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# Saudis blame Iran for 'act of war', close access to Yemen

King meets Hariri • Chopper crash kills prince • New officials sworn in

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia and Iran traded fierce accusations over Yemen yesterday, with Riyadh saying a rebel missile attack "may amount to an act of war" and Tehran accusing its rival of war crimes. Tensions have been rising between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which are opposed in disputes and conflicts across the Middle East from Yemen and Syria to Qatar and Lebanon. Yesterday, a Saudi-led military coalition battling Tehran-backed rebels in Yemen said it reserved the "right to respond" to the missile attack on Riyadh at the weekend, calling it a "blatant military aggression by the Iranian regime which may amount to an act of war".

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir also warned Tehran. "Iranian interventions in the region are detrimental to the security of neighboring countries and affect international peace and security. We will not allow any infringement on our national security," Jubeir tweeted. Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif issued dismissive tweets over the kingdom of Saudi Arabia in response. "KSA is engaged in wars of aggression, regional bullying, destabilising behaviour & risky provocations. It blames Iran for the consequences," he wrote.

Saudi forces on Saturday intercepted and destroyed the ballistic missile near Riyadh's international airport after it was reportedly fired by Shiite Houthi rebels from Yemen. It was the first attempted missile strike by the rebels to reach Riyadh and threaten air traffic, underscoring the growing threat posed by the conflict on Saudi Arabia's southern border.

The coalition yesterday sealed off air, sea and land borders in Yemen, where it has been battling rebels in support of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi's internationally recognized government since 2015. "The



RIYADH: Saudi King Salman meets outgoing Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri yesterday. — AFP

Coalition Forces Command decided to temporarily close all Yemeni air, sea and land ports," the coalition said in a statement on the Saudi state news agency SPA. It added that aid workers and humanitarian supplies would continue to be able to access and exit Yemen. The United Nations, however, said it was not given approval for two scheduled humanitarian flights yesterday and was seeking clarification on the coalition's announcement.



New Economy and Planning Minister Mohammad Al-Tuwaijri (right) and the new National Guard chief Prince Khalid bin Ayyaf Al-Muqrin (left) pose for a photo with King Salman during a swearing-in ceremony yesterday. — AP

An Iranian foreign ministry statement quoted spokesman Bahram Ghassemi as saying the accusations by the coalition were "unjust, irresponsible, destructive and provocative". Ghassemi said the missile was fired by the Houthis in response "to war crimes and several years of aggression by the Saudis". The missile attack, he said, was "an independent action in response to this aggression," and Iran had nothing to do with it.

Analysts said it was unclear how far Saudi Arabia

would be willing to go in the escalating confrontation. Analyst Randa Slim of the Middle East Institute said it was unclear whether the Saudi leadership had "thought through an escalation of the scale they're hinting at". Compounding concerns of an escalation, she said, is that US President Donald Trump's administration has also taken a hard line against Iran "and may not send a deterrent message to Saudi".

Continued on Page 11

## News in brief

### Erdogan to visit Kuwait

ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan will visit Russia's Sochi on Nov 13, followed by a visit to Kuwait the following day, his office said yesterday. The visit to Sochi comes amid reports of potential sticking points in Turkey's planned purchase of a Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile system, and Turkish objections to the attendance of Syrian Kurdish groups to a Russian-sponsored Syrian peace congress scheduled for Nov 18.

### Qatar buys stake in Cathay

DOHA: Qatar Airways has bought a stake in Cathay Pacific, it announced yesterday, giving the Doha-based airline a toehold in the potentially lucrative Asian aviation market. The state-owned Gulf carrier said it had acquired a 9.6 percent stake in Cathay, which would make it the third largest shareholder in the Hong Kong airline. Bloomberg News said the deal was worth \$662 million. Qatar Airways group chief executive Akbar Al-Baker said in a company statement that Cathay was "one of the strongest airlines in the world", adding it had "massive potential". Corrine Png of Singapore-based research firm Crucial Perspective described the acquisition as a "trophy win" for Qatar Airways but not without potential obstacles.

## Texas massacre revives gun debate, Trump blames 'mental health'

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas: US President Donald Trump said the United States was living in "dark times" as it grieved yesterday a shooting massacre at a Texas church, but with calls for stricter gun control reinvigorated, he insisted the latest tragedy "isn't a guns situation". Sunday's carnage, which came just five weeks after the worst gun massacre in modern US history, saw a gunman wearing a bulletproof vest use an assault rifle to open fire on the congregation of a small-town Texas church, killing 26 people and wounding 20 more.

"I think that mental health is your problem here," Trump told journalists when asked if gun control could reduce the rampant firearms violence plaguing the US. Speaking in Tokyo as part of his Asia tour, the US president dubbed the gunman "deranged" and said the most recent mass shooting to hit the US "isn't a guns situation".

The victims, who ranged in age from five to 72, were gunned down at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, a rural community of some 400 people 50 km southeast of San Antonio. The gunman, widely identi-



Devin Kelley

fied as Devin Kelley, 26, was described by authorities as a young white male who was found dead in his vehicle after being confronted by a local resident. The Air Force said Kelley served at a base in New Mexico starting in 2010 before being court-martialed in 2012 on charges of assaulting his wife and child. He was sentenced to 12 months in confinement and received a "bad conduct" discharge, Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek told AFP. He was discharged in 2014.

Kelley had sent threatening text messages to his in-laws who sometimes attended the house of worship before launching the latest US mass shooting, officials said yesterday. "This was not racially motivated, it wasn't over religious beliefs. There was a domestic situation going on within the family and the in-laws," Freeman Martin, a spokesman for the Texas Department of



SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas: State troopers guard the entrance to the First Baptist Church (back) yesterday after a mass shooting that killed 26 people on Sunday. — AFP

Public Safety, told reporters. "The mother-in-law attended the church. We know he sent threatening ... that she had received threatening text messages from him." Wilson County Sheriff Joe Tackitt said in an interview that the family members had not been present at the time of Kelley's attack "I heard that (the in-laws) attended church from time to time," Tackitt said. "Not on a regular basis."

Dressed all in black, Kelley fired outside the church before entering the building and continuing to spray bullets, Martin said. "As he exited the church, a local resident grabbed his rifle and engaged that suspect. The suspect dropped his rifle, which was a Ruger AR assault-type rifle, and fled from the church. Our local citizen pursued the suspect at that time," Martin said.

Continued on Page 11

## UAE, Qatar stake billions in 'soft power' showdown

DUBAI: The opening this week of the glittering Louvre Abu Dhabi museum marks the latest stage in a multi-billion-dollar "soft power" showdown between energy giants Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Culture, media and sports have turned into battlegrounds for branding and global recognition. "There is certainly competition there for soft power hegemony between the Gulf monarchies," said Andreas Krieg, assistant professor at King's College London, with the Gulf states vying for investments, tourism and branding.

Dubai, the economic capital of the Emirates although not a player in oil production, is ahead of its rivals in the post-hydrocarbon era, having already established itself as a trading, services and tourism hub. The Louvre Abu Dhabi opening Wednesday is the first of three international museum launches in the Emirati capital, to be



DUBAI: This file computer-generated handout image shows architect Santiago Calatrava's design for the UAE Pavilion for Dubai World Expo 2020. — AFP (See Page 32)

followed by the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, designed by Frank Gehry, and a Norman Foster-designed Zayed National Museum.

The UAE, whose political capital is oil-rich Abu Dhabi, covers the size of Scotland with a 10-million population, of whom 12 percent are

Emirati nationals. It is the fourth largest OPEC producer with proven reserves of 98 billion barrels. A third of the size of Belgium, Qatar has 2.6 million inhabitants, 13 percent of them nationals.

Continued on Page 11

## Leaks show Ross', queen's investments in tax havens

LONDON: US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has denied wrongdoing over business ties to a shipping firm linked to Vladimir Putin's inner circle, detailed in a vast leak of financial documents that also revealed Britain's Queen Elizabeth II's investments in tax havens. The documents also suggested that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's top fundraiser and senior advisor Stephen Bronfman, heir to the Seagram fortune, moved some \$60 million to offshore tax havens with ex-senator Leo Kolber.

The findings have emerged as part of the Paradise Papers released by the US-



Wilbur Ross

based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), which was behind the Panama Papers made public last year. Ross yesterday denied wrongdoing and there is no suggestion that he, Bronfman or the queen's private estate acted illegally. But Ross' ties to Russian entities raise questions over potential conflicts of interest, and whether they undermine Washington's sanctions on Moscow.

Ross holds a 31 percent stake in Navigator Holdings through a complex web of offshore investments detailed in the documents examined by nearly 100

Continued on Page 11

Local

Deputy FM, envoys discuss regional, int'l developments



KUWAIT: Kuwaitis Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with several European ambassadors and diplomats yesterday. — KUNA



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim Al-Fayez.

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah discussed regional and international developments, mainly the Iranian nuclear deal, with several European ambassadors and diplomats yesterday. The ambassadors to Kuwait included France's Christian Nakhle and Germany's Karlfried Bergner along with the British Charge d'Affaires to Kuwait Jacky Perkins. Discussions focused, in particular, on the European view regarding the agreement

between the P5+1 world powers and Iran signed back in mid-2015, read a Kuwait Foreign Ministry statement. The meetings were also attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ayham Al-Omar. Later, Jarallah met Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim Al-Fayez, whereby the two discussed bilateral relations along with regional and global developments. — KUNA

Amir sends condolences to King Salman, Trump

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in which he expressed his deepest condolences over the demise of Deputy Governor of Saudi Arabia's Aseer province, Prince Mansour bin Muqren bin Abdulaziz. Prince Mansour was killed along with a number of officials when the helicopter they were boarding crashed on Sunday. His Highness the Amir beseeched Allah Almighty to bestow his mercy upon his soul. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar

cables to the Saudi king, while National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a cable of condolences to Saudi Shura Council president Dr Abdullah Bin Mohammad Al-Sheikh. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir cabled US President Donald Trump expressing condolences over victims who had fallen in the tragic shooting incident that happened inside a church in Texas. His Highness the Amir expressed condemnation of the horrific and criminal act that targeted the innocent, praying for souls



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

of the deceased and wishing the wounded quick recovery. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister addressed cables of identical content to the US president, while Speaker Ghanem offered condolences to Chairman of the US Senate Mike Pence and Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan. Late Sunday, a man dressed in black tactical-style gear and armed with an assault rifle opened fire inside a church in a small South Texas community, killing 26 people and wounding about 20 others. — KUNA

KFH participates in 2nd Youth Voluntary Forum

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House's (KFH) Public Relations and Media Executive Yousif Abdullah Al-Rowayyeh stressed that KFH has been an active participant as a social strategic partner in the forum since its inception. Rowayyeh added that through its history, KFH managed to prioritize youth in various fields and support youth



KUWAIT: KFH Public Relations and Media Executive Yousif Al-Rowayyeh (second right) is seen with participants and forum organizers.

initiatives focusing on empowering young people, developing their skills and implanting the values of teamwork in them. Further, Rowayyeh noted that KFH was

one of the first banks to have a voluntary team of employees working all year long. He added that the bank's team had organized over 100 initiatives last year.

Speaker meets Consultant of Saudi Royal Diwan

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem met in his office yesterday the Consultant of the Saudi Royal Diwan and Member of the Senior Scholars Council, Sheikh Dr Abdullah bin Sulaiman Al-Manea. The meeting was attended by the Undersecretary of Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Farid Emadi. — KUNA





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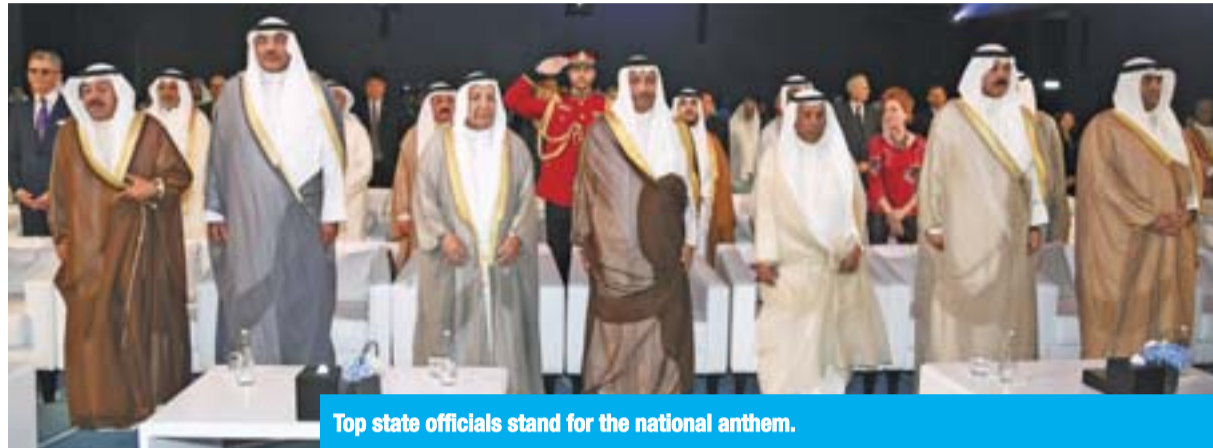
Local

# Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya celebrates grand opening

In presence of His Highness the Prime Minister



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is welcomed at the Fourth Season Hotel.



Top state officials stand for the national anthem.



Top state officials attend the inauguration ceremony.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is honored during the ceremony.

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah was guest of honor yesterday at the grand official opening ceremony of Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya, the leading luxury hospitality company's first address in Kuwait.

Representing Four Seasons and welcoming His Highness to the hotel were Four Seasons executives Isadore Sharp, Founder and Chairman, and J Allen Smith, President and CEO. Offering his welcome, as representative of the Alshaya family, was Mohammed Alshaya, Executive Chairman of the Alshaya Group of companies, who own the property. "We are honored to welcome His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to the grand opening celebrations of Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya, and extend our deepest gratitude for his gracious presence," said Smith.

"The significance of the opening of Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya goes beyond our commitment to expanding our presence in the Middle East region. This magnificent property is a special celebration of the close relationship we

share with our guests in the region who have come to deeply appreciate the Four Seasons experience for its personalized service, attention to detail and warm and welcoming care. We are humbled by the initial response to this property, which holds an important place in our growth story in the region."

pre-opening of the hotel and expressed his gratitude for the presence of His Highness and senior government representatives at the opening.

Reflecting on the contribution of Four Seasons Kuwait at Burj Alshaya to Kuwait's economy, Alshaya commented: "World-class infrastructure and hospitality is the mark of a progressive city and we are delighted to support Kuwait's 2035 Vision through our investment in this iconic development which reflects Alshaya's commitment to Kuwait and to the growth of a vibrant private sector. This iconic hotel is a wonderful new addition to Kuwait's hospitality offer and has redefined modern luxury."

As the capital's stylish new centerpiece, Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya is a desirable destination for dining, entertainment and relaxation for both business and leisure travellers as well as local guests. Visitors to the Hotel will experience legendary Four Seasons service across the Hotel's collection of 217 well-appointed guest rooms, 67 lavish suites as well as five exquisite restaurants that combine culinary influences from international trends with local tastes and traditions.



Supporting  
Kuwait's  
2035 Vision

added Smith. Speaking on behalf of the Alshaya family, Mohammed Alshaya thanked His Highness, the Prime Minister and the government of Kuwait for its support throughout the planning, building and



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah writes in the guestbook.

## 47th Palestinian Heritage Exhibition opens at Women Cultural and Social Society

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** The Palestine Culture Center inaugurated yesterday the 47th Palestinian Heritage Exhibition at the Women Cultural and Social Society in Khaldiya. The four-day event is organized in cooperation with the 'Kuwaitis for Jerusalem' initiative under the auspices of the National Council For Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

On the sideline of the exhibition, Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub said that the Palestinian Heritage Center Exhibition is tak-

ing place as part of the 'Palestinian Week' activities held under supervision of the secretariat general of NCCAL.

"This year's exhibition is special as it overlaps with the 'Palestinian Week' during which an international conference on the suffering of Palestinian children from Israeli's occupation will be held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and in the presence of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas," Tahboub said. He added that the exhibition reflects the Palestinian heritage and the renewed relationship between

Palestine and Kuwait through the adoption of the secretariat general of NCCAL for the Palestinian events.

The show includes a large collection of textile-based traditional handmade cross-stitch as well as Hebron pottery, posters and books about Palestine in both English and Arabic. It aspires to reaffirm the Palestinian national identity by its handicrafts and support education and families.

The Palestinian Culture Center is a non-profit organization that was established in Jordan in 1993. It aims to preserve the rich heritage and culture of Palestine, help empower women and their families in the refugee camps become economically independent, and sustain needy Palestinians in their homeland and in the Diaspora. This year was an active year for the center due to the effects of the global financial crisis which placed a further strain on the poor. Furthermore, the violent and aggressive Israeli military onslaught on Gaza, Jerusalem and the rest of occupied Palestine, have made the situation in Palestine dire, and the need for aid more urgent. As a result, the center has worked to increase the salaries of the 550 or so women who do the embroidery work as well as pay for their transportation (from the camps). We motivate the ladies by granting bonuses for excellent quality work. We also provide support to Palestinians in the homeland by providing financial aid to needy families, health care, and university scholarships.

Some of the center's accomplishments included support of some of the vital institutes such as Al-Maqased hospital in Jerusalem which was established in 1968 with substantial financing of the Water Desalination Project in Gaza for producing potable water and assisting Gaza area hospitals that were bombed by Israel, such as Al-Shefa Hospital, to produce and store oxygen for medical purposes.



KUWAIT: Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub (center) and NCCAL Secretary General Ali Al-Youha (right) tour the exhibition. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

The exhibition showcases traditional cross-stitch embroidery of dresses, linens, shawls, cushions, table runners, cards, frames, coasters, belts, purses, bookmarks and more. It also includes a wider selection of handmade with various colorful ceramics from Hebron. Furthermore, it introduces new attraction of Palestinian art work by talented artists from Gaza and other areas (oil, acrylic and collage paintings and etchings).

Also, contains a comprehensive information section featuring new books as well as posters on current and historical events, and DVDs as well as posters from Palestine, in addition to a food sale of traditional Palestinian food such as thyme, sumaq, baked goods and other traditional plates. A Palestinian folklore 'Dabkah' will be performed on Thursday at 6:00 pm.

Palestinian embroidery using needle and silk thread is a manifestation of the Palestinian identity as it has evolved over the ages. An age old art, all Palestinian ladies, young and old, would spend hours embroidering their trousseau, dresses, shawls and cushions. Using geometric shapes at first, and then evolving to depicting images from nature surrounding them, the dresses are famous for the flowery designs and bold natural colors of indigo and red. Symbols of the ubiquitous cypress trees surrounding the orange groves, roses, jasmine and the famous olive tree are typical motifs in these dresses.

The proceeds of this exhibition will be used to support the rebuilding and renovation of schools in Jerusalem as they are under the threat of closure and withdrawal of funds by the occupying Israeli government unless an Israeli cur-



## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A folklore music event at the Abdulhussein Abdulredha Theater. —KUNA

# Kuwait to raise hydrogen-processed oil's capacity to 758,000 bpd: KNPC

## Hydrogen Remediation Conference 2017 underway

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's capacity to handle the remaining oil with hydrogen processing will be 758,000 barrels per day (bpd) by the completion of the Clean Fuel Project, compared with the current capacity of 228,000 bpd, Kuwait's National Petroleum Company (KNPC) CEO Mohamed Al-Mutairi said yesterday.

Mutairi said in a speech at the opening of the Hydrogen Remediation Conference 2017 that Kuwait is on its way to become one of the largest centers in the hydrogenation treatment of remaining oil. He added that the hydrogenation treatment of the remaining oil has been in use for several decades, pointing out that technology has been slow except for limited developments in prolonging the cycle of the use of catalysts and in the quality of the product.

The three-day Hydrogen Processing Conference (2017) is the first international meeting to be held under the aus-

picies of Kuwait's Oil Minister and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq. He explained that the conference will discuss how to direct the industry to add new capabilities in addressing the hydrogen-processed

remaining oil and the challenges facing existing technologies in this regard.

Mutairi pointed out that the conference will also discuss ways of reducing the cost in the treatment of hydrogen-processed remaining oil and best practices in operations, troubleshooting and treatment as well as trends in the future industry. Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait

Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Nizar Al-Adsani said that the refining industry witnessed a qualitative leap in the international markets as a result of the recommendations of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from ships to reduce the sulfur content in ship



Mohamed Al-Mutairi



Nizar Al-Adsani

fuels as well as the continuous changes in energy demand, economic growth and new challenges such as electric cars.

Adsani said that marine fuels had undergone rapid changes as a result of the decision of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to reduce the sulfur content in marine fuels used in open seas

from 3.5 to 0.5 percent and expected to become effective by 2020. He explained that these restrictions will be a challenge for refineries as they have to plan what to do with respect to remaining oil with high sulfur content that can no longer be mixed in the fuel of ships. —KUNA

## KFAS announces 2017 prize winners

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) yesterday announced the 2017 winners' list of its prize for Kuwaiti and Arab scientists and the prize for Kuwaiti researchers. The Kuwait Prize for Applied Sciences went to Dr Mohammad Alaa-Eddin, Lebanon, and Shaker Mohammad (Egypt), said KFAS Director General Dr Adnan Shehab Eddin in a press release.

Lebanese Dr Suma Bujouda won an education prize, while Nabil Matter, also Lebanese, was awarded that of Art and Literature. Jordanian Dr Omar Yaghi won a prize in chemistry. Dr Maron Khalil, Lebanon, won the Arabic and Islamic Scientific Heritage, only announced every third year. The Scientific Production Prize was awarded to five Kuwaitis this year: Dr Talal Al-Azmi (Physical Sciences and Mathematics); Dr Majid Al-Dihani (Engineering Sciences); Dr Raed Al-Roughani (Medical Sciences and Allied Health Science); Dr Fayez Al-Thufairi (Social Sciences and Humanities) and Dr Mashari Al-Fereih (Administration and Economics). Dr Shehab Eddin noted that the sixth prize of Scientific Production, Biological Sciences, was withheld.

The Kuwait Prize was launched in 1979 in fulfillment of KFAS's strategy to support scientific research and encourage scholars and researchers in Kuwait and all other Arab countries. The Scientific Production Prize was established in response to an initiative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait to honor distinguished Kuwaitis holding a doctorate degree in various fields of knowledge. —KUNA

## Burgan Bank hosts breast cancer awareness campaign

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank, one of the biggest contributors to society and a champion in advocating for health and wellness, recently hosted their annual breast cancer awareness campaign for the employees. Themed as 'Protect Yourself! Check Yourself!' the educational session aimed to raise awareness about common risk factors, prevention and different screening methods available, the importance of a balanced diet and an active lifestyle in maintaining optimal health.

Addressing one of today's most acute health concerns with a growing number of cases across the country, Burgan Bank invited renowned doctors for an interactive lecture and a QandA session and provided complimentary medical check-ups on sugar and blood pressure levels for their staff. Employees benefited from the latest medical guidance on how to maintain a healthy diet to boost their overall immunity and health and how to stay aware of the mental, emotional and physical wellbeing required to lead a wholesome life.

Dr Huda Al-Manfoohi, Specialist General Surgeon at Al-Hadi hospital, addressed the symptoms of breast cancer, different screening methods as Sana Mrabet guided the employees on the best forms of nutrition with emphasis on integrating daily physical activity. Dr Ahmed Al-Sharqawi, Consultant of Neurobehavioral and Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Neurological Disorders from the newly opened



Wellness Center in Al-Hadi Hospital explained the effects of people's psychological state on the disease and the importance of maintaining a healthy routine to avoid cancer related illnesses.

Working as a strong pillar of the Kuwaiti society committed to ameliorating lives in its community, Burgan Bank has been observing the International

Breast Cancer Awareness Day for numerous years, starting from within. Breast Cancer is one of the world's most recurring diseases with Kuwait ranking high on the global list of disease prevalence. Early detection coupled with regular screening tests and simple self-examinations at home are paramount in saving the lives of many.

Local

# Digital transformation necessary to achieve e-govt program objectives

## 5th E-Government Forum underway

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Nouf Expo, in collaboration with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), is holding the 5th E-Government Forum from Nov 5 to 7, 2017 at the Arraya Ballroom of the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Kuwait City. The forum is focusing on the digital transformation that government agencies should undergo to be able to achieve the objective of the e-government program set by the government.

"E-government reduces human mistakes and decreases financial and administrative expenses. The government should make all the services electronic, especially after transferring many public institutions into the electronic mode," said Minister of Commerce and Industry and acting State Minister for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-

Roudhan during the opening ceremony on Sunday.

According to him, the number of applications for founding companies has increased. "The number of projects has increased, in addition to the variety of licenses. Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry provided facilities to be able to accept more applications in the coming period. More services will be added to the ministry's website soon," Roudhan said.

### Kuwait has resources for digital transformation



Information and communication technology is one of the most important tools of development, and is currently booming. "The slogan of this year's forum 'Digital Transformation' expresses change. We realize the challenges and obstacles

facing those who work in this field in various public institutions. The Central Agency for Information Technology is in charge of leading this transformation on the state level connecting different bodies," he pointed out.

"The leadership should enforce the application of the e-government system. Furthermore, legal protection of the transformation process should be applied by the government, especially since it's a complete change that affects all state institutions. We look forward to improving public services of all institutions, which requires total cooperation of these institutions as they are interconnected," stressed Roudhan.

#### Changing journey

Qusai Al-Shatti, acting director general of CAIT, noted that the slogan of this forum expresses the changing journey that all institutions in both the public and private sectors should embark on in digitalizing their operations. "This is the only way to keep the institutions productive, improving and growing. It is a path that affects all departments, no matter what products or services they provide," he explained.

Yousef Al-Marzouq, Director General of Nouf Expo, stated that Kuwait has the necessary human and financial resources for the digital transformation. "International and local technology companies will always provide experiences and technologies to the government. Both individuals and companies aim to improve governmental services



**KUWAIT:** Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan speaks during the 5th E-Government Forum. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

to relieve the pressure on the institutions and make paper-work faster anytime and anyplace," he also said.

Various local and international companies and institutions are participating in this forum. EGOV5 will discuss the basic characteristics of digital transformation, its requirements, its success factors, and the pitfalls or risks that need to be considered and mitigated along the way. Various workshops are being held during the three days of the forum.

## Nursing Association decries hiring 200 expatriate nurses

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Nursing Association (KNA) strongly slammed the Ministry of Health (MoH) for recruiting 200 expatriate nurses from a local medical company, describing it as 'a scandal' and noting that MoH had never been in a more chaotic situation. KNA added that MoH had also violated its own decision issued on July 5, 2017 on stopping the recruitment of non-Kuwaiti nurses from the local market except for those who got their nursing degree from Kuwait. "The ministry then locally recruited 200 expat nurses who do not hold Kuwaiti nursing degrees," KNA explained, expressing suspicions of profiteering. KNA urged minister Jamal Al-Harbi and his undersecretary to explain the matter, as they were the ones who signed the contract. The association added it will take all relevant documents to monitoring bodies.

#### Insurance fees

A report by the State Audit Bureau said that MoH had still not collected its share of health insurance

fees from insurance companies that are demanding a payment of KD 22,259,964. The report added that MoH had failed in forming special committees to scrutinize the amount and claim it from insurance companies for over nine years. The report said MoH had contacted the finance ministry over two years ago to provide the sums the company claims it deserves.

Another State Audit Bureau report about the fiscal 2016-2017 year budget said total revenues were around KD 97.8 million, which is 128.5 percent more than that estimated and 38.7 percent more than those in the fiscal year 2015-2016. The report also recommended that various bodies should take more measures to increase their revenues through re-pricing the services they provide according to these services' real cost and finding new sources to increase revenues.

Moreover, the report explained that the revenues of the Kuwait Central Bank, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Ports Authority increased in 2016-2017, and that their expenses had dropped in the same period.

#### Postal services

A European and a Chinese company filed requests to invest in Kuwait postal services, which made the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) coordinate with the Ministry of Utilities and Kuwait Investment Authority to set a strategy to offer the

post sector to the KAPP. Informed sources noted that foreign companies applying for the project have allocated over KD 500 million to be invested in mail services jointly with other local and regional companies.

#### Farm workers

The Public Authority for Manpower issued an administrative decision regulating agricultural, fish and animal sector requirements. The decision also defined the conditions needed to determine the number of farm workers needed for the winter, noting that the number would be determined according to the total farmed area, ie five farmers, a driver and a laborer for plots less than 25,000 sq m; six farmers, two drivers and two laborers for plots ranging from 25,000-50,000 sq m; eight farmers, two drivers and two laborers for plots ranging from 50,000-100,000 sq m; 11 farmers, two drivers and two laborers for plots sized 100-200,000 sq m and 14 farmers, four laborers and three drivers for plots larger than 200,000 sq m.

Separately, the manpower authority announced its readiness to issue work permits for small projects, said informed sources, noting that the authority is currently waiting for an agreement with the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) to set the measures needed to grant small project entrepreneurs national labor support allowances.

## 10 MPs want panel to study regional risks

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Ten lawmakers yesterday signed a motion that calls to set up a three-member parliamentary committee that would assess the preparedness of the country's various agencies and departments to face fast-paced security and political developments. The signatories represent various political trends in the National Assembly indicating a consensus on the objectives of the proposed panel which can be set up only after the new Cabinet is formed to allow the Assembly to resume meetings suspended after the Cabinet resignation.

The request says the proposed panel will evaluate if "the government and its establishments are prepared to counter domestic and external security challenges" the country is facing. The panel should submit its report to the National Assembly within two months. The lawmakers cited the stern warning made by HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the opening of the new Assembly term on Oct 24 that due attention must be paid to the security developments around the country.

It recalled that the Amir urged in his speech that "we should not close our eyes even for a moment at the fires raging around the country and the risks endangering us" and the "catastrophes knocking our doors". According to the motion, the Amir also called for shielding the country against sectarian disputes and safeguarding its national unity. The motion said that the formation of the committee should be considered a priority by the Assembly.

The lawmakers who signed the motion include Mohammad Al-Dallal, Khaled Al-Shatti, Mubarak Al-Harees, Ali Al-Deqbasi, Adel Al-Damkhi, Osama Al-Shaheen, Yousef Al-Fadhlah, Rakan Al-Nasef, Jamaan Al-Harbash and Talal Al-Jallal. Dallal urged all lawmakers to translate the Amir's directives by helping to strengthen the internal front and stand solidly behind the Amir in his mediation efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis over Qatar. The lawmaker said that the next government should be a government of "crisis management" to be able to deal with the developments around the country and should also include economic experts.

Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem has invited MPs for an informal meeting today to convey a message from the Amir over the delicate situation in the region, which he said require more unity. In another development, MP Majed Al-Mutairi yesterday called for forming an investigation committee to probe allegations that the assets of Kuwait dropped from \$592 billion in 2016 to \$524 billion this year. He said the probe should determine how the funds have been lost and who is responsible for this.

## Fire Directorate holds joint sea exercise



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The marine fire department at Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFS) held a joint sea exercise with several other departments including the coastguards, helicopter department, public transportation, medical emergencies, information ministry and customs department, Director Lt Col Bader Al-Kadam said.

#### First aid

Ten officers and four civilians from various security sectors participated in a first aid course where medical emergency technician Abdullah Al-Haddad lectured on the respi-

ratory system, circulatory system, examining the injured, as well as checking air passages, bleeding, wounds and burns.

#### Staff promotion

The Training Department at the Interior Ministry concluded their sixth training course for promoting staff from sergeant to senior sergeant of the third group, and the second course for promoting staff from non-commissioned officer to first non-commissioned officer of the second group for women police. Director General of the Training Department Maj Gen Anwar Abdellatif Al-Barja welcomed the participants and lauded all those who contributed to preparing both courses.

## Walk In Interview Recruitment Open Day

Wednesday 8, November 2017 at Holiday Inn, Salmiya

Time : 9AM to 3PM

- **Area Manager** Must have at least 5 years experience in retail food industry
- **Asst. Store Manager** Must have at least 2 years experience in Coffee shops.
- **Supervisor** Must have at least 2 years experience in Coffee shops.
- **Barista** Must have at least 1 year experience in Coffee shops.
- **Waiter / Waitress** Experienced waiters / Freshers can also apply.

