying to kickstart a broader, more diverse visual language for it."

### Worth a Thousand Words

The not-for-profit effort is far from the first to try to reshape thinking about global warming and help people engage with what, for some, feels like an invisible and distant problem despite its clear and growing threats. But the project is one of the first to look at images, rather than language, something Corner finds surprising. "It's very strange given we're an increasingly visual culture," he said. "The old adage about a picture painting a thousand words is really true - especially given attention spans."

Before launching the portal, Corner and colleagues conducted surveys in the United States, Britain and Germany to find out what

people liked - and didn't - about photographs of climate change. What they discovered is that viewers wanted to see people dealing with or taking action on climate change - though many said they're tired of seeing climate change protesters. However, people don't like being made to feel guilty about their personal choices - such as flying rather than taking the train, or eating steak rather than vegetables - so showing a family going on holiday on a plane as an example of what needs to change "can backfire", Corner said.

Photographs of traffic jams or industrial-scale food waste - both contributors to climate change - "people were more able to accept as a cause of climate change and relate to", he said. Corner hopes the new portal will attract a range of contributors and users, including media, NGOs and campaign groups. Users will be able to click on the images on the portal and be taken directly back to the agencies that supplied the photos, with the agencies handling any sales.

He is also working with World Press Photo to try to establish a new award category for climate change photographs in next year's competition - another way to encourage thinking about a broader range of climate images beyond polar bears and smokestacks. "The question is, what would happen if you don't get just that narrow range of images?" he asked. "Do people go clicking for polar bears? Or would they be happy to find a more diverse range of human stories - something they can relate to?" — Reuters



GENEVA: Outgoing Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), China's Margaret Chan, gestures after delivering her last speech before the delegates on the opening day of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the WHO's annual meeting, yesterday. — AFP

## ELEPHANT CRUSHES SOUTH AFRICAN HUNTER TO DEATH

**HARARE:** A South African big-game hunter was crushed to death when an elephant picked him up and then fell on him after being shot, Zimbabwean officials and media reports said yesterday. Theunis Botha, 51, a professional hunter who specialized in hunting with hounds, died on Friday in western Zimbabwe. He was leading a group of hunters on state-owned land in the Gwayi region when they disturbed a breeding herd and were charged by four female elephants.

One elephant lifted Botha up with her trunk, and a fellow hunter shot the animal dead, the News24 website said. As the elephant collapsed, it crushed Botha, giving him fatal injuries. His body was taken to Hwange mortuary.

Simukai Nyasha, spokesman for Zimbabwe's parks and wildlife manage-

ment authority, confirmed the death to AFP. "The unfortunate incident happened when the hunting party got in the middle of a breeding herd of elephants and were attacked by female elephants," he said, adding that the hunt was authorized.

A spokeswoman for Botha's company "Big Game Safaris", based in Limpopo, South Africa, declined to comment to AFP, but said a statement would be issued later this week. Botha led regular "trophy hunts" for clients, often from America, who pay thousands of dollars to shoot leopards, giraffes, elephants and other animals. A father of five, Botha's family-run company was set up in 1983 and operates in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique and Namibia. Another South African was killed by a crocodile last month while hunting in southern Zimbabwe. — AFP



NEW DELHI: A baby macaque clings to her mother as they climb the roof of a parked car in the Indian capital yesterday. — AFP

## BIRD-RIDING LOSES LUSTER IN S AFRICA'S OSTRICH CAPITAL

**JOHANNESBURG:** Clambering onto an ostrich for a ride used to be popular among tourists in a South African town known as the "ostrich capital of the world". Not so much anymore. Two major ostrich farms in the Oudtshoorn area have stopped offering ostrich rides to tourists, responding to concerns from European clients and others about the birds' welfare. A third farm is sticking with the feature, saying its regulations include tourist weight restrictions and that an ostrich does not experience discomfort while trotting with someone on its back for 10 seconds or so.

The debate is part of a wider discussion in Africa and beyond about the ethics of human interaction with certain animals for entertainment or other purposes. Ostrich farmers stress that riding an ostrich is different from riding an elephant, which would need to be trained. Nor, they say, can it be compared with the petting of lion cubs, whose time in captivity prevents them from learning how to survive in the wild.

But ostrich rides, which used to be "something that really captured the imagination," are now viewed with distaste by many clients, said Douglas Bester, owner of Cango ostrich farm in Oudtshoorn. The farm scrapped rides at the end of February. "It's a market demand," Bester said, adding: "It's more ethical to teach kids to love the birds than to sit on them and have fun laughing when someone falls off."

Oudtshoorn is in South Africa's arid Karoo region and ostriches were first farmed there for their feathers in the 19th century. Feathers ranked fourth behind gold, wool and diamonds in the value of South African exports before World War I,

whose economic fallout devastated the ostrich industry, according to the website of the Safari Ostrich Show Farm. Besides feathers, there is also a market for ostrich eggs, meat and leather.

The Safari farm started regulating ostrich rides about 15 years ago, eventually lowering the weight

restriction for tourists to 60 kg, and dropped the practice altogether on May 5, said marketing manager Billy Engelbrecht. "We saw that a lot of our local and international tourists weren't keen on riding ostriches anymore, like they would have been 40 or 50 years ago," Engelbrecht said. — AP



OUDTSHOORN, South Africa: In this June 27, 2010 file photo, two men compete in an ostrich race at Highgate ostrich farm. — AP

# MAASAI HERDERS MAKE UNLIKELY CITY DWELLERS

**DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania:** On the crowded streets of the Tanzanian capital, the sight of groups of men brandishing spears and clubs or hoisting wooden sticks used to herd cattle is no longer unusual. The men are Maasai, one of northern Tanzania's most recognizable ethnic groups, known the world over for their semi-nomadic lifestyle and distinctive, colorful beads, red robes and distended earlobes.

While Maasai migration to urban areas began in earnest in the 1990s, pastoralist rights activists say a combination of recurrent drought, loss of grazing lands to wildlife reserves and large-scale agricultural investment has forced increasing numbers of Maasai to migrate to cities. Onesmo Ole Ngurumwa, national coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition, said there are more than 5,000 Maasai youth living in Tanzania's capital Dar es Salaam alone.

Most try their luck as security guards while others braid women's hair, prepare traditional herbs for sale or hawk belts, leather wallets and bracelets. Lameck Maneno, 32, from Bomang'ombe near Arusha in northern Tanzania, said more and more Maasai land is being sold to wealthy individuals and private companies.

"We remain with (only) a small area for farming or cattle grazing," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "I came here two years ago and I was

employed as a watchman. My boss trusts me because I don't steal."

### Tradition Rules

The Maasai have shunned modern life for decades and still represent one of the largest pastoral groups worldwide, roaming across southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. They have lived alongside - and in ecological balance - with indigenous wildlife for centuries. According to pastoralist rights campaigners there are around a million Maasai living in Kenya and Tanzania. But they say the continued allocation of vast tracts of grazing lands for wildlife parks is taking its toll.

Three years ago, in Loliondo, in Tanzania's northern Ngorongoro District, more than 40,000 Maasai pastoralists were evicted from a 150 sq km tract of land ostensibly to make way for a wildlife corridor. However the land has ultimately been used for the establishment of a private game park by a United Arab Emirates-based company, activists say. "Our traditional grazing land is shrinking every single day, Yannick Ndoinyo, a Maasai activist and ward councillor in Olososokwan village in Loliondo said by phone. "We can no longer sustain ourselves."

Thomas Sangale, director of Livelihood Initiative Support, a Dar es Salaam-based non-profit group that advocates for the herders, described govern-

ment policies banning the grazing of animals in wildlife areas as "deliberate harassment" of pastoralist communities. Jumanne Maghembe, Tanzania's minister for tourism and natural resources, denied the accusation. "The decision to ban grazing activities in our national parks is consistent with the law, and does not target local communities," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

### Land Rights Risks

Governments across east Africa have worked to encourage nomad communities to settle into farming as a strategy to avert land disputes, said Ngurumwa of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition. But restricting herders to one area undermines their ability to feed their animals, especially in the face of climate change. "Maasai herders are constantly on the move to find water and fresh pastures. It's virtually impossible to confine them in one area," said Ndoinyo, the Maasai activist.

For those who do move to the cities, the hope is that they can make enough money to sustain the families left behind on the land. "When I came here I expected my life to change rapidly, but things did not go as I planned. I am still looking for a job," said Jumbe Saidim, 28, from Oldonyo Sambu, in the Arusha region. While a handful manage to eke out a living, many find themselves living miserable lives on

the streets, without shelter or enough food. "I have to do a lot of things to survive; selling cigarettes at night, supplying herbs for men with erectile dysfunction, even plaiting women's hair," said Raymond Letoto, a hawker in Tegeta area of Dar es Salaam. "You have to diversify your businesses to survive."

### Danger, Exploitation

Those Maasai who work as security guards complain about the lack of job security and being forced to work in dangerous areas where they often risk their lives. "Our job is very dangerous and the weapons we use, spears and machetes, are very inferior when thieves come with guns," said Ombeni Kessy, a security guard working in a private home in the Mwenge area of the city. He said many Maasai watchmen have also been exploited by police who arrest them on fraudulent charges and demand money.

The struggle to make a living has led groups of Maasai in Dar es Salaam to join forces and create informal welfare organizations. "We normally call a meeting once every month to discuss our problems and find ways to help one another," said Laibon Kaluse, a group leader in Mwenge. "If someone has died back home, we raise some money so someone can attend the funeral," he said. "If someone is sick, we help them." — Reuters

## TRUMP TO PROPOSE SLASHING MEDICAID

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump is expected to propose cutting \$800 billion from Medicaid over 10 years in a budget plan to be released today that would slash spending on anti-poverty and other programs, US media reported. The plans for the massive cut to Medicaid - which funds healthcare for low-income and disabled people - come as lawmakers from his Republican Party are battling to repeal and replace Obamacare, in which Medicare plays an important role.

The \$800 billion cut to Medicaid is contingent on a health care bill passed in the House of Representatives earlier this month becoming law. The Washington Post on Sunday quoted people familiar with the plan as saying. That bill to dismantle the Affordable Care Act - as former president Barack Obama's signature health care law is called - would cut federal support for Medicaid by more than \$800 billion over a decade.

Medicaid's expansion under Obamacare extended health care coverage to some 11 million previously uninsured adults. Medicaid currently covers more than 70 million mainly low-income and disabled people. The House bill would cut federal funding for the entire Medicaid program by 25 percent by 2026 and shift the burden to states, which would receive set amounts in the form of grants that would force them to reduce eligibility or cut benefits.

The American Medical Association issued a scathing criticism of the bill, warning that it would cause millions of Americans to lose their healthcare. Some Republicans who also criticized the House bill say they oppose major cuts to Medicaid. The Senate is working on its own separate health care legislation. The Congressional Budget Office, which appraised an earlier version of the House bill in March, said 14 million fewer people would enroll in the program by 2026.

The CBO is expected to release a new score of the revised bill on tomorrow. Trump promised not to cut Medicaid during his campaign last year. His comprehensive budget plan to be unveiled Tuesday will provide the most detailed look at his plans to overhaul government spending and taxes since he issued a blueprint in March. It would make drastic cuts in spending on the arts, environmental protection and foreign aid, scrapping dozens of programs but making a large increase in military spending and border security, the Post reported.

Critics say the plans would amount to a massive boost for the wealthy. "This budget continues to reveal President Trump's true colors," the Senate's Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement on Sunday. "His populist campaign rhetoric was just a Trojan horse to execute long-held, hard-right policies that benefit the ultra-wealthy at the expense of the middle class." Congress must approve most of the plan's changes before they can be enacted. — AFP



KATHMANDU: Nepali army personnel burn wildlife parts seized from poachers at Chitwan National Park, some 250 km south yesterday. — AFP

# NEPAL TORCHES THOUSANDS OF VALUABLE WILDLIFE PARTS

**KATHMANDU:** Nepal destroyed thousands of valuable animal skins and other parts seized from poachers on a giant bonfire yesterday in a symbolic gesture against the illegal wildlife trade. More than 4,000 animal parts, including endangered tiger skins and rhino hides, were burned in a large pyre at Chitwan National Park, the nation's most important conservation area.

"As a country committed to conservation of wildlife and biodiversity, Nepal has destroyed animal parts stored over 20 years," Maheswor Dhakal from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation told AFP. "With this we want to send a message that these body parts of

endangered animals are not meant for trade." The stockpile included 67 tiger skins, more than 350 rhino hides, hair from elephant tails and other items.

The bonfire was timed to coincide with International Day for Biological Diversity yesterday. Another 1,100 kilograms of ivory is still in storage since it requires a higher temperature to incinerate. Dhakal said the storage and security of the animal specimens was also a financial burden for the small and impoverished country.

George Phocas, the regional attache for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, said the torching of the specimens was "very significant". "It is both a way to prevent them

from going to market... and it is also a statement that the government of Nepal and the people believe that it (the animal) should be in the wild," Phocas said. "These are priceless but they don't have a value if they are dead and in the closet."

Nepal suffered rampant poaching during a decade-long civil war that ended in 2006. The government ordered officials guarding wildlife sanctuaries to abandon their posts to fight Maoist rebels. But conservation groups have praised the Himalayan nation for its progress since then in combating poachers, who mainly hunt tigers and rhinos in its national parks. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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## MARRIOTT HOTELS IN KUWAIT HOLD FOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN

As part of their ongoing 'Spirit to Serve our Community' initiatives, the JW Marriott Kuwait, Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait, Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait and Arraya Ballroom organized a charity drive to donate a wide range of food items to Kuwait Red Crescent. The main goal behind it was to support the Kuwait humanitarian society's efforts to help the less fortunate and underprivileged families in Kuwait.

The donation was handed to representatives from Kuwait Red Crescent by Cluster General Manager of Kuwait Marriott Hotels, Mr George Aoun and members of the Associates Relation Committee (ARC), as part of their ongoing efforts to support the local communities by engaging in activities that promote social awareness. Over the years, Marriott Hotels Kuwait has established a reputation for serving the society with active involvement

in many local charities and organizations such as the Kuwait Centre for Autism.

Marriott Hotels also organized various blood donation campaigns in cooperation with Kuwait Blood Bank. Through these regular activities, Marriott Kuwait aim to spread awareness in the local community on the importance of serving as a good example that upholds the value of the community as a whole.

George Aoun, Cluster General Manager of Kuwait Marriott Hotels, said "teaming up with the Red Crescent Organization for a good cause reaffirm the corporate social responsibility of Marriott properties in Kuwait. "We hope that our spirit to serve initiatives will help people whose conditions didn't enable them to have a fulfilled life. At Marriott Kuwait, we are very committed to making a positive change in our local community," Mr Aoun added.



## SAVECO LAUNCHES RAMADAN LIVE COOKING FESTIVAL



In the presence of the most famous chefs in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf SAVECO Food Academy and Deira Chefs team are launching the Ramadan Live Cooking Festival. In collaboration with the Deira Chefs teamwork, SAVECO Food Academy organized the live cooking festival sponsored by Sadia, KDD and kunooz Al-khair.

The festival began last week with the presence of the outstanding chef Mohamed Alkalha and will last till the middle of the Holy month of Ramadan on Thursday and Friday of each week. This week's guest will be the Kuwaiti chef Tasneem Al-Nasrullah who cooks special dishes and then the Kuwaiti chef Jameela Allenqawi who is close to ladies hearts, after that the famous Kuwaiti chef Wafaa Al-Kandari.

Sadia, KDD and kunooz alkhair offered special gifts to the participants in the presence of the company representatives as well as 30 participants in each course. The attendees expressed their gratitude for the free courses held at Food Academy at SAVECO Al-Rai and the registration for the upcoming courses continues through the Deira Chefs website until the completion of the number for each course.



## EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF RAMADAN AT JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL & SPA

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, embraces the tradition and spirit of Ramadan with special offerings. Friends and family are invited to come together for a memorable Iftar experience in the iconic Badriah Ballroom and a delicious Ghabqa gathering with sheesha in the beautifully decorated tent of Garden Cafe Restaurant. Kuwait's largest Ballroom, Badriah, is once again transformed into a glittering tent with a unique theme and concept offering private dining areas.

Guests are invited to break their fast with a sumptuous

Iftar buffet presenting traditional flavors emblematic to the Holy Month and featuring an enhanced focus on live-cooking stations of Saj, Shawarma and pasta assortments, Arabic mix grill counter of Kebab Kheskhash grills, and Lamb Harees with local favorites such as Arayes meat stuffed pitas and Shrimp Majboos. Other classics include traditional hot and cold mezzeh, Arabic sweets, dates and nuts, Ramadan juices and the must-try Chocolate Shawarma.

Iftar in Badriah is guaranteed to be a feast for the eyes

and the taste buds for a truly memorable experience.

Renowned for its commitment to innovation, the Hotel's all-day dining Restaurant Garden Café will host exceptional Ghabqa experience and surprise guests with wholesome offerings under a beautifully-adorned outdoor tent. For those looking to pass the evening away in serene surroundings while enjoying sheesha and Arabian melodies, the relaxed atmosphere in Garden Cafe tent will treat guests to a blend of tradition and authentic dishes.

Ramadan Nights can also be enjoyed at Arabesque

Middle Eastern Cafe, which offers the perfect venue to chill out with family and friends with a deliciously prepared a la carte menu for the Holy month including a flavorful sheesha. Opening times are from 8 pm to 2 am. Iftar buffet is priced at KWD 19 per person and Ghabqa is priced at KWD 14 per person. Prices include Ramadan drinks and a selection of teas. Children aged 5 to 12 years old enjoy a 50% discount and kids below 5 years old dine on complimentary basis. Live Oud entertainment is also available for Iftar and Ghabqa.



## GRAND HYPERMARKET OPENS ITS 9TH BRANCH IN KUWAIT

As part of the Ramadan offerings to its valuable customers, Grand Hypermarket will open its newest branch in Mahboula; block 2, on May 24, at 4 pm. This was announced at a press meet held on Sunday. This is the 43rd branch GCC-wide and the 9th in Kuwait for Grand Hypermarket, which is part of the leading Dubai-based business group, Regency. Kuwait's well-known community leaders and business figures will be present at the inauguration ceremony. Speaking at the press meet, Group Managing Director,

Dr Anwar Ameen stated that Grand Hypermarket differentiates itself by providing consumers with high-quality products, uniquely selected to suit their tastes and price sensitivities. "This way we make sure the consumers enjoy a complete shopping experience," he added. Grand Hypermarket offers a wide range of products including food stuffs, world-class electronic appliances, home appliances, footwear, health and beauty items et al. Perishable goods are shipped by air on a daily basis to ensure they are available fresh to the

end users. Customers will be able to enjoy interesting discounts across all product segments as part of the inaugural offer. Moreover, exciting offers and discounts will be available throughout Ramadan at all the Grand Hypermarket outlets across the country. For his part, Mr Ayyoob Kacheri, Kuwait Regional Director, stated that this opening is on track with Grand Hypermarket's expansion plans in the region, "and will be soon followed by another outlet in Mahboula, near Express Bay on block 1."



## CELEBRATE THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN WITH HILTON KUWAIT RESORT

In honour of the holy month of Ramadan, Hilton Kuwait Resort has announced a range of outstanding experiences for friends and family to celebrate this special time. From delicious Iftar buffets to indulgent Ghabkas and exclusive Sohours, Hilton Kuwait Resort invites you to create some truly unique Ramadan memories.

### Iftar at Teatro Restaurant

Enjoy a sumptuous buffet experience at Teatro, featuring a selection of gourmet Arabic and International delicacies, created especially for the holy month of Ramadan. Live cooking stations will add an element of culinary theatre as guests break their fast and observe this special time with loved ones. Iftar will be served from sunset until 21.00, while guests can delight in Teatro's mouthwatering Ghabka and Sohour buffet from 22.00 - 02.00.

### Ramadan shows at Palm Court private tents

Enjoy an extra special Ghabka set menu, or indulge in a lavish menu of Arabic sweets, from the luxury of your own private tent at the Palm Court. Situated right by the beach, these private tents offer unparalleled

views across the Arabian Gulf. Each tent is fully air conditioned and equipped with its own private television for friends and family to enjoy their favorite Ramadan shows. Enjoy flavorful sheesha while soaking up the views to create a truly memorable Ramadan experience. Palm Court is open daily from sunset to 02.00 during Ramadan.

### Dine at the Royale Marquee

For larger corporate or social events in Kuwait during Ramadan, look no further than the Royale Marquee. Treat your guests to specially designed menus featuring an extensive Oriental and International food buffet, inclusive of hot and cold Lebanese mezze and delectable desserts. Hilton Kuwait Resort's banqueting team will design your Ramadan event to the finest detail, ensuring a unique and memorable affair for you and your guests.

### Ramadan room package

In addition to these culinary feasts, Hilton Kuwait Resort is also offering exclusive Ramadan accommodation rates for rooms, chalets and villas during the holy month. Relax and spend quality with loved ones whilst enjoying the resort's 5 star facilities.



## MEDICAL CAMP FOR STAFF: A PHILANTHROPIC GESTURE BY ICSK

"A healthy body hosts a healthy mind." With this maxim in mind, a Medical Camp was organized under the auspices of The Indian Community School, Kuwait in association with the Indian Doctors Forum (IDF) and Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK), on May 20, 2017 at ICSK Senior, Salmiya. The camp was attended by about 450 Staff Members and their families. The main objective of this particular camp was to bring affordable healthcare and free health information to the staff and families of ICSK and identify their common health problems in order to devise ways of addressing them.

Specifically, the Medical Camp sought to provide health services to the community; provide both preventive and curative treatment for common conditions in the community; refer those who require specialized treatment to the relevant centers; create awareness and provide counselling on Diabetes, breast cancer and other ailments; create awareness on the need for personal hygiene in prevention of serious disabling diseases such as eye and dental, which are prevalent in the area.

The services that were provided at the medical camp were as follows: Height and weight check, BP & Blood sugar check, Cholesterol /CBC check, ECG, Ultrasound and



vision testing. Medical specialties which were available at the Medical Camp included General Medicine, General Surgery, ENT, Dermatology, Cardiology, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics, Gynecology, Oncology, Neurology, Pulmonology,

Endocrinology, Dental & Dietary Department. Furthermore the medical camp provided opportunities to both medical and non medical personnel to give back to the community by way of volunteering their time, energy and expertise. Over 50 men and women including



30 doctors set aside their personal engagements and spent the whole day serving the needy in various capacities and it is because of the input of everybody who came out to help that the medical camp was a resounding success.

The team of Principals under Dr.V Binumon, Principal & Senior Administrator of ICSK coordinated the program. Kuwait Kerala Muslim Association (KKMA) and Kuwait Kerala Muslim Cultural Center (KKMCC) made the arrangements to conduct the event successfully.

**OSN MOVIES**  
**ACTION**

- 01:00 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge
- 02:45 Jurassic Hunters
- 04:30 Echo Effect
- 06:00 King Arthur
- 08:15 Black Rose
- 09:45 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge
- 11:30 Echo Effect
- 13:00 King Arthur
- 15:15 Bad Company
- 17:15 Licence To Kill
- 19:30 Fast & Furious 7
- 22:00 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation

**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

- 00:45 Bondi Vet
- 01:40 Animal Cops Houston
- 02:35 Tanked
- 03:25 Wildest Islands
- 04:15 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
- 05:02 River Monsters
- 05:49 Animal Cops Houston
- 06:36 Going Ape
- 07:00 Going Ape
- 07:25 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
- 08:15 Animal Cops Houston
- 09:10 Wildest Islands
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 Animal Cops Houston
- 13:45 River Monsters
- 14:40 Wildest Islands
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 River Monsters
- 17:25 Dog Rescuers
- 18:20 Pit Bulls & Parolees
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 Cats 101
- 21:05 Dog Rescuers
- 22:00 Pit Bulls & Parolees
- 22:55 Wildest Islands
- 23:50 River Monsters

**BBC FIRST**

- 00:00 Casualty
- 00:55 The Collection
- 01:50 SS-GB
- 02:50 Silent Witness
- 03:50 Silent Witness
- 05:00 The Musketeers
- 06:00 Father Brown

- 08:55 Ridiculousness
- 09:20 Key And Peele
- 09:45 Disaster Date
- 10:10 Ridiculousness
- 10:35 Impractical Jokers
- 11:00 Sweat Inc.
- 11:50 I Live With Models
- 12:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 12:40 Impractical Jokers
- 13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 13:55 Ridiculousness
- 14:20 Bondi Ink.
- 15:20 I Live With Models
- 15:45 Disaster Date
- 16:10 Disaster Date
- 16:35 Ridiculousness
- 17:00 Lip Sync Battle
- 17:25 Key And Peele
- 17:50 Life Or Debt
- 18:39 Impractical Jokers
- 19:03 Disaster Date
- 19:27 Key And Peele
- 19:50 Key And Peele
- 20:13 IdiotSitter
- 20:37 IdiotSitter
- 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 21:30 Workaholics
- 22:00 South Park
- 22:25 Important Things With Demetri Martin
- 22:50 Tosh.0
- 23:15 Tosh.0
- 23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

**Discovery Family**

- 00:30 Invent It Rich
- 01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 01:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 02:10 Dirty Jobs
- 03:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 03:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 04:40 How It's Made
- 05:05 How It's Made
- 05:30 Storm Chasers
- 06:20 Mythbusters
- 07:00 Kenny The Shark
- 07:25 Awesome Adventures
- 07:50 Bad Dog
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 Invent It Rich
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 K9 Cops
- 12:00 Ultimate Survival
- 12:50 How It's Made
- 13:15 How It's Made
- 13:40 Storm Chasers
- 14:30 Kenny The Shark