Walk in between 9 AM to 3 PM with your CV, Civil ID & Work permit Copies.  
Candidates with visa #18 (transferable preferred)  
careers@alyaqout.com, www.alyaqout.com  
Mobile No.: 6077 6827 / 9412 3937



# International

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017



Cow vigilantes deny Muslim farmers their livelihood in India

## Ousted Catalan leader blasts Spain after Belgium frees him

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BONN: President of COP 22 Salaheddine Mezouar (from Morocco) talks to delegates during the opening of the COP 23 UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany yesterday. — AP

## 2017 among the three hottest on record: UN

### UN sees risks to 'fabric of life on Earth'

BONN: This year will be among the three hottest on record in a new sign of man-made climate change that is aggravating "extraordinary weather" such as hurricanes, droughts and floods, the United Nations said yesterday. The UN report is meant to guide almost 200 nations meeting from Nov 6-17 in Bonn, Germany, to try to bolster the 2015 Paris climate pact despite a planned US pullout.

"2017 is set to be in top three hottest years," the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said, projecting average surface temperatures would be slightly less sweltering than a record 2016 and roughly level with 2015, the previous warmest. And 2017 would be the hottest on record without a natural El Nino event that releases heat from the Pacific Ocean about once every five years, it said. El Nino boosted global temperatures in both 2015 and 2016.

"We have witnessed extraordinary weather," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement of 2017, pointing to severe hurricanes in the Atlantic and Caribbean, temperatures above 50 degrees Celsius

(122°F) in Pakistan, Iran and Oman, monsoon floods in Asia and drought in East Africa. "Many of these events - and detailed scientific studies will determine exactly how many - bear the tell-tale sign of climate change caused by increased greenhouse gas concentrations from human activities," he said.

The Bonn meeting is due to work on a "rule book" for the Paris Agreement, which seeks to end the fossil fuel era in the second half of the century by shifting the world economy to cleaner energies such as wind and solar power. "These findings underline the rising risks to people,

economies and the very fabric of life on Earth if we fail to get on track with the aims and ambitions of the Paris Agreement," said Patricia Espinosa, head of the UN Climate Change Secretariat which hosts the Bonn talks.

#### Chinese plot

US President Donald Trump, who once dismissed global warming as a Chinese plot to undermine the US economy, plans to withdraw from the Paris pact and focus instead on bolstering the US fossil fuel industry. China and the United States are the top emitters. The WMO said average surface temperatures in 2017 were about 1.1C (2.0F) above the pre-industrial era in data from January to September,

nearing the most ambitious limit of 1.5C (2.7F) set by the Paris Agreement.

Many scientists say the 1.5C limit is already slipping out of reach because of insufficient action by governments to cut emissions so far. "We'll need a lot of luck and drastic action to stay below 1.5 degrees," Professor Stefan Rahmstorf of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research told Reuters. Among extremes, the WMO pointed to a battering from hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

While it said there was no clear evidence whether climate change made hurricanes more frequent, when storms do take place warmer temperatures aggravate downpours, and higher sea levels can worsen storm surges, it said. Among other extremes, monsoon floods killed 1,200 people in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, the WMO said. Severe wildfires, stoked by heat and drought, killed 64 people in Portugal, at least 41 in California and 11 in Chile. A few places had record cold against the overall warming trend, such as -25.4C (-13.7°F) in Bariloche, Argentina, in July.—Reuters



### Almost 200 nations seek to bolster Paris agreement

### US embassy in Turkey resumes visa issuing on 'limited basis'

ANKARA: United States missions in Turkey have partially resumed processing visa applications, the embassy said yesterday, and a Turkish government source said Ankara could follow suit in the first step to ease a diplomatic crisis between the two allies. The move, on the eve of a visit to Washington by Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, came almost a month after US missions in Turkey suspended all non-immigrant visa services following Turkey's arrest of a US consulate employee.

Within hours of the US announcement on Oct 8, Turkey said it was implementing reciprocal measures and President Tayyip Erdogan later angrily accused Washington of sacrificing a long-standing alliance with Ankara. "The US Mission in Turkey has resumed processing visas on a limited basis," the embassy said in an email seen by Reuters yesterday, adding that appointments would be limited and could lead to long waiting times.

A US embassy worker in Ankara confirmed the decision to Reuters. The lira firmed to 3.8356 at 1533 GMT, from 3.8708 beforehand. "The decision came right

before PM Yildirim's visit to the US, showing that Turkey-US agreed on a mutual solution regarding the visa service crisis," Ozgur Altug, chief economist at brokerage BGC Partners, said in a note. The gains in the lira, which was also boosted by central bank measures on dollar liquidity earlier yesterday, helped push Istanbul's main BIST stock index up 2.58 percent yesterday to close at a record high of 114,165.67 points.

In May, a translator at the US consulate in the southern province of Adana was arrested and, more recently, a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) worker was detained in Istanbul. Both are accused of links to last year's failed coup. The US Embassy has said the accusations are baseless. Turkish police want to question a third worker based in Istanbul. His wife and daughter were detained over alleged links to the network of US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, blamed by Ankara for orchestrating the abortive putsch. They were later released.

Turkey has been angered by what it sees as US reluctance to hand over Gulen, who has lived in Pennsylvania since 1999. US officials have said courts require sufficient evidence to order his extradition. Gulen denies any involvement in the failed coup. Turkey has also been enraged by Washington's support for the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia in the fight against Islamic State. Turkey regards the YPG as an extension of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). — Reuters

### Echoes of Cold War as NATO mulls new N Atlantic command

BRUSSELS: NATO needs to establish a new regional base for protecting the North Atlantic against increased Russian naval strength, a senior alliance general said yesterday, as allies consider the next step in a military build-up reminiscent of the Cold War. General Petr Pavel, head of NATO's military committee, will help put the case to allied defense ministers this week for a new planning and strategy base to be located in a chosen NATO ally and focused on keeping Atlantic shipping lanes safe from enemy submarines. It would be the first such expansion in two decades after NATO sharply cut back its commands in 2011.

"If we look at the growing capabilities of countries like Russia and China, with a global reach, it is quite obvious that maritime lines of communication have to be protected," Pavel, a Czech army general, told Reuters in an interview. "We observe increased Russian naval activity in the Arctic in the northern Atlantic ... We also assess that for any future crisis, the reinforcement of Europe and free lines of communication will be vital for European security," Pavel said. If approved, the new North Atlantic Command would survey a vast area and, in the event of any potential conflict with Russia, have the task of making sea lanes safe for US reinforcements to Europe.

Strong in symbolism, the decision is unlikely to revive a much larger Cold War-era Atlantic Command that was disbanded in 2002, but it would broaden NATO's new deterrent against Russia. Despite NATO's cooperation with Moscow in the Balkans after a 1997 pact formalized friendly ties, the alliance sees the Kremlin's incursions in Georgia and eastern Ukraine and its seizure of Crimea as unacceptable breaches of international law. Pavel described Russia as a "potential threat", while the West was alarmed by Moscow's war games in September that massed tens of thousands of troops and may have tested electronic warfare tools on Latvia, NATO officials say. Since Russia's 2014 Crimea annexation, NATO



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (center) talks with Japan's Rear Admiral Hiroyuki Izumi (second left) and Captain Masashi Kondo (right) during an inspection of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's destroyer Teruzuki at Yokosuka Naval Base in Yokosuka. — AP

has sought to reassure its Baltic allies by sending troops to the Baltics, Poland and the Black Sea, setting up a network of NATO outposts, holding more exercises and preparing a rapid response force, including air, maritime and special operations components. The United States has also returned tanks and troops to Europe after a long drawdown at the end of the Cold War. Russia condemns the moves as an aggressive strategy on its frontiers that threatens to destabilize eastern Europe.

#### Logistics, costs

US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis will join other allied defense ministers tomorrow and Thursday to decide whether to approve the North Atlantic Command, as well as a logistics command to focus on moving troops more quickly across Europe. With renewed purpose since Russia's annexation of Crimea, NATO allies are broadly in favor of the

two commands. Many are keen to lock in US support given President Donald Trump's early doubts about the alliance he now says he strongly backs.

Pavel cautioned that cost is likely to be an issue for NATO governments and said there were no short cuts in deterrence. "I believe we are now out of the realm of doing more with less. We simply have to understand that wherever we want to do more, there will be resource implications," Pavel said. The alliance is being asked by Trump to do more in Afghanistan, in fighting Islamist militants and to stop migrants from the Middle East and North Africa reaching Europe.

Many European NATO nations are still struggling to meet an alliance goal by 2024 to spend two percent of economic output on defense every year. "We can call it modernization, we can call it adaptation. We simply have to adapt to a new reality," Pavel said. — Reuters

International

# US, Japan stand against North Korean 'menace'

## Japan would shoot N Korea missiles 'out of the sky'

TOKYO: US President Donald Trump said yesterday that America stood with close ally Japan against the North Korean "menace" and that Washington would work with Tokyo to sort out problems on trade between the world's biggest and third-largest economies. Speaking after a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, Trump repeated his mantra the "era of strategic patience" with North Korea was over, and that the two countries were working to counter the "dangerous aggressions" of the North Korean regime, which has fired two rockets over Japan.

He said that Japan would shoot North Korean missiles "out of the sky" after completing purchases of US military equipment. Abe, for his part, said Tokyo would do so "if necessary". Trump also pressed Japan to lower its trade deficit with the United States and buy more US military hardware, but Abe dodged questions about the trade deficit. The US president is on the second day of a 12-day Asian trip that is focusing on trade and North Korea's nuclear missile programs.

“Era of strategic patience with North Korea is over”

"Most importantly, we're working to counter the dangerous aggressions of the regime in North Korea," Trump said, calling Pyongyang's nuclear tests and recent launches of ballistic missiles over Japan "a threat to the civilized world and to international peace and stability". "Some people said that my rhetoric is very strong. But look what's happened with very weak rhetoric over the last 25 years. Look where we are right now," he added. North Korea's recent actions have raised the stakes in the most critical international challenge of Trump's presidency.

The US leader has rattled some allies with his vow to "totally destroy" North Korea if it threatens the United States and with his dismissal of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as a "rocket man" on a suicide

mission. Abe, with whom Trump has bonded through multiple summits and phone calls, repeated at the same news conference that Japan backed Trump's stance that "all options" are on the table, saying it was time to exert maximum pressure on North Korea and the two countries were "100 percent" together on the issue.

Japan's policy is that it would only shoot down a missile if it were falling on Japanese territory or if it were judged to pose an "existential threat" to Japan because it was aimed at a US target. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying, in response to Abe's comments, said that the North Korean "situation" was "already extremely complex, sensitive and weak". "We hope that under the present circumstances, all sides' words and actions can help reduce tensions and reestablish mutual trust and getting the North Korean nuclear issue back on the correct track of dialogue and negotiations," she said.

Trade deficits

Trump said he was committed to achieving "free, fair, and reciprocal" trade and wants to work with

Japan on this issue. "America is also committed to improving our economic relationship with Japan," Trump said. "As president, I'm committed to achieving fair, free, and reciprocal trading relationship. We seek equal and reliable access for American exports to Japan's markets in order to eliminate our chronic trade imbalances and deficits with Japan."

Earlier, speaking to Japanese and US business executives, Trump praised Japan for buying US military hardware, which he said was the "best military equipment in the world". But he added that "many millions of cars are sold by Japan into the United States, whereas virtually no cars go from the United States into Japan". Japan had a \$69 billion trade surplus with the United States last year, according to the US



TOKYO: US President Donald Trump toasts with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (left) at the opening of a state banquet hosted by Abe at Akasaka Palace in Tokyo yesterday. —AP

Treasury Department. The United States was Japan's second biggest trade partner after China, while Japan was the United States' fourth largest goods export market in 2016.

Emperor, abductees

Japanese officials have countered US trade complaints by noting Tokyo accounts for a much smaller slice of the US deficit than in the past, while China's imbalance is bigger. In a second round of economic talks in Washington last month, US Vice President Mike Pence and Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso, who doubles as deputy premier, failed to

bridge differences on trade issues. The two sides are at odds over how to frame future trade talks, with Tokyo pushing back against US calls to discuss a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA).

Trump also said earlier that an Indo-Pacific trade framework would produce more in trade than the Trans-Pacific Partnership pact pushed by his predecessor but which he announced Washington would abandon soon after he took office. The 11 remaining nations in the TPP, to which Japan's Abe is firmly committed, are edging closer to sealing a comprehensive free trade pact without the United States.—Reuters

## Lebanon leader urges unity after PM Hariri quits

BEIRUT: Lebanon's president appealed for national unity yesterday after Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri quit in a broadcast from Saudi Arabia, toppling the country's coalition government that grouped the country's main sectarian factions. His resignation exposed Lebanon again to the sharp end of rivalry for Middle East pre-dominance between Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia and Shiite Muslim Iran, which has also wrought upheaval in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Bahrain.

In a televised speech on Saturday, Hariri - a Sunni Muslim - shocked his small nation by saying he was resigning and feared an assassination plot against him, accusing Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah of breeding strife in the Arab world. The government, which was painstakingly devised to accommodate key sectarian groups, includes the Iran-backed, Shiite Hezbollah. Its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah accused Saudi Arabia of forcing Hariri to step down and said there were "legitimate questions" over whether he had been detained in the kingdom.

Aides to Hariri, whose family made their fortune in the Saudi construction industry, strongly denied such claims. Lebanese Interior Minister Nohad Machnouk said yesterday he was under the impression Hariri would return to Beirut within days. He said a meeting between Saudi King Salman and Hariri yesterday, reported by Saudi media, showed "rumors" were untrue - an apparent reference to speculation that Hariri was being held in Saudi Arabia or forced to quit.

The furor in Lebanon over Hariri's status came as Saudi Arabia underwent an anti-corruption purge in which royals, ministers and investors have been arrested as the putative next king tightens his grip on power. Lebanese President Michel Aoun convened a meeting with ministers and top security officials at Baabda palace, telling them that political leaders had been responsive to calls for calm, his office said. "He stressed that security, economic, financial, and political stability is a red line," Justice Minister Salim Jreissati said after the meeting. Aoun will take no steps to decide on whether to accept the resignation before Hariri returns from abroad.



BEIRUT: A picture shows front pages of newspapers featuring former Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri following his resignation in the capital Beirut. —AFP

said Jreissati, who is politically aligned with Hezbollah.

"The president is waiting for Hariri's return to hear from him personally," he said. "This indicates a sovereign vision... and that the resignation must be voluntary in every sense." Aoun also planned to meet the finance minister and central bank governor in the afternoon. Lebanese dollar bonds fell across the curve and credit default swaps jumped yesterday. The central bank sought to calm fears that the political turmoil would hit Lebanon's already fragile economy. Governor Riad Salameh told local television that the monetary situation was stable yesterday and markets were normal. There was no danger to the Lebanese pound, which is pegged to the US dollar, he said.

Televised resignation

"Lebanon, after the resignation, will never be the same as before," Saudi Gulf Affairs Minister Thamer Al-Sabhan said in a tweet yesterday. "It will not accept to be in any case a platform for launching terrorism to our

countries." Even his own aides were surprised by the resignation of Hariri, Lebanon's most influential Sunni politician and a close Saudi ally. He accused Iran of sowing ruin wherever it went and of a "deep hatred for the Arab nation". Hariri also accused Hezbollah of pointing its weapons at Yemenis, Syrians and Lebanese.

Hezbollah's ties to Iran and its support for President Bashar Al-Assad in neighboring Syria's war, where Gulf Arab states have backed rebels fighting him, have been a major source of tension in Lebanon for years. The resignation could stoke tensions between Sunni and Shiite Muslims and return Lebanon to paralysis in government. Hariri's coalition government grouped nearly all of Lebanon's main parties and took office last year in a political deal that made Aoun, a Hezbollah ally, president. Hariri flew to Saudi Arabia on Friday after meeting in Beirut with Ali Akbar Velayati, the top adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader. Velayati described Hariri's coalition as "a victory" and "great success" afterwards. —Reuters

help the plight of his people.

"Almost all the areas are liberated from ISIS in Iraq and Syria but those Yazidi people are missing. Have they been killed? We don't know where they are," he said in an interview in London. A UN human rights Commission of Inquiry, which declared the killings of thousands of Yazidis to be a genocide, said in August that the atrocity had not ended and that the international community was not doing enough to stop it. "I know how difficult it is because I was under their control for four months - but what about those who are still in captivity for over three years?" Khalaf said. "They destroyed my dreams and I don't want other girls' dreams to be destroyed. We want this genocide to be stopped so we can return to our homes," she said.—Reuters

## Yazidi sex slaves still in captivity

LONDON: As Islamic State fighters beat her mercilessly for trying to flee from captivity as a sex slave in Syria, Yazidi teenager Farida Khalaf was never once deterred from plotting her next chance to escape. "They told me and my friend that they would take us to a place where we will never be able to flee. They beat me so much I lost the vision in my eye for a long time. They did everything to us," said Khalaf in Arabic through an interpreter. "But as they were beating me, I became stronger (and more determined) to flee," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation during an interview in

London. Khalaf, now 21 and a campaigner, was among 7,000 Yazidi women and girls forced into sex slavery, when Islamic State militants assaulted the community's heartland in Sinjar, northern Iraq in August 2014. More than 5,000 people in the religious minority were rounded up and slaughtered by the fighters, also known as ISIS. "When we were living under ISIS they did everything to us - from beating, to raping, to separating children from their mothers," said Khalaf, who now lives in Germany.

She said she would resist the militants as much as she could, even berating them for hurting women and girls instead of fighting a real battle on the field. After four months in captivity, Khalaf found herself in a boarded-up house with five other girls - and an unlocked door. The group took their chance and fled, cross-

ing from Syria into Kurdistan in northern Iraq where Khalaf was reunited with her brother. "I fled on 10 December, and arrived in Iraq on 17 December. This is the date of my real birthday - the day I was free from ISIS," she said.

Militants were driven out of the last part of the Yazidi homeland in northern Iraq in May. However, most Yazidis have yet to return to villages. Nearly 3,000 Yazidi women and children remain in Islamic State captivity, and control over Sinjar is disputed by rival armed factions and their regional patrons. Justice for the crimes Yazidis suffered, including sexual enslavement, has also so far proved elusive. Ahmed Burjus, deputy director of Yazda, a Yazidi-led charity that supports survivors and is documenting evidence of mass killings committed by the militants, said more needed to be done to

News in brief

'Suicide' jumper kills man

SEOUL: A South Korean man was killed after a woman who apparently committed suicide by jumping from an apartment block landed on him, reports said. The 68-year-old man was on his way to work in Seoul when the woman, aged 56, leapt from the 13th floor of the building, Yonhap news agency reported. Both were taken to hospital after the impact but died later, the report cited the police as saying, adding the woman had been suffering from depression and probably killed herself. South Korea's suicide rate is the highest among the 34 nations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and one of the worst in the world. The South Korean government has allotted nearly 9.9 billion won (\$8.9 million) in 2017 for suicide prevention.

50 killed in Vietnam

DANANG: The death toll from the typhoon that struck Vietnam at the weekend has risen to at least 49, the government said yesterday. After Typhoon Damrey's winds tore off roofs, felled trees and ripped up electricity poles, heavy rains brought floods to central Vietnam just days before the region is due to host the APEC summit of Asia-Pacific leaders. The Communist state's Steering Committee for Disaster Prevention said 49 people had been killed and 27 were missing. It did not say how the victims died, but said most casualties were in Khan Hoa province near the city of Nha Trang, where the storm made landfall on Saturday. Nearly 2,000 homes had collapsed and more than 80,000 had been damaged, it said. Roads that had been flooded or washed away caused traffic jams across several provinces.

Sri Lanka fuel shortage

COLOMBO: A Sri Lankan minister was forced yesterday to apologize for a fuel shortage that has seen long queues form at gas stations and forced many commuters to leave their cars at home. Petroleum minister Arjuna Ranatunga said the government was working to resolve the crisis, which came weeks after authorities turned away a shipment of about 40,000 tons of gasoline saying it was contaminated. "I apologize to consumers for this inconvenience, but we rejected the last shipment because we didn't want to give substandard product to our motorists," the minister told reporters. "We were expecting another shipment at the start of this month but it was delayed," he said, adding he now expected it to arrive on Wednesday night.

18 N Koreans sanctioned

SEOUL: South Korea imposed unilateral sanctions on 18 North Koreans yesterday, barring any financial transactions between those sanctioned and any South Koreans, as part of international efforts to dry up Pyongyang's illegal cash flows. All 18 individuals on which the South Korean sanctions were imposed were directly affiliated to North Korean banks, according to an official government announcement by the finance minister uploaded on the Interior Ministry's website. "They are all people at North Korean financial institutions that have already been sanctioned by the United Nations," a government official directly involved in the sanction development process told Reuters. The official asked for anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to media.

## International

# Ousted Catalan leader blasts Spain after Belgium frees him

## Puigdemont denounces Spain as an undemocratic country

**BRUSSELS:** Catalonia's sacked separatist leader Carles Puigdemont yesterday denounced Spain as an undemocratic country that "unjustly" jailed his colleagues, his first reaction since he was freed on bail in Belgium. Puigdemont and four former ministers were released with conditions Sunday night after turning themselves in to Belgian authorities to face a Spanish warrant for their arrest on charges of rebellion and sedition.

"Released without bail. Our thoughts are with colleagues unjustly imprisoned by a state that is far from democratic norms," Puigdemont said on Twitter hours after the five were released. A Spanish judge in Madrid had on Thursday put Puigdemont's deputy and seven other deposed regional ministers behind bars because of a risk they would flee.

Belgium's Foreign Minister Didier Reynders insisted it was a legal matter and not one for politicians to deal with, despite recent criticism of Spain from some Flemish separatist members of his own government. "We must let the Belgian and Spanish courts do their work," Reynders told his country's media. Puigdemont and his allies escaped to Belgium a week ago after Spain dismissed the Catalan executive and imposed direct rule on the semi-autonomous region following the declaration of independence by the parliament there last month.



### Madrid issues European arrest warrants

ty said Sunday that he had turned himself in to show his "willingness not to flee from the judicial process but to defend himself in a fair and impartial process, which is possible in Belgium, and highly doubtful in Spain".

The next court hearing will be in the following 15 days. Belgium has up to 60 days to decide whether to send the Catalans back to Spain. Puigdemont, who still describes himself as Catalonia's "president," has also said he is willing to run as a candidate in the December 21 regional election called by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy to "restore normality" to Catalonia.

Puigdemont has said he and his colleagues—Meritxell Serret, Antoni Comin, Lluís Puig and Clara Ponsati—would cooperate with the Belgian authorities, some of whom are sympathetic to the ousted Catalan leaders. "In Belgium they release us without bail, while in Spain we would be jailed," Serret said on Twitter. Puigdemont admitted last week that he had gone to Belgium partly in a bid to take the Catalan issue to the heart of the European Union, which has so far backed Madrid over the crisis.

### Belgian tensions

But the case has caused tensions both between Belgium and Madrid, as well as within the government of Belgium, a country divided between French- and Flemish-speaking populations. Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon, a member of the Flemish separatist N-VA party, questioned why the EU has failed to denounce the harsh crackdown by one of its 28 member states. "I see there is a deafening silence everywhere," Jambon told Flemish VRT television Sunday,



**BRUSSELS:** A police van believed to be carrying ousted Catalan President Carles Puigdemont leaves the Brussels Prosecutor's office, in Brussels. — AP

referring to Spain's jailing separatist leaders and clubbing "peaceful people" who voted in a banned October 1 independence referendum.

He accused the EU of double standards by taking legal action against the right-wing governments of Poland and Hungary for

allegedly defying democratic norms. Puigdemont, 54, insists that Catalonia earned the right to declare independence following the referendum and has described his detained colleagues as "political prisoners". On Sunday, protesters in Catalan cities took to the streets to demand their release. —AFP

### News in brief

#### Melania learns calligraphy

**TOKYO:** US first lady Melania Trump tried her hand yesterday at Japanese calligraphy at a Tokyo elementary school. She visited the Kyobashi Tsukiji School with her Japanese counterpart, Akie Abe. About 300 children welcomed them with a school song. Trump wrote the first character of the Japanese word for "peace," as Abe wrote the second. After Trump's first stroke, a girl student sitting next to her advised her to hold the brush vertically and explained the order of the strokes. "Yes?" Trump asked later as she turned to her instructor. The student gave a nod of approval, smiling. The two first ladies, both wearing navy blue dresses, posed for photos, shook hands and exchanged high fives with the school children. The children were shy at first, but as Trump lowered herself and greeted them, many hands rose up, trying to hold her hands. School principal Taketomi Ukitsu said the school was chosen for the visit because it picked America as part of a study project for Tokyo's 2020 Olympics.

#### 7 dismembered bodies

**CHILPANCINGO:** Seven charred and dismembered corpses were found Sunday inside garbage bags on a dirt road in a southeastern Mexican town disputed by opium gum dealers, regional authorities said. Chilpancingo, home to some 120,000 people, lies in a mountain region in the state of Guerrero where opium poppies are grown and drug cartels fight for control of heroin trafficking. Regional security authority spokesman Roberto Alvarez said criminal gangs are engaged in turf wars to dominate the trade of opium gum, which is extracted from the bulbs of poppies to develop heroin. Earlier this year Mexican police made the grisly discovery of six decapitated bodies in the region as well as the corpses of four more men in Chilpancingo. The town is a violent hotspot situated just 38 kilometers from Ayotzinapa, home to the teacher training college attended by 43 students who disappeared at the hands of corrupt police in 2014.

#### Men's club bends rules

**LONDON:** An exclusive London gentlemen's club is set to have the first female member in its 149-year history—because a current member is having a sex change, The Daily Telegraph reported. The paper quoted Savile Club member Jerry Hayes, a former MP, saying that a fellow unidentified club associate who is in his 30s, married and has two children, was transitioning to become a woman. "It would be unfair for a terrific friendly guy to expel him from the club just because he's become a woman. That was never considered," Hayes said. "The rule is no woman can apply to join the Savile Club. This is not at all setting a precedent for who can become a member because this individual applied to join as a man," he was quoted as saying. The Savile Club, in the exclusive Mayfair district of the British capital, was founded in 1868.

#### Charlie Hebdo death threats

**PARIS:** French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo said yesterday it was pressing charges after receiving fresh death threats over a cartoon of the Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan who faces rape allegations. The provocative magazine suffered a deadly attack in 2015 after publishing cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) The Swiss academic, an Oxford professor and conservative Islamic intellectual in France, has been accused of rape by two women after the Harvey Weinstein scandal unleashed a wave of sexual abuse accusations worldwide. Ramadan, 55, has furiously denied the accusations as a "campaign of lies launched by my adversaries". "Rape," reads the caption on Charlie Hebdo's cover. "The defense of Tariq Ramadan."

## Russian meddling: Should tech giants have known?

**NEW YORK:** There were signs, some say telltale signs, of Russians using social media to meddle in last year's US elections long before tech companies wised up to it. Red flags included payments in rubles for ads on hot-button, divisive issues targeted at Americans. It wasn't until late September, nearly a year after the elections, that Facebook disclosed that it found Russia-linked ads on its service. Twitter and Google followed. Could Facebook and other tech giants have caught the abuse earlier? Here's the case for and against:

### It took too long

These companies have very smart people working for them, all tasked not just with building new features but ensuring that existing ones work. Could Facebook, Google and Twitter really not foresee — and when it was actually happening, simply see — that Russian government-sponsored agents were posting from fake accounts and buying political ads using little-known payments providers? Could they have asked themselves why a legitimate advertiser from Russia would feel the need to target Americans on issues such as gun control and race? Or promote pro- and anti-Trump protests in American cities?

## Police hone tactics to quell violence at hate-fueled rallies

**SHELBYVILLE:** Snipers perched on rooftops. Police helicopters and drones hovered overhead. Officers in riot gear lined the streets. White nationalists and counter-protesters screamed at each other from fenced-off pens, but the tactics employed by law enforcement at the "White Lives Matter" rally last month in Tennessee may have prevented the kind of mayhem that had erupted at earlier rallies in other states.

Several weeks prior, police in Richmond, Virginia, banned bats, bricks, flag poles and any other items that potentially could be used as weapons at a rally held by a Confederate heritage group. Police in Berkeley, California, employed similar tactics this year after a hands-off approach failed to prevent a series of violent clashes. At the heart of the changes is a determination to prevent a repeat of the bloodshed resulting from a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, when a woman was struck and killed by a car that plowed into a group of counter-protesters.

Since then, law enforcement agencies around the country are honing their responses to an increasing number of rallies held by far-right groups, trying to balance free-speech rights with public safety. They also are comparing notes to see what tactics work best in different circumstances. Preparing for a speech by white nationalist Richard Spencer on its campus last month, the University of Florida sent a contingent of police officers to Berkeley to learn from the city's experiences.

"We have to be the mediator (for) people's ability to have free speech. But ... what we took away from Berkeley was to act quickly if something violent arose," said University of Florida Police Chief Linda

Stump-Kurnick. Josh Bronson, training director for the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, began developing a new training program for campus police within days of the Charlottesville violence. One of Bronson's primary messages is that meeting with group leaders on opposing sides of the barricades — before the rallies even begin — can help police avoid violence.

"The more communication that occurs, the more positive the outcome," he said. At the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville on Aug. 12, white nationalists and counter-protesters converged at an intersection that remained unblocked by barriers or police tape. Officers largely stood and watched as people threw punches, beat each other with clubs, set off smoke bombs and unleashed chemical spray. The response led to reports that officials had given an explicit "stand-down" order not to intervene, something authorities have vehemently denied.

Charlottesville Police Chief Al Thomas said white nationalists didn't comply with a security plan that police had devised to keep them separated from counter-protesters. Virginia's governor and other officials defended the response, saying police had to show restraint because the crowd was heavily armed. A consultant hired by the state to review the day's events, however, issued a preliminary report last month that said the city "placed minimal/no restrictions on the demonstrators." It also found that many recommendations the state made to the city ahead of the event "were not accepted."

The police response in Richmond, Virginia, was strikingly different about a month later, when an out-of-state Confederate heritage group announced plans for a rally there in September. Virginia allows residents to openly carry guns, but Richmond police banned other items that could be used as weapons, including bats, bricks and flag poles. The department also implemented parking restrictions and road closures and used public works trucks as barricades to keep vehicles out of pedestrian areas.

Police Chief Alfred Durham said authori-



**HOUSTON:** Houston Police officers mount on their horses walk down the street before a parade in Houston. — AP

ties had learned from Charlottesville and would quickly step in to break up any violence. "We will not allow things to get out of hand," Durham said before the rally, where seven people were arrested but nobody was injured. The list of items banned from last month's rally in Shelbyville, Tennessee, included weapons, bottles, backpacks, purses, masks, sticks and poles. A new Tennessee law enacted this year at the behest of the National Rifle Association prohibits local governments from banning people with state-issued handgun carry permits from being armed at any site that does not screen with metal detectors.

To comply with that law while trying to ensure public safety, officials herded white

nationalists and counter-protesters through airport-like security checkpoints manned by an officer with a handheld metal detector. White nationalist blogger Brad Griffin, who helped organize the rally, said the measures delayed the event's start by more than an hour but probably prevented violence. "I'm not going to complain," Griffin said. "I'd much rather have to deal with that than what we did in Charlottesville."

Only minor skirmishes were reported on the University of Florida's Gainesville campus when Spencer spoke there last month. But three of his supporters were arrested on attempted-murder charges after an off-campus shooting later that day. —AP

### Hindsight is 20/20

Asked in a hearing this week whether they have found all evidence of Russian meddling, top lawyers for Facebook, Google and Twitter said investigations were ongoing. So, as a matter of speaking, that's "no." Facebook also wouldn't say with certainty that no other country had also misused its platforms. After all, with 5 million advertisers each month, and billions of pieces of non-paid content, how could Facebook comb through everything — especially when advertisers could mask their real identity?

Facebook's general counsel, Colin Stretch, acknowledged that in hindsight the company should have had a "broader lens" about these issues. But ultimately, these internet giants' systems weren't set up to deal with this type of "social hacking." While each company has spent millions to combat software hacking, spam and nefarious content such as terrorist propaganda, the idea that Russia would use social media to influence the elections simply wasn't on the radar. Since the companies became aware, they have worked to tighten advertising rules, weed out fake news and accounts and share information with government investigators.

"Being at the forefront of technology also means being at the forefront of new legal, security, and policy challenges," Stretch told the Senate Judiciary Committee. "Our teams come to work every day to confront these challenges head on." It now seems easy to see the signs of Russia's interference on social media. But consider this: Try thinking of new ways foreign entities might try to meddle in the 2020 elections. Will it be using virtual reality? Robots? Snapchat? Stumped? Come back in three years. Hindsight is 20/20.—AP



International

# In Modi's India, cow vigilantes deny Muslim farmers their livelihood

## Bands of right-wing Hindus operating as private militias

**BEHROR:** The beating that ended Pehlu Khan's life was televised nationwide. Cell phone video captured a group of men punching and slinging Khan around the middle of a road in north India, stomping on him and then slamming the 55-year-old farmer down on concrete as he begged for mercy. Khan had been stopped by the lynch mob of right-wing Hindus as he rode home from a market in April with two cows and two calves in the back of a truck.

The crowd was furious at the sight of a Muslim transporting animals held sacred by Hindus, according to the accounts of his sons and two fellow villagers who were also attacked. Before the men beat Khan so badly that he later died, breaking his ribs in multiple places, they screamed that he was planning to slaughter the cattle for beef. Outside the frame of the video, something else was happening: Pehlu Khan's cows were seized. They were hauled off to a nearby Hindu-run shelter that takes in cattle snatched from Muslims and sells them.

Assaults meted out in broad daylight against India's Muslim population, some 14 percent of the country's 1.3 billion people, have sparked concern about the direction the country is taking under Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There has been another, less noted dimension to the violence: The theft from Muslims and redistribution to Hindus of cows that provide crucial income in the Indian countryside.

Such scenes clash with India's image as an investor darling in Asia and the pro-business message Modi broadcasts to foreign investors. But three and a half years after his electoral victory, the cow seizures illustrate how the nation's right-wing Hindu factions that propelled Modi to power are now shaping India and stirring religious upheaval. Having stoked Hindu nationalist passions in his bid for the highest office, it's unclear to what extent Modi can now control them.

The bands of right-wing Hindus who seize the cows are operating essentially as private militias. They are

undeterred by the prime minister's public calls on them to end the violence. States governed by Modi's party have seen a marked increase in cow theft from Muslims as well as funding for cow shelters that in many cases take in the stolen cattle. Interviews with nationalist Hindu leaders and militia members across the country reveal an impatience for Muslims to demonstrate obeisance to the Hindu majority.

There are no official statistics for how many cows have been stolen from Muslims in incidents involving such groups since Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to national power in 2014. Reuters' reporting across India, though, puts actual numbers on the extent of the cow theft. It also provides the first in-depth look at how the actions of cow vigilantes are leading to further economic marginalization of the country's Muslim minority.

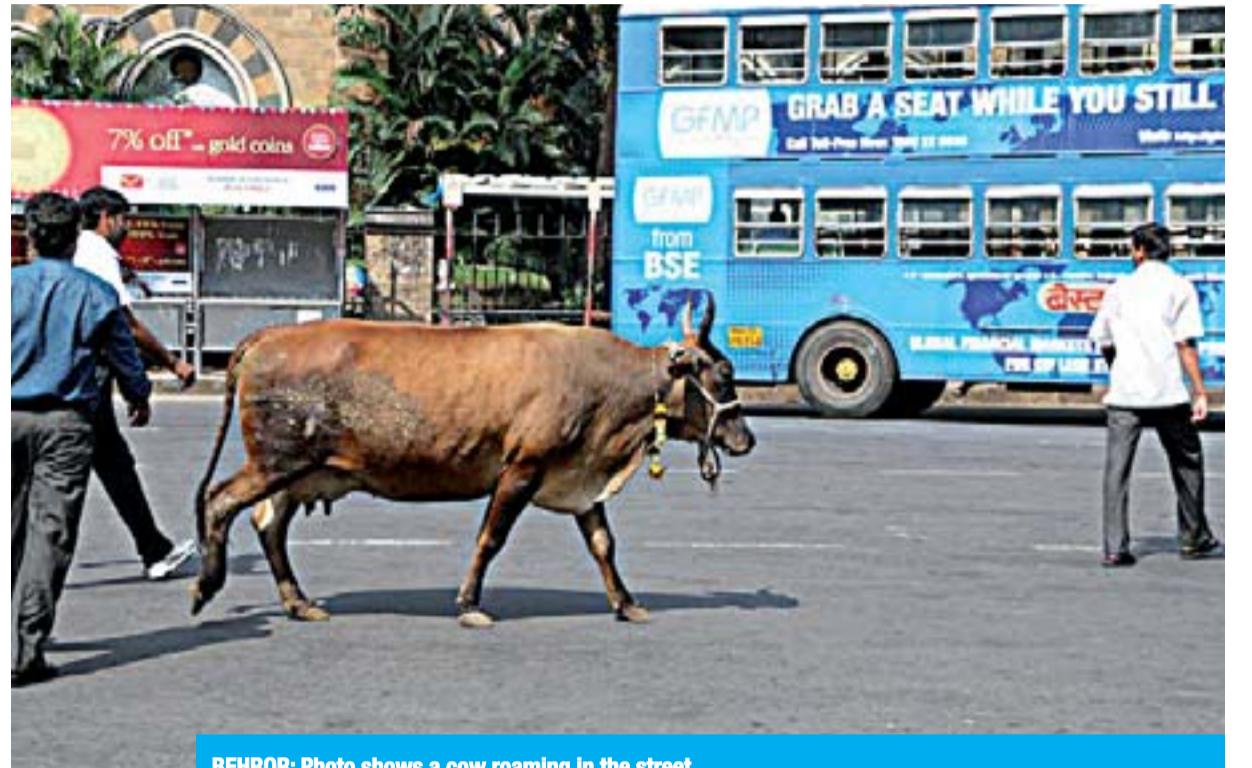
### Valuable possession

In northern India, the leadership of just two of the main organizations of "gau rakshaks" - right-wing Hindu cow vigilantes, or literally "cow protectors" - said they have taken about 190,000 cows since the year of Modi's election, some in the presence of police and almost every

single one of them from Muslims, the reporting shows.

Separately, Reuters surveyed 110 cow shelters or farms, known as "gaushalas," across six Indian states that were led by BJP chief ministers from before or just after Modi's 2014 election win. The survey found an increase of 50 percent in their cattle holdings - from about 84,000 head before Modi came to power in 2014 to more than 126,000 today. The survey, conducted by phone and in person, covered a fraction of the thousands of cow sheds nationwide.

It was not possible to determine how much of the 50 percent increase was due to cow vigilantes, because record-keeping in many cases is non-existent. But of the 110 cattle facilities surveyed, all but 14 said they receive cows from the Hindu vigilante groups. About a third said they sell or give cows away,



BEHROR: Photo shows a cow roaming in the street.

nearly all to Hindu farmers and households.

In a separate survey, Reuters found that only three of 24 cow facilities in four states not ruled by a BJP chief minister said they sold or gave away cattle - mainly to Hindus - after receiving them. While cattle stock has risen about 40 percent in these gaushalas since Modi took office, only a small part of the increase was due to vigilantes. In many of the cases, cows were donated to the shelters for religious reasons or purchased from cattle markets for fear they would be slaughtered.

It is hard to put a value on the seized cattle because the price of cows ranges from zero for animals near death to 25,000 rupees (about \$385), if not more, at cattle markets for healthy milk cows. But taking the average of those two points, just the 190,000 cows captured by the two vigilante groups in northern

India would be worth more than \$36 million. That is a significant amount of money in India, where some 270 million people live on less than \$1.90 a day. In rural areas, home to about 70 percent of the nation's population, a family's milk cow is often its most valuable possession.

### 'An act of devotion'

Cow slaughter is illegal in most of India, while committing cruelty to cattle by transporting them crammed into small spaces is outlawed across the country. Slaughtering buffalo, an animal not considered holy, is allowed, fueling a multi-billion dollar meat export industry that is dominated by Muslims. Penalties for killing a cow differ from state to state, with most ranging from six months to five years in prison. —Reuters

## PM urges 'culture of respect' after UK sex scandals

**LONDON:** Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday called for a "culture of respect" in Britain's parliament as she prepares to hold cross-party talks on how to crack down on sexual abuse after a slew of scandals. About a dozen MPs from both May's Conservative Party and the main opposition Labor Party have been accused of harassment in recent days and the government has admitted serious failures in reporting procedures.

At closed-door talks in the House of Commons yesterday, May will be meeting party leaders including her main rival, Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn. Speaking to the Confederation of British Industry ahead of the meeting, May said she wanted "a new, common, robust and independence grievance procedure for parliament". Defense secretary Michael Fallon resigned last week and First Secretary of State Damian Green, May's deputy, is under investigation by the government over the claims, some of which date back several years. "We need to establish a new culture of respect at the centre of our public life," May said.

She said the new culture should be "one in which everyone can feel confident that they are working in a safe and secure environment, where complaints can be brought forward without prejudice and victims know that those complaints will be investigated properly". But she also said "people's careers cannot be damaged by unfounded rumors circulated anonymously online" after many claims made via social media. "Of course, people can be friends with their colleagues and consensual relationships can develop at work-this isn't about prying into private lives," she said.

### 'Watershed moment'

On Friday, May announced a new code of conduct



LONDON: The Houses of Parliament are seen in central London. British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon quit the government on November 1, stepping down from ministerial office in a developing scandal over sexual harassment at Westminster. —AFP

for the Conservative Party under which several MPs were referred for investigation this weekend. Two Labor lawmakers have also been suspended, another is facing an investigation by the party and a fourth has apologized for making women feel "uncomfortable". One change that has been mooted is to make MPs' staff direct employees of parliament rather than of the politicians themselves-an anomaly that has made some harassment victims reluctant to come forward.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said on Sunday the scandals were a "watershed moment" that was "clearing out" inappropriate behavior but the interior minister denied May's minority government was at risk. Fallon announced his resignation on Wednesday after apologizing for touching a journalist's knee in 2002. Another journalist alleged this weekend that Fallon had "lunged" at her after a lunch in 2003.

She said she reported the incident to Downing

Street this week, and he resigned hours later. Green meanwhile is being investigated for his own alleged inappropriate behavior towards a journalist, which he strongly denies. Rudd confirmed that the probe had been widened to include a newspaper report on Sunday that "extreme" pornographic material had been found on his parliamentary computer in 2008.

Green has strongly denied the story in The Sunday Times and accused the police source behind it of trying to cause him political damage. Also on Sunday, Conservative lawmaker Chris Pincher resigned from his role as a whip-enforcing party discipline and referred himself to the party's complaints procedure and the police following allegations over his behavior. The move followed a report in The Mail on Sunday newspaper that Pincher was accused of making an unwanted pass at former Olympic rower and Conservative activist Alex Story. —AFP

## China fumes as Indian defense minister visits disputed region

**BEIJING:** China yesterday criticized a visit by India's defense minister to the remote state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims, saying it would complicate efforts by both sides to maintain peace along the disputed border region. The latest row over Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern Himalayas that China claims as southern Tibet suggests the neighbors remain far apart, despite recent attempts to defuse tension. On Sunday, Indian Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman took stock of defense preparedness in Arunachal Pradesh along the Line of Actual Control, the de facto, but disputed, border between the two countries.

Sitharaman also tweeted pictures of her visit, including her meeting with Indian army officers. China lashed back yesterday: "An Indian official going to a disputed region on the China-India border will perhaps make the issue even more complex, and is not beneficial to efforts by both parties to maintain peace and tranquillity on the border." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said. India's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. In the past, New Delhi has reacted strongly to any attempts challenging its sovereignty over Arunachal. China and India have tried to develop two-ways ties in recent years but there is still deep distrust over the border dispute. In April, China slammed India's decision to host Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama in the region, saying it could cause serious damage to relations. —Reuters

## Arriving on donkeys, Syrian war wounded seek Israel assistance

**MOUNT HERMON:** The wounded Syrians, carried on donkeys through the pitch-black night, could be seen in the beam of a searchlight held by their unlikely saviors-Israeli soldiers. They were high in the mountains, nearing the Israeli-occupied zone of the Golan Heights, where they were to receive medical treatment for their wounds even though Israel and Syria are officially at war. Casualties from Syria's six-year civil war are taken to hospitals inside Israel several nights each week. At the same time, Israeli soldiers return Syrians, who have received treatment, to the disengagement line that divides the Syrian-controlled part of the Golan from that ruled by Israel.

It is another example of the many contradictions in the morass of the six-year Syrian conflict. Israel does not take in refugees from the war, but its army says that it has facilitated the treatment of more than 3,100 wounded in Israeli hospitals since 2013. The army acknowledges they treat any Syrian who needs it, including civilians or even rebels fighting President Bashar Al-Assad's regime. On a recent night, a

procession of five patients made its way along Mount Hermon, known as Jabal al-Sheikh in Arabic and the highest point of the Golan Heights, avoiding gunfire between warring groups on the Syrian side.

### Donkeys, not ambulances

They arrive with assorted fractures and shrapnel wounds. "They know that there are specific places which they can reach and where we wait for them," says Tomer Kolar, the Israeli army's chief medical officer for the sector. "There is no ambulance on the other side. Sometimes they arrive in the back of a truck or by car, but on the Hermon they come with donkeys. When they arrive in the middle of winter, in the snow, they are sometimes in an extremely serious condition."

Nearly two-thirds of wounded Syrians are taken to the Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya, on Israel's coast near the border with Lebanon. A hospital wing, located in the basement, has been set aside for the men and is under permanent watch while wounded women and children are placed in other departments. Inside the men's unit, patients rest and watch television. One of them is Hani, 28, who had part of his face shattered by gunfire during an offensive on his village by Assad's forces. He speaks on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals when he returns home.

Hospitalized in Nahariya for more than a year, Hani lost an eye and underwent multiple operations. Sameh, 31, who arrived at the hospital three weeks ago, had an arm amputated after being wounded in fighting against Assad's army.



Wounded Syrian men sit next to their mules after approaching a meeting point with Israeli soldiers on Mount Hermon in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights on the border line before being transfer to an Israeli hospital for medical treatment. —AFP

"When I'm healed, I'll fight back against Assad," he said without hesitation through a Arab Israeli nurse who translated for him. "The Syrian government always told us that Israel is an enemy country and that it is better to be in touch with the devil than with Israelis. "But I am grateful to Israel and the Israeli army for what they have done for me." —AFP

## Mattis looks to diplomacy as IS crumbles in Syria

**HELSINKI:** US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said yesterday that he supported a diplomatic solution for the Syria conflict, as America and its partners look beyond the defeat of the Islamic State group in the war-torn nation. Speaking to reporters ahead of his arrival for talks in Finland yesterday, Mattis said intelligence assessments-based primarily on the numbers of jihadists who have surrendered, deserted or been wounded-showed that "the whole bottom was dropping out" of IS.

He said he supported a UN-backed effort in Geneva, which has run in parallel to a Russian and Iranian-led process, to reach a diplomatic solution. "Basically, we are trying to get this into the diplomatic mode so we can sort this out and make certain that minorities, whoever they are, are not subject to what we've seen" under the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad. The fight against Islamic State jihadists in Iraq and Syria is not over, but they have sustained a string of major defeats and lost most of the territory they once held. —AFP

## Analysis

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## Saudi royal purge: Crown prince's high-stakes gambit

With his sweeping royal purge, Saudi Arabia's future king has upended a decades-old system of governance adopted by previous rulers in what analysts describe as a bold but risky power play. Dozens of political and business figures were arrested at the weekend in what Saudi authorities have dubbed an anti-corruption swoop, including billionaire Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, while powerful royals such as the national guard chief were sacked.

The dramatic clampdown on business figures could deal a blow to investor confidence, potentially derailing sweeping Vision 2030 reforms, the brainchild of Prince Mohammed. The purge underscores an unprecedented restructuring of the kingdom as Prince Mohammed dismantles a governance model involving consensus within the royal family, while he amasses extraordinary power. "The structure of dynastic rule established over the past few decades is being reshaped into a more centralized monarchical system," said Jane Kinnimont, of London-based think tank Chatham House. "MBS is disrupting the model of Saudi government," Kinnimont told AFP, using an acronym widely used for the crown prince.

Saudi authorities hailed the dramatic crackdown as a bold initiative to root out corruption. But analysts question whether the issue serves as a guise for Prince Mohammed to consolidate power by eliminating rivals opposed to his reform drive and eventual succession as king. "The dismissals and detentions suggest that Prince Mohammed rather than forging alliances is extending his iron grip to... counter opposition," said James Dorsey from Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies. "It raises questions about the reform process that increasingly is based on a unilateral rather than a consensual rewriting of the kingdom's social contract."

### Potential of resistance

Prince Mohammed's supporters lionize him as an enlightened disrupter of the status quo as he pursues dramatic social and economic reforms to modernize the kingdom and prepare for a post-oil era. His anti-graft campaign follows other bold moves, including a royal decree allowing women to drive from next June and clipping the powers of the religious police. His ambitions were on display at an investor summit in Riyadh two weeks ago, where global business titans were shown blueprints for multibillion dollar projects, including a futuristic megacity with robots and driverless cars.

The venue of the summit, Riyadh's Ritz Carlton hotel, is now rumored to be the site where many of the arrested elites are being held. Police cars surround the palatial complex, with its imposing gates clamped shut. "The anti-corruption sweep has included individuals who had been seen as potential sources of resistance to elements of MBS's various projects," said Kinnimont.

The sweep has triggered uncertainty among businesses at a time when the kingdom is seeking to attract badly needed investments amid a protracted oil slump. Among those being held, aside from Prince Al-Waleed, is Waleed Al-Ibrahim, owner of the influential Arab satellite network MBC, as well as construction tycoon Bakr bin Laden and billionaire Saleh Kamal.

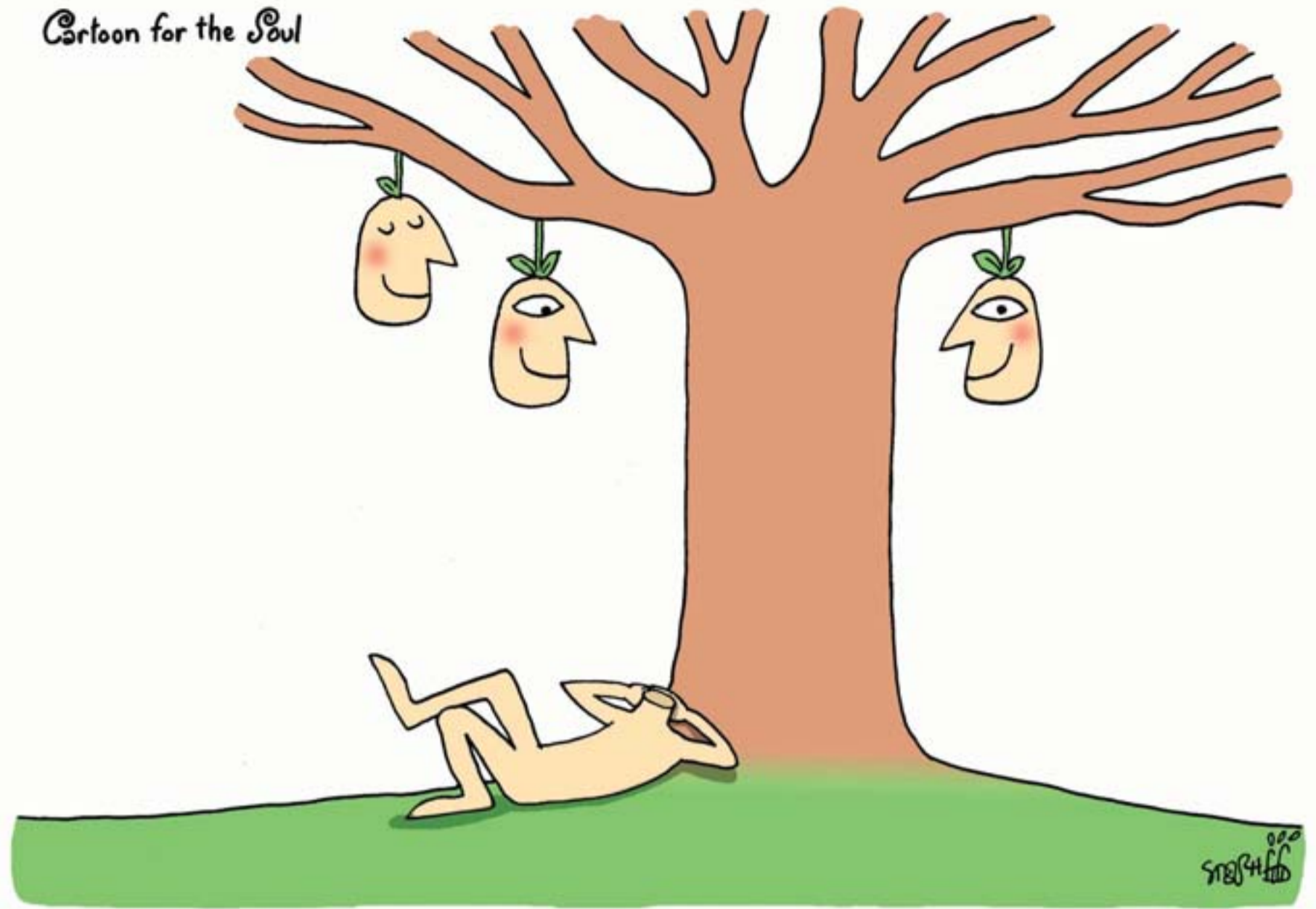
Research firm Capital Economics said the arrests could deal a short-term "blow" to the economy as opposition towards Prince Mohammed builds, potentially threatening his reform drive. Geneva's Mirabaud Securities warned that the purge, including the arrest of Prince Al-Waleed who has invested billions in companies around the world, could spook the private sector in the short term and "intensify capital flight" from Saudi Arabia.

### Power grab

But seemingly unfazed, government social media channels have replayed a months-old interview with Prince Mohammed in which he stressed that neither ministers nor business tycoons will be spared if found guilty of corruption. It is a message that resonates with the masses who see the over a culture of privilege among old-generation royals. "Cynics calling it a power grab but actually power had been already consolidated," tweeted Ali Shihabi, director of the Washington-based Arabia Foundation who is said to be close to the establishment. "This is about reshaping elite behavior by picking high profile symbols. (Its) message is that house cleaning starts at the top."

But experts warn that the purge could trigger a backlash especially as Prince Mohammed seeks to consolidate his control over the security services. He ousted Prince Miteb bin Abdullah, the 64-year-old son of the late king Abdullah, as the head of the Saudi Arabian National Guard. The internal security force has long been seen as a local of tribal power and a stronghold of king Abdullah's family. In June, he also toppled the previous crown prince Mohammed bin Nayef, ousting him from the interior ministry. "Such dramatic changes are bound to meet some resistance and opposition," Kinnimont said. "Since there are few permitted avenues for expressing opposition and criticism in Saudi Arabia, (we) inevitably wonder whether opposition is brewing behind the scenes." — AFP

### Cartoon for the Soul



## For Amazon tribe, rainforest their world

When Japarupi Waiapi looks into the dense foliage of the Amazon rainforest, he sees the equivalent of a supermarket, pharmacy, furniture store - and that's just the beginning. Food like coconuts, roots and bananas grows plentifully. Animals and fish are readily available for hunting, and the bark of many trees has medicinal uses. Just in terms of different wood types, "we see thatch for our roofs, we see bows, we see arrow heads," Japarupi Waiapi, 45, says in the heart of Waiapi tribal land in eastern Brazil.

Add to that palm for weaving backpacks, calabash for making bowls, reeds to use as drinking straws, banana leaves as table cloths, animal bones for tools - and all this literally there for the taking. "We don't depend on commerce or money," Japarupi Waiapi says, explaining the tribe's ancient, self-sufficient way of life, living in isolation from Brazil's white settlers. "I tell my son: never put out your hand to the white man. Rely on the forest. Rely on the rivers."

The Waiapi also believe that just as the planet's biggest rainforest looks after them, their tribe of 1,200 people is uniquely positioned to guard the Amazon, crucial to regulating global climate, for the rest of the world. For decades, the Waiapi and other indigenous tribes have been under pressure from miners, ranchers and loggers, who consider the "Indians," as they are universally known in Brazil, a nuisance at best.

Pressure intensified this August when President Michel Temer declared a vast protected reserve around Waiapi territory, called Renca, open to foreign mining. Temer had to retreat a month later in the face of withering criticism from environmentalists. But the Waiapi say they will keep watch as long as they live. "This forest we're in - we're the ones who preserve it," said Tapayona Waiapi, 36, who lives at the edge of tribe's territory.

### Healing and spirits

Hiking into the rainforest, tribesmen warned reporters to keep their eyes peeled for hazards. One spindly, innocuous-looking plant was said to be so poisonous that the tribesmen, wearing only red loincloths, avoided even getting close. "This is the Amazon - there could be anything," Japarupi Waiapi, 31, said. But for those who know where to look, the forest is more friend than foe. Akitu Waiapi, 24, stopped every 20 meters to point out the benefits of yet

forest, the *Dinizia excelsa* tree, a hardwood which the Waiapi call peyryry. The tree, flanked by massive roots, rose as broad and tall as a castle tower. "That one has a whole invisible community (of spirits)," Japarupi Waiapi said. "There's everything in there. We can't see it."

### Message from the animals

Ironically, Waiapi agriculture relies on cutting down trees, but they do this sustainably. Like many other indigenous peoples around the world, the tribe uses a technique called slash-and-burn or swidden, where a patch of forest is cut down and the dead trees are left to dry before being burned to clear new ground. The ash helps fertilize the soil which is then planted, mostly with their staple food cassava. Once the soil is exhausted, the Waiapi leave the patch fallow, move on and carve out another.

On a large scale, slash-and-burn can devastate the environment. However, when performed by such a small tribe in a big area, the cleared patches are given time to recover, creating a healthy cycle. Japarupi Waiapi says his people know how to maintain the balance, moving village as soon as "the land is tired, the river is tired."

The tribe's footprint is exceptionally light. "When you live in the forest, when you hear the music of the animals that live there, it's different," Japarupi Waiapi explains during a lunch of smoked monkey meat. "We understand and can talk to the animals." Perhaps seeing the look of surprise on his visitors' faces, Japarupi Waiapi cups his hands and makes three powerful whistles, each with a slight trill. Five seconds of silence follow. Then from somewhere in the dark canopy of virgin forest, a bird calls back. For now, at least, the Waiapi and their beloved Amazon remain in harmony. — AFP

### The tribe's footprint is exceptionally light

another tree. The bark from one helps cure diarrhea, another lowers fever, while a third aids the scarring process. Many of the trees had already had strips of bark removed.

"There are a lot of medicinal elements in the forest and when people need them they just come and get them," Akitu Waiapi said. Invisible, but just as present for the animist Waiapi are the spirits inhabiting trees and rivers and animals. The tribesmen pointed out one of the giants of the

## Homelessness soars on US West Coast

Housing prices are soaring here thanks to the tech industry, but the boom comes with a consequence: A surge in homelessness marked by 400 unauthorized tent camps in parks, under bridges, on freeway medians and along busy sidewalks. The liberal city is trying to figure out what to do. "I've got economically zero unemployment in my city, and I've got thousands of homeless people that actually are working and just can't afford housing," said Seattle City Councilman Mike O'Brien. "There's nowhere for these folks to move to."

That struggle is not Seattle's alone. A homeless crisis is rocking the entire West Coast, pushing abject poverty into the open like never before. Public health is at risk, several cities have declared states of emergency, and cities and counties are spending millions - in some cases billions - in a search for solutions. San Diego now scrubs its sidewalks with bleach to counter a deadly hepatitis A outbreak. In Anaheim, 400 people sleep along a bike path in the shadow of Angel Stadium. Organizers in Portland lit incense at an outdoor food festival to cover up the stench of urine in a parking lot where vendors set up shop.

Homelessness is not new on the West Coast. But interviews with local officials and those who serve the homeless in California, Oregon and Washington - coupled with an Associated Press review of preliminary homeless data - confirm it's getting worse. People who were once able to get by, even if they suffered a setback, are now pushed to the streets because housing has become so expensive. All it takes is a prolonged illness, a lost job, a broken limb, a family crisis.

What was once a blip in fortunes now seems a life sentence.

### Among the findings:

- Official counts taken earlier this year in California, Oregon and Washington show 168,000 homeless people in the three states, according to an AP tally of every jurisdiction in those states that reports homeless numbers to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. That is 19,000 more than were counted in 2015, although the numbers may not be directly comparable because of factors ranging from the weather to new counting methods.

- During the same period, the number of unsheltered people in the three states climbed 18 percent to 105,000.

- \* Rising rents are the main culprit. The median one-bedroom apartment in the San Francisco Bay Area is more expensive than it is in the New York City metro area, for instance.

- Since 2015, at least 10 cities or municipal regions in California, Oregon and Washington have declared emergencies due to the rise of homelessness, a designation usually reserved for natural disasters.

The West Coast's newly homeless are people who were able to survive on the margins - until those margins moved. For years, Stanley Timmings, 62, and his 61-year-old girlfriend, Linda Catlin, were able to rent a room in a friend's house on their combined disability payments. Last spring, that friend died of colon cancer and the couple was thrust on Seattle's streets.

Timmings used their last savings to buy a used RV for \$300 and spent another \$300 to register it. Now, the couple parks the RV near a small regional airport. They have no running water and no propane for the cook stove. They go to the bathroom in a bucket and dump it behind a nearby business. After four months, the stench of human waste inside the RV is overwhelming. They are exhausted, scared and defeated, with no solution in sight.



A group of homeless people sleep in the courtyard of the Midnight Mission on Sept 14, 2017 in Los Angeles. — AP

"Between the two of us a month, we get \$1,440 in disability," he said. "We can't find a place for that."

Nationally, homelessness has been trending down, partly because governments and nonprofit groups have gotten better at moving people into housing. That's true in many West Coast cities, too, but the flow the other direction is even faster. "So everybody who was just hanging on because they had cheap rent, they're losing that ... and they wind up outside," said Margaret King, director of housing programs for the nonprofit DESC in Seattle. "It's just exploded."

Above all, the West Coast lacks long-term, low-income housing for people like Ashley Dibble and her 3-year-old daughter. Dibble, 29, says she has been homeless off and on for about a year, after her ex-boyfriend squandered money on his car and didn't pay the rent for three months. She sent her toddler to live with the girl's paternal grandparents in Florida.

She and her new boyfriend were sleeping under tarps near Safeco Field, home of the Seattle Mariners, when an outreach team referred them to a new shelter. With an eviction on her record and little income, no one will rent to her. "I've had so many doors slammed in my face, it's ridiculous," Dibble said, wiping away tears.

All along the West Coast, local governments are scrambling for answers - and taxpayers are footing the bill. Voters have approved more than \$8 billion in spending since 2015 on affordable housing and other anti-homelessness programs, mostly as tax increases. Los Angeles voters, for example, approved \$1.2 billion to build 10,000 units of affordable housing to address a homeless population that's reached 34,000 people within city limits. Jeremy Lemoine, an outreach case manager with REACH in Seattle, called it the situation a refugee crisis. "I don't mean to sound hopeless," he said. "I generate hope for a living for people - that there is a future for them - but we need to address it now." — AP

News

# Saudis blame Iran for 'act of war'...

Continued from Page 1

The Saudi-Iran rivalry also played out this weekend in the resignation of Lebanon's prime minister Saad Hariri, a protégé of Riyadh who said he was stepping down because of the "grip" of Iran and its ally Hezbollah on the country. Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah hit back on Sunday, saying Hariri's resignation had been "imposed" by Saudi Arabia. Iran rejected Hariri's words as "baseless" and said his resignation was "designed to create tensions in Lebanon and in the region". Hariri, who announced his resignation in Riyadh, yesterday met Saudi King Salman and "reviewed the situation in Lebanon", the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported.