- 02:30 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:55 Hank Zipzer
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:25 Hank Zipzer
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 The 7D
- 06:00 Jessie
- 06:25 Jessie
- 06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 06:55 The Zhuzhus
- 07:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 07:45 Bunk'd
- 08:10 Stuck In The Middle
- 08:35 Bizaardvark
- 09:00 Austin & Ally
- 09:25 Austin & Ally
- 09:50 Good Luck Charlie
- 10:15 Good Luck Charlie
- 10:40 Dog With A Blog
- 11:05 Dog With A Blog
- 11:30 Gravity Falls
- 11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 12:00 Welcome To The Ronks
- 12:15 The Zhuzhus
- 12:40 Hank Zipzer
- 13:05 Star Darlings
- 13:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 13:35 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Jessie
- 14:25 Hank Zipzer
- 14:50 Sunny Bunnies
- 14:55 The Zhuzhus
- 15:45 Elena Of Avalor
- 16:10 Liv And Maddie
- 16:35 Descendants Wicked World
- 16:40 Girl Meets World
- 17:05 Stuck In The Middle
- 17:30 Bunk'd
- 17:55 Bizaardvark
- 18:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 18:25 Alex & Co.
- 18:50 Best Friends Whenever
- 19:15 Star Darlings
- 19:20 Liv And Maddie
- 19:45 Hank Zipzer
- 20:10 Jessie
- 20:35 Crackle
- 20:40 Disney The Lodge
- 21:05 Bizaardvark
- 21:30 That's So Raven
- 21:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 22:00 Shake It Up
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

- 23:45 Loopdidoo
- Discovery HD
- 00:20 Street Outlaws
- 01:10 Gold Divers
- 02:00 Rebel Gold
- 02:50 Outback Truckers

**Discovery Channel HD**

- 03:40 Diesel Brothers
- 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 Diesel Brothers
- 08:30 Legend Of Croc Gold
- 09:20 Storage Hunters UK
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Gold Divers
- 11:25 Rebel Gold
- 12:15 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 13:05 How Do They Do It?
- 13:30 Storage Hunters UK
- 13:55 Storage Hunters UK
- 14:20 Gold Rush
- 15:10 Legend Of Croc Gold
- 16:00 Gold Divers
- 16:50 Diesel Brothers
- 17:40 Street Outlaws
- 18:30 How Do They Do It?
- 18:55 How Do They Do It?
- 19:20 Legend Of Croc Gold
- 20:10 Storage Hunters UK
- 20:35 Storage Hunters UK
- 21:00 Todd Sampson's Body Hack
- 21:50 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 22:40 Still Alive
- 23:30 Diesel Brothers

**XD**

- 06:00 Gravity Falls
- 06:25 Disney11
- 06:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 07:15 Milo Murphy's Law
- 07:25 Danger Mouse
- 07:40 Supa Strikas
- 08:05 Two More Eggs
- 08:10 K.C. Undercover
- 08:35 Counterfeit Cat
- 09:00 Lab Rats
- 09:25 Lab Rats
- 09:50 Future-Worm!
- 10:20 Pair Of Kings
- 10:45 Pair Of Kings
- 11:10 Danger Mouse
- 11:35 Supa Strikas
- 12:00 Supa Strikas
- 12:30 Gravity Falls
- 12:55 Annedroids
- 13:20 Atomic Puppet
- 13:45 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 14:15 Mighty Med
- 14:40 Kirby Buckets
- 15:05 Lab Rats
- 15:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 15:55 Right Now Kapow
- 16:25 K.C. Undercover
- 16:50 Disney11
- 17:15 Mech-X4
- 17:40 Milo Murphy's Law
- 18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 18:10 Gravity Falls
- 18:35 Mighty Med
- 19:00 Atomic Puppet
- 19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 19:55 K.C. Undercover
- 20:20 Mech-X4
- 20:45 Disney11
- 21:10 Walk The Prank
- 21:35 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 22:35 Boyster
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

**EHD**

- 01:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 01:50 Botched
- 02:50 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:20 Celebrity Style Story
- 04:40 Botched
- 05:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 06:00 E! News
- 06:55 E! News
- 07:10 E! News
- 08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
- 09:10 Rob & Chyna
- 10:05 Rob & Chyna
- 11:00 Rob & Chyna
- 12:00 E! News
- 12:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 13:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

- 14:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 15:00 E! News
- 15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
- 16:10 Live From The Red Carpet
- 18:00 Botched
- 19:00 E! News
- 20:00 Live From The Red Carpet
- 22:00 Fashion Police
- 23:00 E! News
- 23:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

**food network**

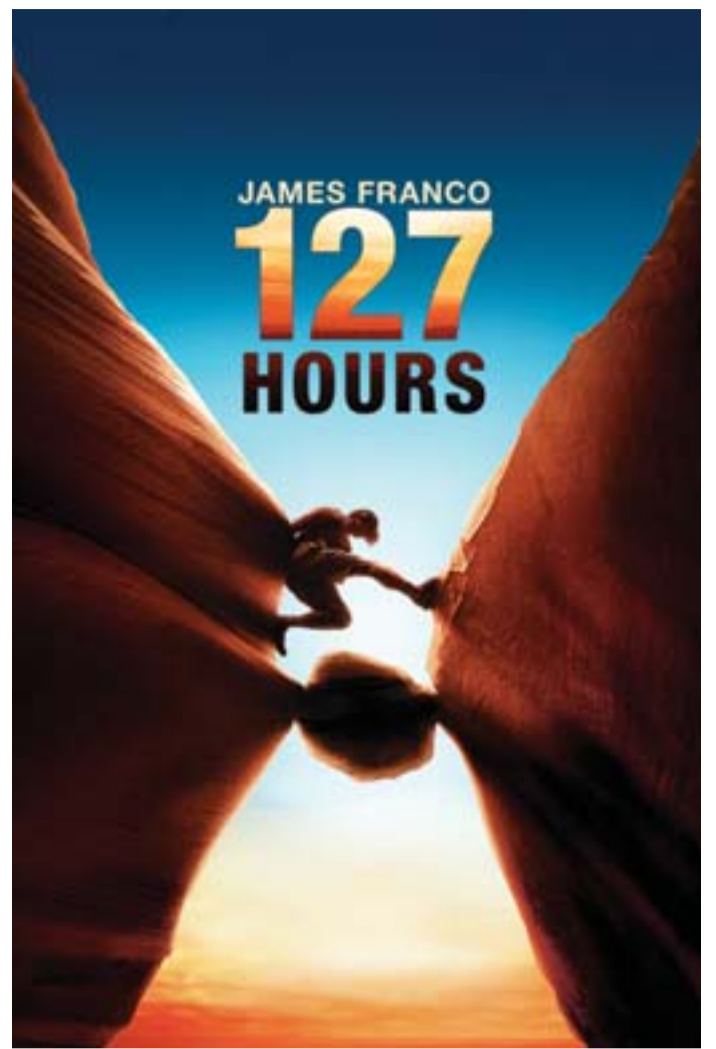
- 00:00 Restaurant: Impossible
- 01:00 Mystery Diners
- 01:30 Mystery Diners
- 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Chopped
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 06:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 07:00 The Kitchen
- 08:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 08:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 09:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 10:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 10:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 11:00 The Kitchen
- 12:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 13:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 13:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 The Kitchen
- 17:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 17:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 18:00 Chopped
- 19:00 Iron Chef America
- 20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:00 Man Finds Food
- 21:30 Man Finds Food
- 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:00 Guy's Grocery Games

**itv HD CHOICE**

- 00:10 Cash Trapped
- 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 Cash Trapped
- 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 Cash Trapped
- 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

**HISTORY HD**

- 00:20 101 People Who Made The 20th Century
- 01:10 Britain's Bloodiest Dynasty
- 02:00 Mummies Alive
- 02:50 Storage Wars
- 03:15 American Pickers
- 04:05 Pawn Stars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Mountain Men
- 06:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 06:50 Duck Dynasty
- 07:15 Duck Dynasty
- 07:40 Counting Cars
- 08:05 Counting Cars
- 08:30 Pawn Stars
- 08:55 Pawn Stars
- 09:20 Storage Wars
- 09:45 Storage Wars
- 10:10 American Pickers
- 11:00 Time Team



**127 HOURS ON OSN MOVIES HD**

- 11:50 Duck Dynasty
- 12:15 Duck Dynasty
- 12:40 Swamp People
- 13:30 Ax Men
- 14:20 Mountain Men
- 15:10 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 16:00 Storage Wars
- 16:25 Storage Wars
- 16:50 Pawn Stars
- 17:15 Pawn Stars
- 17:40 Britain's Bloodiest Dynasty
- 18:30 101 People Who Made The 20th Century
- 19:20 Mountain Men
- 20:10 American Pickers
- 21:00 American Pickers
- 21:50 Alone
- 22:40 Swamp People
- 23:30 American Pickers

**NAT GEO people HD**

- 00:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 00:40 Poh & Co.
- 01:10 Carnival Eats
- 01:40 Croatia's Finest
- 02:05 Glamour Puds
- 02:35 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
- 03:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 03:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 04:25 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 04:50 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
- 05:20 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul
- 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 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
- 10:50 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 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 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 14:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 15:25 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 15:50 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
- 16:20 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul
- 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
- 20:30 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul
- 21:00 Carnival Eats
- 21:30 Tom's Istanbul Delight
- 22:00 My Restaurant In India
- 22:25 Chasing The Sun
- 23:20 Glamour Puds
- 23:50 Andy And Ben Eat Australia

**OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY**

- 01:15 Storm Hero
- 03:00 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame II
- 04:15 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls
- 05:45 The Parent Trap
- 08:00 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame II
- 09:15 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers
- 10:30 Ice Age 3: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs
- 12:15 The Parent Trap
- 14:30 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers
- 15:45 Mars Needs Moms
- 17:15 It Takes Two
- 19:00 Secretariat
- 21:00 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success
- 22:45 Mars Needs Moms

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

- 00:45 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star
- 02:30 Dirty Work
- 04:00 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit
- 05:45 Perfect Match
- 07:15 Fierce Creatures
- 09:00 You Again
- 10:45 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit
- 12:30 Perfect Match
- 14:00 Fierce Creatures
- 15:45 Kicking And Screaming
- 17:30 It Boy
- 19:00 Ricki And The Flash
- 20:45 Hits
- 22:30 Daddy's Home

**OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**

- 01:15 Wildlife
- 03:15 The Yellow Handkerchief
- 05:00 The Sting
- 07:15 50 To 1
- 09:15 Grand Central
- 11:00 The Better Angels
- 12:45 Wildlife
- 14:30 The End Of The Tour
- 16:15 A Perfect Day
- 18:00 Swing Kids
- 20:00 Laggies
- 21:45 Cake
- 23:30 Blue Sky

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

- 01:15 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 02:45 Frog Kingdom
- 04:30 The Tigger Movie
- 06:00 Big Baby
- 07:30 Three Wishes
- 09:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 11:00 Capture The Flag
- 12:45 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 14:15 Egon And Donci
- 15:45 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 17:00 Yugo & Lala 2
- 18:30 Curious George
- 20:00 Egon And Donci
- 21:30 Three Wishes
- 23:30 Yugo & Lala 2

**OSN MOVIES HD**

- 01:30 127 Hours
- 03:15 The Guardian
- 05:45 Gridiron Gang
- 08:00 Rocky
- 10:00 127 Hours
- 11:45 S.W.A.T.
- 13:45 The Ladykillers
- 15:45 Rocky II
- 18:00 Forces Of Nature
- 20:00 The Legend Of Zorro
- 22:15 The Hurricane



**FAST & FURIOUS 7 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION**

- 06:50 Casualty
- 07:45 New Tricks
- 08:40 The Musketeers
- 09:30 Death In Paradise
- 10:20 Casualty
- 11:15 New Tricks
- 12:10 The Musketeers
- 13:05 Death In Paradise
- 14:00 Casualty
- 14:50 New Tricks
- 15:45 The Musketeers
- 16:40 Death In Paradise
- 17:30 Doctors
- 18:05 Doctors
- 18:35 Doctors
- 19:05 New Tricks
- 20:00 Spies Of Warsaw
- 21:00 Unforgotten
- 21:50 Silent Witness
- 22:50 Silent Witness
- 23:50 Doctors

**Discovery ID**

- 00:30 Blood Relatives
- 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 Monsters: When Moms Go Bad
- 07:25 Monsters: When Moms Go Bad
- 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 Monsters: When Moms Go Bad
- 12:25 Monsters: When Moms Go Bad
- 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 Monsters: When Moms Go Bad
- 17:25 Monsters: When Moms Go Bad
- 17:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 18:40 Blood Relatives
- 19:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 20:20 I'd Kill For You
- 21:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
- 22:00 Killing Richard Glossip
- 22:50 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 23:40 Jonben?: An American Murder Mystery

**COMEDY CENTRAL**

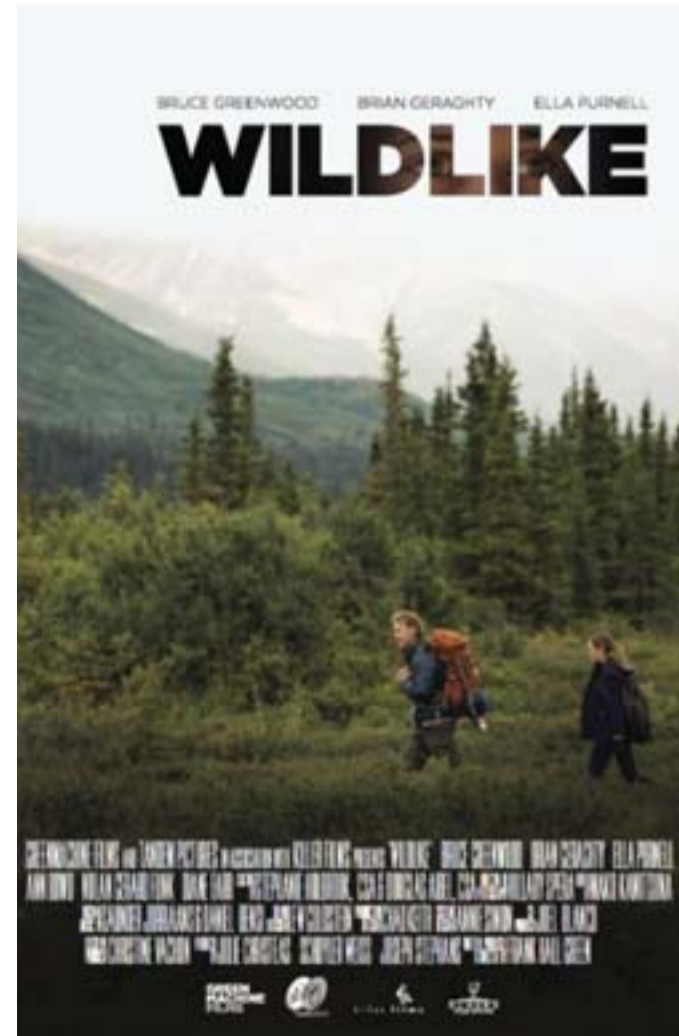
- 00:05 Chappelle's Show
- 00:30 South Park
- 00:55 South Park
- 01:20 Tosh.0
- 01:45 Tosh.0
- 02:10 Ugly Americans
- 02:35 This Is Not Happening
- 03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 04:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 04:40 Ridiculousness
- 05:05 Disaster Date
- 05:30 Bondi Ink.
- 06:30 Catch A Contractor
- 07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 08:05 Disaster Date
- 08:30 Disaster Date

**Disney HD**

- 00:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:25 Hank Zipzer
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost

**Disney Junior**

- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:35 Calimero
- 01:50 Zou
- 02:05 Art Attack
- 02:30 The Hive
- 02:40 Loopdidoo
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:10 Art Attack
- 03:35 Loopdidoo
- 03:50 Calimero
- 04:05 Art Attack
- 04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:45 Zou
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:45 Loopdidoo
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:15 Calimero
- 06:30 Loopdidoo
- 06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
- 07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 07:25 Sofia The First
- 07:50 The Lion Guard
- 08:15 PJ Masks
- 08:35 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 Goldie & Bear
- 19:35 Goldie & Bear
- 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 PJ Masks
- 22:30 PJ Masks
- 22:55 PJ Masks
- 23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:35 The Hive



**WILDLIKE ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL**

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD**

- 00:10 Scam City
- 01:00 Lawless Island
- 02:00 Primal Survivor
- 03:00 Mega Factories
- 04:00 Scam City



# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (18/05/2017 TO 24/05/2017)

Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time
<b>SHARQIA-1</b> KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD HERE ALONE KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD HERE ALONE	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	HERE ALONE	1:15 AM	THE BOSS BABY KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b> ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM	<b>FANAR-3</b> HALF GIRLFRIEND -Hindi HALF GIRLFRIEND -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi HALF GIRLFRIEND -Hindi ALIEN: COVENANT	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:45 PM 9:00 PM 11:45 PM	<b>AVENUES-2</b> ALIEN: COVENANT-2D-4DX ALIEN: COVENANT-2D-4DX ALIEN: COVENANT-2D-4DX KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX ALIEN: COVENANT-2D-4DX ALIEN: COVENANT-2D-4DX	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	<b>AL-KOUT.4</b> MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER ALIEN: COVENANT	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:15 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 11:45 PM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b> EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER ALIEN: COVENANT	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM	<b>FANAR-4</b> ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM	<b>AVENUES-3</b> THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY ALIEN: COVENANT MONOLITH	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:15 AM	<b>BAIRAQ-1</b> ALIEN: COVENANT THE BOSS BABY ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:30 PM 9:00 PM 11:30 PM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b> KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD HALF GIRLFRIEND -Hindi KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	11:30 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM	<b>FANAR-5</b> HERE ALONE HERE ALONE THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY HERE ALONE HERE ALONE HERE ALONE	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 AM	<b>360°-1</b> KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:45 PM 3:30 PM 6:15 PM 9:00 PM 11:45 PM	<b>BAIRAQ-2</b> YO-KAI WATCH: THE MOVIE YO-KAI WATCH: THE MOVIE YO-KAI WATCH: THE MOVIE THE BOSS BABY MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER ALIEN: COVENANT	11:45 AM 1:45 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b> HERE ALONE HERE ALONE HERE ALONE HERE ALONE MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER HERE ALONE	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM	<b>MARINA-1</b> EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM	<b>360°-2</b> MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER	12:15 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM	<b>BAIRAQ-3</b> KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD HALF GIRLFRIEND -Hindi KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	1:30 PM 4:15 PM 6:45 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b> ALIEN: COVENANT NO MON ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	<b>MARINA-2</b> KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD THE BOSS BABY KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:30 PM 3:00 PM 5:30 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM	<b>AL-KOUT.1</b> ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM	<b>LAILA</b> ALIEN: COVENANT THE BOSS BABY KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD ALIEN: COVENANT	3:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:30 PM
<b>FANAR-1</b> EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER MAMNO'O MIN AL EKTIRAB AW ALTASWEER EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM	<b>MARINA-3</b> ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT ALIEN: COVENANT	11:45 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	<b>AL-KOUT.2</b> EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING HERE ALONE EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING HERE ALONE	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM	<b>AJIAL.1</b> RAKSHADHIKARI BAJU OPPU -Malayalam RAKSHADHIKARI BAJU OPPU -Malayalam RAKSHADHIKARI BAJU OPPU -Malayalam	3:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:45 PM
<b>FANAR-2</b> KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	11:30 AM 2:00 PM	<b>AVENUES-1</b> HERE ALONE HERE ALONE HERE ALONE HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM HERE ALONE HERE ALONE HERE ALONE	1:15 PM 3:15 PM 5:15 PM 7:15 PM 9:15 PM 11:15 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.3</b> KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:00 PM 2:30 PM	<b>AJIAL.2</b> HINDI MEDIUM -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi HINDI MEDIUM -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	3:30 PM 3:15 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM

### LOST

Lost original certificate of A/SSE issued by C.B.S.E, Delhi, holding No. 8105696 of the year 2012/2014 in the name Zain Mohammad s/o Syed Zulqarnain Hailer. Founder may contact Indian Public School, Salmiya. Call: 95593976. (C 5313) 21-5-2017

### ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation For Filipino Bachelor ONLY block 1, near gulfmart. Available on June 25, Contact 94418396 or 94033908 23-5-2016

Sharing accommodation available in Jabriya Block-10, near Indian School and Farah Jamiya, big room with balcony, Central A/C, start from May 2017. Contact: 55706900/55983570. (C 5312) 18-5-2017

### EMERGENCY 112

**Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:21
Shorook:	04:52
Duhr:	11:45
Asr:	15:20
Maghrib:	18:38
Isha:	20:06

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

### Flight Schedule

### DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 23/5/2017						Departure Flights on Tuesday 23/5/2017											
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	792	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	PAL	669	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	792
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	GFA	221	Madinah	13:55					Manila	13:10				
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	KAC	364	Doha	14:05	AIC	976	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30				
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	FDB	059	Bahrain	14:15	BBC	144	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30				
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	KAC	618	Alexandria	14:15	ETD	920	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45				
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	SVA	500	Dubai	14:20	JAI	573	FEQ	938	Sohag	13:55				
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KNE	529	Doha	14:20	MSC	406	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00				
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:45	FDB	072	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10				
RJA	642	Amman	00:45	KAC	304	Dubai	14:55	JZR	502	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15				
KAC	102	London	00:55	JAD	301	Jeddah	14:55	SVA	503	SYR	342	Damascus	14:30				
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	ETD	303	Amman	15:00	SVA	515	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00				
JZR	539	Cairo	01:25	OMA	645	Abu Dhabi	15:05	MSC	412	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00				
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	562	Muscat	15:10	THY	773	FDB	060	Doha	15:05				
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	KAC	502	Amman	15:10	THY	765	KAC	611	Riyadh	15:40				
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	412	Beirut	15:25	DLH	635	THY	501	Amman	15:40				
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	ABY	127	Bangkok	15:30	THY	765	THY	501	Jeddah	15:45				
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	UAE	857	Sharjah	15:35	ETH	621	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55				
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05	VIZ	206	Dubai	15:45	KKK	6505	KAC	619	Doha	16:00				
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	RJA	640	IQA	15:50	AXB	396	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10				
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	FDK	801	Amman	16:00	PGT	831	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15				
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	JZR	325	Damascus	16:05	UAE	854	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20				
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	QTR	1072	Al Najaf	16:15	KLM	446	KAC	513	Tehrani	16:30				
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	FDB	051	Doha	16:15	MSR	607	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30				
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	JZR	535	Dubai	16:15	OMA	644	FDK	802	Damascus	16:55				
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	JZR	125	Cairo	16:20	QTR	1087	RJA	641	Amman	16:55				
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	NIA	361	Bahrain	16:25	ETD	306	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05				
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC	118	Alexandria	16:50	MSR	613	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15				
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40	KAC	542	New York	16:55	KAC	417	JZR	552	Alexandria	17:25				
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50	SVA	510	Cairo	17:05	JZR	560	QTR	1073	Doha	17:30				
LMU	5510	Ahmedabad	04:00	GFA	215	Riyadh	17:15	LMU	5511	JZR	240	Amman	17:30				
KAC	346	Cairo	04:15	JZR	777	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	1077	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35				
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	177	Jeddah	17:35	KAC	303	UAE	858	UAE	17:40				
KAC	937	Sohag	05:00	QTR	1080	Dubai	17:45	FEG	934	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40				
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	JZR	483	Doha	18:05	RJA	643	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50				
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	MSR	620	Istanbul	18:30	THY	771	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50				
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	UAE	875	Cairo	18:30	THY	6376	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55				
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	GFA	217	Dubai	19:05	GFA	212	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:00				
KAC	414	Bangkok	05:20	KAC	776	Bahrain	19:05	FDB	070	VIZ	209	TEQ	18:00				
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	KAC	663	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	164	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00				
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	FDB	063	Riyadh	19:05	KAC	167	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00				
BAW	157	London	06:05	ABY	123	Dubai	19:20	KAC	171	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15				
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	154	Sharjah	19:20	KAC	501	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20				
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	616	Istanbul	19:30	KAC	613	Bahrain	216	Bahrain	18:20				
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	674	Bahrain	19:40	BAW	156	London	538	Cairo	18:35				
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	620	Dubai	19:40	KAC	741	Dammam	185	Jeddah	18:45				
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	057	Doha	19:50	KAC	691	KAC	345	Doha	19:15				
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	OMA	647	Dubai	19:50	FDB	054	MSR	621	Ahmedabad	19:20				
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	DLH	634	Muscat	20:05	GFA	791	GFA	218	Cairo	19:30				
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MEA	402	Frankfurt	20:15	KAC	117	KAC	0						

CROSSWORD 1616



ACROSS

1. A fluorocarbon with chlorine.
4. Raspberry native to eastern North America having black thimble-shaped fruit.
12. An open box attached to a long pole handle.
15. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring in the air.
16. A stony meteorite consisting of silicate minerals.
17. Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.
18. Fiddler crabs.
19. An industrial city in central Japan on southern Honshu.
20. Any of various hard resins from trees of the family Dipterocarpaceae and of the genus Agathis.
22. The lowest molding of an architectural base or of a baseboard.
25. A member of a North American Indian people living on the California coast near Monterey.
26. Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus Acacia.
27. (Judaism) Not conforming to dietary laws.
30. Containing salt.
35. Nut of any of several trees of the genus Corylus.
39. United States writer and humorist best known for his novels about Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn (1835-1910).
41. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
44. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
45. The law enforcement agency in the Justice Department.
46. (Greek mythology) The Titan who was father of Atlas and Epimetheus and Prometheus in ancient mythology.
48. A member of the South American people living in Argentina and Bolivia and Paraguay.
52. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
53. Of or relating to the penis.
56. A severe or trying experience.
57. (South African) A camp defended by a circular formation of wagons.
61. An ancient upright stone slab bearing markings.
64. Divulge information or secrets.
66. The basic unit of money in Western Samoa.
67. A city in northwestern Mexico near the California border.
70. Central nervous system stimulant (trade name Ritalin) used in the treatment of narcolepsy in adults and attention deficit disorder in children.
72. A reptile genus of Iguanidae.
73. A collection of excerpts from a literary work.
75. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
76. A master's degree in theology.
77. A radio receiver that combines a locally generated frequency with the carrier frequency to produce a supersonic signal that is demodulated and amplified.
78. (meaning literally "born") Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.