SPA said four government ministers attended the meeting, including Jubeir and Minister for Gulf Affairs Thamer Al-Sabhan, who predicted on Lebanon's MTV station last week that "astonishing developments" were coming for Lebanon. Yesterday's SPA photos appeared aimed at dispelling rumors, acknowledged by the press agency, that the prime minister was being held in Saudi Arabia against his will. Lebanese President Michel Aoun, who must accept the resignation for it to be valid, said in a statement Saturday that he would await Hariri's return to consider the matter.

Meanwhile, a helicopter carrying a high-ranking Saudi prince and other government officials crashed Sunday in the kingdom's south, reportedly killing all eight people aboard. The Saudi Interior Ministry said early yesterday that the crash happened in Saudi Arabia's Asir province as the official took part in a tour of local projects near Abha, some 160 km from the border with Yemen. Security officials gave no cause for the crash, but said a search of the wreckage was underway. In Yemen, Houthi officials offered no immediate comment on the crash, while the group's Al-Masirah satellite news channel reported only that the crash had occurred.

The Saudi-owned satellite news channel Al-Arabiya, based in Dubai, reported that the crash killed Prince Mansour bin Muqrin and seven others. Prince Mansour was the deputy governor of Asir province. Prince Mansour was the son of Prince Muqrin bin Abdulaziz, a former intelligence service director and one-time crown prince. Prince Muqrin was removed as crown prince in April 2015 by his half-brother King Salman in favor of Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, a counterterrorism czar and interior minister. But in June, King Salman also ousted Prince Mohammed in favor of the king's 32-year-old son, the now-Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as first in line to the throne.

The kingdom is in the midst of an unprecedented purge of its upper ranks, with dozens of senior figures arrested at the weekend, as Crown Prince Mohammed consolidates his hold on power. Prince Mohammed, who is also defense minister, is seen as a key supporter of the intervention in Yemen. The campaign of mass arrests widened yesterday after a top entrepreneur was reportedly held in the biggest anti-corruption purge of the kingdom's affluent elite in its modern history.

King Salman yesterday swore in new officials to take over from a powerful prince and former minister believed to be detained in the sweep. SPA released images of the king swearing in new National Guard chief Prince Khalid bin Ayyaf Al-Muqrin and new Economy and Planning Minister Mohammad Al-Tuwaijri. Prince Miteb bin Abdullah, who for the past four years had led the National Guard, and Adel Fakeih, who was minister of economy since April, were both reportedly arrested. Prince Miteb was once considered a contender for the throne.

Prominent Saudi columnist Jamal Kashoggi applauded the campaign, but warned: "He is imposing very selective justice." "The crackdown on even the most constructive criticism - the demand for complete



RIYADH: Saudi-led coalition spokesman Turki Al-Malki gives a press conference at the King Salman Airbase on Sunday. — AFP

loyalty with a significant 'or else' - remains a serious challenge to the crown prince's desire to be seen as a modern, enlightened leader," he wrote in the Washington Post. "The buck stops at the leader's door. He is not above the standard he is now setting for the rest of his family, and for the country."

The Saudi stock index initially fell 1.5 percent in early trade but closed effectively flat, which asset managers attributed to buying by government-linked funds. Al Tayyar Travel plunged 10 percent in the opening minutes after the company quoted media reports as saying board member Nasser bin Aqeel al-Tayyar had been detained in the anti-corruption drive. Saudi Aseer Trading, Tourism and Manufacturing and Red Sea International separately reported normal operations after the reported detentions of board members Abdullah Saleh Kamel, Khalid Al-Mulheim and Amr Al-Dabbagh. Saudi banks have begun freezing suspects' accounts, sources told Reuters.

Dozens of people have been detained in the crackdown, which have alarmed much of the traditional business establishment. Billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, Saudi Arabia's best-known international investor, is also being held. The attorney general said yesterday detainees had been questioned and "a great deal of evidence" had been gathered. "Yesterday does not represent the start, but the completion of Phase One of our anti-corruption push," Saud Al-Mojeb said. Probes were done discreetly "to preserve the integrity of the legal proceedings and ensure there was no flight from justice."

Investigators had been collecting evidence for three years and would "continue to identify culprits, issue arrest warrants and travel restrictions and bring offenders to justice", anti-graft committee member Khalid bin Abdulmohsen Al-Mehaisen said. The front page of leading Saudi newspaper Okaz challenged businessmen to reveal the sources of their assets, asking: "Where did you get this?" Another headline from Saudi-owned al-Hayat warned: "After the launch (of the anti-corruption drive), the noose tightens, whomever you are!" A no-fly list has been drawn up and security forces in some Saudi airports were barring owners of private jets from taking off without a permit, pan-Arab daily Al-Asharq Al-Awsat said.

The moves consolidate Prince Mohammed's control of the internal security and military institutions, which had long been headed by separate powerful branches of the ruling family. Consultancy Eurasia Group said the "clearly politicized" anti-corruption campaign was a step towards separating the Al Saud family from the state: "Royal family members have lost their immunity, a long standing golden guarantee." Yet many analysts were puzzled by the targeting of technocrats like Fakieh and prominent businessmen on whom the kingdom is counting to boost the private sector and wear the economy off oil. — Agencies

# Leaks show Ross', queen's...

Continued from Page 1

news organizations as part of an international collaboration. Navigator Holdings runs a lucrative partnership with Russian energy giant Sibur, which is partially owned by Putin's son-in-law Kirill Shamalov and Gennady Timchenko, the Russian president's friend and business partner who is subject to US sanctions.

The US imposed sanctions on Russian entities and individuals over the annexation of Crimea and the crisis in Ukraine. Ross' private equity firm has been the biggest shareholder in Navigator, and although his personal share of the firm's stake was reduced when he took office in February, the commerce chief's investment is still valued at \$2 million to \$10 million, according to official filings. The billionaire investor told Bloomberg on Monday he was not intending to hold onto his stake: "I've been actually selling it anyway but that isn't because of this."

# UAE, Qatar stake billions in 'soft'...

Continued from Page 1

It is the world's top exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and its reserves rank third after Russia and Iran.

Qatar staked its claim to prominence on the international stage when it was selected in 2010 to host football's World Cup 2022, but Dubai can boast it has evened the score with its selection in 2013 as host of Expo 2020. Also in the sports arena, Qatar has since 2011 owned France's top football club, Paris Saint-Germain, and paid a whopping \$460 million in the summer for superstars Neymar and Kylian Mbappe. Beln Sports, also belonging to Qatar, has exclusive rights to broadcast matches in Europe's most highly prized leagues, adding to the prestige of Qatar's often controversial satellite news channel Al Jazeera.

The UAE, which in April announced the launch of a "Soft Power Council" as part of efforts to make itself "a

Ross denied any involvement in setting up the Sibur deal, which he told the BBC was arranged before he joined the board of Navigator Holdings. "There's no interlocking of board, there's no interlocking of shareholders, I had nothing to do with the negotiation of the deal," he said on the sidelines of a business conference in London. "But most importantly the company that is our client itself, Sibur, was not then sanctioned, is not now sanctioned, and never was sanctioned in between. "There's nothing whatsoever improper," Ross added.

Yesterday, Russian politicians played down the leaks, saying the deals mentioned were legal and not politically motivated. In a statement reported by Russian news agencies, Sibur voiced its "amazement at the politically charged interpretation in some media of ordinary commercial activity". The revelations about Bronfman could spell trouble for Trudeau, who was elected two years ago riding on the coattails of promises to reduce economic inequality and tax avoidance.

In the case of Queen Elizabeth's private estate, critics may question whether it is appropriate for the British head of state to invest in offshore tax havens. Theresa May's spokesman said the British prime minister "wants people to pay the tax that they owe", while cautioning that holding offshore investments was not an automatic sign of wrongdoing. "We have been clear that avoidance and evasion is never acceptable," he said. — AFP

global example of prestige and excellence", has also homed in on the selling power and massive appeal of sports. Abu Dhabi has since 2009 been a fixture on the F1 Grand Prix circuit of world motor racing, and Sheikh Mansour Al-Nahyan, a member of its royal family, owns Manchester City, which currently sits on top of the English Premier League. The name of Dubai's Emirates airline, as a key sponsor of Arsenal and Real Madrid, is emblazoned across the replica football shirts of millions of fans.

Arsenal's stadium is also named after the carrier, while the Manchester City ground carries the name of Abu Dhabi's airline, Etihad. The UAE-Qatar rivalry has sharpened since June when Abu Dhabi joined a Saudi-led Arab bloc in severing ties with Doha on the accusation that it supports extremist groups, a charge denied by Qatar. In a war of words last month, Qatar accused the UAE of "petty jealousy" when it appeared to question the legitimacy of awarding the World Cup 2022 to Doha.

Mathieu Guidere, a Middle East expert and professor at the University of Paris, said the crisis in the Gulf showed "the scale of the rivalry between the young princes of the new generation, which is not a good sign for the future of the region". — AFP

# Texas massacre revives gun debate...

Continued from Page 1

Law enforcement later found Kelley dead in his car, which had crashed on the Wilson-Guadalupe county line. Authorities said they believe the gunman fatally shot himself. "At this time we believe that he had a self-inflicted gunshot wound," Tackitt told CBS News. Multiple weapons were found in the car, which was processed by bomb technicians. "We have multiple, multiple crime scenes. We have the church, outside the church. We have where the suspect's vehicle was located," said Martin. "We have been following up on the suspect and where he's from. We have Texas Rangers at all the hospitals locating those and interviewing those who were injured."

"There's so many families who have lost family members. Fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters," Governor Greg Abbott said, warning the toll could rise. "The tragedy, of course, is worsened by the fact that it occurred in a church, a place of worship, where these people were innocently gunned down. We mourn their loss, but we support their family members." The wounded had been transported to various hospitals with "injuries that vary from minor to very severe," Martin said.

The dead included the 14-year-old daughter of pastor Frank Pomeroy, the church leader told ABC News. Annabelle Renee Pomeroy "was one very beautiful, special child," her father said. Frank Pomeroy had been in the neighboring state of Oklahoma at the time of the shooting, and was driving back to Texas after the

tragedy. Other victims, some of whom were evacuated by helicopter, included a six-year-old boy named Rylan who was in surgery after being shot four times, his uncle told CBS News. A two-year-old was also shot and wounded, The Dallas Morning News reported. A spokeswoman for Connally Memorial Medical Center in nearby Floresville said the hospital received eight patients with gunshot wounds. Four were transferred to San Antonio.

Late Sunday mourners held a candlelight vigil for victims in the tiny town left reeling in the aftermath of the nation's latest bloodbath. Trump called the "horrific shooting" an "act of evil," ordering flags be flown half-staff at the White House and federal buildings. "Our hearts are broken but in dark times - and these are dark times - such as these, Americans do what they do best: we pull together," he said. Though he said "it's a little bit soon to go into it" regarding calls for gun control, the president promised his administration's "full support" for the investigation.

As with many other previous shootings, Democrats pointed to the latest tragedy to highlight the need for stricter gun control, a hot-button issue in a country that holds the right to bear arms as almost sacred. In denouncing the "act of hatred," Trump's predecessor Barack Obama said: "May God also grant all of us the wisdom to ask what concrete steps we can take to reduce the violence and weaponry in our midst."

The shooting comes just over a month after a gunman in Las Vegas fired down from a hotel room at an outdoor concert, killing 58 people and wounding hundreds. It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history. A little more than two years ago, white supremacist Dylann Roof entered a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina, and shot nine people dead. — Agencies

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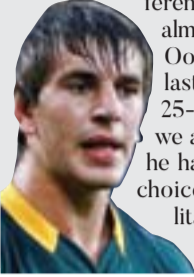
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## Sports

## Bok captain to face Ireland after injury

**DUBLIN:** South Africa captain Eben Etzebeth returned to full training yesterday after an ankle injury and would be fit to face Ireland in the test in Dublin on Saturday, coach Allister Coetzee said. "He took part in our training on Saturday but obviously with limited participation but he is now back in full training. "We have no concerns whatsoever about his inclusion and about his leading the team," the Springbok coach told a news conference yesterday. Etzebeth hurt his ankle in training and spent almost a fortnight on the sidelines. Uzair Casseem and Coenie Oosthuizen were also passed fit after missing South Africa's last outing in the Rugby Championship in October - a narrow 25-24 defeat to New Zealand. "From a wellness point of view we are in a very good shape," he added. Coetzee also admitted he had a decision to make at fly half between the regular first-choice Elton Jantjies and Handre Pollard, now fully fit after a litany of injuries. —Reuters



## S Africa star to miss World Cup qualifiers

**JOHANNESBURG:** A facial injury has ruled star South Africa goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune out of a must-win World Cup qualifier against Senegal in Polokwane this Friday, the national association said. He was hurt in a collision with an opponent while playing for Kaizer Chiefs against Chippa United at the weekend in a League Cup quarter-final. Khune will also miss a second match against Senegal in Dakar on November 14, which South Africa must also win to reach the 2018 finals in Russia. Reports said Khune could be sidelined for six weeks after sustaining a fracture on the ridge between his eye socket and nose. Ronwen Williams of SuperSport United and Wayne Sandilands of Orlando Pirates are the other goalkeepers in the "Bafana Bafana" (The Boys) squad. Veteran Sandilands was beaten by a shot from the centre circle in a club match last week while Williams was criticised after a shock World Cup loss in Cape Verde two months ago. —AFP

## Farah, Van Niekerk, Barshim up for athlete of the year award

**PARIS:** Britain's long distance star Mo Farah, South Africa's 400m champion Wayde Van Niekerk and Qatari high jumper Mutaz Essa Barshim were shortlisted yesterday for the IAAF's world athlete of the year award. One of this trio will succeed retired Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt, the current holder of the accolade, at a ceremony in Monaco on November 24. Ethiopia's 10,000m Olympic champion Almaz Ayana is in the running to win a second successive women's world athlete of the year honour. She is up against Greek polevaulter star Ekaterini Stefanidi and Nafissatou Thiam, Belgium's heptathlon Olympic and world gold medalist. The men's and women's finalists were whittled down from an original list of 10 by a vote of IAAF council members, fans and fellow athletes. —AFP



## Lindgren makes 38 saves in first SO as Canadiens beat Blackhawks

## Tkachuk has shootout winner to lead Flames over Devils

## NHL results/standings

Calgary 5, New Jersey 4 (SO); Montreal 2, Chicago 0; NY Islanders 6, Colorado 4;

	Western Conference					
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
St. Louis	11	3	1	50	36	23
Winnipeg	7	3	3	42	39	17
Dallas	8	6	0	41	39	16
Colorado	8	6	0	48	47	16
Nashville	7	5	2	37	41	16
Chicago	7	6	2	43	36	16
Minnesota	5	5	2	37	35	12
	Pacific Division					
Los Angeles	10	2	2	48	31	22
Las Vegas	9	4	0	47	37	18
San Jose	8	5	0	36	30	16
Vancouver	7	4	2	35	31	16
Calgary	8	6	0	35	38	16
Anaheim	6	6	2	40	43	14
Edmonton	4	8	1	30	43	9
Arizona	2	12	1	39	62	5
	Eastern Conference					
	Atlantic Division					
Tampa Bay	11	2	2	59	42	24
Ottawa	6	3	5	51	47	17
Toronto	8	7	0	57	55	16
Detroit	7	7	1	42	41	15
Boston	5	4	3	34	37	13
Montreal	6	8	1	41	55	13
Florida	4	7	2	47	56	10
Buffalo	4	8	2	35	53	10
	Metropolitan Division					
New Jersey	9	3	1	49	42	19
Columbus	9	4	1	48	38	19
Pittsburgh	8	6	2	42	58	18
NY Islanders	8	5	1	54	46	17
Philadelphia	7	6	2	47	43	16
Washington	7	6	1	43	46	15
NY Rangers	6	7	2	47	52	14
Carolina	4	5	3	32	37	11

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)

**CHICAGO:** Charlie Lindgren made 38 saves in his first career shutout, helping the Montreal Canadiens beat Corey Crawford and the Chicago Blackhawks 2-0 on Sunday night. Lindgren and Crawford were locked up in a scoreless duel before Jonathan Drouin skated through the slot and shot the puck into the left side of the net at 1:54 of the third. Drouin's third goal of the season stopped Crawford's scoreless streak at 173 minutes, 9 seconds. Defenseman Joe Morrow added his third career goal at 7:45, helping Montreal to its fourth win in five games. Morrow blasted a slap shot by a screened Crawford for his first goal since Oct. 27, 2015, for Boston against Arizona. Coming off consecutive shutouts against Philadelphia and Minnesota, Crawford finished with 33 stops in his first career regulation loss against his hometown team. He was 8-0-2 with a 1.49 goals-against average in 10 career games against Montreal. With Carey Price sidelined by a minor lower-body injury and Al Montoya coming off a 19-save performance in Saturday



## New York wins for the sixth time in 8 games

night's 5-4 overtime win at Winnipeg, Lindgren made his first appearance of the season for the Canadiens. The Lakeville, Minnesota, native responded with Montreal's first shutout of the season while improving to 4-0 in four career NHL starts.

## ISLANDERS 6, AVALANCHE 4

Mathew Barzal had a franchise-rookie record five assists and Nick Leddy and Jordan Eberle each scored twice to help New York beat Colorado.

Johnny Boychuk and Scott Mayfield also scored for the Islanders and Thomas Greiss made 31 saves. Nathan MacKinnon, Gabriel Landeskog, Alexander Kerfoot



CHICAGO: Jan Rutta #44 of the Chicago Blackhawks knocks the puck away from Phillip Danault #24 of the Montreal Canadiens at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois. —AFP

scored for Colorado. New York won for the sixth time in eight games and ended Colorado's winning streak at three games. The wild night on the ice was nearly overshadowed off of it when Matt Duchene was traded from Colorado to Ottawa in deal that involved the Nashville Predators. Duchene stealthily left the ice when team trainers were helping injured Avs forward Blake Comeau off the ice in the middle of the first period. Duchene left the arena in the middle of the second period, briefly speaking with reporters, before jumping into a black SUV waiting outside the Barclays Center.

## RED WINGS 4, OILERS 0

Petr Mrazek made 36 saves and Martin Frk and Anthony Mantha each had a goal and an assist in Detroit's victory over Edmonton. Frans Nielsen and

Gustav Nyquist also scored. The Red Wings have won three of four to reach 7-7-1. The Oilers dropped to 4-8-1. They have yet to win two games in a row this season.

## FLAMES 5, DEVILS 4 SO

Micheal Ferland had a goal and an assist and Matthew Tkachuk scored the shootout winner in Calgary's victory over New Jersey. Tkachuk, shooting third for Calgary with the shootout tied 1-1 and the Flames in a position to win it, moved in slowly and slipped a nifty high shot past Keith Kinkaid. Sean Monahan also scored in regulation and the shootout, and Michael Frolik and Michael Stone had regulation goals. Johnny Gaudreau had two assists to give him 15 on the season. Taylor Hall, Ben Lovejoy, Brian Gibbons and Andy Greene scored for New Jersey. —AP

## Renault Al Babtain sponsors NBK Walkathon event for the 3rd year

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co., the authorized agent of Renault in Kuwait is proud to announce its sponsorship for the third year in a row of the 23rd Annual Walkathon titled "We're Stronger ... With Every Step". The event which will take place on 9th December 2017 on Gulf Road, also falls in line with Renault's CSR approach to embracing a healthier and active lifestyle while inspiring community engagement. As a dedicated member of the society, together with likeminded partners in Kuwait, Al Babtain group continues to support causes that reflect the brands character. Modeling passion, integrity and commitment in everything Al Babtain steps foot into, the NBK walkathon has long been recognized as a popular platform that influences positive changes in the overall wellbeing of the participants and of those watching.

Renault Al Babtain will be offering the winners of the final draw 2 of the latest Renault models, the all new Renault Koleos, a powerful and refined SUV and the all new Renault Megane, a dynamic compact saloon car. The Renault models will be displayed inside the registration tent for viewing. Ten winners will be selected from each category of participants and the walk that includes both the female and male participants will start from Green Island on the Gulf Road to the Shuwaikh Beach Park, for a distance of 11 Km. Interestingly, the walkathon will feature a new racing category for participants aged 60 years old and above to encourage a healthier lifestyle among all members of the society. NBK strongly supports sporting events and encourages sporting activities as means to encourage all age groups to live healthy.

Interested participants can apply online through NBKWalkathon.com. Registration for the NBK walkathon has commenced and will continue till December 7.

## After home trophy, Kapur targets Olympic glory

**NEW DELHI:** Fresh from lifting an Asian Tour trophy at his home club in New Delhi, Indian golfer Shiv Kapur set his sights much higher: winning gold at the Tokyo Olympics. Kapur, who won Asian Games gold for India in Busan in 2002, said his dream was to hear the Indian national anthem playing in Tokyo in 2020. "For me personally, if I could at the end of my career say I am an Olympian that will mean a lot to me," Kapur told AFP, after he won the Panasonic Open India by three shots on Sunday.

An Olympic victory for Kapur, now 35, would be a major success for India, which despite its billion-plus population has only ever won one individual gold medal at the Games. He will have to be among India's top two ranked players to earn a spot in Tokyo. At last year's Rio Olympics, where golf returned to the Games for the first time since 1904, Anirban Lahiri and SSP Chawrasia

## All Blacks expect 'very best' from France

**PARIS:** The All Blacks, keen to avoid a repeat of being taken "to the wire" in last year's narrow 24-19 victory over France, expect nothing but the very best from the home team when they meet again in Paris on Saturday. New Zealand saw off a spirited French fightback at the Stade de France in last November's corresponding fixture, holding on for the win thanks to a fine defensive display in the dying minutes.

The danger posed by Guy Noves' side is something

represented India. Several leading players, including Rory McIlroy, Jordan Spieth, Dustin Johnson and Jason Day, skipped Rio, with some citing fears about the Zika virus and others complaining about a packed playing schedule. Kapur said: "A lot of professional golfers don't really take (the Olympics) seriously."

"They just think it's another tournament, golf doesn't belong in Olympics and we have majors and that's what important. But I think that mindset will change over time." Kapur contemplated quitting golf earlier this year as he battled the fall-out of a severe case of dengue fever. But he has since bounced back in style with two titles.

At the Yeangder Heritage in April, he ended an 11-year Asian Tour title drought, while Sunday's win fulfilled a lifelong ambition to win at the Delhi Golf Course, where he played when he was growing up. Kapur, who is coached by Australia's Shane Gillespie, had close competition from American Paul Peterson before he pulled away on the last day. Seven golfers, including Peterson, tied for second.

"I started with a new coach at the back end of last year and that has paid dividends. I put myself forward with a five-year plan starting with the 2020 Olympics," Kapur said. "That's a goal that we are working towards and I feel I have a good four or five years of golf left in me before I look at other things," he added. —AFP

not lost on veterans Sam Whitelock and Wyatt Crockett, returning to the All Blacks after sitting out last weekend's 31-22 victory over the Barbarians.

"If you look back to last year when we last played them, the physical battle was massive and went right through the whole 80 minutes," said Whitelock, the most capped lock in New Zealand history with 93 caps. "Right at the end of the game we were on our own line for a number of phases which is a place we didn't want to be. We've taken the learnings from that and hopefully can sort a few of those things out going forward."

## MASSIVE SCRUM BATTLE

Crockett also predicted a "massive" game up front. "We know that the French always love that scrum battle. It's a big part of their club rugby scene over here and international mindset, to win that scrum battle," the 34-year-old loosehead prop said. "They're passionate and physical in the way they play so we'll definitely have to



NEW DELHI: Indian golfer Shiv Kapur poses with the winning trophy after winning the Panasonic Open India golf tournament on the Asian Tour at the Delhi Golf Club in New Delhi. —AFP

be sure to step things up. "Last year was a massive Test, it went right down to the wire and we had to really dig right down to our depths to try and win that Test match. "The French on their day will beat anyone so we definitely expect the very best from them this week."

Whitelock, an ever-present for New Zealand who played in all seven matches in both the 2011 and 2015 Rugby World Cups the All Blacks won - latterly smashing France 62-13 in the quarter-finals, admitted that a feisty battle was what ticked the boxes for a grafting front-five forward. "It's a great week for us as tight forward members, these are the ones to really savour," the 29-year-old said. Whitelock acknowledged that his and Crockett's time away from the squad for the Barbarians game had been beneficial.

"We got some really good training in and were lucky enough to spend some time with our families," he said. "Hopefully the guys rejoining the group will bring an edge." —AFP

## Sports

# Eagles rout Broncos 51-23 to keep NFL's best record

## Elliott helps Cowboys top Chiefs, goes back to legal limbo

**PHILADELPHIA:** Carson Wentz tossed four touchdown passes, Corey Clement had three scores, and the Philadelphia Eagles routed the Denver Broncos 51-23 on Sunday. The Eagles (8-1) dismantled the league's top-ranked defense, racking up 419 yards, to win their seventh straight game and head into a bye week with the best record in the NFL. Brock Osweiler couldn't get the Broncos (3-5) on track in his first start since rejoining the team in September. He threw two interceptions. Denver has lost four in a row and five of six. Wentz was 15 of 27 for 199 yards before giving way to Nick Foles. He has three four-TD performances in the last five weeks. Clement had two TD runs and one TD catch, and newcomer Jay Ajayi ran for 77 yards and one score. The Eagles hadn't scored 50 points since a 54-11 victory over the Bears on Dec. 22, 2013.

### REDSKINS 17, SEAHAWKS 14

Kirk Cousins drove Washington 70 yards in 35 seconds, capped by Rob Kelley's 1-yard touchdown run with less than a minute remaining, to stun Seattle. Seattle (5-3) took a 14-10 lead with 1:34 remaining after Russell Wilson found Doug Baldwin for a 30-yard touchdown pass after the Seahawks had scuffled on offense all day. But Cousins had an unexpected answer. Taking over at his 30-yard line, Cousins hit Brian Quick for 31 yards and Josh Doctson for 38 on consecutive throws to get to the Seattle 1 with 1:02 left. Doctson beat rookie Shaquill Griffin down the sideline and made an impressive diving catch. Kelley bulled his way in from the 1 on the next play.

### COWBOYS 28, CHIEFS 17

Ezekiel Elliott ran for the go-ahead touchdown after another reprieve from his six-game suspension, and Dallas overcame Tyreek Hill's improbable last-play touchdown in the first half to beat Kansas City. Elliott's 2-yard plunge in the third quarter came after the Chiefs turned a 14-3 deficit into a 17-14 advantage, sparked by Hill's weaving 57-yard catch with the first-half clock expired and seven Dallas defenders inside their 25 trying to prevent the score. Last year's NFL rushing champion as a rookie, Elliott had 93 yards, ending a streak of three straight 100-yard games but out-gaining Kareem Hunt, this year's rushing leader in his first season entering the game. Hunt matched a season low with nine carries, finishing with 37 yards as a club record-tying nine-game road winning streak ended for the Chiefs (6-3) in their third loss in four games since a 5-0 start.

### CARDINALS 20, 49ERS 10

Adrian Peterson carried a career-high 37 times for 159 yards and Drew Stanton threw two touchdown passes to lead Arizona past winless San Francisco. Peterson, 32, was a workhorse in his third game with the Cardinals (4-4). He posted the most carries ever for

a player in his 30s and topped the 100-yard mark for the second time since being acquired in a trade from New Orleans last month. Peterson's tough running and Stanton's pair of first-half touchdown passes were enough to help Arizona bounce back from a 33-0 loss to the Rams before last week's bye. The undermanned 49ers (0-9) extended the worst start in franchise history and have lost 23 of the past 24 games overall. Newly acquired quarterback of the future Jimmy Garoppolo was mostly a spectator as rookie C.J. Beathard got battered once again behind a patchwork line missing injured left tackle Joe Staley.

### JAGUARS 23, BENGALS 7

With A.J. Green and Jalen Ramsey ejected for fighting, Jaydon Mickens delivered the knockout blow by returning a punt 63 yards for a touchdown. The Jaguars (5-3) won consecutive games for the first time in 13 months and were victorious at EverBank Field for the first time since last December. Blake Bortles threw for 259 yards and a touchdown in another efficient performance. Marqise Lee had his first TD reception of the season and responded by punting the ball into the stands. But most of the talk will center on Green and Ramsey. The perennial Pro Bowl receiver retaliated against the trash-talking cornerback in a violent way late in the first half. After Ramsey knocked Green to the ground at the end of a running play, Green grabbed Ramsey around the neck and slammed him to the ground.

### SAINTS 30, BUCCANEERS 10

The Saints extended their winning streak to six when Drew Brees completed 81.2 percent of his passes for 263 yards and two touchdowns. The Buccaneers came in hoping to stem a four-game skid, but instead were not just beaten, but beaten up. Quarterback Jameis Winston left with shoulder soreness after the first half. Starting defensive end William Gholston was carted off the field with a neck injury. And tensions boiled over when Winston, after he had left the game, appeared to instigate a scuffle along the sideline. Brees' touchdowns went for 33 yards to Alvin Kamara and 36 yards to Ted Ginn. Kamara, who also scored on a 6-yard run, did most of the work on his TD reception, thrilling the Superdome crowd with a waving, tackle-slipping run after his short catch.

### PANTHERS 20, FALCONS 17

Cam Newton ran for 86 yards and a touchdown and the Panthers stormed back from an early 10-point deficit, then held on. The Panthers spotted the Falcons 10 points before Newton and the ground game got rolling. Carolina ran for 201 yards, including a career-high 66 and a touchdown from rookie Christian McCaffrey. The win kept the Panthers (6-3) a half-game

## Saints extend their winning streak to six



Korver had 19 of his 23 in the fourth, and Wade finished with 25 for the Cavs, who have lost five of their last six games.

### Celtics 104, Magic 88

Boston won its eighth consecutive game, beating Orlando with another impressive defensive performance. Jaylen Brown led Boston's well-balanced attack with 18 points. Al Horford had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Jayson Tatum scored 13 points for the Celtics, who have built the NBA's best record by allowing the fewest points (99.1 per game). Aaron Gordon led the Magic with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

### Knicks 108, Pacers 101

Kristaps Porzingis scored a career-high 40 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter, and New York stormed back from a 19-point deficit to defeat Indiana. Tim Hardaway Jr. (16 points) and rookie first-round pick Frank Ntilikina (10) were the only other Knicks in double figures. Porzingis added eight rebounds and six blocks while making 15 of 24 shots from the field. Indiana finished with five players in double figures, including Thaddeus Young with 18 points and Myles Turner with 15 points in his return to the starting lineup.

### Spurs 112, Suns 95

LaMarcus Aldridge hit for 21 points to lead seven San Antonio players in double-figure scoring and the Spurs roared back from a halftime deficit to beat Phoenix. San Antonio trailed by four points at halftime after a back-and-forth first half but pulled away in the third quarter before leading by as many as 27 in the final minutes. Phoenix, ending a five-game, 10-day trip, was led by TJ Warren's 17 points.

### Heat 104, Clippers 101

Hassan Whiteside had 21 points and 17 rebounds to help Miami hold off Los Angeles. The win allowed the Heat to snap a four-game losing streak to the Clippers. Tyler Johnson scored 19 points for Miami, and Wayne Ellington had 17. Blake Griffin led the Clippers with 23 points, and Lou Williams had 22 off the bench. DeAndre Jordan collected 10 points and 19 rebounds.

## James Harden's career-high 56 lead Rockets past Jazz

**HOUSTON:** James Harden poured in a career-high 56 points, and the Houston Rockets rolled to a 137-110 victory over the Utah Jazz on Sunday night. Harden fell one point shy of the franchise record held by Hall of Fame guard Calvin Murphy. He finished 19 of 25 from the floor, including 7 of 8 from behind the 3-pointer arc, while making 11 of 12 free throws. Harden added 13 assists. All five Utah starters scored in double figures, led by rookie guard Donovan Mitchell with 17 points off the bench.