DOWN

1. Events that provide the generative force that is the origin of something.
2. Large genus of tropical trees or shrubs or climbers including fig trees.
3. Infestation of the pubic hair by crab lice.
4. Obvious and dull.
5. Property that is leased or rented out or let.
6. Lustrous gray.
7. The sound made by a pigeon v 1.
8. An electron tube used to generate or amplify electromagnetic radiation in the microwave region by velocity modulation.
9. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
10. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
11. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
12. Relating to or containing or affecting blood.
13. Of or relating to Oman or its people.
14. Goddess of war.
21. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
23. Make difficult to perceive by sight.
24. The airforce of Great Britain.
28. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
29. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
31. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
32. Acquire or gain knowledge or skills.
33. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
34. Enclose or enfold completely with or as if with a covering.
36. French filmmaker (1908-1982).
37. A white crystalline double sulfate of aluminum.
38. Flat tableland with steep edges.
40. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
42. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
43. Kenyan statesman and the first president of independent Kenya (1893-1978).
47. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
49. Garlic mayonnaise.
50. The capital and largest city of Venezuela.
51. (Christianity) The abode of Satan and the forces of evil.
54. Open to change.
55. A widely distributed rock-forming feldspar.
58. A mountain peak in the Andes in Argentina (21,654 feet high).
59. Leave or strike out, as of vowels.
60. (the feminine of raja) A Hindu princess or the wife of a raja.
62. The 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
63. A set of questions or exercises evaluating skill or knowledge.
65. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
68. (Babylonian) The sky god.
69. The upper side of the thighs of a seated person.
71. Tastelessness by virtue of being cheap and vulgar.
74. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance. Communicating with long-distance associates and engaging in business matters that you may only have a small understanding of just now, have surprisingly positive results for you now. You may be able to bring a group together with words or ideas. Your power of imagination is great at this time and is best applied in a sales meeting or a presentation. These good vibrations continue after the workday is over as you are constantly inspired by the creative endeavors of those around you. You are in a festive mood this evening and desirous of having a good time with friends and family. A good conversation with a difficult person is possible tonight.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Unsolved problems or mysteries may catch your attention today. You could be the sleuth in your place of work and discover the truth behind a mystery that has been puzzling many for some time. You are able to get at what is behind some very puzzling situations. This could involve some success in getting people to pay their bills or in getting a refund or in a payback of some sort. You can demonstrate great understanding with others and you enjoy the responsibility of teaching and guiding others. This could be anything from being a good tutor to translating information or leading a tour. A young person enjoys your attention, particularly this afternoon. Creating poetry or some form of art can be rewarding in more than one way.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You enjoy listening in on several conversations today of co-worker friends that are eager for classroom activities this summer. They may be talking about brushing up on some new techniques or learning about new equipment. You may want to join the group in this learning endeavor and will be pleased to know that your company will help you financially if the subject matter pertains to your work. In order for the higher-ups to know you want to be promoted, talk about these new things you can learn and express your desire to improve the company. You are dependable and are a good team player; praise and rewards will be easy to find at this time. This afternoon there is plenty of time to enjoy a fun celebration.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could be in the limelight, especially with superiors or in relation to your work. You may find that you enjoy your job or the responsibility it entails more than usual. You are sensitive and in tune with others, perhaps listening at some length to someone's particular ideas. Your intensity and passionate approach to life are obvious to all who meet you. You are driven to penetrate the trivial and get at the basics in many situations. Perhaps you are selling a product to the public-this is a successful time. Your conversation with prospective customers or regular customers is intriguing and can lead toward many awards and opportunities to excel. Your health gets better all during this year-keep it that way through structured exercise and smart eating.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Start looking for classes, books or lectures on how to organize your financial affairs because things are looking up and much of your success at this time will hinge on organizational skills. The few challenges that you face for the rest of this year are manageable. This can begin to be one of the happiest and most fulfilling times of your life. You have an inner vision that is coupled with the ability to see the big picture of situations. This will find you smoothing ruffled feathers, perhaps, many times. You will be bringing two people together that have had difficulty in understanding each other before today. This could include two co-workers or a higher-up and a co-worker. Your playmate, or loved one, will enjoy planning a surprise for you this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have clear vision today and can easily see the steps needed to make good decisions. You are happy when in control and you enjoy managing anything practical. You will excel in group activities now and it is easy for you to get your ideas across to others. Not too emotional at this time, you appear objective, businesslike and reliable. You may not trust those in authority just now and you must be careful with your responses to superiors. Someone understands how you feel and is sympathetic to your needs. You seem able to manipulate most every situation and bring it around to good use. Your mind is ever on communication, how you present yourself and how the results of your communication will impress others. The limelight is yours this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Everything may be pouring in at once today and it's all good news. Your career direction gets some encouragement and life's problems find easy solutions. You are inventive when it comes to self-analysis and self-care, food, diet, health, etc. You can see new ways to make use of your position. An unconventional approach to working for others, or with others, may require a special work situation for you. You may benefit from someone in authority. You are a very forceful speaker and communicate with great enthusiasm. Words just flow out and carry an emotional impact that brings them home to your listeners. You have no trouble putting your feelings into words. You may have to exercise some control over your tongue.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have career choices; the obvious path that is opening up for you may grate against your own sense of freedom. Success and security at the expense of originality may be too great a price to pay. Some middle road could be found. You may find yourself more than a little materialistic and your current appreciation for just about everything may lead you to overspend. You will make career gains by your ability to be creative and to solve problems. Continued success on the career level may point to your abandoning some of your own ideas of where you thought you would like to be professionally. While success is important, your standards got you where you are. Try for a good compromise. Being more involved with family is important now.



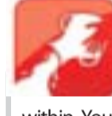
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This is a real time to concentrate on strengthening your career. You gain insight into some new techniques and are not afraid to try them out during your day. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Your career could assume a more determined form. Changes you want to make or are making may be challenged, but a steady pace will be the winning method. Think things through before making any quick decisions-there is time. Your inner resources and emotions are accented. Expect a sense of support and helpfulness from those around you-you will accomplish what you set out to achieve. Tonight, you have lots of restless energy that can be channeled constructively.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

It seems you are on an uphill swing financially. You may discover many ways in which to invest profitably. However, take care not to fall for some moneymaking gimmick-check and recheck. There are some unbelievable deals out there. You can block yourself from progress with the attitude of "to have" versus the experience, "to be," your intuition is in high today-listen before you leap. You may be friendly and popular and find many people attracted to you at this time. Make sure you let others know whether you are already involved with a loved one or not-there could be a misunderstanding. Family and home-centered agendas are where you have your mind focused this evening. This is a special time and you don't want to miss a moment.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may seem agreeable today but something has your mind whirling within. You could be trying to understand a person or situation today in order to know the truth of a matter. You may be investigating and psychoanalyzing much of this day. You have a keen interest in metaphysics and intuitive insights. You could be on the right track with your detective work, yet have no proof to back your feelings. The proof will come soon-you must, for now, busy your mind with other things. Secrets, taboos and mysteries appeal to a deep instinctive yearning. You feel a love of order and law and appreciate responsibilities and duty. Your communicating skills are at a high just now. Your timing is perfect and those around you find your company most enjoyable.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are ambitious, self-confident, honorable and generous in money matters today. Your professional life goes along pretty well until you find out about someone that is getting additional education in order to make more money. You may try to do the same-there is certainly a lot of contemplation about boosting your work status. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much just now. You could feel great support from those around you, and you could be feeling quite encouraged in your life. You are fond of your home life and will strive to create a harmonious environment. Certainly, this is a good time to spend time with loved ones and family. Family, home, relatives and real estate play an important part in your life this summer.

WORD SEARCH

Candy

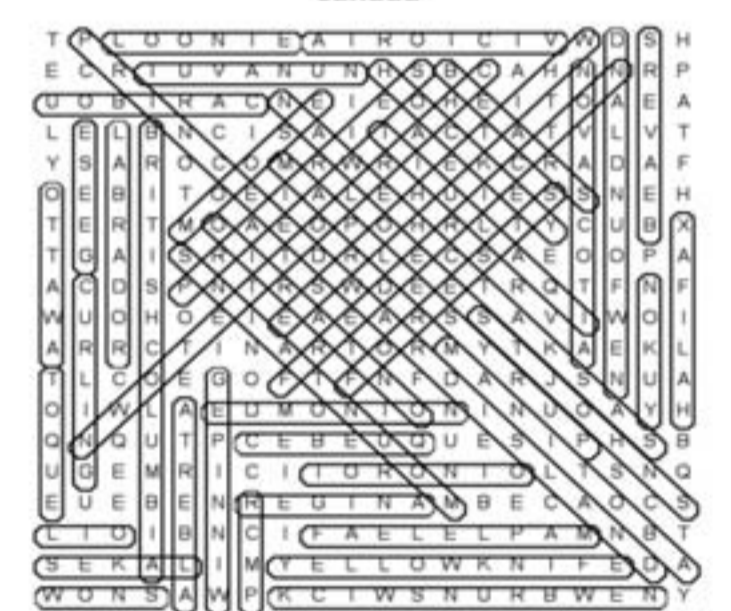
Find and circle all of the Candy treats that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- |                |                 |               |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| ALMOND JOY     | CRACKER JACK    | LIFESAVERS    | RED HOTS         |
| BABY RUTH      | DUBBLE BUBBLE   | LLOLLOPS      | SEN-SEN          |
| BAZOOKA GUM    | GOOBERS         | MILK DUDS     | LAKES            |
| BOTTLECAPS     | GUMMI BEARS     | MILKY WAY     | SLO-POKES        |
| BUBBLE YUM     | HERSHEY KISSES  | MOUNDS        | SMARTIES         |
| BUTTERFINGERS  | HUBBA BUBBA GUM | NECCO WAFERS  | SOUR BALLS       |
| CANDY NECKLACE | JAW BREAKERS    | OH HENRY      | SPEARMINT LEAVES |
| CHICLET        | JUJUBES         | PEZ           | SWEETARTS        |
| CHUCKLES       | KIT KAT         | POP ROCKS     | TOOTSIE ROLLS    |
| CLARK BAR      | LEMON DROPS     | POP ROCKS     | TWIX             |
| COFFEE CRISP   | LICORICE PIPE   | PUMPKIN SEEDS | TWIZZLERS        |
|                |                 |               | WAX LIPS         |

Yesterday's Solution

Canada



- |                  |               |                       |              |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| ALBERTA          | HOCKEY        | NEWFOUNDLAND          | REGINA       |
| BEARS            | ISLALUT       | NORTHWEST TERRITORIES | SASKATCHEWAN |
| BEAVERS          | LABRADOR      | NOVA SCOTIA           | SNOW         |
| BRITISH COLUMBIA | LAKES         | NUNAVUT               | ST. JOHN'S   |
| CARIBOU          | LOONIE        | ONTARIO               | TORQUE       |
| CHARLOTTETOWN    | MANITOBA      | QUEBEC                | TORONTO      |
| CURLING          | MAPLE LEAF    | OTTAWA                | VICTORIA     |
| EDMONTON         | MAPLE SYRUP   | PRAIRIES              | WHITEHORSE   |
| FORESTS          | MOOSE         | PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  | WINNIPEG     |
| FREDERICTON      | MOUNTAINS     | QUEBEC                | YELLOWKNIFE  |
| GEESSE           | NEW BRUNSWICK | RCMP                  | YUKON        |
| HALIFAX          |               |                       |              |

The hidden message is: THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC IS QUEBEC CITY

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



## PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

## INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

## STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

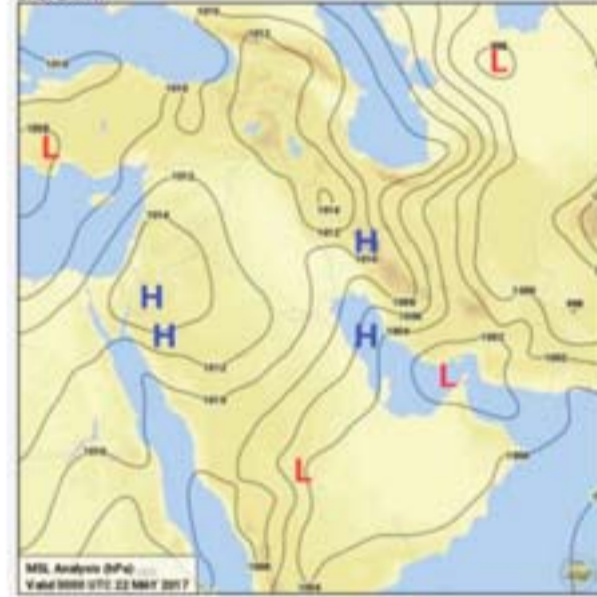
### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 22/05/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 38 °C

By Day : Hot with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h  
By Night : Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h

#### SFC. CHART



#### Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	hot	partly cloudy + scattered light rain	partly cloudy + raising dust	hot + raising dust
Min Temp °C	26	29	27	28
Max Temp °C	41	43	40	42
Wind Direction	north easterly to light variable	south easterly changing to north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 28	08 - 30	20 - 45	25 - 50

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

#### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

#### Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	27		38	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	26		38	
ABDAILY	21		37	
BUBYAN	24		37	
JAHA	25		39	
FAILAKA ISLAND	26		37	
SALMIYAH	27		36	
AHMADI	28		35	
JAL ALIYAH	21		37	
QAROH ISLAND	28		31	
UMH AL-MARAHEM	28		33	
NUWASIB	28		36	
WAFRA	25		39	
SALMIY	20		36	
MUTRIBA	21		40	

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	41
Min Temp (°C)	31
Max Rel Hum (%)	31
Min Rel Hum (%)	13
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	57 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:52
Sunset	18:37

#### Prayer Times

Fajr	03:21
Sunrise	04:52
Zuhr	11:45
Aar	15:20
Sunset	18:37
Isha	20:06



## PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	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)	
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-Daary	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
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	
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

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
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
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
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

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarooof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foaid Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
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
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555
MD, PH.D, FACC	
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

Psychologists /Psychotherapists

# Cannes queen **Kidman** steers career 'like I'm 21'

**N**icole Kidman said yesterday that she still tackles roles like a 21-year-old after the premiere of her shocking new horror movie at the Cannes film festival. The Hollywood A-lister is the queen of Cannes this year with four different projects at the world's top cinema showcase, including "The Killing of a Sacred Deer" where she plays a suburban mum who has to choose one of her children to sacrifice.

"I don't have to work but I do because it is still my passion, the way in which I express myself," the 49-year-old Oscar winner told reporters after the premiere of the creepy thriller. "At this stage of my life I'm just trying to stay very bold and open and try things and support filmmakers that I believe in... I'm at that place in my life where I still try to act as though I'm 21 and starting my career." Kidman and Irish actor Colin Farrell play a couple of married doctors in "The Killing of a Sacred Deer" by Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos, who wowed Cannes two years ago with the dystopian love story "The Lobster".

The new picture takes that movie's laconic tone and twists into something much darker, after Farrell's heart surgeon character operates on a man while he is drunk and kills him. Years later, the dead man's teenage son plots revenge, telling the surgeon he must choose a member of his family to kill or they will all suffer an excruciating death.

### 'Up for taking risks'

Despite the bone-chilling story inspired by the ancient Greek myth of Iphigenia, the movie also drew big laughs at a packed press screening with pitch-black humor. Kidman admitted the film was disturbing, after a few dozen queasy critics walked out of the screening when the blood began to flow. It drew a mix of boos and applause as the curtain fell but strong reviews from leading critics. "I have a certain moral compass which I abide by in terms of what I feel I will and



(From left) British actress Raffey Cassidy, US actress Sunny Suljic, Australian actress Nicole Kidman, Irish actor Barry Keoghan and Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos pose yesterday during a photocall for the film 'The Killing of a Sacred Deer' at the 70th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP



Australian actress Nicole Kidman poses during a photocall for the film 'The Killing of a Sacred Deer'.

won't do as a human being. But when I choose a director to work with, obviously that's a risk and I'm totally up for taking risks," the actress said. "When I watched the film I called (Lanthimos) afterwards and said I have not seen anything like it-I felt hypnotised by it," Kidman added, a mother of four, before adding: "My children will not be seeing this."

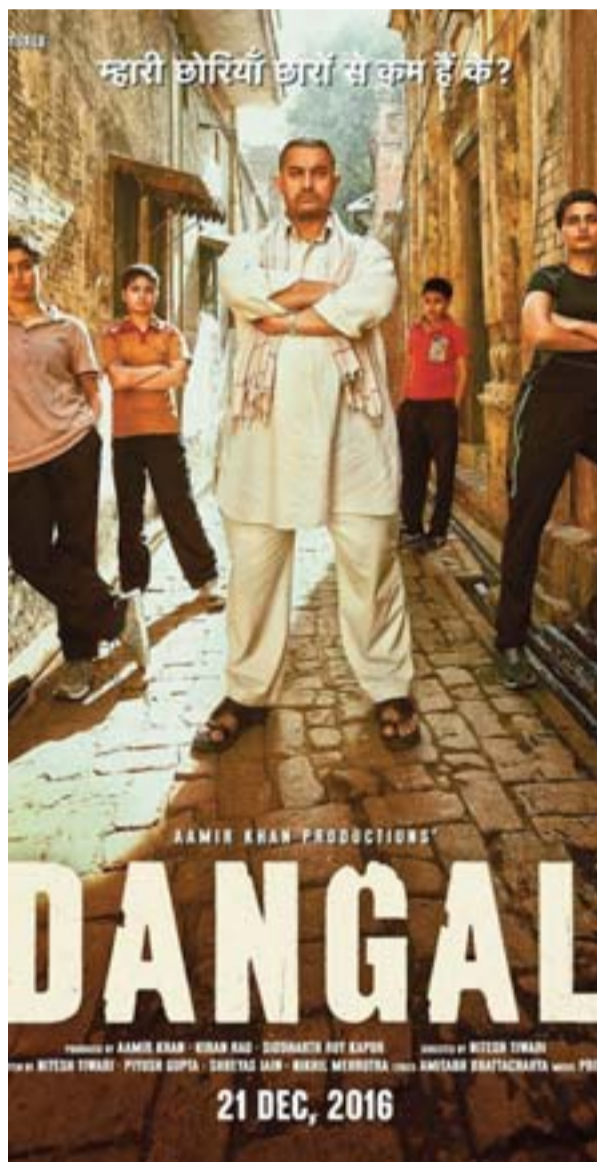
### 'Ready to jump in'

Lanthimos admitted he was "lucky" to be able to cast major stars who were "ready to jump in and make this kind of

film". Kidman, a photographers' favorite on the red carpet, is also starring as a punk matriarch at Cannes in the sci-fi romp "How to Talk to Girls at Parties", with a fright-wig look that is in equal parts Siouxsie Sioux and Cruella de Vil and a broad South London accent.

Still to come this week is her turn as a pent-up governess of a US Civil War-era girls school in Sofia Coppola's highly touted remake of "The Beguiled". And Kidman will attend a special screening of her friend Jane Campion's second season of "Top of the Lake" in which she is almost unrecogniz-

able as a foil to Elisabeth Moss's small-town detective. Like many sought-after actors and directors, Kidman has been drawn by top-drawer television series, including her recent hit "Big Little Lies". But she said she had no plans to abandon the big screen. "I'm a huge fan of cinema and being in a dark room watching a film and being transported. I love that and I will always love that," Kidman said. The Cannes film festival runs until Sunday. — AFP



## 'DANGAL' WRESTLES ITS WAY INTO CHINESE MOVIEGOERS' HEARTS

**A** Bollywood film about a father who trains his daughters to become world-class wrestlers has broken a box office record in China, where its focus on feminism and tough love has resonated with audiences. "Dangal" has raked in 776 million yuan (\$112 million) since it opened on May 5, official data showed yesterday. Box office monitoring site mtime.com says this makes it the highest-grossing non-Hollywood foreign film in China. Universal's "The Fate of the Furious" holds the box office record in China for any film, raking in 2.7 billion yuan in receipts since its debut on April 14.

The Indian movie, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, is based on the true story of wrestling coach Mahavir Singh Phogat, who defies the odds by raising his daughters Geeta and Babita Phogat to become champion wrestlers. Geeta won a gold medal for India at the 2010 Commonwealth Games while her sister topped the podium at the same event in 2014. "Dangal" is a Hindi word used to describe a wrestling competition. In Chinese the film's name has been translated into "Let's Wrestle, Dad".

The movie was released in India on December 23 last year and quickly became the highest-grossing Bollywood film of all time, beating the 2014 science fiction film "PK". "Dangal" is believed to have made around \$233 million in worldwide box office sales, according to industry estimates. It made around 3.87 billion rupees (\$60 million) in India alone, analysts say. Gender discrimination and strict parenting are among the themes in the film. The issues appear to have struck an emotional response with Chinese audiences.

Moviegoers praised it on social media site Weibo, highlighting its important lessons on rearing and educating children. "A parent myself, I got some inspiration and enlightenment on child education after watching the movie," said one user. "It is also a story that motivates self-improvement for children." Another said: "I brought my parents and parents-in-law to watch it for the second time, and once again my cheeks were stained with tears." An opinion piece published in the People's Daily, China's Communist Party mouthpiece, said the film's focus on "female rights" had also left a "deep impression on audiences". — AFP

# Mozart junior: Curse of the 'missing spark'

**H**aving famous parents can be a mixed blessing, but Austrian musician Franz Xaver Mozart had it tougher than most. Born months before Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in 1791, Franz Xaver spent his life trying-and failing-to step out of his genius father's shadow. "A child that disappoints their parents... will encounter disgrace and misery. Let these words be a warning to my lovely (son)," his mother Constanze wrote in 1801 to her nine-year-old son. Her ominous note is one of many personal letters currently on display at the Mozart Residence in Salzburg, as part of an exhibition organized by the Mozarteum Foundation.

When he passed away in 1844, Franz Xaver-the last of the Mozart line-donated hundreds of family documents to the foundation. "History has sort of forgotten Franz Xaver but he's actually of big importance to us," Mozarteum curator Armin Brinzing told AFP in an interview. "We owe it to him that so many original manuscripts from the Mozart family including handwritten compositions have survived and are accessible to the public, instead of being destroyed or spread all over the world."

### 'Immense pressure'

Of the six children born to Mozart and Constanze, only Franz Xaver and his older brother Carl Thomas survived into adulthood. While Carl Thomas became a government official, Constanze had much bigger plans for her other son. After her famous husband's death, the widow decided that Franz Xaver "should become the second Mozart", Brinzing said. "At the age of two, she already made him take piano and music theory lessons," the curator noted.

Constanze hired some of the era's most eminent teachers, including Italian composer Antonio Salieri whose pupils included Franz Schubert and Ludwig van Beethoven. Even more tellingly, she only addressed her son as Wolfgang Amadeus. In fact, Franz Xaver himself would sign all his works with "Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, son". Letters exchanged between Franz Xaver and his older sibling reveal that from an early age, Franz Xaver felt under "immense pressure" and "not treated very well at home".

Aged barely 13, Franz Xaver gave his

highly anticipated first public concert in a packed Vienna hall. Critics praised his performance — "he gave a nice if slightly slow rendition of his father's piano concerto," according to one review-but also warned the boy not to rest on his laurels. "May he never forget that although the name Mozart currently grants him some indulgence, it will place great demands on him later on," read an editorial in the Allgemeine Musikalische Zeitung, a key 19th-century music magazine also on display at the Residence.

### United in death

At 17, Franz Xaver fled the parental nest and took a job as a piano tutor for a wealthy family in the Ukrainian city of Lviv, then part of the Habsburg empire. He spent the next two decades teaching and performing across Europe as he sought to build up his reputation. Having inherited his father's excellent ear, he conducted a 400-strong choir and founded Lviv's first music school, now the National Conservatory.

But compared to the original Mozart, Franz Xaver's artistic output was small and generally failed to impress. "Franz Xaver was a very good pianist especially when he played his father's concertos, but his own compositions enjoyed only mediocre success," said Brinzing, adding that some of them are being rediscovered today. "That last spark of genius was missing in him. He was considered a gifted musician and composer, but not one of the great ones."

Nowhere was this more apparent than when he was asked to compose a piece for the unveiling of a monument dedicated to his father in Salzburg in 1842. Riddled with self-doubt, he refused, telling organizers that he was a musician of "little ability" bound to disappoint. Instead he turned two of his father's unfinished compositions into a cantata, which was greeted with great applause at the inauguration. Afterwards, Franz Xaver sent a signed copy of his work to Emperor Ferdinand I.

Tradition had it that the ruler paid a small fee in exchange for autographed sheet music. Having only vaguely heard of Mozart's son, the emperor asked his advisers whether he should reward the composer. "As everyone knows, the famous father's talent has not been transferred to his son so we should give



A drawing of the ear of the Austrian musician Franz Xaver Mozart (son of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart) and the ear of an ordinary person is on display.



A sculpture of the bust of Austrian musician Franz Xaver Mozart (son of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart) is on display at the Mozarteum Foundation in Salzburg, during an exhibition organized by the Mozarteum Foundation, on March 09, 2016. — AFP photos

him some money," an official replied. Two years later, Franz Xaver died of stomach cancer during a health retreat in the Czech town of Carlsbad, where he was also buried. Even in death Mozart's spirit still looms large, with Franz Xaver's tomb

stone carrying the inscription: "May his father's name be his epitaph, as his veneration for him was the essence of his life." — AFP



Curator Armin Brinzing shows a painting of Austrian musician Franz Xaver Mozart (son of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart) on display at the Mozarteum Foundation.

## Careem and OSN announce strategic partnership to deliver enhanced value for customers across MENA

**C**areem, the leading ride-hailing service in the Middle East, has announced a strategic partnership with OSN, the region's leading entertainment network, to deliver enhanced value for customers of both companies across the MENA region.

The partnership continues the efforts of Careem, the biggest mover of people in the MENASA (Middle East, North Africa and South Asia) region, to build meaningful relationships with like-minded businesses based in its operating region to add current and future value to its customers.