### Trail Blazers 103, Thunder 99

Damian Lillard matched his season high with 36 points, including two free throws to seal Portland's victory over Oklahoma City. Lillard was 10 of 18 from the field and 15 of 15 from the foul line and had a season-high 13 assists. Jusuf Nurkic added 25 points on 11-of-15 shooting for the Trail Blazers. Paul George scored 27 points for the Thunder on a night when reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Russell Westbrook struggled with his shot. Westbrook had 25 points and nine assists but was 10 of 25 from the field, 3 of 10 from 3-point range and only 2 of 7 from the foul line.

### Hawks 117, Cavaliers 115

Dennis Schroder scored 28 points and depleted Atlanta stopped its eight-game losing streak by beating Cleveland. The Hawks, without five rotation players, built a 16-point lead in the fourth quarter but nearly let it slip away. Channing Frye missed a 3-pointer with one second to go that would have won it for Cleveland, and Dwyane Wade's missed tip-in at the buzzer would have tied it. LeBron James scored 10 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, Kyle



**PHILADELPHIA:** Cornerback Patrick Robinson #21 of the Philadelphia Eagles tackles wide receiver Demaryius Thomas #88 of the Denver Broncos during the second quarter at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia. — AFP

behind the Saints in the NFC South. Atlanta is 4-4. Devin Funchess had 86 yards on five catches in his first game as Carolina's No. 1 receiver after the team traded Kelvin Benjamin earlier in the week. Matt Ryan, last year's NFL MVP, threw for 313 yards and two touchdowns and had one costly first-half interception for the defending NFC champions.

### RAMS 51, GIANTS 17

Jared Goff set career highs with four touchdown throws and 311 yards passing and Todd Gurley ran for two more scores for the surprising Rams. The win was the fifth in six games for the Rams, whose 6-2 start is the franchise's best since 2001, when the club, then in St. Louis, went 14-2 in the regular season and eventually lost to the Patriots in the Super Bowl. Los Angeles did everything right in remaining unbeaten in four road games, five if a "home" win in London is included. The Rams' high-powered offense showed no rust coming off the bye, scoring on eight of their first nine possessions. The defense forced three turnovers that the offense turned into 17 points and the special teams blocked a third-quarter punt that Gurley converted into his second TD.

### RAIDERS 27, DOLPHINS 24

Derek Carr threw for 300 yards and Oakland overcame two fluky plays that cost them possession to beat Miami. Carr went 21 of 30 with one touchdown and one interception. He helped the Raiders convert 8 and 15 third downs. The Dolphins recovered an onside kick and came up with a takeaway when Oakland fumbled twice on a single play, but failed to convert either opportunity into points. Oakland also overcame 10 penalties for 105 yards, including three for unnecessary roughness in the second quarter. The Raiders' Marshawn Lynch, returning from one-game suspension for shoving an official, scored on a 22-yard run, his

longest this year. He added another late score and finished with 57 yards on 14 carries. Oakland (4-5) won for only the second time since Week 2. Miami (4-4) fell to .500 for the third time this season, and lost a close game for the first time in more than a year.

### TITANS 23, RAVENS 20

Marcus Mariota threw for 218 yards and two touchdowns, and the Titans got their third straight victory. Derrick Henry ran for a 1-yard TD. Safety Kevin Byard also intercepted two passes, giving the second-year pro five picks over his past two games. The Titans (5-3) sacked Joe Flacco twice and scored 13 points off Byard's first interception and a shanked punt to stay atop the AFC South. The Ravens (4-5) have lost three of four going into their bye, but they outgained Tennessee 341-257. Flacco tried to rally the Ravens with two TD passes in the final 8:56, the last a 1-yard pass to Mike Wallace with 46 seconds left. But Justin Tucker's onside kick attempt didn't travel 10 yards, skittering almost sideways off the tee before being recovered by Titans linebacker Daren Bates.

### COLTS 20, TEXANS 14

T.Y. Hilton had 175 yards receiving with two touchdowns to help the Colts halt a three-game skid by beating a Texans team that struggled without Deshaun Watson. Jacoby Brissett threw for 308 yards filling in for Andrew Luck, who was placed on injured reserve Thursday and will miss the season after having shoulder surgery in January. Watson's stellar season ended that day, too, when the rookie tore the anterior cruciate ligament in one of his knees in practice. Tom Savage, benched in the opener for Watson, couldn't move the offense for most of the game, but threw a touchdown pass in the fourth quarter to get Houston within six. The Texans had a chance to win it late, but Savage was sacked by Jabaal Sheard and fumbled as time ran out. —AFP



**HOUSTON:** Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) drives into Utah Jazz forward Derrick Favors (15) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, in Houston. — AP

### Wizards 107, Raptors 96

Bradley Beal scored 38 points to lead Washington to a win over Toronto. The Wizards led by as many as 19 points in the third quarter before the Raptors trimmed it to three nearing the midpoint of the fourth quarter, but a layup by Beal and a 3-pointer by Kelly Oubre Jr. put the Wizards ahead by 13 points with 4:22 left. Washington guard John Wall (sprained left shoulder) did not play. DeMar DeRozan led Toronto with 26 points. The Raptors lost point Kyle Lowry in the second quarter after he was assessed two technical fouls for arguing with the referees.

### Timberwolves 112, Hornets 94

Jeff Teague had 18 points and 12 assists. Andrew Wiggins scored a team-high 20 points, and Minnesota coasted to victory over Charlotte. Jamal Crawford provided a big spark with 15 points off the bench, and Minnesota was 26 of 30 from the free-throw line to win its fifth straight game, the

first five-game winning streak for the franchise since Jan. 2-10, 2009. Karl-Anthony Towns had 16 points and Jimmy Butler chipped in 13 as Minnesota led by as many as 23 points. Dwight Howard had 13 points and nine rebounds for Charlotte, which has lost two straight games and is 1-4 on the road this season.

### Lakers 107, Grizzlies 102

After nearly gave away a 22-point, third-quarter lead, Los Angeles held on for a victory over Memphis. Brook Lopez led Los Angeles with 21 points. Brandon Ingram scored 14 of his 20 points in the final four minutes of the third quarter. Jordan Clarkson and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 15 apiece, and Kyle Kuzma finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers (5-5). Tyreke Evans scored 26 points off the bench, and Mike Conley scored 23 for the Grizzlies (6-4). Marc Gasol had 15 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Dillon Brooks finished with 13 points. — Reuters

## Players' union to withdraw challenge to transfer system

**ZURICH:** The world players' union FIFPro has agreed to withdraw its legal challenge to the transfer system at the European Commission after reaching an agreement with global soccer body FIFA to overhaul it. In a joint statement yesterday, the two organizations said FIFA had agreed to set up a task force to look at sweeping changes to the transfer regulations in the long term and, in the short term, to make it easier for players to leave their clubs if they are not paid on time. The system has been under scrutiny because of the spiralling fees paid for big-name players, such as Brazilian forward Neymar's record-shattering 222 million euro (\$257.4 million) move from Barcelona to Paris St Germain earlier this year.

There are also concerns that it has contributed to the growing dominance of a handful of select clubs. FIFPro president Philippe Piat said the agreement would "set in motion the biggest changes to football transfer rules since 2001."

"While clubs in the richest leagues invariably treat players well, there are other leagues in which the employment rights of players are routinely ignored," he said. The issues which the task force could examine include limiting transfer fees and increasing competitive balance as well as the role of agents, transfer windows, the loan system and squad sizes.

The statement said the "health and safety" of the players would be addressed, particularly regarding the international calendar. FIFPro lodged its legal complaint at the European Commission in 2015, saying the transfer system was anti-competitive, unjustified and illegal. If successful, the complaint could have caused the biggest upheaval to the sport since the Bosman ruling in 1995, which paved the way for players in the European Union to move to another club at the end of a contract without a transfer fee being paid. FIFA administers international transfer regulations through its Rules on the Status and Transfer of Players (REST) which have existed in their current form since 2001.—Reuters

## Sports

# Conte warns axed Luiz to fight for Chelsea future

## I must take the best decision for the club: Coach

**LONDON:** Antonio Conte has warned David Luiz he faces a fight to win back his Chelsea place after the Brazil defender was dropped for the 1-0 win over Manchester United.

Luiz paid the price for some sloppy performances as Blues boss Conte left him out of the squad at Stamford Bridge on Sunday. The former Paris Saint Germain star, one of the key players in Chelsea's title triumph last term, watched from the stands as Andreas Christensen, Cesar Azpilicueta and Gary Cahill filled the central defensive positions for the champions.

That trio easily kept United striker Romelu Lukaku and his team-mates at bay as Alvaro Morata's 55th minute header sealed a vital victory. Conte had been prompted to ditch Luiz following the midweek Champions League loss at Roma. But, having told an television interviewer after the United game that he didn't know if the defender had a future at Chelsea, when he faced the written press, he only told Luiz he wouldn't be granted an immediate recall.

"It's very simple, the coach has to make the best decision for the team. Tonight the best decision was to play (Andreas) Christensen and have (Ethan) Ampadu on the bench," Conte said. "I decided this way tonight, maybe I can decide a different way in the future or I can continue the same way."

Conte's decision to axe Luiz was as much a warning to the rest of the squad to improve their performances as an individual attack on the centre-back. The Italian's message was received as Chelsea gave a commanding performance to secure their third successive league win and stay within nine points of leaders Manchester City.

"I must take the best decision for the club, not a sin-

gle player. It is only a tactical decision. It's normal," Conte said. "This can happen to every one of my players if I see they are not in good form. I have to make important decisions."

Conte's own future had been in question last week after demanding Blues owner Roman Abramovich made one of his infrequent visits to the club's training ground. Reportedly struggling to stop his players complaining about his intense training regime, Conte badly needed a restorative victory and he was relieved to see Chelsea respond to his demands for more intensity.

### PASSION PLAY

"We played with great energy and great passion. I saw a lot of positive things," he said. "They decided they would fight. My players had the will to help each other. For many reasons we started this season with a lot of problems, the confidence can go down. To see this spirit, for sure I'm pleased. If there is this passion, we can fight for something important."

Conte couldn't resist taking a swipe at United manager Jose Mourinho, who had mocked the Italian's complaints about injuries earlier this season.

Mourinho mentioned injuries to the likes of Paul Pogba as a reason why United slumped to their second defeat in their last three league games. But Conte said: "When you have 24 players in the squad, if you have one or two injuries that doesn't work."

It was another chastening return to the Bridge for Mourinho, who has been beaten on all three of his visits to his old club since taking charge at United last term.

But although United trail eight points behind City, Mourinho refused to surrender the title to Pep

“My players had the will to help each other”



**LONDON:** Chelsea's Italian head coach Antonio Conte celebrates on the pitch with Chelsea's Danish defender Andreas Christensen (L) after the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Manchester United. —AFP

Guardiola's side. "We are worried but eight points in the Premier League is not the same as eight points in La Liga or the Bundesliga," he said.

"There is still a lot to play. I hope in the busy period of late November, December, we are going to be at maximum strength with Pogba and Ibrahimovic back."

Mourinho also defended Lukaku after the United striker gave the latest in a series of anonymous displays.

The Belgian has now gone seven games without a goal, but Mourinho said: "I'm not interested in stats. I'm happy with his attitude. He had a chance with a good shot and created space for others." —AFP

## Pochettino confident Harry Kane will be fit for England

**LONDON:** Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino insists Harry Kane will be available for England's upcoming friendly internationals despite an injury scare in a 1-0 Premier League win over Crystal Palace.

The Spurs striker went off 14 minutes from the end of Sunday's success at Wembley after receiving treatment in the first half. Pochettino also believes Dele Alli will recover from a hamstring problem in time for his club's next game with north London rivals Arsenal, even if he is missing England duty for the matches with Germany and Brazil. But he was unsure whether Harry Winks will have to withdraw from Gareth Southgate's squad after the midfielder went off with an ankle injury in a below-par victory where Spurs failed to hit the heights of their thrilling midweek 3-1 success over Real Madrid in the Champions League. "Kane was subbed because after 75 minutes we wanted to protect him," said Pochettino.

"After Real Madrid it was such an emotional game, it was better to avoid risk. I think he's OK and I'm sure he will go with the international team." The former Southampton manager added: "Harry Winks twisted his ankle in the first half, it's a little bit painful, we must assess him with our medical staff and the national team medical staff."

"He is so excited to be with the national side but now it is up to the medical staff to assess the player."

"Dele felt his tendon at the end of the Manchester United game close to his hamstring and then played 90 minutes v Real Madrid. It is a very small thing. It was not a massive risk to play him here and we hope he can be ready for Arsenal."

Spurs were disappointing against Palace in a match where the deadlock was not broken until the 64th minute thanks to Son Heung-Min's 20-yard drive. "It was very difficult," admitted Pochettino. "We knew after Real Madrid it would be a massive challenge to compete again. In the end I'm very pleased, the team was very professional."

"It was a game where we had possession and dominated but we conceded a lot of chances. You need some luck to win and it was a good performance."

### 'DESERVED MORE'

Palace remain bottom and are five points from safety but the Eagles can feel aggrieved with Wilfried Zaha missing their best chance when he fired wide at 0-0 after rounding debutant goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga. "I will be leaving Wembley as a loser, which didn't happen much when I was here for four years," said Palace's former England manager Roy Hodgson. "We created chances and had moments where we were even on top against an illustrious side. We deserved more than what we had. But in football you get what you get. You don't get what some people think you deserve."

Hodgson added: "We look at the table and we are still on four points. But globally there is not a lot I can accuse my players of. The confidence is fragile but when the goal went in we could have collapsed and lose by three or four. They (Tottenham) have players who can punish you. That's a positive they didn't." —AFP

## Russia faces 'very real' threat of attack at WCup

**MOSCOW:** Russia says it will take extraordinary measures to combat any terrorist threat when it hosts the World Cup next year, as its military campaign in Syria makes the country a prime target for jihadists.

A bombing on the metro in Saint Petersburg in April that left 15 people dead was among the recent high-profile terror attacks on Russian soil. The fear of more attacks was heightened after seven people were stabbed in Siberia in August in an attack claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group, while the authorities have reported breaking up several jihadist cells across the country.

"There is a very real threat of an attack in Russia" during the World Cup, which runs from June 14 and July 15 2018, said Alexander Golts, an independent Russia expert specialising in security. Russia has experienced a number terror attacks over the last 20 years and during two wars in Chechnya, but the threat has increased since Moscow's military intervention in Syria in September 2015 to support President Bashar al-Assad's regime, making it a priority IS target.

"The authorities say they have succeeded in destroying IS. But several thousand Russians have been

## Sock stunned after swapping holidays for Tour Finals

**PARIS:** American Jack Sock said he was shocked after moving from "thinking about his holidays" during his opening Paris Masters win, to qualifying for the World Tour Finals in London after claiming the Bercy title.

The 16th seed beat qualifier Filip Krajinovic 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 in the final on Sunday. He trailed 5-1 in a deciding set during his second-round match against Britain's Kyle Edmund, but fought back before going on to snatch the eighth and final spot for the year-ending event from Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta with the biggest title of his career. Sock will rise from 22nd to ninth in the world rankings and is the first American to reach the Tour Finals since Mardy Fish in 2011. "Coming in this week I had no idea I could even make London," the 25-year-old told a press conference. "It wasn't in my head. I just wanted to play some good tennis my last week and go start my off-season."

"Now to sit here and extend the season another two weeks, and to keep playing and achieve a lot of firsts today for me, is incredible. I was thinking about my holidays the next day (when a double-break down to Edmund). I tried to start shortening points and just going after my shots. They were landing and I was connecting a lot of them." Sock will also become the US number one for the first time in his career after winning his third ATP title of the season. His victory was the first in a Masters tournament by an American since former world number one Andy Roddick took the Miami crown in 2010. Sock said he would have nothing to lose when he arrives in London to take on the likes of Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. "I obviously snuck into the eighth spot in London unexpectedly, so zero pressure on me to go there," he added. "I'm going to swing big and play my game like I always

taking part in (jihadist) conflicts and now they are beginning to return to Russia," Golts told AFP. According to the Federal Security Service (FSB), about 2,900 Russian jihadists, most of them from the Muslim-majority Caucasus republics, have fought in Syria. Between 2,000 and 4,000 more fighters from Central Asia now live in Russia. The world's most high profile sporting event, along with the Olympic Games, makes an ideal terrorist target.

### TREATS AGAINST PLAYERS

Every day, dozens of calls to commit attacks during the tournament from IS propaganda organs are published via social networks. Many of these involve threats against players. But Pascal Boniface, director of the Institute of International and Strategic Relations in Paris, said these threats are put out "to attract attention". There is a risk of terror at "any global sporting event which attracts cameras and those with a desire to make an impact". Several months before the Winter Olympics in the Black Sea resort of Sochi in 2014, bomb attacks killed 34 people in Volgograd, also in southern Russia, and "we were very worried about attacks" during the event, Boniface said.

FSB director Alexander Bortnikov revealed last month that a number of planned attacks had been thwarted ahead of the World Cup warm-up event the Confederations Cup in June.

### HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS

In 2016 Russia set up an international "working group" charged with overseeing safety at the World Cup and bringing together the security services of 32

countries, despite diplomatic tensions between Moscow and the West, Bortnikov said.

"Every country is sending delegations and the common cause of the fight against terrorists goes beyond any disagreement they might have," Boniface added. Saint Petersburg police last week began deploying dogs trained to sniff out explosives on the underground network, while a list of sensitive areas which will be kept under particularly close watch including luxury hotels, training grounds and tourist areas of host cities was published.

Although the authorities remain tight lipped on the details of the World Cup security plan, deputy prime minister Vitaly Mutko has announced that at least 30 billion rubles (445 million euros, \$512 million) will be spent by Russia in this area. A decree concerning "strengthened security measures during the Confederations Cup and the World Cup" signed by President Vladimir Putin came into force this June and will be applied again from May 25 to July 25 next year.

The decree includes measures limiting the right to protest and curbing driving in the tournament's 11 host cities, as well as introducing no-fly zones and forbidding entering these cities by bus without a special permit. Human Rights Watch said it was "impossible not to be concerned" by aspects of the increased safety measures. "We have already seen the consequences of the presidential decree," its Russia researcher Yulia Gorbunova told AFP, pointing to the 33 people arbitrarily detained during the Confederations Cup. "There are reasons to believe that during the World Cup (these restrictions) will be all the more severe," she said. —AFP



**PARIS:** Jack Sock celebrates after winning against Serbia's Filip Krajinovic during the final of the ATP World Tour. —AFP

do, and just, honestly, enjoy the moment."

### KRAJINOVIC 'DISAPPOINTED'

Serb Krajinovic played some excellent tennis in the opening set, but a poor service game to kick off the second proved costly as Sock roared back. "I'm disappointed a little bit. I lost energy, I lost a physical moment in the match. First game of the second set I shouldn't lose that easy," he said. "Then he started to play better and better and I didn't serve well today." Krajinovic, also 25, is still set to rise to 33 in the world rankings on Monday, though,

having dropped out of the top 200 last year after having surgery to remove an extra bone in his right wrist. "Pressure is part of the sport. Everybody has pressure in life. Of course, I am going to have more," Krajinovic, who won five second-tier Challenger titles this season, added.

"People will expect more from me right now. They see I can do it. But if I want to be better, I have to handle that. So I will work on that also. I had to play Challenges because I didn't have a ranking. But now I will practice with those (top) guys and play with those guys and I think I can be dangerous." —AFP

# Kuwait to host Red Bull Car Park Drift Series Final, for the First Time



With the final for the Red Bull Car Park Drift series fast approaching, Kuwait is getting ready to host the largest motorsports event in the region on December 8 at SIRBB Circuit. Kuwait will welcome elite drifters competing for the crown of the 2017 King of Drift. Since Red Bull's first drifting event, they have been able to bring the motorsport to new heights in the region for thousands of drifting and motorsport fans.

Over 2,500 spectators will visit SIRBB Circuit on Friday, December 8, to support the Kuwait representatives at the final. With only one drifter from each participating country, the Red Bull Car Park Drift contest rules allows three drifters from the hosting country; this year, Kuwait. The three drifters from Kuwait participated in the local qualifier and topped the leaderboard; the winner, Ali Makhseed, 1st runner up, Fahad Aljadei, and the third place winner, Abdullah Aljadi.

Red Bull Car Park Drift final is organized

with the cooperation of Basel Salem Al-Sabah Motor Racing Club, the Public Authority for Sport, and SIRBB Circuit and is sponsored by Total, Falken, Shop & Ship, PS4, Nissan, Boubyan Bank, Drag 965, Acqua Eva and Trolley. Media partners, MBC Action, Kuwait Times and Aljarida will cover this popular event.

Kuwait's three drifters will face a fierce challenge for the sought-after King of Drift title, competing against drifters from ten other countries that have participated in the series. The 2017 series kicked off in Kuwait on May 5 and the competition has continued since then with qualifiers in Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritius, Bahrain, Tunisia, Jordan, Oman and Morocco. Qualifiers will continue this month in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, before all winners go head to head on December 8.

The competition, first hosted by Red Bull in Lebanon, is back providing drifting amateurs and professionals with the opportunity to highlight their skills and compete for the crown, while capturing the crowd's attention.

Last year's final in Oman witnessed an exciting turnout, with all three Omani drifters, topping the winners' podium. First time competitor, Haitham Al Hadidi, claimed the crown at the young age of 18, due to a stellar performance.

Lebanon hosted the first ever Red Bull Car Park Drift event in 2008 making it possible for all underground drifters to put their skills to the test, and placed the spotlight on rally champion Abdo Feghali, making him a drifting legend.

On a global level, the story of drifting goes back to the 1960s on winding Japanese mountain roads. A bunch of likeminded racers set out to beat their A to B times by exceeding the grip limit of their tires when taking sharp corners. It did not do much to help their racing times but instead evolved into an entirely different discipline. Drifting was born, and a Red Bull manager discovered the sport in 2005 and decided to spark a fire in the Middle East, a fire that still burns to this very day.



**12** Lindgren makes 38 saves in first 50 as Canadiens beat Blackhawks



**13** Eagles rout Broncos 51-23 to keep NFL's best record



**14** Conte warns axed Luiz to fight for Chelsea future



LONDON: West Ham United's Croatian manager Slaven Bilic gestures during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Liverpool at The London Stadium, in east London. — AFP

## Struggling West Ham fires Bilic

### Lines up David Moyes as new coach

LONDON: West Ham fired manager Slaven Bilic yesterday following the team's slide into the English Premier League relegation zone and was set to hand David Moyes an opportunity to rebuild his coaching reputation as the successor.

Bilic was under pressure for weeks and acknowledged it was a "very logical move" to remove him after West Ham's latest big loss, 4-1 at home to Liverpool on Saturday. "Disappointed, but not in the club. I expected it," Bilic said outside the West Ham training ground after meeting with members of the club's board.

The West Ham co-chairmen said they wanted a new manager to "inject fresh ideas, organization and enthusiasm" into the team and seem to have settled on Moyes, who has been out of work since May when he quit Sunderland following its relegation from the Premier League.

A success at Everton from 2002-13, Moyes lasted only 10 months as Alex Ferguson's hand-picked replacement at Manchester United before getting fired, the job proving far too big for him. He was fired by Spanish team Real Sociedad after a year in charge

before a chastening 10 month spell at Sunderland, which he failed to keep in England's lucrative top division. Moyes was 1-20 with British bookmakers to fill the vacancy at West Ham, with British media reporting he will be hired today. "I've always said I want to go back into club management,"

Moyes said in an interview with TV channel Bein Sports on Sunday, when speculation was rife about Bilic's imminent departure. "If the right opportunity comes around, I'll be interested."

West Ham has won only two of its 11 matches in the Premier League and is in third-to-last place heading into the two-week international break. Co-chairmen David Gold and David Sullivan have a track record of mostly standing by their managers, and Sullivan said last month he wanted to honor Bilic's contract, which was due to expire at the

end of the season, "unless things are desperate."

Since then, West Ham has lost in embarrassing fashion at home to Brighton (3-0) and Liverpool. The team has been prone to collapsing after going behind - it has already lost by at least a three-goal margin on four occasions this season - and lacked any real identity under Bilic. "This season we hoped we would make the step from the start, we just didn't make it," Bilic said. "As with many clubs in Premier League and in Europe, the manager is the one who is paying the price for it."

Bilic was hired in June 2015 and guided West Ham, a team he also played for, to a seventh-place finish in his first season with its highest number of points (62) and goals in a Premier League.

The team left its Upton Park home of 112 years to move to the Olympic Stadium the following season and

the change has coincided with West Ham's problems. It was hoped that the high-profile signings of Joe Hart, Pablo Zabaleta, Marko Arnautovic and Javier Hernandez during the offseason would provide the necessary spark for West Ham, but the team is proving just as inconsistent.

"Sadly, performances and results have not been of the expected standard," Gold and Sullivan said in a statement. "and, in recent weeks, we have not seen enough indication of the required improvement to give us the encouragement that things would change and we would meet our Premier League aspirations this season." Bilic's assistants, Nikola Jurcevic, Edin Terzic, Julian Dicks and Miljenko Rak, have also left the club with immediate effect but goalkeeping coach Chris Woods appears to have been retained. Woods worked with Moyes at Everton and Man United, another indication of the identity of Bilic's likely successor.

Bilic is the fourth manager to lose his job in the Premier League after Frank De Boer (Crystal Palace), Craig Shakespeare (Leicester) and Ronald Koeman (Everton). — AP



### New manager to 'inject fresh ideas'

### Kung fu kick Evra 'should have known better'

PARIS: France coach Didier Deschamps predicted Patrice Evra would pay a heavy price for kicking a Marseille fan last week and says the former national captain should have known better. "I'm neither condemning him nor judging him," said Deschamps, for whom Evra played at Monaco and with France.

"Patrice is fully aware of the conse-

quences. "It's something that you just can't do and he knows that," said Deschamps about Marseille left-back Evra assaulting one of the club's fans ahead of a Europa League game against Vitoria Guimaraes in Portugal last Thursday.

"Decisions will follow from both UEFA and his club," Deschamps said. The 36-year-old was suspended by Marseille on Friday after he was red carded for the assault which happened in the pre-match warm up.

Marseille fans made their hostile feelings clear to Evra at the club's Velodrome stadium on Sunday unfurling banners against the player as the club thrashed Caen 5-0 in Ligue 1. Chants rang out insulting the former Manchester United and Juventus left-back, while one banner carried the slogan "This Game is Over" in English, parodying

Evra's favourite slogan of "I love this game". Another banner read: "We don't want you in our colours anymore. Evra get lost." One French garment designer released a t-shirt this week that reads in French "Un petit Pat pour l'homme - Un grand Pat vers la retraite" - A small step for the man, a giant step towards retirement.

The caption, a play on words with 'Pat' and 'pas' (step) evokes American astronaut Neil Armstrong's iconic message back to earth when he became the first man to step on the moon in 1969.

In contrast to how Evra is remembered in Manchester, in France there has been a whiff of sulphur to Evra's reputation since a player's strike at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa whilst he was captain - a series of events known as 'the Knysna affair'. — AFP

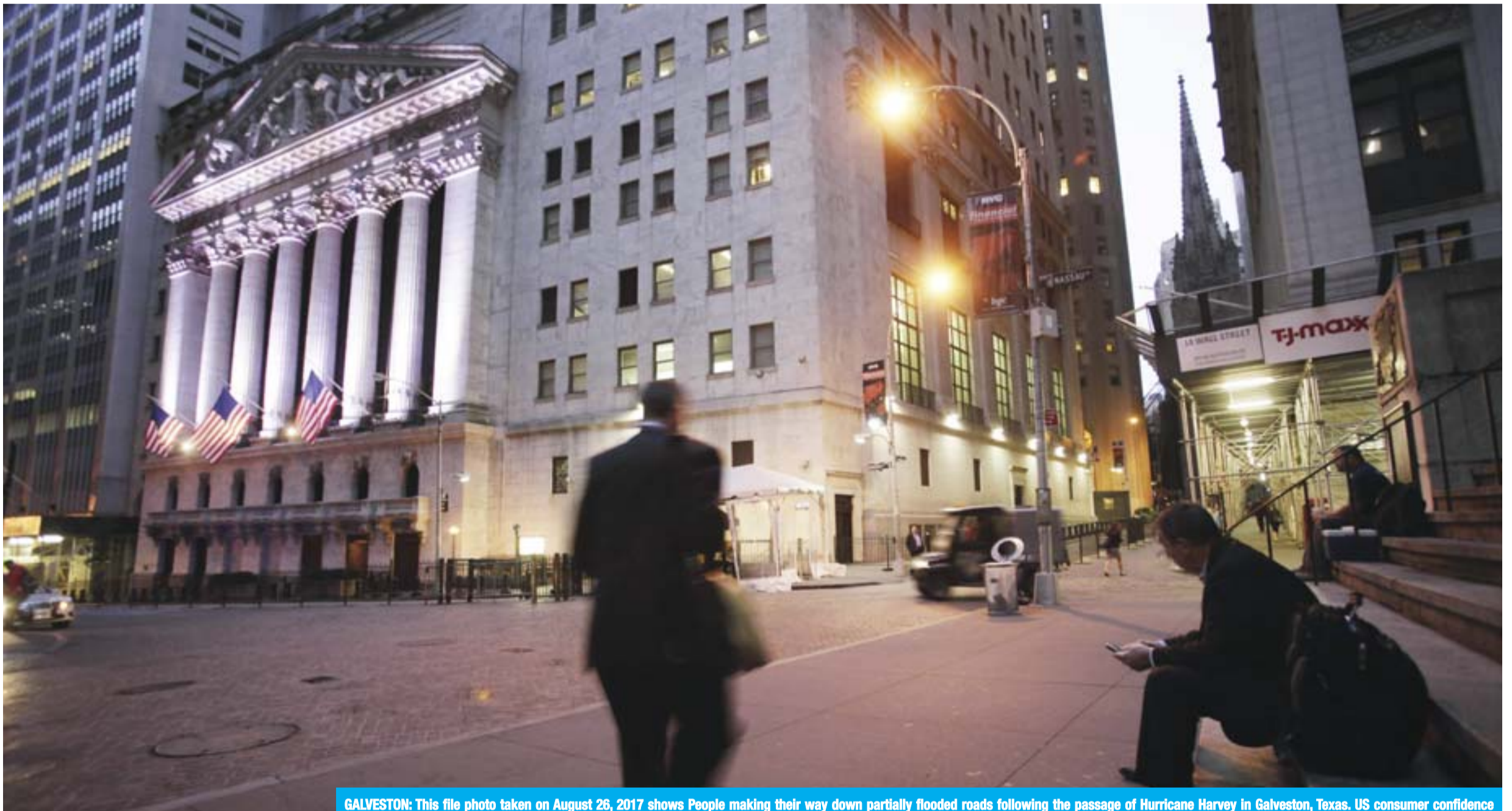


GUIMARAES: Marseille's French defender Patrice Evra (C) is escorted off the pitch by teammates Portuguese defender Rolando and Brazilian defender Doria after an argument with supporters before the start of the UEFA Europa League group I football match. — AFP



## Business

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

**18** Brent tops symbolic \$60 level amid signs of tighter supplies**19** India cracks open Iran sea route to Afghanistan, bypassing rival**22** Broadcom offers to buy Qualcomm for \$103 billion

**GALVESTON:** This file photo taken on August 26, 2017 shows people making their way down partially flooded roads following the passage of Hurricane Harvey in Galveston, Texas. US consumer confidence recovered from the hurricane-induced doldrums last month to hit a 17-year high in October. — AFP

# Saudi stocks hit by political purge

## Gulf feels the chill as shares plummet

**LONDON:** Saudi Arabia's stock market fell over 1.5 percent yesterday as a purge by its Crown Prince on fellow royals, ministers and businessmen appeared to be widening, though it was offset by gains elsewhere including a record high for South Africa. The heaviest Saudi falls saw a near 5 percent slump in detained billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Kingdom Holding after it had fallen almost 8 percent on Sunday.