"We are looking forward to this strategic partnership with OSN," said Mudassar Sheikh, Co-founder and CEO at Careem. "As companies that are leaders in their respective fields, OSN and Careem share similar values in terms of how we approach our business and cater to our customers as we both provide services that are based on a deep understanding of what people want. We consider OSN as a valued addition to our growing list of strategic partners in the region and we look forward to working closely with them to offer more rewarding experiences for our customers."

Martin Stewart, CEO of OSN, said: "We are focused on creating continuous value for our subscribers through our exclusive content and through partnerships. This is a win-win value proposition for customers of both OSN and Careem. Our new pricing and packaging has been an industry game changer making world-class entertainment even more affordable to a wider cross-section of the public. With

the convenience of choosing additional packs that are relevant to their entertainment preferences, newly registered Careem users can enjoy the best of content effortlessly and on the go."

With the new partnership, OSN subscribers who newly register with Careem will receive a 15 percent discount on their first five rides, while Careem customers who are first-time subscribers to OSN will receive 10 percent discount on

its Entertainment GetStartedTM Pack and one additional pack that offers them access to a wide range of entertainment options, as per their preference and choice. Further, Careem customers will also be able to enjoy a full in ride video entertainment experience with the soon to be relaunched Go Online TV. Catching up on the latest TV shows, Kids programmes, sports and for longer journeys even movies.

OSN is also working with Careem to offer its subscribers the opportunity to pay their bill through Careem Pay when it becomes available later this year, and a proposed corporate partnership that envisions special offers for Careem and OSN employees when using each other's services is currently under review.

OSN offers its extensive world of premium content in convenient, easy-to-navigate packs that put customers in charge of their entertainment experience. From movies and sports, to series in Arabic, English, Tagalog and South Asian languages, OSN opens doors to all the best content available at great value. At just AED 79 per month, GetStartedTM offers access to 32 channels including movies, kids content, news and Arabic programming.

A local company established in 2012, Careem now operates in more than 50 cities across 12 countries and hosts over 6 million users and 180,000 Captains in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region.





Sai Aung Zaw Myint, 14, young Myanmar stunt biker posing for photographs in Yangon. — AFP photos

Sai Aung Zaw Myint, 14, performing a stunt in a park in Yangon.

Young bikers performing stunts in a park in Yangon.

## Myanmar stunt bikers dazzle on Yangon's streets



Htet Wai Yan Oo, 23, performing a stunt in a park in Yangon.

**YANGON:** Skidding and screeching across the concrete the young bikers perform a carefully choreographed dance of gravity-defying stunts, a dazzling display of Myanmar's thriving youth culture on the streets of its biggest city. Every week dozens of them gather near Yangon's golden Shwedagon pagoda to practice tricks under the night sky, one of many sports gaining popularity as the country opens up after decades of junta rule.

Kabayar Oo, who set up the group two years ago, said there are more than 100 riders around the country, around half of them in Yangon and the rest in the central city of Mandalay. Some are in their 20s, but most are school students who dream of going pro. "There are no (formal) competitions here," Kabayar Oo told AFP on a recent steamy night as other riders took turns to jump over upside down bikes-and each other. "If we had the chance, we would all want to compete. That's the dream of all the riders. Many save for months to afford a BMX bike, which can cost between \$250 and \$2,500 -- an astronomical sum in a country where the daily minimum wage is 3,600 kyat (\$2.65).

Others spend all their cash keeping their ride in good condition or adding extra features. "When I get my salary at the end of the month, all my money goes into it," said Htet Aung, 24, who works in a currency exchange office. "I feel like that is my sav-

ings." The group, known as Myanmar BMX Riders, are now in talks with Yangon authorities to get their own space to practice with proper ramps and props. But despite their dedication, many face pressure from relatives to stop. "They forbid me after I had an accident which left a bad wound on my face, but I went to practice without telling them," said 14-year-old student Sai Aung Zaw Myint, grinning.

Htet Wai Yan Oo, 23, who came from Mandalay to ride with the group, added: "My parents are not supportive. I had to save my school allowance for six months to buy my first (bike)." But others say the sport helps keep bored young people away from crime and drugs at a time when unemployment is triple the broader population. Drug addiction rates have soared in recent years as more and more of the caffeine-laced meth tablets known as "yaba" churned out in Myanmar's lawless borderlands are being sold inside the country.

"I help the young people as much as I can to keep them interested in sport and to stop them from going in the wrong direction in life," said Phone Myat Tun, who sells the riders gear at cost from his shop. "The challenge for them is social pressure." — AFP



Young Myanmar stunt bikers gather under a bridge in downtown Yangon.



Young bikers performing stunts in front of people in a park at Yangon.

## Hasbro movie juggernaut edging out Barbie's Mattel

Spiderman, Thor and Princess Leia are ganging up on Barbie in a battle for America's increasingly tech-focused toy industry playground. Hasbro, long a distant second to Mattel, maker of the iconic Barbie dolls, passed \$5 billion in annual revenues for the first time in 2016 and topped its rival in first-quarter sales. Hasbro's surge is due in large part to snatching Disney's lucrative "Princess" and "Frozen" franchises from Mattel in 2016 in a shift that was announced in 2014.

The company also amassed a large advantage in toys connected to upcoming movie releases including the latest installments in the blockbuster "Transformers," "Thor" and "Spiderman" series. The movie juggernaut culminates in December with "The Last Jedi," part of the iconic "Star Wars" series, a reliable cash cow, not only because of its cross-generational appeal, but because it features prominent male and female characters.



This file photo shows a Barbie doll holding an electoral poster reading "Barbie for President" during the exhibition "Barbie, life of an icon" at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Paris, France, when more than 700 Barbie dolls were displayed from March 10th to September 18th, 2016. — AFP

another selling-point in today's high-tech market.

"Tech-oriented toys and unplugging are not mutually exclusive," Hasbro president John Frascotti said in response to written questions. "Our mission is to deliver the world's best play experiences, and that often involves both technology and untethered creative play." Mattel also has boosted its emphasis on technology, partnering with the ABC broadcast network on a reality competition series in which innovators pitch ideas to a panel of children judges. And the company introduced digital elements to its best known franchises, which include the "Thomas and Friends" choo choos and "Barbie," now available in about two dozen multi-cultural versions.

Barbie, which had been in a slump a few years back, notched a seven percent rise in sales in 2016 to nearly \$1 billion, in a year that included its introduction of three new body types, "petite," "curvy" and "tall." Mattel signaled an even greater focus on technology in January when it named Google Americas president Margaret Georgiadis as its new chief executive. The appointment raised expectations that Mattel will introduce more toys that traverse the virtual and real worlds, perhaps by including a free "webisode" or another downloaded item with purchase.

"Analog toys don't have the same staying power as they once did," said Morningstar analyst Jaime Katz. Moving across channels means "people can play with it in the way choose to." Georgiadis is expected to lay out her strategy for turning Mattel around at a June 14 analyst day in New York. Mattel did not respond to emailed questions or interview requests. Speculation that Hasbro and Mattel could merge has surfaced from time to time, but analysts do not consider that likely. The two companies, along with Lego, control about 30 percent of the fragmented US toy market.

### Some want to unplug

While tech-oriented toys are in demand, some of the hottest categories in 2016 were more old-fashioned items, including puzzles and games (up 18 percent from 2015) and outdoor and sports toys (up 10 percent), according to data from the NPD Group. NPD estimated the US toy market at \$26 billion in 2016, about the same as in 2015. "It goes in ebbs and flows," said Robert Kracinovich, a senior buyer at Learning Express, a chain with about 120 stores in the US. Kracinovich said board games are now back strong after a weak stretch while active toys have been "terrific" the last four or five years.

The company's core customer is the parent interested in "getting kids to disconnect and have more creative play time," he said. Analyst Snyder also sees greater demand for old-fashioned toys as a countervailing trend to the tech surge. "Parents want to share a disconnected experience with their children," Snyder said. "What better way to do that with a game of Monopoly?" — AFP

### More gadgetry in toys

Hasbro, whose best-known brands include "Play-Doh" and "My Little Pony," also is introducing more toys that incorporate newer gadgetry, such as a Nerf blaster drone that carries a camera and lets kids monitor movements on a screen and fire darts from remote locations. Another new toy is the "Furreal" a ready-to-assemble puppy robot that permits children to select fur color and bark sound among other commands through a downloaded app. The toy also incorporates coding programs,

## US exhibit highlights cherubs and other French delights

**W**hen Napoleon's elder brother Joseph Bonaparte was forced into exile, he brought to the United States a collection of lavish rococo and neoclassical paintings that earned enduring American fascination. Among the works Bonaparte left behind when he returned to France in 1839 was Noel Nicolas Coypel's "The Abduction of Europa" (1726-1727), a period indulgence, complete with fleshy nudes, cherubs and a white bull basking in golden sunlight.

Bonaparte would show off this monumental work to visitors of his sprawling Point Breeze estate in New Jersey at a time when so much nudity could still offend Puritan minds in America. In a perhaps oddly humorous touch, the bull—the mythological god Jupiter, who transformed himself into the earthly creature to abduct the nymph Europa—is presented tongue out and eyes half-closed in delight.

Thomas Jefferson, too, helped fuel American interest with his earnest appreciation of works he saw at the Paris salon, especially what he called "superb" paintings by Jacques Louis David. These and other stories of the collectors, dealers and art lovers behind the huge trove of 18th century French paintings spread across the United States are the focus of an exhibition that opened Sunday and runs through August 20 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

This first ever look at American taste for 18th French painting strays from the beaten path by showing the great variety of works from this period in an unusual grouping that prominently features women artists and even one of the first known mixed-race painters of the Western canon, Guillaume Lethiere. A David can be as neoclassically sober and edifying as a Jean Honore Fragonard can be an opulent indulgence of the senses. The show also reflects the elevated status American institutions have given to French women painters of the era, one that is notably diminished in their native country.

### Royal ties revered

In entering a room dedicated to more playful and fanciful expression, painted in the pastel blue once associated with theater, Marie Antoinette's court painter Joseph Ducreux admonishes the viewer to keep quiet, his index pressed firmly against his lips in his little known self-portrait "Le Discret" (circa 1791). Or could he have committed some grave transgression and is anxiously demanding you keep his secret? Ducreux leaves you guessing. "We tend to have a perception of these works of art as relatively heavy or serious or purely decorative," assistant curator Yuriko Jackall told AFP.



"So being able to present them as sometimes ironic, mocking, hopefully shows a new aspect." The period during which many of the works shown here came into American hands was one in which US collectors were especially keen on acquiring objects with royal connections—ties that collectors played up, be they real or imagined.

At an American sale in 1905, the "Self-Portrait with a Harp" (1791) by Ducreux's daughter Rose Adelaide Ducreux was incorrectly presented as a work by Elisabeth Vigee Lebrun, then revered for her role as Marie Antoinette's portrait painter. It was also a time when entire rooms were shipped across the Atlantic from a "Marie Antoinette Boudoir" transplanted to the Deacon House in Boston with its ceiling of Fragonard cherubs to Alva Vanderbilt's Louis XV-style white and gold New York salon featuring Francois Boucher tapestries.

In one of the more fascinating discoveries made during the five years of preparations for the National Gallery's show, Jackall and a team of researchers found that one of the museum's most beloved paintings, Fragonard's "Young Girl Reading" (circa 1770), was in fact painted over a long-lost composition. Near-infrared and X-ray technology helped reveal a painting of a woman with a feathered headdress gazing directly at the viewer. It had previously belonged to a series of 18 known as Fragonard's "fantasy figures." — AFP

A visitor looks at Adelaide Labille-Guiard's "Portrait of Madame Adelaide," one of the daughters of King Louis XV, at the National Gallery of Art's, America Collects Eighteenth-Century French Painting, in Washington, DC. — AFP photos



Visitors look at Noel Nicolas Coypel's "The Abduction of Europa" (1726-1727).



A visitor looks at Francois Hubert Drouais's "Portrait of Carlos Fernando FitzJames-Stuart, Marquess of Jamaica," long considered a portrait of Madame du Barry in costume.

AWARDS



Rapper Drake poses in the press room with his awards for Top Artist, Top Male Artist, Top Billboard 200 Artist, Top Billboard 200 Album for 'Views,' Top Hot 100 Artist, Top Song Sales Artist, Top Streaming Artist, Top Streaming Song (Audio) for 'One Dance,' Top R&B Song for 'One Dance,' Top R&B Collaboration for 'One Dance,' Top Rap Artist, Top Rap Album for 'Views,' and Top Rap Tour during the 2017 Billboard Music Awards at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AP/AFP photos



Rapper Drake (center) accepts the Top Artist award onstage with songwriters, producers and father Dennis Graham.

# Hello! **Drake** breaks Adele's record at Billboard Music Awards



Drake kisses presenter Kate Beckinsale's hand as he walks on stage to accept the award for Top Male Artist.

Hello, Drake has surpassed Adele's record at the 2017 Billboard Music Awards on Sunday, picking up 13 awards. Adele set a record at the show in 2012 with 12 wins. The rapper, who walked into the show Sunday with 22 nominations, won top artist, top male artist and top Billboard 200 album ("Views"), among others, at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. "I got my whole family up here," said Drake, who stood onstage with nearly two dozen people, including his father, Lil Wayne and Nicki Minaj.