Al-Tayyar Travel plunged 10 percent too, after the company quoted media reports saying Nasser bin Aqeel Al-Tayyar, still one of its board mem-

bers, had also been held by authorities.

Saudi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had moved to consolidate his power and crack-down on corruption with a cabinet reshuffle and a string of detentions of prominent figures. Prince Alwaleed, a nephew of the king invests in lots of big international firms too such as Citigroup and Twitter. He was among 11 princes, four ministers and tens of former ministers detained, officials told Reuters. Marcus Chenevix, MENA analyst at TS Lombard called Alwaleed bin Talal's arrest "highly concerning". "What it tells investors is that Saudi

politics can't be ignored. And that's worrying because Saudi politics is a black box," he said. Shares in National Industrialization Co (Tasnee), in which Alwaleed's Kingdom Holdings holds a 6.2 percent stake, fell another 2 percent while Banque Saudi Fransi, in which Kingdom bought a 16.2 percent stake in September, dipped 0.5 percent. The jitters were felt elsewhere in the Gulf too. Qatar's main bourse dropped almost as much as Saudi's - 1.2 percent - as concerns simmered their about its ongoing spat with the Saudi elite. Lebanon's eurobonds fell widely too after its Prime Minister

Saad Al-Hariri resigned on Saturday, saying he believed there was an assassination plot against him and accusing Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah of sowing strife in the Arab world. His resignation, which came as a surprise to Beirut's political establishment, brought down the country's fragile coalition government and plunged the country into a new political crisis.

Other major emerging markets looked far calmer in comparison, even some of those that have been the most volatile recently. South Africa's stock market hit a record high though

the rand was on the back foot again having tumbled more than 2 percent on Friday amid ongoing worries about its remaining investment grade credit rating.

Turkey's lira, another EM currency that has been slammed recently regained 0.6 percent against the dollar meanwhile. It has lost more than 12 percent since early September as concerns build about its rising inflation and that rising global bond yields will make its large proportion of dollar-denominated debt more costly to service. — Reuters

## Britain frozen out as EU finance chiefs plot future

**BRUSSELS:** European Union finance ministers meet without Britain in Brussels yesterday to try to iron out their differences on plans to reform the euro in the wake of the shock Brexit vote. They will prepare for a leaders' summit on December 15 to discuss proposals by French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker. The 27 EU ministers will discuss three key issues that go to the heart of making the euro more politically and economically unified, so it is more resilient against future crises. These are creating a unified eurozone budget that could be used to respond to a crisis; simplifying the EU's budgetary discipline rules; and finally completing a "banking union" that removes restrictions between lenders across the bloc.

"We will listen to the ministers" but "they will not decide anything", a senior EU official said, adding that they would merely "touch base" on the main issues.

The meeting will include the Eurogroup of 19 countries that use the single currency plus

seven others that signed the 2012 European fiscal pact during the eurozone debt crisis. The Czech Republic, which has not signed the treaty, and Croatia, which was not an EU member when the treaty was signed, will also both be invited as observers in a bid to build unity behind plans for a key part of the European dream. But Britain will be left out in the cold, as it did not sign the pact, and is also set to leave the EU in 2019 before most of the planned reforms will take effect.

### New plans, old rifts

One of the most complex subjects will be simplifying rules for EU and particularly eurozone budgets, which governments have to keep under tight control to escape sanctions from Brussels. "The documents on this subject take weeks to read," one official said. But if the Europeans agree on the need for reform, they are divided on how to achieve it with France traditionally taking a more easy-going line than austerity-loving Germany.

The question of the eurozone getting its own budget, an old idea recently dusted off again by Macron as part of his grand vision for post-Brexit Europe, is also complicated. Paris wants a big budget as a show of European solidarity in the face of financial shocks, whereas Juncker wants to make it smaller-scale-a line favored by the Germans.

Banking union and a system of deposit guarantees to prevent bank runs will also be on the agenda, with the EU keen to finally finish plans that have been on the drawing board since the eurozone debt crisis started. One fur-



**BRUSSELS:** Slovakia's Finance Minister Peter Kazimir (left) and Luxembourg Finance Minister Pierre Gramegna attend an Eurogroup ministerial meeting at the European Council in Brussels yesterday. — AFP

ther issue they are likely to discuss is the next head of the Eurogroup, to replace Jeroen Dijsselbloem of the Netherlands, who steps down in January.

There is no official candidate but rumored frontrunners include Portugal's Mario Centeno, Slovakia's Peter Kazimir, France's Bruno Le Maire or Luxembourg's Pierre Gramegna. EU economics commissioner Pierre Moscovici's name has also been mentioned although ministers appear more likely to go for one of their own. A formal decision will be made on December 4. — AFP

## Oil hits 2-1/2 year peak on Saudi purge

**LONDON:** Oil jumped to its highest in over two years yesterday as Saudi Arabia's crown prince cemented his power through a crack-down on corruption, while world shares eased a notch and major currencies traded in tight ranges. Oil prices reached their highest since July 2015 as Mohammed bin Salman's purge led to arrests of royals, ministers and investors including prominent billionaire investor Alwaleed bin Talal.

The news stirred concerns of Middle Eastern money pulling out of global financial markets. A weekend call by China's central bank governor for tougher financial regulation also hit investor sentiment.

Brent futures were up over half a percent at \$62.49 a barrel. US crude added half a percent to \$55.91. The MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 47 countries was 0.1 percent lower.

European shares turned flat after falling

in early deals on weaker trading in Asia and earnings disappointments. The pan-European STOXX 600 was 0.1 percent lower by 1202 GMT. Saudi Arabia's Shares in French hotel group Accor fell as much as 1.7 percent at the open, the biggest of the CAC 40 fallers, after its third biggest shareholder Prince Alwaleed bin Talal was arrested in the Saudi Arabian crackdown.

Prince Alwaleed, a nephew of the king and owner of investment firm Kingdom Holding, invests in firms such as Citigroup and Twitter. He was among 11 princes, four ministers and tens of former ministers detained, three senior officials told Reuters on Sunday.

"MbS's (Mohammed bin Salman's) accumulation of power runs the risk of prompting the Kingdom to shift further away from consensus-based policymaking, ruffling more feathers within the royal family as well as those closely tied to it," said Jason Tuvey, Middle East economist at Capital Economics.

"The big risk here is of a backlash against MbS from these elites that undermines his authority and raises the Saudi risk premium." Prince Mohammed's reforms include a plan to list parts of giant state-owned oil company Saudi Aramco next year, and a higher oil prices is seen as beneficial for the market capitalization of the future listed company. — Reuters



## Business

# Gulf Insurance Group posts a net profit of KD 8 million

## GWP up 61.5% to reach KD 246.6m for 9 months of 2017

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Insurance Group (gig) announced a net profit of KD 8 million (\$26.6 million), or 44.86 fils per share, for the first nine months of 2017. This is down 24 percent from the KD 10.56 million (\$35 million) recorded for the same period last year. This decrease is due to the group's share of results from its subsidiaries.

Shareholder equity reached KD 82.4 million (\$272.9 million) as at September 30, 2017, compared to KD 82.3 million (\$272.6 million) as at December 31, 2016.

Book value per share reached 460 fils as at September 30, 2017. Gross written premium reached KD 246.6 million (\$816.5 million), with an increase of 61.5

percent compared to the KD 152.7 million (\$505.6 million) made during the same period last year. Net investment income and sundry income increased to reach KD 10.6 million (\$34.96 million) compared to KD 8.1 million (\$26.9 million) for the same period last year, an increase of 30 percent.

Net technical reserves rose from KD 106.4 million (\$352.4 million) on December 31, 2016, to KD 144.3 million (\$477.98 million) as at September 30, 2017. This increase represents a growth of 35.6 percent and it supports the company's technical operations and protects policyholders' rights, thereby strengthening gig's ability

to withstand emergencies and risks that may rise in the future.

Total assets reached KD 542.7 billion (\$1.8 billion) as at September 30, 2017, an increase of KD 166.8 million (\$552.4 million) or 44.4 percent from December 31, 2016.

Khaled Al-Hasan, gig's CEO, said: "Our results for the first nine months of 2017 reflect the growth we have achieved. This is also a strong indication of the Group's ability to protect its assets and shareholders' equity. It is also in line with our constant



Khaled Al-Hasan

strive to provide the best insurance services to our clients across all markets we operate in, supported by our strategy for regional expansion and increasing our domestic and regional market share." He added: "We thank our clients for these achievements, as well as the support of our shareholders, namely KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - and Fairfax Middle East Ltd. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our dedicated employees for their efforts."

## Multinationals grapple with US Republican excise tax surprise

**WASHINGTON/LONDON:** The Republican tax bill unveiled last week in the US Congress could disrupt the global supply chains of large, multinational companies by slapping a 20-percent tax on cross-border transactions they routinely make between related business units.

European multinationals, some of which currently pay little US tax on US profits thanks to tax treaties and diversion of US earnings to their home countries or other low-tax jurisdictions, could be especially hard hit if the proposed tax becomes law, according to some tax experts.

Others said the proposal could run afoul of international tax treaties, the World Trade Organization and other global standards that forbid the double taxation of profits if the new tax did not account for income taxes paid in other countries. The proposed tax, tucked deep in the 429-page bill backed by President Donald Trump, caught corporate tax strategists by surprise and sent them scrambling to understand its dynamics and goals, as well as whether Congress is likely ever to vote on it.

Reuters contacted seven multinational companies and four industry groups. None

would comment directly on the proposal, with most saying they were still studying the entire tax package. The proposal is part of a broad tax reform bill unveiled by House of Representatives Republicans on Thursday, which promises to lower overall tax burdens and simplify the tax code. Whether the proposed reforms ever become law is uncertain, with weeks and possibly months of debate and intense lobbying still ahead. The House package overall has drawn criticism for adding too much to the federal budget deficit and too heavily favoring the rich and big business.

However, the corporate tax part, experts said, included some ambitious proposals worthy of further discussion. They said the 20 percent excise tax is one such proposal targeting the abuses of so-called transfer-pricing where multinationals themselves set prices of goods, services and intellectual property rights that constantly move between their national business units. Under global standards, those prices should resemble those available on the open market. However, if a foreign parent charges US affiliates inflated price, it can reduce its US tax bill and effectively shift profits to a low-

er-tax country, reducing the entire corporation's overall tax costs. "Clearly there's a transfer-pricing issue and something should be done," said Steven Rosenthal, senior fellow at the Tax Policy Center, a nonpartisan Washington think tank. "I would view this 20-percent excise tax as a blunt instrument to address the problem. And the problem with blunt instruments is sometimes they hit what you want to hit, and sometimes they hit what you don't want to hit," said Rosenthal, former legislation counsel at Congress's Joint Tax Committee.

Under the proposal, US business units that import products, pay royalties or other tax-deductible, non-interest fees to foreign parents or affiliates in the course of doing business would either pay a 20-percent tax on these or agree to treat the amounts as income connected to their US business and subject to US taxes. As proposed, the new tax rule would apply only to businesses with payments from US units to foreign affiliates exceeding \$100 million. The rule would not take effect until after 2018.

European companies that sell foreign-made products into the US market through local distribution units could be among those most affected, said Michael Mundaca, co-director of the national tax department at the accounting firm Ernst & Young. Such companies could end up paying tax on the transfers twice - first if they paid the excise tax in the United States and then at home where they are taxed now and where the new US tax would not be

accounted for without changes to bilateral tax treaties. "That would be a structure that would at least initially be hit by the full force" of the excise tax, said Mundaca, a former US Treasury Department assistant secretary for tax policy.

He said European officials would be registering concern. "I am sure they are making calls right now to their counterparts in the US Treasury looking for some explanation ... and making the point that this might be contrary to treaty obligations."



## As tax debate heats up, MNCs likely to lobby hard against it

Gavin Ekins, an economist at the Tax Foundation, a conservative think tank, predicted that most multinationals would opt to avoid the excise tax by electing to pay US corporate tax on all the profits related to products sold in the United States. Those include profits on activities conducted overseas, like manufacturing or research, which are also subject to foreign income taxes.

The US corporate tax rate on those prof-

its would drop to 20 percent from 35 percent if the House bill becomes law. The promise of additional revenue and hopes that the new tax may entice multinationals to locate more production and jobs in the United States, may well outweigh international concerns. The entire Republican tax package is projected to add \$1.5 trillion over 10 years to the \$20 trillion federal debt and the planned excise tax is among sources of new revenue needed to avoid an even bigger shortfall. It is expected to bring about \$155 billion over 10 years, according to a summary of the Republican proposal distributed last week.

Still, as the tax debate heats up, foreign multinationals are likely to lobby hard against it, with domestic corporations linked to foreign affiliates possibly concerned as well. There is also uncertainty how the new rules would work in practice. It was unclear, for example, from the bill's language how companies should calculate income "effectively connected" to their

US business, Tax Foundation's Ekins said. "You don't know what profit is included when you choose 'effectively connected income' and don't know the formula," he said. "Is it just for that product line? All the income that comes in from every other company or from every other source?" The House tax committee was scheduled to begin considering amendments to the Republican tax bill yesterday. — Reuters



AMRITSAR: Indian customers buy jaggery at a road side food cart in Amritsar yesterday. — AFP

## India cracks open Iran sea route to Afghanistan, bypassing rival

**NEW DELHI:** India is in talks with Iran to begin interim operations at a port in southeast Iran, officials say, proceeding cautiously on developing the facility at a time when the Trump administration has laid an aggressive new approach toward Tehran. India has committed \$500 million to the Chabahar port that it is building as a way to bypass rival Pakistan and crack open a trade and transport route to landlocked Afghanistan, as well as the resource-rich countries of central Asia.

New Delhi plans to send seven shipments of wheat to Afghanistan through Chabahar by the end of January. A first shipment arrived last week from India's western Kandla port, after years of political wrangling with Pakistan, government officials in New Delhi and Kabul said. The wheat will be trucked from Chabahar to western Afghanistan.

India is expanding its economic diplomacy in Afghanistan, seeing itself as a regional power. But Pakistan says India is trying to use Afghanistan as a base to destabilize Pakistan, and has long blocked India from conducting bilateral trade with Afghanistan using its territory as transit. The shipments are meant to demonstrate the route's viability, officials said, and the plan is to broaden the cargo flow before the port

is fully operational by the end of next year. "Things are moving quite well and as planned," Saurabh Kumar, Indian ambassador to Iran, said in an email. So far, the United States, keen for India to do more to help stabilise Afghanistan through economic and security assistance, has held off public criticism of renewed Indian efforts to develop the Iranian corridor.

India's ties with Iran came up during US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's talks in New Delhi last month, and the top US diplomat said America would not stand in the way of projects that help the Iranian people. But he warned that the administration would crack down on financial benefits accruing to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, the country's most powerful security entity, blamed for fuelling regional proxy wars.

### Gateway

India has framed its involvement in Chabahar's development as primarily about establishing a gateway to Afghanistan, more than Iran itself, Indian officials and a Western diplomatic source said. Washington has not intervened directly in the port's development, but, previously, India drastically cut back its oil imports from Iran, one of its main suppliers, in the face of international sanctions on Tehran for its suspected nuclear programme.

"In general, I get the impression that conservative analysts in (Washington) DC have accepted the fact that India will maintain some form of relationship with Iran," said Jeff Smith, a south Asia expert at The Heritage Foundation in Washington. "They recognize that for India, Iran is more about a transport corridor to Afghanistan; that it has no interest in advancing Iran's agenda in the Middle East; and that whatever space India evacuates there will be filled by China." An Indian government source said India Global Ports Ltd (IGPL), a company set up by the government to lead the Chabahar project, had held talks with Iranian authorities to begin interim operations. — Reuters

## Need help to buy a ship or jet? Credit Suisse lures superrich

**LONDON/ZURICH:** The leap in assets at Credit Suisse's private bank to a record high this year has been aided by a key plank of the bank's new strategy: lending money to the world's ultra-wealthy. Switzerland's second-biggest bank is trying to lure more rich customers by helping them fund their businesses and lifestyles, with shipping, aviation and real estate loans a central focus. The company has moved lending in those areas from its corporate bank to its wealth management unit, or private bank, over the past two years: the switch is one way in which Chief Executive Tidjane Thiam aims to deliver on his overarching strategy of driving group growth by expanding wealth management.

It is also one reason why Credit Suisse's private bank is growing faster than that of its Swiss rival UBS, the world's largest wealth manager, in terms of revenue and attracting new money. Moving the financing from its corporate to private bank means that, in those sectors, Credit Suisse will now be primarily lending to affluent individuals - clients whose personal wealth it helps manage. But there are risks with such exposure. Shipping finance in particular can be a perilous proposition due to doubts over the current profitability of many companies in the industry and whether lenders

can make sufficient returns on investments.

Credit Suisse - bucking a trend of banks retreating from shipping - believes it can reduce its vulnerability by lending to the high-net worth individuals who control firms, often millionaire or billionaire tycoons, according to finance experts. The tactic nevertheless represents a calculated gamble, they said, because these people's personal wealth are often linked to the fortunes of the industry. "From the bank's point of view, the deposits and private wealth product is the juice; the value to the bank has to be strong enough in order to consider making risky loans," said Basil Karatzas of New York based shipping finance advisory firm Karatzas Marine Advisors & Co.

Credit Suisse declined to give details about its loan exposure in shipping, aviation and property, but finance sources estimated Credit Suisse's exposure in shipping alone was at least \$12 billion. Credit Suisse's total net private banking loans totalled about 110 billion Swiss francs (\$110 billion) at the end of the third quarter. The bank declined to comment on the shipping loans figure. Asked about the financing switch to the private bank and the associated risks, a Credit Suisse spokeswoman said such lending was part of its overall wealth platform and that the bank considers "fran-

chise value when engaging holistically with wealth management clients".

A source familiar with the matter said Credit Suisse had not seen any significant losses on shipping loans and that such lending gave it a foot in the door to bank for wealthy families, which run major shipping companies.

### Shipping magnates

Many banks, facing capital pressure from regulators, are retreating from shipping because of the risks associated with a sector that has struggled with a near decade-long slump caused by too many vessels ordered and weaker demand. Lloyds became one of the first lenders to pull out of shipping finance, while fellow British bank Royal Bank of Scotland is in the process of exiting. Others such as Germany's Commerzbank and Bank of Ireland are winding down their remaining exposures. Finance sources estimate the sector has a capital shortfall of \$30 billion this year.

Finance experts say Credit Suisse's new tack of lending via its private bank has helped it make significant in-roads with Greek shipping magnates - among the richest in the industry - in the past year, capitalising on RBS's exit from Greece. Leading Greek shipping tycoon John Angelicoussis is among those that Credit Suisse has helped finance. Thomson Reuters LPC data shows. "Presently, Credit Suisse seems to be shedding off part of the smaller (ship) owner portfolio and those who are not top tier names with top tier deposits," said Karatzas. "There is a focus away from the transactional aspect of business towards the relationship-driven business that lowers costs and risks but also builds up on the bank's traditional core strengths." — Reuters

## Malabar Gold & Diamonds raffle draw



KUWAIT: The raffle draw winner of 'Win up to 100 kilos of Gold' campaign, Merin Abraham receiving the prize of 1/4 kg of gold from Afsal Khan, Zonal Head, Malabar Gold and Diamonds, in the presence of officials from Malabar Gold and Diamonds.



KUWAIT: The raffle draw winner of 'Win up to 100 kilos of Gold' campaign, Manoj Kumar V receiving the prize 1/4 KG gold from Afsal Khan, Zonal Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, in the presence of officials from Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Business

European equities sag in slow start to week

LONDON: Europe's major equity markets dipped yesterday with sentiment subdued, as investors took stock after the recent fast-paced news flow.

The update came after the Federal Reserve delivered a punchy assessment of "strong" US economic growth while keeping its key policy interest rate unchanged.

Joshua Mahony agreed that markets were pausing from a "busy" round of central bank and company announcements.

Trump lashes out

Asian stocks were largely flat yesterday, as Trump lashed out at "unfair" trade practices and China's central bank chief condemned excessive debt.

shrugged off rebounding commodity prices and another record-breaking Wall Street session Friday on strong Apple earnings.

All three US indices ended at record highs, with the Nasdaq gaining the most and the Dow notching its 56th record high of 2017 as third-quarter earnings season entered the home stretch.

In particular, Trump's criticism of a "massive trade deficit" that "has to come down" prompted concern among Asian exporters.

further missile and nuclear tests—from North Korea during the US president's Asian tour.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was nearly unchanged at 28,596.80, while the Shanghai Composite Index added 0.5 percent to 3,388.17.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Monday 06 November 2017. Includes sections for Global Stock Exchange Report, Trades, and various market indices like Dow Jones, NASDAQ, and MENA Stock Indices.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. At 02:00 PM Previous Day. Includes sections for Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, Global Bond Yields, and Commodities.

Business

# NBK Tap & Pay service available to all other bank customers now

## Khazal: NBK has largest POS network in Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait endeavors through its many services, products and programs to promote the growth of the local Kuwaiti economy. This is why NBK will make its new secure and easy Tap & Pay networks available to other banks customers of Kuwait to ensure that everyone can benefit from this service.

With more than 11,000 POS terminals of which 4,000 are Tap & Pay-enabled terminals, NBK has the largest POS network in the country accepting contactless payments in collaboration with KNET. NBK has now opened the service for all local and international cardholders so that even non-NBK customers may benefit from NBK's extensive network.

Tap & Pay is a cutting edge payment technology, accepted locally and internationally, that allows users to tap their cards, be it credit, debit or pre-paid cards, at any NBK Tap & Pay terminals. Users can safely and easily pay for purchases of up to KD 10 without the need to enter a PIN. The service is also available for the Tap & Pay wearables - wristbands and stickers - with customers able to 'Tap & Pay' using the same POS terminals with card, wristband or sticker, easily and securely.

Whether you are out running errands, or going for a walk along the Corniche and stopping for a hot mocha at Starbucks, you won't need to lug a big wallet around with you. You can strap on a Tap & Pay wristband or slide a sticker onto your phone case. The innovative Tap & Pay technology saves time for both customers and merchants and delivers a seamless and best-in-class payment option.

"NBK are deeply committed to supporting a prosperous Kuwait now and for future generations," said Hanadi Khazal, Assistant General Manager- Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait. "By opening the largest Tap & Pay network in Kuwait to all local and international cardholders, we introduce a streamlined, safe and secure payment service for

the entire community, thereby building a path toward a future of innovation and efficiency that promotes the country's long-term economic development.

NBK's Business Banking and Corporate Banking clients can also benefit from the Tap & Pay service, which allows their customers to pay more easily for small amount transactions. The payment service also gives businesses an



Hanadi Khazal



advantage over competitors, making payments seamless and secure to ensure higher customer satisfaction and repeat business.

NBK is the only bank in Kuwait which offers the Tap & Pay service on stickers and wristbands which simplify and ease payments while taking contactless payments even further. These stickers and wristbands are available exclusively from NBK's branch in the Avenues or by contacting its call center to have it delivered to your doorstep, free of charge. For extra security, and when paying for any transactions up

to KD 10, cardholders simply tap their card, sticker or wristband on the POS machine. Any transaction above KD 10 will require a PIN to be entered on the POS terminal.

The innovative service highlights NBK's drive to introduce best-in-class banking products and services and cutting-edge technology to provide the ultimate banking experience without compromising on security. NBK's Tap & Pay service adheres to the highest international security standards, further supporting NBK's position as one of the 50 safest banks in the world.



**NBK only bank in Kuwait offering Tap & Pay service**



## GAC Motor praises Mutawa Alkazi for being best aftersales service agent' in ME

**KUWAIT:** With respect to the significant role played by Mutawa Alkazi, GAC MOTOR, the fastest-growing company in the modern automotive industry, praised Mutawa Alkazi for being the best aftersales service agent in the Middle East. In reference to the quality of the aftersales services provided to customers, maintenance and repair operations performed by the highly skilled team, giving the customer confidence and safety on the road.

Yu, the Technical Director of the parent company, GAC Group and Mr. Daniel, the Service Engineer, attended the appraisal. Omar Sulaiman Alkazi, CEO of Mutawa Alkazi Group and Subsidiaries accepted the award and praised the distinct performance of the Mutawa Alkazi team. Furthermore, Alkazi extended gratitude and appreciation to the GAC Company for such trust and praised such an initiative, as being a sign of interest in following up with agents and ensuring a bridge of cooperation between the parties. Such a cooperation is affirmed by the reputation established by GAC vehicles of various models and the high quality and credibility witnessed by all. Moreover, the

sales turnover hit a record in a short period, due to the distinct features and cooperation with automotive industry pioneers from Europe, Japan, Korea and the United States of America.

Alkazi expressed the importance of Mutawa Alkazi's Group in always providing the best, as witnessed by distinct customers since its establishment over fifty years ago. The customers think highly of the company, thanks to the care they receive from the company staff in all areas starting from sales to aftersales.

The company's objective in delivering vehicles to their owners after ensuring performance of all required services and installation of original parts is primary. In addition to familiarizing them with the status of their vehicle and parts to be replaced.

Rather than profit, the company's most prioritized goal is customer service. Mutawa Alkazi manages to offer car rental services at low prices to car owners during service and repair, should the car should be kept for a while at the workshop. This ensures the customer that they can continue their obligations without any delay while their car is in service. This initiative is positively praised by all customers who experience distinction of quality, care, and services provided to them. GAC MOTOR customers always deserve the best. Trust in the company's services and products will remain deeply rooted among customers, as Mutawa Alkazi always offers the best to its customers.

Furthermore, Alkazi invited those seeking modern and distinct cars, regarding quality and price, to visit any of the company branches to view the latest models and offers at Mutawa Alkazi Company. Whether they are seeking competitive prices, maintenance offers, insurance offers, or prizes offered to worthy customers, he promised to consistently provide the best.



## Kaico launches Japanese festival

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Automotive Imports Co (KAICO), the leading automotive and auto products distributor in Kuwait, offers exclusive promotions to customers in collaboration with Mazda in Hiroshima Japan. As part of its continuous efforts to provide more advantages to customers and ensure that a high level customer service is performed.

Upon purchase of a 2017 model of the Mazda CX-9, Mazda6, Mazda MX-5 or Mazda CX-5, customers will get cash gift, up to KD 2000 from Mazda Japan.

Commenting on this special offer, Nader Khalid Salmeh, Sr. Divisional manager -vehicles @ kaico commented, "It is with great pleasure that we launch this exciting special offer

and we aspire to continue to develop new offers that provide customer satisfaction to thank them for their continuous loyalty as they are our main motivation."

### Mazda CX-9

The powerful engine of the elegant new 2017 Mazda CX-9 is the best feature of this luxury SUV. It is real fun driving this fashionable vehicle that combines a sports car aesthetics and SUV versatility. One of the most important features demanded by drivers in Kuwait is a powerful and strong air conditioning system.

The beautiful and eye-catching Mazda CX-9 definitely

provides a very cool atmosphere inside the vehicle no matter of the heat outside. The athletic proportions of the Mazda CX-9 are highlighted by the sleek cabin, strong and stable lower body featuring large 20-inch wheels, and a confident, well-planted stance. The interior has a range of superior, genuine materials such as aluminum comes together to create an atmosphere of style that satisfies all senses.

### Mazda6

Mazda6 features a 2.5-liter four-cylinder that delivers 184 horses and 185 lb. ft. of torque. This engine mates to a fine shifting Sport mode six-speed automatic geared for both acceleration and performance. However, the six-speed transmission performed very efficiently, changing gears at a very low rpm when in normal mode, with the primary aim to preserve fuel.

Every aspect of the vehicle is engineered to maximize driving dynamics and efficiency: from body construction and engine technology, to the chassis and transmission. Skyactiv technology is just one of the ways Mazda makes driving better. In summary, 2017 Mazda6 is athletic, looks great and delivers good economy. The 2017 Mazda6 is a frontrunner in the mid-size division.

### Mazda CX-5

The Mazda CX-5 engineered with SKYACTIV TECHNOLOGY, is unique among crossovers for its impressive efficiency, responsive handling and bold style. And that's just the beginning. The elegant new shape of Mazda CX-5 is captured perfectly by Mazda distinct design philosophy, KODO - Soul of Motion. The exterior conveys an appearance of both speed and grace.

## KFH offers 'online finance request' service

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the launch of a new service that allows customers to submit finance request online through KFH application KfHonline. This service affirms the bank's interest in customers while reflecting its strategy of adopting the latest technology for the best interest of customers.

Group Chief Retail and Private Banking Officer at KFH, Waleed Mandani said that the new service aims at providing the opportunity to customers to submit finance request online in an attempt to save their time and efforts. Customers should follow certain steps in line with the bank's rules and regulations, then they receive a message stating the completion of the steps, where a specialized team of "KFH" will deal with the request, and communicate with the customer via text messages stating the status of the transaction.

He added that now customers can request a financing transaction online from their offices, homes or anywhere else. The approval of the finance will be granted in accordance with KFH credit policy. This initiative is considered an important technical development in the method of service delivery and the policy of remote selling.

Mandani said that the new service is a qualitative leap and a paradigm shift in the bank's methodology of improving its eservices to meet customers' aspirations.



Waleed Mandani



## Technology

# SoftBank raising stake in Sprint, reports profit fall

## Altice launches US mobile deal with Sprint

**TOKYO:** Japanese internet and solar company SoftBank Group Corp is raising its stake in Sprint Corp after merger talks with T-Mobile collapsed, signaling its commitment to a turnaround at the US wireless carrier.

Tokyo-based SoftBank reported yesterday that July-September net profit tumbled to 113 billion yen (\$991 million) from 528 billion yen a year ago.

Quarterly sales rose nearly 4 percent to 2.23 trillion yen (\$19.5 billion) on improved results at Sprint, as well as revenue from Arm, a British chips company SoftBank acquired last year. Helping bring profit lower was the absence of last year's foreign-exchange gains, as well as derivative losses that came from its sale of part of its stake in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba.

T-Mobile and Sprint are the third- and fourth-largest wireless carriers, respectively, in the US, but they are significantly smaller than AT&T and Verizon, which effectively have a duopoly over the US wireless service. Wireless carriers Sprint and T-Mobile called off a potential merger Saturday, saying the companies couldn't come to an agreement that would benefit customers and shareholders.

The two companies have been dancing around a possible merger for years, and were again in the news in recent weeks with talks of them coming together after all. But in a joint statement Saturday, Sprint and T-Mobile said the negotiations were off for the foreseeable future.

Sprint has debt and has been losing money, but its results had been improving gradually, partly because of additional investments from SoftBank, which also sells the Pepper humanoid.

But both analysts and SoftBank had said they believed Sprint needs a deal, rather than trying to compete on its own. But Washington regulators have frowned on a possible merger. D.C. spiked AT&T's offer to buy T-Mobile in

2011, and signaled in 2014 they would have been against Sprint doing the same thing. But with the new Trump administration, it was thought regulators might be more relaxed about a merger.

SoftBank Chief Executive Masayoshi Son told reporters that the talks fell apart because T-Mobile did not want to be equal partners in management. But he insisted Sprint will prove a gold mine because of the move to IoT, where SoftBank's investment in Arm will pay off, especially in the US.

"We are entering an era where billions of new connected devices and sensors will come online throughout the United States," he said. "Sprint is a critical part of our plan to ensure that we can deliver our vision to American consumers and we are very confident in its future."

Son said he felt "absolutely great" after the merger talks ended because worries over indecisiveness were gone. "It was an important decision," he said. "But the day will come when having Sprint will pay off." Although Arm's sales

grew from the previous year, its losses grew as well because of costs for hiring engineers. Son, credited as a visionary and seen in the company of high-profile people like Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates and President Donald Trump, has been aggressive in investing in artificial intelligence, the internet of things and renewable energy.

Son has set up a \$100 billion SoftBank Vision Fund specially for the technology sector with money from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and other investors.

SoftBank's Japanese mobile business continued to do well in the last quarter, increasing smartphone subscribers, according to the company. SoftBank was the first carrier in Japan to offer Apple's iPhone. It also owns the SoftBank Hawks baseball club, which recently won



### Turnaround at American wireless carrier



**TOKYO:** In this July 20, 2017 file photo, SoftBank Group Corp Chief Executive Officer Masayoshi Son (left) speaks during a SoftBank World presentation at a hotel in Tokyo. —AP

the Japan Series, this nation's equivalent of the World Series. Meanwhile, French media and telecom group Altice is launching a new mobile venture in the United States in a deal signed with American operator Sprint, the groups announced Sunday. Through the agreement, the French group's American affiliate Altice USA "will utilize Sprint's network to provide mobile voice and data services to its customers throughout the nation," a joint statement read.

Sprint, an affiliate of Japan's SoftBank, "will leverage the Altice USA broadband platform to accelerate the densifi-

cation of its network," it added, without providing a time-frame or financial details of the deal. The announcement came just a day after Sprint and T-Mobile — a US affiliate of Deutsche Telekom — called off merger talks.

"As content and connectivity continue to converge, we believe this approach will be a model for future strategic arrangements across multiple industries including cable, tech and others," said Sprint president and CEO Marcelo Claure. Altice has more than 26 million mobile customers in a string of countries, including France, Portugal, Israel and the Dominican Republic, according to the company. —Agencies

## Russian election meddling: Should tech giants have known?

**NEW YORK:** There were signs, some say telltale signs, of Russians using social media to meddle in last year's US elections long before tech companies wised up to it. Red flags included payments in rubles for ads on hot-button, divisive issues targeted at Americans.

It wasn't until late September, nearly a year after the elections, that Facebook disclosed that it found Russia-linked ads on its service. Twitter and Google followed.

Could Facebook and other tech giants have caught the abuse earlier? Here's the case for and against:

### It took too long

These companies have very smart people working for them, all tasked not just with building new features but ensuring that existing ones work. Could Facebook, Google and Twitter really not foresee — and when it was actually happening, simply see — that Russian government-sponsored agents were posting from fake accounts and buying political ads using little-known payments providers?

Could they have asked themselves why a legitimate advertiser from Russia would feel the need to target Americans on issues such as gun control and race? Or promote pro- and anti-Trump protests in American cities?

Facebook has said that it focused on more traditional threats, such as hacking, early on. Then, its attention turned to fake news and propaganda, but not before CEO Mark Zuckerberg dismissed as "pretty crazy" the idea that false news on the company's service influenced the outcome of the elections. He later apologized, but the now-memorable quip shows the kind of self-assured attitude that often gets the company in trouble.

This spring, Facebook disclosed that foreign nation-states and non-state actors were using its service for malicious activity related to the elections. It did not directly name Russia at the time, already five months since the elections.

In a memorable, mostly one-sided exchange with top lawyers from the companies, Democratic Sen. Al Franken of Minnesota offered this exasperated point: "People are buying ads on your platform with rubles. They are political ads. You put billions of data points together all the time, that's what I hear that these platforms do. They are the most sophisticated things invented by man, ever. Google has all knowledge that man has ever developed. You can't put together rubles with a political ad and go like, 'Hmmm, those data points spell out something pretty bad.'"

Jonathan Albright, director of research at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University, said tech companies like Facebook "didn't act proactively." The company's business model is giving companies access to "real people. Albright added that Russians exploited the same "custom audiences" targeting tools that Facebook markets for political campaigns. Combine that with the yet-unregulated online political ads space, it's no wonder Russia sought to exploit it.

### Hindsight is 20/20

Asked in a hearing this week whether they have found all evidence of Russian meddling, top lawyers for Facebook, Google and Twitter said investigations were ongoing. So, as a matter of speaking, that's "no."

Facebook also wouldn't say with certainty that no other country had also misused its platforms. After all, with 5 million advertisers each month, and billions of pieces of non-paid content, how could Facebook comb through everything — especially when advertisers could mask their real identity?

Facebook's general counsel, Colin Stretch, acknowledged that in hindsight the company should have had a "broader lens" about these issues. —AP

## Workers at iPhone supplier in China protest unpaid bonuses

**SHANGHAI:** Hundreds of workers streamed through dark streets, blocking an entrance to an Apple iPhone supplier's factory in eastern China to protest unpaid bonuses and factory reassignments, two witnesses and a US nonprofit group said.

Jabil Inc., which runs the Green Point factory in Wuxi city, maintains that only 20 to 40 employees were actually protesting and the rest were night-shift workers trying to enter the factory, but vowed to take corrective action over the wage dispute.

"As long as they can present evidence of promises by brokers we will help them to get paid," said a spokeswoman for US-based Jabil, Lydia Huang.

Jabil, in a statement, said it was "committed to ensuring every employee is paid fairly and on time." Apple told the New York-based China Labor Watch that it was investigating and pledged to ensure that workers got fair compensation. "We are requiring Jabil to send a comprehensive employee survey to ascertain where gaps exist in payment and they must create an action plan that ensures all employees are paid for the promised bonus immediately," Apple said in the email to the nonprofit.

The protest highlights the complexity of overseeing global supply chains that can involve hundreds of manufacturers and subcontractors, as well as third-party labor brokers — and their subcontractors — that are tasked with recruiting workers for those factories. Companies differ in the amount of responsibility they are willing to take on. Apple stepped up oversight and disclosure following a spate of negative reports about worker suicides and injuries at suppliers.

After Tim Cook took over as chief executive, in 2011, Apple began publicly identifying top suppliers. It also publishes annual audits detailing labor and human rights performance throughout its global web of suppliers. Apple

## Broadcom offers to buy Qualcomm for \$103 billion

**NEW YORK:** Communications chipmaker Broadcom Ltd yesterday said it offered to buy smartphone chip supplier Qualcomm Inc for \$70 per share or \$103 billion in cash and stock, in what would be the biggest technology acquisition ever. A tie-up would combine two of the largest makers of wireless communications chips for mobile phones and raise the stakes for Intel Corp, which has been diversifying into smartphone technology from its stronghold in computers.

Broadcom's offer is at a premium of 27.6 percent to Qualcomm's closing price of \$54.84 on Thursday, a day before media reports of a potential deal pushed up the company's shares.

Qualcomm shareholders would get \$60 in cash and \$10 per share in Broadcom shares. Including debt, Broadcom's bid values the transaction at \$130 billion.

"In our view, \$70 per share wouldn't be sufficient," Nomura Instinet analyst Romit Shah wrote in a client note. Qualcomm is trying to



**BEIJING:** In this file photo, visitors look at a display booth for Qualcomm at the Global Mobile Internet Conference (GMIC) in Beijing. —AP

close its \$38-billion acquisition of NXP Semiconductors NV, one of the largest makers of chips for vehicles and expanding into self-driving technology.

Broadcom said its proposal stands irrespective of Qualcomm's acquisition of NXP goes through or not.

Shah believes Broadcom would encourage Qualcomm to complete its NXP acquisition as it has extensive distribution channels, scale and exposure to the fastest growing

segments in automotive, where Broadcom is underpenetrated.

Broadcom said BofA Merrill Lynch, Citi, Deutsche Bank, JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley have advised that they are highly confident that they will be able to arrange the necessary debt financing for the proposed transaction. Qualcomm shares, which traded over \$70 as recent as December 2016, closed at \$61.81 on Friday. —AP



**BEIJING:** Youths use their mobile phones near an advertisement for iPhone X in Beijing yesterday. —AP

said it did comprehensive audits of 705 sites last year and documented significant improvements in compliance with its supplier code of conduct.

"About 600 workers went protesting for failing to get their bonus," a worker who asked that only his family name, Zhang, be published for fear of retribution, said Thursday. He said that like many of his colleagues, he was promised a bonus of up to 7,000 yuan (\$1,056) if he stayed for 45 days when he signed up for the job through a labor broker. "It has already been over three months but I still haven't got the money," he said.

Tu Changli, a security guard at Jabil's Green Point factory, said a labor broker promised him 2,000 yuan (\$302) if he stayed for two months. "I didn't get it at all," he said. He also said he saw hundreds of workers protesting. The company he said he works for, Wu Tai Security Co., declined comment. Tensions had been running high at Jabil's Green

Point factory. Tu, the security guard, said he saw a worker talked down from the edge of a rooftop in late September. And Zhang said that on Sept. 30, he saw a security guard hit a worker with a wooden stick so hard the stick broke.

Apple in its email to China Labor Watch said both incidents had to do with disputes with security guards, not underpayment, and added that it was working with Jabil "to make sure their security guards are properly trained to avoid and de-escalate situations."

The current iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 plus had a 2 percent share of the iOS device market nearly a month after their launch, significantly lagging the 5 percent share grabbed by the iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 plus at a similar point last year, according to Localytics, a mobile engagement platform that analyzes iPhone adoption rates. Analysts attribute iPhone 8 sluggishness to the pending release of the iPhone X. —AP

## China adds 2 satellites to navigation system

**BEIJING:** China has added two satellites to its home-grown global navigation and positioning network that seeks to reduce reliance on the US-based Global Positioning System, state media reported yesterday.

The pair of Beidou-3 satellites were launched aboard a single Long March-3B rocket from the Xichang launch center in the southwestern province of Sichuan on Sunday night, broadcaster CCTV and the Xinhua News Agency reported. China plans to complete a network linking more than 30 satellites providing real-time geospatial information worldwide by 2020.

The system started operating in mainland China in 2000 and then expanded to cover the Asia-Pacific region in 2012. The Beidou-3 satellites represent an upgrade with greater accuracy and an enhanced ability to communicate with other satellite navigation systems.

The network would eventually provide monitoring and safety information along the nation's multinational infrastructure megaproject, the Belt and Road Initiative, designed to link China with Central Asia, Europe, Africa and beyond.

On completion, Beidou, which means Big Dipper in Chinese, will join GPS, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo as satellite navigation systems with global coverage. India, France and Japan are also developing regional systems. —AP

Health

# From better bulbs to trees, Italy town takes on climate change

## Assisi embarks on a quiet revolution

**ASSISI:** The small medieval Italian pilgrimage town of Assisi, birthplace of Francis, Catholic patron saint of ecologists, is embarking on a quiet revolution. Mayor Stefania Proietti, an energy expert, plans to cut carbon emissions 40 percent between now and 2030, and hopes the "city on the hill" will inspire others to change too. Assisi draws about 6 million visitors each year, including Nobel Peace Prize winners, rock stars, Popes and presidents.

Last month the city committed to shun investments in fossil fuels and shift to greener energies, alongside an international coalition of 40 Catholic organizations. "The most important thing is (encouraging) people's belief that adopting a new lifestyle is important. One person's action will not have much impact (on climate change), but 7 billion actions can change the world," Proietti said. Hanging on her office wall is former Pope John Paul II's proclamation making Francis, a 13th century monk, the patron saint of ecologists, and nearby sits a panda statue - a gift from the World Wildlife Fund.

Taking care of nature "is the Assisi responsibility" she said. "If we have a different message, then we are not (being true) to our history." Proietti, who is a professor of energy systems at Rome's Guglielmo Marconi University, said she faces major challenges bringing about change in the city. Its architectural heritage is one: houses cannot put solar panels on their roofs in this UNESCO world heritage site. The biggest challenge, though, is changing people's attitudes, she said.

"Assisi's people and administration never thought about this in the past," said Proietti, who was elected last year. She plans to expand the city's heating grid that runs off a combined natural gas-fed heat and power plant in the valley below. The energy-efficient plant produces

electricity and the resulting heat is piped to people's homes and city buildings. She also plans to plant 1,000 trees around the valley's industrial zone, encourage the town's inhabitants to grow more plants in their homes, and promote the use of electric cars.

"I would like an electric car, but I cannot afford one," said Alice Scaglia, a 50-year-old Assisi artist and mother of three. She has switched to low-energy bulbs, eats locally grown organic food and has cut back on meat. She said she wishes she could do more. "It is a necessary revolution not only in Assisi but in the world," she said. Near the mayor's office, a shop sells T-shirts with handprinted illustrations of Saint Francis' famous canticle describing nature as Brother Sun, Mother Earth, Sister Water, Brother Wind.

The saint's environmental bent inspired the current Pope Francis' choice of a name, and the Pope - who has been outspoken on the need to address climate change - has said he wants to continue Saint Francis' legacy.

"Assisi is a small town that starts to think about these problems," said Adriano Cioci, manager of Assisi's UNESCO office. "But if the large entities in the world - including the United Nations, China, the United States, India - don't enter into this, the work of Assisi and other communes will be in vain," he said.

### Franciscans go low

Saint Francis is buried in the city's basilica, the focus of pilgrims to the city and about 120 million people who join its services via a webcast each year. Its custodians - monks from the Franciscan order - are converting the basilica, the seminary, and their home, to low energy lighting. Its famous frescoes painted by Giotto, and the saint's tomb are now lit with LED lighting. They say



**ELSDORF:** Environmentalist march close to a lignite open pit mine near Elsdorf, western Germany as they protest against fossil-based energies like coal, having negative impact on the climate change. —AFP

their emissions have fallen 75 percent since work began in 2015. "We want the Sacro Convento and the whole complex here to be an example to the city, the country, the world," said Father Enzo Fortunato, head of the Sacro Convento's press office.

They also hope to install solar panels to generate electricity, if they can get approval from the Ministry of Culture. "It's important for us to respect the environment, because ultimately this is to respect man," said Fortunato.

"When you're saving the environment, you're creating an environment for people (to live and work in)," US talk show host Oprah Winfrey, artist Christo

Vladimirov Javacheff, and musicians Sharon Stone, Spandau Ballet, Mika, Patti Smith and Bruce Springsteen have all visited.

"As the saint of ecology and the environment, St Francis transcends all religions," said Enzo. On the main thoroughfare leading from the basilica to the mayor's office is a family restaurant serving local specialties such as risotto with mushrooms and truffles. Cristiana Costantini, a journalist who was born and grew up in Assisi and helps out in the restaurant, says that the city must do its part to curb emissions and the already evident changes in the climate. "The seasons no longer exist," she said. —Reuters



## Mayor plans to cut the carbon emissions 40%

## The first luxury Perigord truffle cultivated in UK

**LONDON:** A black Perigord truffle has been cultivated in Britain for the first time, and the scientists who announced the breakthrough yesterday said climate change could make it a new British crop. The 16-gramme (0.6-ounce) specimen was cultivated in Wales in the roots of a Mediterranean oak tree that had been treated with truffle spores.

Scientists from Cambridge University and Mycorrhizal Systems Ltd (MSL) said they also added lime minerals in the surrounding soil to make it less acidic. A Perigord truffle can be worth as much as £1,700 (\$2,200, 1,900 euros) per kilogram in Britain. It is currently found mainly in France, as well as Italy and Spain. MSL said the truffles' traditional Mediterranean habitat had been affected by drought due to long-term climate change, and yields are falling.

The British cultivation is "the farthest north that the species has ever been found," Cambridge University said. Paul Thomas of MSL said: "This cultivation has shown that the climatic tolerance of truffles is much broader than pre-



**LONDON:** An undated handout photograph shows trained truffle dog 'Bella', who found the black Perigord truffle, at an unconfirmed location. —AFP

viously thought, but it's likely that it's only possible because of climate change." "Some areas of the UK... are now suitable for the cultivation of this species," Thomas said, adding: "The potential for industry is huge." The truffle was recovered in March and found by a specially trained dog called Bella. It will be kept for posterity but the farmer can sell any future specimens to restaurants. The results of the study have been published in the scientific journal *Climate Research*. —AFP

## Focused on ending hunger, Africans neglects obesity

**DAKAR:** Focused for decades on ending hunger, African countries have largely failed to address a rising obesity epidemic that could soon become the greater public health crisis, experts said as new data was released. A quarter of the world's 41 million overweight children under five live in Africa, a figure that has nearly doubled on the continent in the last two decades, according to the Global Nutrition Report published on Saturday.

There are still six times more children on the continent whose growth is stunted from malnutrition, and that number is also increasing, the report said. But non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, most of which are obesity-related, are expected to become the biggest killer in Africa by 2030, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). "Diets are changing, but they are not becoming more nutritious," said Corinna Hawkes, co-chair of the Global Nutrition Report.

"We're worried that because attention hasn't been paid to this issue, obesity has had the space to grow," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. More than 30 percent of adults

in Africa are overweight, according to WHO, with obesity rates nearing 10 percent even in very poor countries such as Sierra Leone and Liberia. In some places people are both overweight and malnourished, experts said. Sometimes a mother is obese but her children are stunted, said Hawkes. Highly processed foods have become increasingly affordable and available worldwide, which is one of the primary drivers, said Bruce Lee, executive director of the Global Obesity Prevention Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Moreover, in Africa people are often unaware that these foods are unhealthy and do not necessarily see being overweight as a problem, he said. "If you have a country where the concern was always not getting enough food, it's going to take a while to shift people's perceptions," Lee told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. West Africa's regional health organization (WAHO) makes no mention of weight gain or obesity in all 60 pages of its 2016-2020 strategic plan, although it notes "alarming" rates of diabetes and growing prevalence of high blood pressure. Aid organizations that address hunger should adapt their existing programs to also prevent obesity, said Hawkes.

School meal programs in West Africa, for example, are usually focused on making sure children get enough food but sometimes have no standards for quality, she said. Obesity-related conditions are usually expensive to treat and will take a heavy toll on developing countries' economies, experts say. "If we invest in nutrition, we'll be helping to achieve other development goals," said Hawkes. "This is not a side issue." — Reuters

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## What's On

# Jumeirah offers hotel guests from Kuwait free passes to Dubai Parks and Resorts

## 'Experience Amazing' at DPR represents exclusive entertainment partnership

Jumeirah Group, the global luxury hotel company operating a world-class portfolio of hotels and resorts, announced an exclusive offer to their guests coming from Kuwait- nationals and residents who stay at Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts in Dubai will receive free passes to the largest integrated theme park destination in the region, Dubai Parks and Resorts (DPR).

As part of the exclusive offer, guests from the Kuwait who book to stay at any of the Jumeirah hotels and resorts from now till December 21<sup>st</sup>, will receive complimentary access to any of DPR's theme parks including: Motiongate Dubai, Bollywood Parks Dubai, Legoland Dubai and Legoland Water Park, as well as other attractions under the umbrella of DXB Entertainments, the owner of Dubai Parks and Resorts including: Mattel Play! Town, Hub Zero, The Green Planet, Splash Pad, Roxy Cinema City Walk and Roxy Cinema, The Beach. In addition, to a 15 percent discount on their stay including daily breakfast.

Commenting on the exclusive offer, Linda Lewis, Vice President



Linda Lewis

Global Sales MEASA and ASPAC for Jumeirah Group, said: "In addition to the amazing experiences we offer in our hotels, our partnership with Dubai Parks and Resorts demonstrates our recognition of the importance of the city's attractions as part of the guest experience. The entertainment opportunities on offer at DPR will appeal to all members of families from Kuwait and add additional value to their stay."

Commenting on the partnership, Ahmad Hussain Bin Essa, General Manager- Theme Parks, DXB Entertainments PJSC, owner of "Dubai Parks and Resorts", added: "We look forward to welcoming Jumeirah's guests from Kuwait. We have created a close-by world-class family entertainment destination that will allow them to add another level of excitement and adventure to their travel itineraries and create unforgettable memories with their loved ones. With 100 rides and attractions, exhilarating roller coasters- including the recently launched Capitol Bullet train ride at the first ever World of The Hunger Games at Motiongate Dubai, a packed winter program of roaming entertainment and live dance performances inspired by Hollywood's and Bollywood blockbuster movies, there is something for everyone to enjoy." Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts manages properties in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, UAE, and Kuwait in the Middle East; Frankfurt, Istanbul, London and Mallorca (Spain) in Europe; the Maldives and Shanghai in Asia.



## Inn and Go Kuwait Plaza Hotel appoints new sales director

Inn and Go Kuwait Plaza Hotel is proud to announce and welcome Ali Berro as new Director of Sales. Berro joined the Hotel Sales Department September of 2017. In his new position, Berro will be responsible for working with a team of professionals by establishing and maintaining effective contacts and partnerships to promote and sell Inn and Go Kuwait Plaza hotel and its restaurant outlets to continue the company's growth and success.

Berro comes with substantial experience in Hotel Management, Operations and Sales and Marketing. Having spent almost 10 years in the industry, Berro's former positions include: Assistant Reservations Manager in charge for Coral Beach Hotel and Resort in Lebanon, Sales Manager for the former Swiss Bel-Hotel Plaza Kuwait, Cluster Sales Manager for Holiday Inn Kuwait Downtown and Senior Sales Manager for Holiday Downtown Kuwait.

Inn and Go Kuwait Plaza Hotel is a contemporary hotel chain catering to individuals in Kuwait and the Middle East. Inn & Go hotel offers quality and hassle-free service that makes you feel that you're never far from home. Conveniently located within Kuwait City's business hub, connected to the Al-Muthanna Shopping mall and nearby famous attractions such as Kuwait Towers, Liberation Towers and The Scientific Museum, Inn and Go Hotel is the perfect destination for everyone and anyone.



Ali Berro

## Dasman students perform as part of 'Kindness Boomerang' program

Dasman Bilingual School (DBS) is proud to be the first partner school for season 1 of Alnowair's 'Kindness Boomerang Program' - the first of its kind anti-bullying school outreach program. On this occasion, Samar Dizmen, DBS Superintendent said, "We are glad to be part of Alnowair anti-bullying school outreach program and proud to be the first school in Kuwait partnering and performing with this successful program."

Dizmen continued, "Bullying has become a major problem facing our society, spread in all sectors especially in schools. We at Dasman Bilingual School have been working on tackling this problem for many years. We have allocated one week in our school calendar under the title "Anti - Bullying Kicks off" and we always come up with new strategies to help students who are victims and bullies. "This year, we had the chance to partner with Alnowair Anti-bullying School Outreach Program. Three of our Middle School students performed with Alnowair team at our School Theatre and it was very effective. The message was delivered positively to our Elementary students who attended the first performance." Dizmen concluded "We are continuing with Alnowair and we will have our second performance soon."

Adel Al-Sane, DBS CEO commented "We met Alnowair team a year ago and since then, we discussed and exchanged many ideas and solutions until we have agreed that we should give "The Bullying problem" more attention and work hand in hand in solving it. Our partnership with Alnowair has given us the opportunity to lead our students to a place where they can open their eyes to new horizons, where they know more, get educated, analyze problems and experience the solution through participating in Alnowair anti-bullying plays." Sane concluded "Dasman Bilingual School



is a top accredited school enriching the lives of its students, their families and the community through its various programs."

Gaya Kruchlik, Head of Alnowair says, "Bullying is prevalent in many schools in Kuwait and when not addressed, can have lasting negative consequences on a student's personality, academic performance, health and social development. Studies have shown that 'kindness' - which builds compassion and togetherness - is an effective way to resolve bullying. At Alnowair, we create positive behavior change through engaging activities that people can experience for themselves to see the difference that a positive outlook makes. Our Kindness Boomerang program gives students an opportunity to practice the boomerang effect of simple acts of kindness - a skill which will help them throughout life. We congratulate the management, staff and students of Dasman Bilingual School for being our first partner school for this unique program." Kruchlik concluded "Established in 2013 as the brainchild of Sheikha Intisar Al-Sabah, Alnowair is a first-of-its-kind initiative driven to spread positive attitude in Kuwait. It is also the first non-profit in the GCC and the Middle East to promote positivity as a way of living that leads to fulfillment and happiness."



## Kuwaiti exchange alumni gather for American football

The US Embassy held a gathering Sunday, October 15, for alumni of the US Department of State's Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program. The event was held on the rooftop of 'Life Center' in Shuwaikh in collaboration with the @NFLKuwait "Kuwait National Football League." The alumni gathered to share their experiences and watch American football on large screen TVs. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Charles Cole gave opening remarks. The YES Program provides scholar-



ships to high school students from countries with significant Muslim populations to spend up to one academic year in the United States. The event was a way

for YES alumni to celebrate the cultural ties between Kuwait and the United States.

the violence that shook the world in September 11, 2001. The founding members of LOYAC recognized that youth can be led towards peace by providing them with opportunities for personal growth, experiencing the joy of service and developing their professional skills through on job training internships that builds self-confidence. "Man comprises four elements: mind, body, soul and sentiments," she noted, explaining that all four elements had to be nurtured through special channels and programs. "Volunteering enriches spirits and sentiments," she underlined, noting that the culture did not exist in the same manner before 2002.

Further, Saqqaf noted that in response to the needs of the youth beyond the boundaries of Kuwait, LOYAC opened its first chapter abroad in Jordan in 2008. This was followed by the creation of additional chapters in Lebanon in 2009, and Yemen in 2015.

Meanwhile, writer Arwa Al-Waqian reviewed her own experience on voluntary work, noting that her first attempts were met with cruelty and rejection by various bodies in Kuwait. "My way was not filled with roses the way it is for newer generations," she underlined, noting that voluntary work used to be so difficult. She added that



she started her voluntary work with an international organization as a journalist writing about her own experiences, and later on providing coverage for Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and other charity activities.

Waqian added that though she did not join any certain organization and had no funding to help her serve more people, she managed to found the 'Insan Voluntary Team' that visits needy families in Kuwait and work on providing their basic needs.

In addition, Waqian reviewed some photos about her trip to visit the Rohingya refugees, noting that they are the most oppressed minority in the world and that she never hesitated when KRCS invited her to join its mission there.

## Vigor presents Bee A Great Leader with Paul Rigby

Knowledge Club's 2017 workshop titled 'Bee A Great Leader' going to be held on the 15th to 16th of November 2017 in Burgan meeting room in Hilton Resort Kuwait. Conducted by renowned Author of 'The Success Formula' and 'The Bee Book' a parable about change, innovation, employee engagement and leadership

Leaders must understand how to support innovation (tomorrow's business) whilst maintaining today's focus. Leaders must understand the implications of change and how to engage their employees to make change stick. Through this two-day workshop about the key attributes to 'being' a great leader, these important skills are brought together, demonstrating their importance to leaders for the benefit of making your organization 'fit for the future.'

Using a story about a hive of bees stuck in a rut in their daily chores with a rigid hierarchical management style, the question we ask - are they capable of changing and adapting to a catastrophic situation? Do they have the leadership skills to pull them through?

The highly engaging workshop culminates with the completion of a summary to capture the learning and actions against all of the elements of the program. Paul Rigby will produce a 'helicopter view' summary that can be expanded and improved upon immediately by attendees after the workshop. A set of actions that can be acted upon now!

Paul Rigby is the leading trainer and certified master consultant of the 'Bee Fit For The Future Workshop,' he consults with business partners and frequently assists them with their change, innovation, leadership and employee engagement efforts.

The Knowledge Club 2017 series is organized by Vigor Events and Co-Organized by ALGAS Events Company. Members of the Knowledge Club this year include Hadi Clinic as Gold Member, Warba Bank and Kout Food Group as Silver Member and media support from the International Advertising Association Kuwait.

## 'Volunteerism in Kuwait' lecture at Contemporary Art Platform

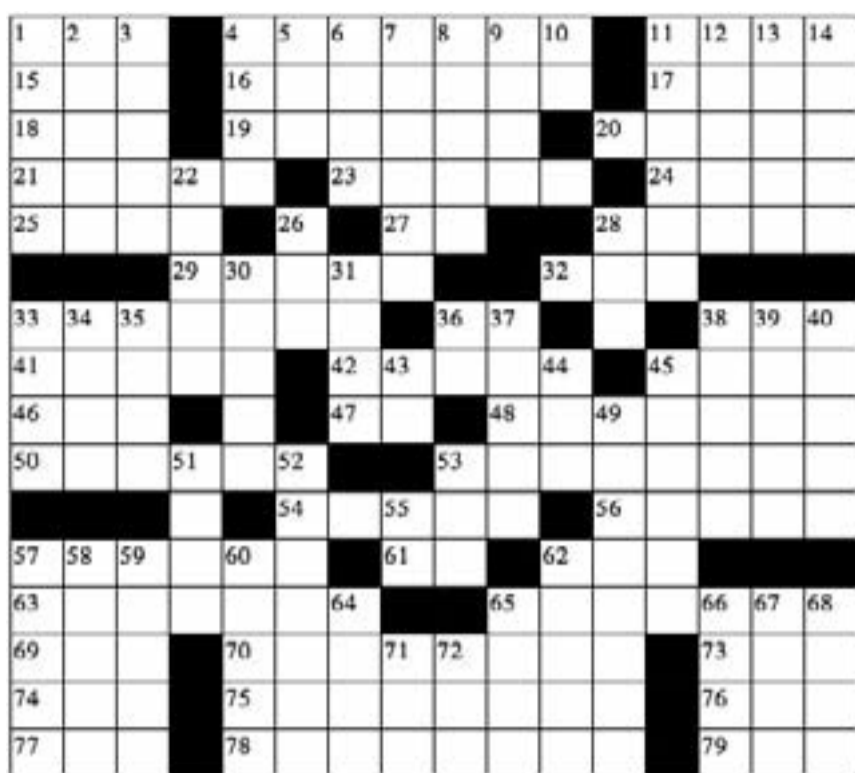
The Contemporary Art Platform (CAP) recently hosted a lecture on 'The Culture of Humanitarian Volunteerism in Kuwait' at its headquarters at Life Center in Shuwaikh. Speakers included LOYAC's chairperson Fareah Al-Saqqaf, writer Arwa Al-Waqian and novelist Ibrahim Farghali.

Speaking about the culture of volunteering for humanitarian purposes in Kuwait, Saqqaf said that LOYAC was established in 2002 by the Women Cultural and Social Society. She added that LOYAC was founded by a group of committed women in Kuwait as a proactive response to





CROSSWORD 1755



ACROSS

- 1. A decree that prohibits something.
4. A Powhatan Indian woman (the daughter of Powhatan) who befriended the English at Jamestown and is said to have saved Captain John Smith's life (1595-1617).
11. German bacteriologist who isolated the anthrax bacillus and the tubercle bacillus and the cholera bacillus (1843-1910).
15. 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
16. Relating to or characteristic of the state or people of Alaska.
17. A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
18. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
19. United States painter noted for brilliant colors and bold brushwork (1859-1935).
20. An Oscan-speaking member of an ancient people of Campania.
21. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
22. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
23. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
24. An outlying farm building for storing grain or animal feed and housing farm animals.
25. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
26. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
27. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
28. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
29. Red pear-shaped tropical fruit with poisonous seeds.
30. United States journalist (born in England in 1908).
31. Suggestive of the supernatural.
32. The syllable naming the sixth (submedian) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
33. The contraction of the chambers of the heart (especially the ventricles) to drive blood into the aorta and pulmonary artery.
34. A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
35. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
36. A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.
37. Large ornamental tropical American tree with bipinnate leaves and globose clusters of flowers with crimson stamens and sweet-pulp seed pods eaten by cattle.
38. Infections of the skin or nails caused by fungi and appearing as itching circular patches.
39. An acute but unspecific feeling of anxiety.
40. A shot in billiards made by hitting the cue ball with the cue held nearly vertically.
41. Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
42. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
43. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
44. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
45. Large Indian antelope.
46. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
47. A soft silver metallic element.
48. An attribute that fits a person for something.
49. A city in western Lithuania on the Baltic Sea.
50. A slab of stone or wood suitable for bearing an inscription.
51. 100 lwei equal 1 kwanza.
52. Only extant member of the order Rhychocephalia of large spiny lizard-like diapsid reptiles of coastal islands off New Zealand.
53. The bill in a restaurant.
54. Cause to lose one's nerve.
55. A unit of information equal to one million (1,048,576) bytes.
56. An impure form of quartz consisting of banded chalcedony.
57. A naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
58. Large northern deer with enormous flattened antlers in the male.
59. A small body that contains the female germ cell of a plant.
60. An early form of modern jazz (originating around 1940).
61. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
62. Spicy fruit of the cubeb vine.
63. The government (political and military) of the Soviet Union.
64. A disorderly outburst or tumult.
65. The basic unit of money in Lesotho.
66. Marked by or showing unaffected simplicity and lack of guile or worldly experience.
67. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
68. Containing or filled with salt.
69. An informal debt instrument.
70. A loose-fitting robe of towelling.
71. Adult female chicken.
72. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.