Drake was presented the top artist award by Prince Jackson, the late Michael Jackson's eldest son. Drake beat out Beyonce, Justin Bieber, Rihanna, Adele, Ariana Grande, the Weeknd, twenty one pilots, Shawn Mendes and the Chainsmokers for the top prize. Of those nominees, only Drake and the Chainsmokers attended the Billboard Awards. But other big names showed up. Cher, who received the Icon award, sang her dance anthem "Believe" in a glittery number that included pasties and blonde hair with pink tips. She later changed to a huge, curly black 'do - and wore a black sheer bodysuit and leather jacket for "If I Could Turn Back Time." Her performance had the audience on its feet, singing and dancing.

"I wanted to do what I do since I was 4 years old and I've been doing it for 53 years," said Cher, who turned 71 on Saturday. "And I can do a five-minute plank. Just saying." "I think luck has so much to do with my success with a little bit of something thrown in," she added. Korean boy band BTS, who won top social artist, earned one of the night's loudest ovations. Another highlight was Celine Dion. In a beautiful, Met Gala-ready white gown, she belted out "My Heart Will Go On," the Oscar-winning song from "Titanic." The film is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. John Legend and Florida Georgia Line also had a shining moment when they sang a duet version of the country duo's soft hit, "H.O.L.Y."

Dan Reynolds of the rock band Imagine Dragons led a moment of silence for Chris Cornell, who died Thursday. He called the Soundgarden and Audioslave singer "a true innovator," "a musical architect," "a prolific songwriter" and "a legendary performer" - as a large photo of Cornell singing with his eyes closed was displayed behind him. "We send our respects as well as our love to Chris' family at this time," Reynolds said. Miley Cyrus sang her breezy new single, "Malibu," delivering a sound and muted style that marked a departure from the hits that made her a pop star years ago. She was teary eyed at the end of the performance.

**Billboard Hot 100 chart**

"And for the first time in years with pants on," Noah Cyrus, standing next to father Billy Ray Cyrus,

introduced her older sister, who was wearing white shorts and a cowboy hat. Minaj kicked off the show with an explosive nine-minute performance of her hit songs alongside her mentor Lil Wayne and frequent collaborator David Guetta. She recently broke Aretha Franklin's record for most songs placed on the Billboard Hot 100 chart by a female artist. Co-host Vanessa Hudgens impersonated Minaj's rap style at

the Fountains of Bellagio. Ed Sheeran sang "Castle on the Hill" from Santiago, Chile, while Bruno Mars performed his silky new single, "Versace on the Floor," from Amsterdam.

Other performers include Lorde, Sam Hunt, Halsey, Camila Cabello and Julia Michaels. At the show, Diddy honored his former friend and artist Notorious B.I.G., who would have turned 45 on



Andrew Taggart, left, and Alex Pall, right of The Chainsmokers, perform "Young" on stage.

the top of the show, and it was the first of the many good moments for the actress and singer Sunday night. Hudgens, who hosted with Ludacris, also sang Dion's "I'm Your Lady" and wowed with her fashion choices. Even Drake noticed her, saying she looked "incredible."

Beyonce and twenty one pilots each won five awards, while the Chainsmokers - who tied Drake with 22 nominations - won four awards, including top Hot 100 song for "Closer" with Halsey. "This feels good but it feels so wrong because I love Drake so much," said Halsey (Drake's "One Dance" was also nominated for top Hot 100 song). The Chainsmokers performed "Young" with Andrew Taggart on vocals and Alex Pall behind the board (they were also backed by a drummer), and Drake performed from

Sunday. Diddy also introduced CJ Wallace, B.I.G.'s son, who spoke about his father's legacy. Then Diddy showed the trailer of the documentary, "Can't Stop, Won't Stop: A Bad Boy Story," which will be available on Apple Music on June 25. Former One Direction singer Zayn was named best new artist, while Justin Timberlake's Oscar-nominated "Can't Stop the Feeling!" won top radio song and top selling song. Blake Shelton won top country artist and showed love for his beau and fellow singer Gwen Stefani. "I felt like the luckiest guy in the room 'cause Gwen was here with me anyway," he said. — AFP



Alex Pall, left, and Andrew Taggart, right, of The Chainsmokers, and Halsey accept the award for Top Collaboration for 'Closer'.



Nicole Scherzinger, right, and Jussie Smollett present the award for Top Country Artist at the Billboard Music Awards.



BTS, a South Korean band, poses in the press room with the award for Top Social Artist.



Blake Shelton poses in the press room with the award for Top Country Artist.



Designer poses in the press room with the awards for Song And Top Streaming song (video) for 'Panda'.

AWARDS



Gwen Stefani, left, presents the Billboard Icon award to Cher.



Dan Reynolds, of Imagine Dragons, presents a tribute to Chris Cornell, pictured on screen.



Brian Kelley, from left, and Tyler Hubbard, of Florida Georgia Line, and John Legend perform at the Billboard Music Awards.



Lindsay Stirling poses in the press room with the award for top Dance/Electronic Album for 'Brave Enough'.

Winners

- Top artist: Drake.
- Top Hot 100 song: The Chainsmokers featuring Halsey, "Closer."
- Top Billboard 200 album: Drake, "Views."
- Top Female artist: Beyonce.
- Top Male artist: Drake.
- Top Duo/Group: twenty one pilots.
- Top Collaboration: The Chainsmokers featuring Halsey, "Closer."
- Top R&B artist: Beyonce.
- Top Rap artist: Drake.
- Top Country artist: Blake Shelton.
- Top Rock artist: twenty one pilots.
- Top Latin artist: Juan Gabriel.
- Top Dance/Electronic artist: The Chainsmokers.
- Top Christian artist: Lauren Daigle.
- Top Gospel artist: Kirk Franklin.
- Top Social artist: BTS.
- Top Touring artist: Beyonce.
- Chart Achievement award: twenty one pilots.
- Icon award: Cher. — AP



Chris Daughtry, left, and Rachel Platten present the Billboard Chart Achievement award.



Brian Kelley, left, and Tyler Hubbard, of Florida Georgia Line, pose in the press room with their award for Top Country Song for 'H.O.L.Y.'



Performer David Guetta in the press room during the 2017 Billboard Music Awards.



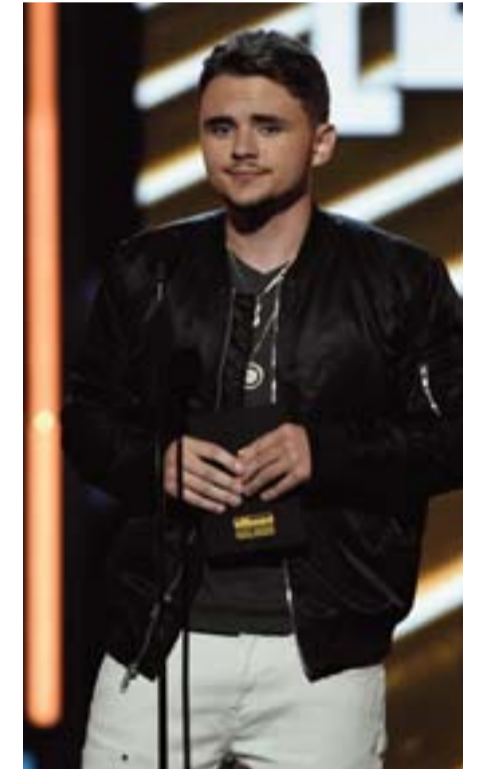
Alexandra Daddario and Ansel Elgort present the award for Top Hot 100 song at the Billboard Music Awards.



Actor Christopher Jordan Wallace (left) and producer Sean 'Diddy' Combs pose in the press room.



Camila Cabello poses in the press room at the Billboard Music Awards.



Prince Michael Jackson presents the Top Artist award.



Hosts Vanessa Hudgens, left, and Ludacris speak at the Billboard Music Awards.



Celine Dion performs 'My Heart will Go On' at the Billboard Music Awards.



Sean 'Diddy' Combs presents a tribute to Biggie Smalls at the Billboard Music Awards.



Hailee Steinfeld introduces a performance by Lorde.



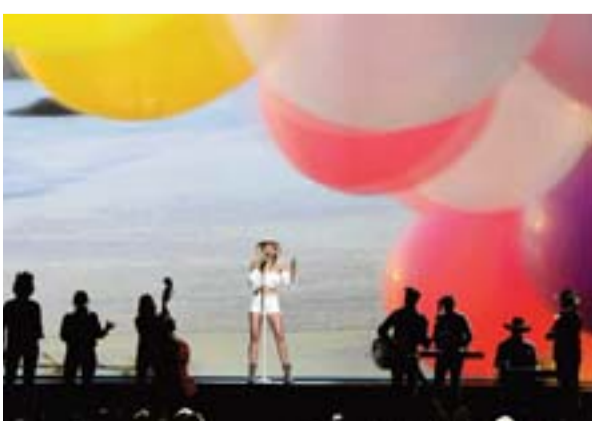
Miss America 2017 Savvy Shields poses in the press room.



Savvy Shields, left, and Rachel Lindsay present the award for Top Country Song.



YH Boys, a Chinese group, arrive at the Billboard Music Awards.



Miley Cyrus performs "Malibu" at the Billboard Music Awards.



Ed Helms, left, and Kevin Hart present the award for Top Collaboration at the Billboard Music Award.



Sarah Foster, left, and Mark Cuban introduce a performance by Ed Sheeran.



Josh Duhamel presents the award for Top Billboard 200 album.

# Lifestyle

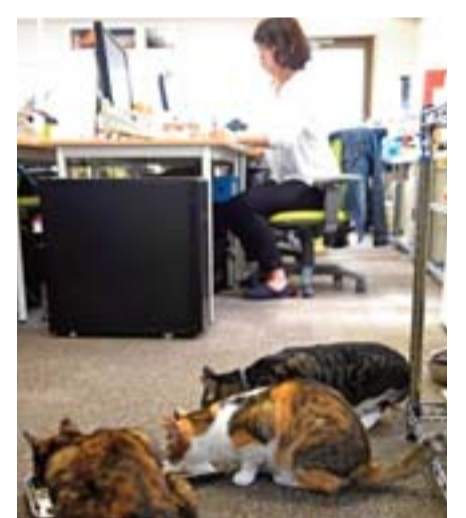
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Hello! Drake breaks Adele's record at Billboard Music Awards

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In this Friday photo, a woman in traditional geisha dress uses a fan to block the sun as she joins others to parade down the street to Asakusa Shrine in the compound of Sensoji Temple prior to the annual Sanja Festival, one of the three major festivals in Tokyo. — AP



## Feline good: Cats counter stress at Tokyo firm

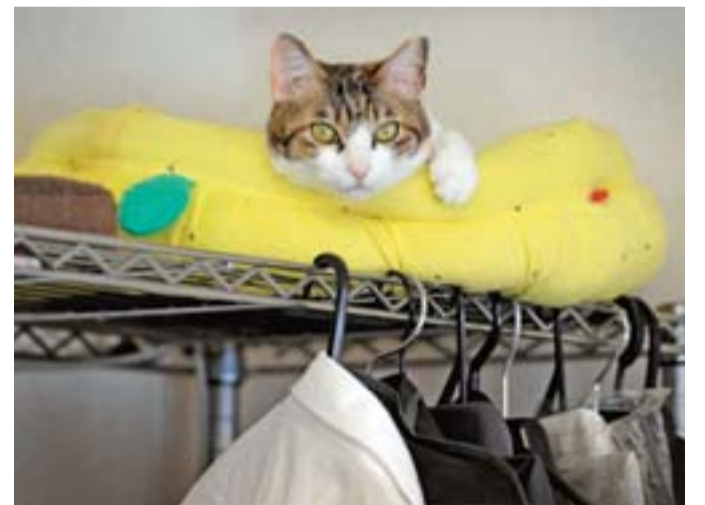


**W**orkaholic Japan is known for long office hours and stressed out employees, but one company claims to have a cure: Cats. A total of nine fluffy felines eat, sleep and walk freely in the small office of IT firm Ferray in Tokyo. Hidenobu Fukuda, who heads the firm, introduced an "office cat" policy in 2000 upon request from one of his employees, allowing staffers to bring their moggies to work. "I also give 5,000 yen (\$45) a month to those who rescue a cat," he said of his charges.

Other Japanese companies are also allowing animals in the office to help reduce stress and anxiety. At Oracle Japan, an Old English Sheepdog named Candy works as a "greeting and healing ambassador", according to the company website. The company said it has had an

office dog since 1991, and Candy, the fourth one, now has Twitter and Instagram accounts. Meanwhile, Pasona Group "hired" two goats in 2011 and two alpacas in 2013 as full-time employees, partly for healing purposes.

Tokyo is also home to some 60 registered cat cafes, thanks to a growing number of feline lovers. Eri Ito, who works at Ferray, says she is sold on the animal's soothing ways. "Cats are sleeping just beside us... It's healing," Ito said. But there is also a downside to having felines in the office, Fukuda admitted. "Sometimes a cat will walk on a phone and cut off the call, or they shut down the computers by walking onto the off switch," he said. — AFP



These pictures by AFPBB News shows cats eating food at an IT office in Tokyo. — AFP photos