DOWN

- 1. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
2. A genus of Indridae.
3. A member of a people who have no permanent home but move about according to the seasons.
4. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
5. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
6. Any piece of work that is undertaken or attempted.
7. A northeastern Iranian language spoken in Russia.
8. Jordan's port.
9. God of love and erotic desire.
10. An associate degree in nursing.
11. The quarter of many North African cities in which the citadel is located.
12. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
13. An African river that flows northwest into Lake Chad.
14. A reddish brown dye used especially on hair.
20. An outlying farm building for storing grain or animal feed and housing farm animals.
21. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
22. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
26. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
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Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Discovering what is most important to you is a high personal priority. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the arenas where this takes place. This is a time of testing your limits to see how far you can go.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This may be a demanding day today, whether you work on a project or search for the meaning of a word. Your time will culminate in research as well as a little competition between co-workers or just with yourself.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your need to be respected may become an emotionally charged issue at this time. You develop a knack for organizing things and people, as a sense of ambition and practicality takes hold.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may have some ideas about ways in which to organize a particular project today. There is an opportunity to get some insight into some of your problems and responsibilities that may prove of great value in years to come.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

A move may be in order—an upgrade from where you are now—personal or professional. The great wheel of change may appear to have been moving at a snail's pace, but now it is time for change.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your career may be at a rather delicate point today. This may mean a time element is in effect; however, you are able to achieve a positive outcome.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Finally, you seem to be able to enjoy a respite from problems and life is easier once again. Although you know change is important, you may be thinking how nice it would be if all could remain the same, for a while.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You want to make a positive difference in the lives around you, whether it is around the workplace or at home. You look for many different ways to do just that...



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This is a good time to organize and discipline your mind and methods of communication. Perhaps this is also a time for serious thinking.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

An important relationship, perhaps with an older person or someone in authority, may come into focus today. There could be some tension or sense of opposition requiring compromise or negotiation on your part.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You will feel more and more confident these days. Things that may have been in suspended animation will now take precedence and take on structure and shape.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You have a strong need for communication of all kinds and may have too many extracurricular activities going on just now. You can be all over the place, always trying to make one more connection.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Animals 3

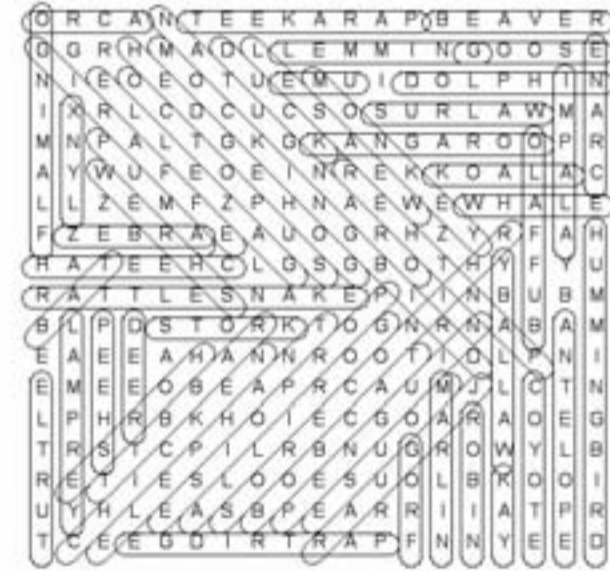
Find and circle all of the animals that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional animal.



- ALBATROSS, ANACA, ANACONDA, ARMADILLO, ASP, BADGER, CARIBOU, CHAMELEON, CONDOR, COUGAR, COW, CROCODILE, DINGO, EGRET, ERMINE, FALCON, FERRET, FINCH, GIBSON, GORILLA, GRAY, GULL, HARE, HYENA, IGUANA, LEMUR, LIZARD, LOON, MARMOSET, MARTEN, MOLE, MONGOOSE, MULE, MUSKOK, MUSK, OCELOT, OSTRICH, PANDA, PHEASANT, POSSUM, PUFFIN, PYTHON, SHARK, SKUNK, SNAKE, SQUIRREL, SWALLOW, VULTURE, WARTHOG, WILDBEEST, WOLF.

Yesterday's Solution

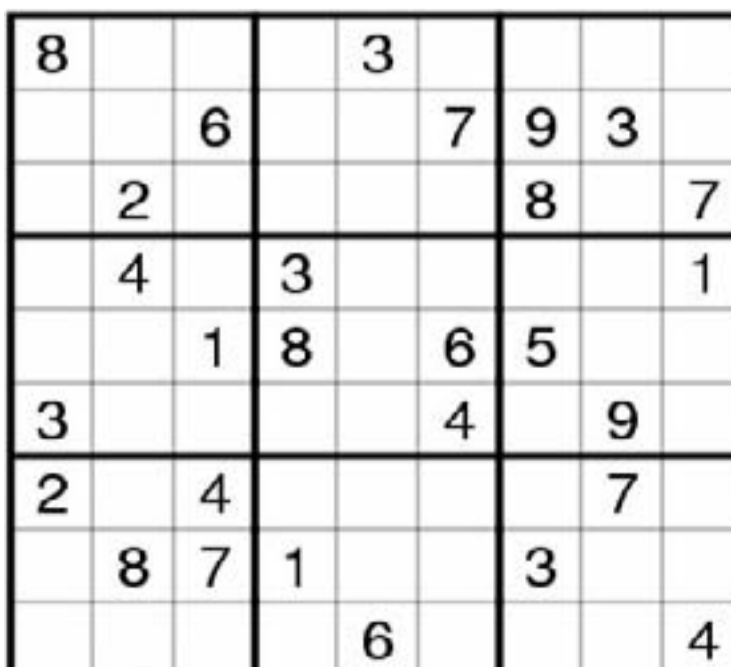
Animals 2



- ANTELOPE, BEAVER, BOBCAT, BUFFALO, CHEETAH, CHICKEN, COYOTE, CRANE, DEER, DOLPHIN, DUCK, ELEPHANT, EMU, FLAMINGO, GAZELLE, GIRAFFE, GORILLA, HEDGEHOG, HORSE, HUMMINGBIRD, IMPALA, JAGUAR, KANGAROO, KOALA, LAMBREY, LEMMING, LYNX, MARLIN, MOCOSINGBIRD, MONKEY, MOUSE, OCTOPUS, ORANGUTAN, ORCA, PANTHER, PARAKEET, PARTRIDGE, PERGUIN, PORPOISE, PUMA, RABBIT, RATTLESNAKE, RHINOCEROS, ROBBIN, SHREW, STORK, TURTLE, WALLABY, WALRUS, WEASEL, WHALE, YAK, ZEBRA.

The hidden animal is: GRIZZLY BEAR

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





## Lifestyle | Gossip



## JAMES CORDEN POKES FUN AT HIS OWN MOVIE CAREER

**T**he 'Late Late Show' presenter joked he was the ideal person to front the ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles on Sunday night because he voices Hi-5, a hand emoji in 'The Emoji Movie', which was panned by the critics. He quipped: "Who better to do that than me, the voice of Hi-5 from 'The Emoji Movie', currently available on Blu-ray with a Rotten Tomatoes score of nine per cent? It's a match made in heaven, isn't it?" The 39-year-old star also mocked the recent spate of movie remakes in Hollywood, joking that the people behind some of them were "geniuses". He said: "What a year 2017 has been for movies: there was the reboot of 'Beauty and the Beast', the reboot of It, the reboot of 'The Mummy', the reboot of 'Blade Runner' - you guys, you've outdone yourselves! I don't know how you do it, you're geniuses. Like the Donald Trump pee tape,

I'm just excited to know they're out there and I might just get to see them one day." Jake Gyllenhaal and Kate Winslet took home the Best Actor and Best Actress prizes on the night for their roles in 'Stronger' and 'Wonder Wheel' respectively, while Gary Oldman was presented with the Hollywood Career Achievement Award. The event came just a few weeks after James apologized for making jokes about Harvey Weinstein's alleged sexual assault while hosting a charity event in Los Angeles. He said: "It's been weird this week watching Harvey Weinstein in hot water. Ask any of the women who watched him take a bath, it's weird." James later said sorry if he caused any offence, insisting he was trying to "shame" Weinstein - who has denied allegations of "non-consensual sex" against him - rather than "his victims".

## Nina Nesbitt's style icon is Debbie Harry

**T**he 23-year-old singer and songwriter has admitted the 72-year-old music legend's music and fashion sense resonated with her when she was younger, because she felt the Blondie band member fashion sense was a mix of being "girly" but "more punk" with "an edge and an attitude". Speaking to The Debrief about the 'Rush Rush' hitmaker, the Scottish star said: "I resonated with [Debbie's music and fashion style] because it wasn't just girly, it was more punk, and it had more of an edge and an attitude." Nina loves the fact people can "express themselves" through the garments they wear, but she has admitted she would never have "the balls" to pull off the outfits Lady Gaga wears. The 'The Best You Had' artist said: "Fashion and music go hand-in-hand: it's so important to build your own brand, as your image is just as important as your music - [artists like] Lana Del Ray have really shown that. I wouldn't have the balls to do a Lady Gaga style, but I love that people can express themselves through fashion." Although Nina believes fashion and music go "hand-in-hand" she has



admitted her style didn't complement her music, which has encouraged her to change her style to reflect her songs. She explained: "I was wearing leather studded jackets, but I was playing acoustic folk music, so it was quite a weird mix. People must have looked at me and thought, 'she must be in a rock band'. So for my second album, I've definitely made a conscious effort for everything to be really cohesive. "There is more pressure on us [women] to have a 'look', especially when you're trying to establish yourself [in the industry]. But, I think that as long as you have a distinct voice and personality, you can kind of dress how you want.

## Hoffman makes 1st appearance since harassment claims

**T**he 80-year-old actor presented the Hollywood Comedy Award to Adam Sandler - who he stars alongside in Netflix's 'The Meyerowitz Stories' - at the Hollywood Film Awards at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, on Sunday night. But he isn't said to have made any acknowledgement of the recent harassment allegation. Last week, the 'Graduate' actor said sorry after Anna Graham Hunter, an intern on his hit movie 'Death of a Salesman' in 1985, claimed the actor made unwanted advances to her and said vulgar things to her, but he insisted the alleged incident was "not reflective" of who he is. He said in a statement: "I have the utmost respect for women and feel terrible that anything I might have done could have put her in an uncomfortable situation. I am sorry. It is not reflective of who I am." Anna alleged Dustin "grabbed" her ass on the set and asked her to give him a foot massage. She wrote: "When I was a senior in high school in New York City, interning as a production assistant on the set of the 'Death of a Salesman' TV



film, he asked me to give him a foot massage my first day on set; I did. "He was openly flirtatious, he grabbed my ass, he talked about sex to me and in front of me." Her piece detailing her experiences from the set were taken from copies of notes she wrote to her sister at the time. She added: "Today, I realized some things about this business that scare me. First of all, Dustin's a lech. I'm completely disillusioned. After 'Tootsie', I thought I wanted to marry him... "Today, when I was walking Dustin to his limo, he felt my ass four times. I hit him each time, hard, and told him he was a dirty old man."

## Hyland confirms her romance with Wells Adams

**T**he 'Modern Family' actress took to her Instagram account to share a black and white picture of the pair in which she is cuddling up to him while sticking her tongue out for the camera. She wrote: "He puts up with me" The 'Bachelorette' star also shared a picture of the pair on his Instagram account. In the snap the couple are seen gazing lovingly into one another's arms and he has his arm around her shoulder while they are standing in front of a number of fairy lights. Wells wrote: "Back lit AF (sic)" Some Instagram trolls were not too keen on the photos leading to Wells' 'Bachelor in Paradise' co-star Danielle Maltby - who he was romantically linked to after getting close on the show - to stick up for the pair, confirming they are a "genuine couple". She wrote: "Are you kidding me? I ship this couple SO hard! I've never seen Wells so giddy and happy! Try spreading some love instead of knocking down one of the cutest and most genuine coupling I've seen in a long time. (sic)" Last week, Sarah and Wells were said to have been dating "for months" but decided to keep it under wraps until last month. A source said: "They [Sarah and Wells] are casually dating and have been seeing each other for months." Sarah, 26, was previously dating Dominic Sherwood for two years, and she confirmed the pair had split. She wrote on Twitter: "The problem with being single isn't the fact that you're alone. It's that you can't puppy dog eye a guy into getting you Starbucks in bed. — Bangshowbiz



## Kaley Cuoco is 'obsessed' with dirt biking

**T**he 'Big Bang Theory' star has recently been trying out some extreme sports after being encouraged by her boyfriend Karl Cook - who she has been dating for around 18 months - and she cannot get enough of the motorcycle hobby. She said: "Karl is a big adventure seeker and he encourages me to do things that are outside of my comfort zone, like mountain biking and dirt biking. "I did it, and now I'm obsessed, and I had the best time. We did it in Hawaii and of course now I want to be gung ho and do it. He's getting me to be more adventurous than I am." Kaley has gushed over her boyfriend, admitting she is "completely in love" with him after they bonded over horses. She said: "He is totally the guy. I think the common denominator is the horses, it just works for us. We have this special bond so yeah, the animals. He's so real. "I've never met a kinder human being, he's gentle, and he's real. I'm completely in love with him. Nothing could be better." The 31-year-old star - who was married to Ryan Sweeting from 2013 to 2016 - owns three dogs and admitted another one could be coming to live with her if Karl gets his way. Speaking to 'Entertainment Tonight', she said: "Karl informed me actually a few days ago that he wanted to rescue another bulldog, so I think we're going to go get another bulldog. "It doesn't matter at this point, any dog is welcome in my house apparently."



## Olivia Culpo thinks she looks 'scary' in make-up

**T**he 25-year-old model has admitted she prefers to wear less cosmetic products on her face because she thinks she looks frightening when she goes overboard with her beauty products. Speaking to Us Weekly, the brunette beauty said: "I would rather have too little make-up on than too much because I think I look a little scary with too much on." And the style icon feels her best when she is on holiday. She added: "When I'm on vacation with healthy, dewy glow and beachy hair." Although Olivia - who is currently dating Danny Amendola - doesn't like to apply too many beauty products, she has admitted she has "a lot" of lipstick products. She said: "I like a lot of liners from MAC, Charlotte Tilbury and Marc Jacobs. I also love NARS lip crayons and Burt's Bee's chapstick - it's really good. I try to play with my lips every single day and I can't leave the house without anything on them." And the star has revealed her secret behind her flawless

complexion is that she undergoes facials and "infrared therapy". She explained: "I love getting facials and doing infrared therapy. It gets rid of breakouts and stimulates collagen too." Olivia recently received the Revolve Award for Beauty Influencer of the Year, and she has admitted she is "very flattered" to have picked up the gong because she does her best to "inspire" people with her social media platforms. She said: "Being nominated for the Revolve Award for Beauty Influencer of the Year is very flattering. I love being able to use my platform to inspire people to feel good about themselves in the beauty and fashion space. There are definitely times where I don't want to post something because I know it will shock my followers, but I've gotten better about letting that go and letting there be a learning curve. It's important to show people new things, take risks and be different."



## Brewster is not afraid to wear a sheet mask in public

**T**he 37-year-old actress has admitted she is a huge "fan" of the skincare product, and she has no qualms about leaving the house and running errands with the item covering her face if she is in desperate need to "de-puff" her face - even if she does look like a "ghost". Speaking about her beauty hacks to Us Weekly magazine, the 'Furious 7' star said: "I've been a fan of sheet masks ever since they have been around. Back in the day, you'd have to put on clay masks and that was fun, but I love sheet masks because they are so versatile. You can put a sheet mask on and walk around the house. You might look like a ghost, but it's all good. If I need to de-puff, I will do it anywhere." The brunette beauty - who has Julian, four, and 16-month-old Rowan with her husband Andrew Form - has revealed when she is not working she will opt for a "pretty simple" make-up look because she believes the more cosmetic products she wear the "more tired" her skin looks. She added: "I keep it pretty simple when I'm not working because I think the more makeup you put on, the more tired your skin gets." And to maintain her flawless complexion, Jordana makes sure she cleanses her face "every night" and stays hydrated. She added: "My mom always told me to wash my face every night, drink lots of water and that what I put in my body will show on my skin and determine how fast I age, so that's what I stick to. "I take off my makeup and if I'm feeling super dry, I'll use grape seed oil because it's really rich."

Lifestyle | Features



San Francisco



New York City

# The ultimate 2017 festive travel guide

Flying to more than 200 global destinations, British Airways is providing additional sparkle this festive season with the launch of their Global Sale, offering travelers the chance to experience new destinations with all the family. Those looking to watch the ball drop in New York's Time Square, skate in one of London's festive rinks, or enjoy the annual carnival in New Orleans, have until 7 November to book the special fare offer, with travel valid until March 2018. The special return fares, starting from KD 112 to London and KD 220 to North America, are available across all cabin classes offering British Airways' guests a chance to find a fare, and seat, to suit them.

"The festive season is such a magical time for our customers and we wanted to offer them a chance to make their holidays even more jolly, opening up a world of affordable travel experiences for holiday-goers to choose from," said Robert Williams, Head of Sales - Asia Pacific and the Middle East. Together with its cabin crew, the team from British Airways' Holidays has pulled together a guide of must-attend activities across some of these holiday favorites, including a selection from the carrier's new route launches this year which include new holiday hotspots such as New Orleans (USA), and Santiago (Chile).

## London

Truly a magical time of year to visit British Airways' home and the UK capital, December sees the city's streets come alive with festive smells and lights, the hustle of shoppers across its historical markets and the sound of carollers in the air. Whether looking to enjoy a sumptuous feast in one of London's hotels, or soak up the atmosphere at Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland with ice skating, a Ferris wheel and fairground rides, there is something for everyone. Customers can book return



London

flights to London for as little as KD 112 before 7 November.

## Nice

Travelers heading Nice can expect to enjoy a spectacular holiday as the southern French city immerses visitors in a world of color, music and festivities. Theatre lovers should book Romeo et Juliette Ballet at the Opera Nice Cote d'Azur! A must watch for its highly acclaimed performance and musical score by ...ric Yu-An. Customers can book return flights to Nice for as little as KD 129 before 7 November.

## Geneva

A new holiday favorite for regional travelers, the lake-side city, surrounded by themagnificent Alps, promise an unmissable snowy adventure. Plan a day trip to Mont

Blanc, just an hour away from Geneva, or visit the city's most popular festival, The Escalade, running from 8 - 10 December. Join the 800+ people dressed in historical costumes carry out rituals such as the smashing of a hot pot of chocolate and marching through the streets on horseback. Customers can book return flights to Geneva for as little as KD 126 before 7 November.

## Montreal

A travel photographer's dream, the city's picturesque white landscape is the perfect setting for its festivals and activities that will warm you up including the popular Igloofest! Taking place from mid-January through mid-February, electronic music fans dance under the stars at Montreal's Old Port. If festivals are not your thing, Montreal's forest treks across the city's network of large parks is an annual winter experience, with the Mount Royal Park Evening trek providing one of the best vies of Montreal by snowshoe. Customer can book return flights to Montreal for as little as KD 268 before 7 November.

## New York

The Big Apple's festive activities, markets and shows offer visitors a wide range of experiences whether you're flying solo, with friends or with your family. Some of the more iconic New York winter sights include the Bryant Park Winter Village, with its outdoor rink and more than 120 holiday shops, including kiosks and eateries, and the Rockefeller Centre Christmas Tree, towering 78 feet above. Customer can book return flights to New York for as little as KD 220 before 7 November.

## Chicago

Every January, the windy city of Chicago hosts Tomorrow Never Knows, a festival that brings a line-up of musicians and comedians to some of Chicago's leading



Toronto

entertainment venues. Visitors can also satisfy any sweet cravings with the northern American city's best donuts at Donut Fest, returning in January to Chop Shop offering the best in fried dough confectionery. Customer can book return flights to Chicago for as little as KD 240 before 7 November.

## New Orleans

The soulful southern city, and new destination for British Airways and its Dreamliner 787-9, sees the biggest influx of visitors for its renowned Mardi Grass Carnival every February. Music lovers will enjoy the dulcet tones of live Jazz music as they walk through Bourbon Street and food lovers will be chasing down the city's famous beignets and praline treats - flavors unique to NOLA.



People register at the Nigeria annual Art X event in Lagos. — AFP

## Nigeria: When contemporary art fights back

In a constantly changing country where all eyes are fixed on the future, Nigerian artist Johnson Uwadinna is fixated by the past. "If you do not know where you are coming from, how then do you know where you are going to?" he asks. For his project, "Amnesia", he has stuck together hundreds of balls made from old crumpled up newspaper and painted in bright colors, like a mass of strange molecules. The piece-symbolizing the many unresolved crises Nigeria has faced over decades-was on show last weekend at the contemporary art fair, "Art X Lagos". "The media constantly repeats the same stories about corruption, war, violence, deceit," said Uwadinna. "We never learn from our past."

### 'Programmed forgetfulness'

Uwadinna hails from the southeast, where 50 years ago, the military governor in charge of the region, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, declared an independent republic of Biafra for the Igbo majority there. That triggered a bloody civil war that lasted 30 months and left more than one million dead. But Uwadinna, 35, said: "This story, like the atrocities committed by successive military regimes, is not taught at school."

Ten years ago, the federal government even withdrew history from primary and secondary school teaching, deeming it not to be an essential subject for students as future jobseekers. There have been mounting calls in politics and academia for it to be reintroduced. For Uwadinna, "the way we recycle the news is a symptom of the way we trash our memory and look for the next trendy story".

This "programmed forgetfulness" has not stopped the West African oil giant, with its population hurtling towards 200 million, from developing at a pace since the return of civilian rule at the end of the 1990s. Nigeria-a driver of the whole continent-is a source of fascination with its economic dynamism, flourishing cinema industry Nollywood and billionaire pop stars. But the glitzy icons are a far cry from the music legend of the 1970s and 80s, Fela Kuti and his anti-establishment Afrobeat. "We only hear about money, girls and parties, it's out of touch with reality," said Uwadinna.

### Pop-up gallery

The second edition of Art X this year saw works shown from more than 60 artists from 15 African countries at 14 galleries. Celine Seror, the co-founder of the pan-African Intense Art Magazine (IAM), described it as a crossroads of "very intense, very rich" cultural exchange. "It connects Nigerian artists and the whole continent with politicians and rich major collectors who could buy their art," she said.

"They're exploring 'classic' themes of contemporary art such as the body, intimacy...but there are also a lot of works with a strong political message about corruption or even the wealth gap." For Zina Saro-Wiwa, even if the event has a clear commercial side, art must before anything else "mobilise the spirit, create value". A curator, artist and film-maker, Saro-Wiwa is also the daughter of the Nigerian writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, who was executed in 1995 by Sani Abacha's military regime.

Her father led a popular movement that brought global attention to the devastating pollution by foreign oil companies, including Shell, in his native Ogoniland. Three years ago, Zina Saro-Wiwa decided to return to her roots in the Niger Delta to "explore the legacy" of her father. She created "Boys' Quarters" in her father's old office in a working class area of the oil hub Port Harcourt, making it a pop-up contemporary art gallery where promising artists, including Uwadinna, could exhibit. — AFP

## EXTREME DINING IN SHANGHAI: A TWIST ON HAUTE CUISINE

Avan spirits ten guests to a secret location in Shanghai, where they enter a non-descript industrial building as Strauss's theme from "2001: A Space Odyssey" fills the air. Inside is avant-garde restaurant Ultraviolet, the city's newest three-star Michelin eatery, where adventurous gourmands happily pay up to 6,000 yuan (\$900) per head and the waitlist for a seat is three months.

The group dines on 22 courses—each one served in an atmosphere tailored to that dish and created by video and other images projected on the walls, pumped-in aromas, and its own soundtrack. French chef Paul Pairet, 53, says the aim is to "connect the dots" between the mind and palate by triggering "the right atmosphere, linked to the right plate," which he believes helps to enhance the flavours of each dish.

Guests take a culinary world tour, while mood music ranges from Claude Debussy to AC/DC. Pairet's take on fish-and-chips comes in a London rainshower to the Beatles' "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da", while lobster is served as footage of ocean waves crashes on the walls and the scent of sea air is blown in. "You are using all your different senses to feel this experience," Cheryl Chen, a Shanghai consultant, dining at Ultraviolet, explains. "It's multi-dimensional versus others that probably have good food and a good environment, but this is one of a kind," she adds.

Pairet, who already has two other highly regarded 'traditional restaurants' in Shanghai, first made his name as a chef at Cafe Mosaic in Paris in the 1990s before stints in Istanbul, Hong Kong, Sydney and Jakarta. Ultraviolet was more than two decades in the making, he explains. Its



Staff members of Ultraviolet restaurant serve their guests inside the dining room in Shanghai. — AFP photos

continued success, five years after it first opened, is testament to Shanghai's burgeoning food scene—Michelin launched a dedicated guide for the city in 2016 — the only one in mainland China. It also indicates the growing disposable income and culinary curiosity of Shanghai citizens. Pairet says consumer interest actually increased after he put up Ultraviolet's prices to cover costs. He explains: "When we increased the price of Ultraviolet—we needed to sustain the whole project, there was no other way—after a certain level of price at 6000 RMB, we had an increase of Chinese customers." — AFP



Graphics are displayed on the walls of the dining room at the Ultraviolet restaurant.

## Lifestyle | Features

## Film Review

# 'A Bad Moms Christmas'

## tastes like a stale chestnut

In that old Christmas stalwart "Love Actually," the wonderful Bill Nighy plays an aging rock star angling for an easy payday by cynically subbing the word "Christmas" into one of his hits, and re-recording it. And now we have "A Bad Moms Christmas." Need we say more? Not really, but that would ignore the contributions of several gifted actresses in what otherwise feels like a stale old chestnut.

These three talented women do not play the moms of the title, but the moms of the moms, and they have a boatload of statuettes among them - if not an EGO (probably no Grammy, alas) then an EOT or something. They are Susan Sarandon, Cheryl Hines, and the divine Christine Baranski, and they make this movie worth watching, even when the dialogue is utterly cringe-worthy. And oh, it is. "Oh my (expletive) God" it is, to quote a sweet, dirty-mouthed child in the film.

By the way: has anyone noticed that we have a Christmas movie in theaters while the leftover Halloween

candy is still perfectly fresh? What'll we get in December, "A Bad Moms Easter Parade"? But we digress. "Bad Moms Christmas," written and directed by the original team of Jon Lucas and Scott Moore, has bigger problems. In last year's original, a surprise hit, there was a relatable rallying cry - against the impossible image of perfect momhood. Now the rallying cry is "Take Back Christmas." And the answer for our moms Amy, Kiki and Carla (Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell and Kathryn Hahn) seems to be: Get drunk at the mall, have what looks like a sexual encounter with a department store Santa, steal a tree, and go home. Voila. Christmas is back! Phew!

### Sorely unfunny

We begin with Amy (Kunis), sitting in a dejected stupor after a Christmas party gone very, very wrong. Debris is everywhere, and even a camel wanders by, though we're in suburban Chicago. "I ruined Christmas," she says. "I feel like the worst mom in the world."



Flashback to five days earlier, and the early arrival of the bad grandmoms. Each has her own, shall we say, exaggerated quirk. For Kiki's mom (Hines), it's an extremely unhealthy attachment to her daughter (she wears sweaters emblazoned with pictures of her, for starters.)

Carla's mom (Sarandon) is a pot-smoking hipster in a black leather jacket (Sarandon could do this part with her eyes closed, and you wonder if perhaps she wanted to.)

Then there's Amy's mom Ruth (Baranski), a Palm Beach doyenne, who wears fur and spews gifts. "Have some iPhones," she tells her grandkids. "Have some Xboxes." It's Ruth - "like Ruth Bader Ginsburg," she explains - who creates the central drama, with her insistence that Christmas be perfect. "Amy this is Christmas, it's the BIG SHOW," she says. As for Carla's mom, Isis - "like the terror group," she explains, in what will seem a sorely unfortunate joke to many - she's in need of money, as usual. And she might just be taking advantage of Carla, a single mom who works giving waxes in a salon.

Feeling tense, the younger moms meet up at the mall, where they take out their frustrations on that poor Santa

we mentioned. In a montage. This movie likes montages. There are lots. One takes place at a local Sky Zone trampoline park, in what seems like a very long bit of product placement. It's all leading up to Christmas Eve, and the showdown between Amy and her mother that we know is

coming. Along the way, we'll meet a few appealing characters in cameos. The best is Justin Hartley ("This Is Us"), doing what he can with a pretty gross scene in the waxing salon. And he rocks the closing credits.

But it's Baranski who steals the show. Watch her apologize, painfully: "For the tiny fraction of blame that falls on me, I am sorry." Don't blame her - or

any of the actors - for the lame script. It's not even a tiny fraction their fault. "A Bad Moms Christmas," a STX Films release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America "for crude sexual content and language throughout, and some drug use." Running time: 104 minutes. One and a half star out of four. — AP



**Voila. Christmas is back! Phew!**



## DS Podium Chronograph Lap Timer - Racing Edition

The energy and excitement of motorsport has been one of CERTINA's main driving passions - quite literally - for as long as anyone can remember. With the launch of the new DS Podium Chronograph Lap Timer - Racing Edition, the Swiss watchmaker brings the precision and high-speed thrills of professional racing to the wearer's wrist. In a timepiece capable of measuring tenths of a second in real time and certified as a genuine COSC Chronometer, a lap-timer function adds the final touch that every racing fan will cherish. The yellow-and-black first run of the Racing Edition is dedicated to the ADAC GT Masters series.

For decades the CERTINA name has been associated with motorsport - an engagement not without its share of consequences. A particularly exciting one now comes in the form of a zero-compromise timepiece, the new DS Podium Chronograph Lap Timer - Racing Edition, equipped with the superbly accurate Precidrive(tm) quartz movement and COSC certification as a genuine chronometer.

The chronograph functions are specially tailored for motorsport timing. The lap timer, for instance, can easily measure and add round-the-track times, in a few simple steps. Totals are shown on the 60-minute counter (located at 10 o'clock on the dial), to match the exact time duration of an ADAC GT Masters race. The tenths-of-a-second display (at 2 o'clock) outputs in real time for two complete minutes, corresponding to an average lap time.

The CERTINA DS Podium Chronograph Lap Timer and its 42mm black PVD case also looks uncompromisingly sporty. The special Racing Edition, dedicated to the partnership between CERTINA and the ADAC GT Masters, is dressed in the official colors of the racing series. A yellow lacquered tachymeter scale stands out against the black PVD bezel surface, while on the dial - red and white hands and indices, with yellow Super-LumiNova(r) coating, create strong visual contrast, for utmost clarity. Yellow accents on the crown, ergonomic pushbuttons and in the stitching/edging of the smart and sporty black leather strap, complete what is clearly an exciting, race-ready design.

The new DS Podium Chronograph Lap Timer Racing Edition marks the launch of a new CERTINA product series to celebrate the brand's continued commitment to motorsport. Three additional variants will also be produced: brushed and polished stainless-steel case with black dial and either a three-row stainless-steel bracelet or black perforated leather strap, as well as a black PVD case model with green/white detailing on the dial and black leather strap with green stitching. All models are equipped with a twin-pushbutton butterfly closure and, of course, are produced using the famous CERTINA DS (Double Security) Concept.



— Photos by Joseph Shagra

# AAW DEBUTS FIRST JYSK FLAGSHIP STORE IN KUWAIT

Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co (AAW) and JYSK launched the first JYSK furniture store in Kuwait and the only one in the Middle East during a grand opening event at their new flagship showroom in Dajeej. JYSK Group is a fast-growing global retail furniture chain with more than 2,500 stores and 22,000 employees across 48 countries, with over 100 new JYSK stores launched around the world during the last year alone.

The event marked the debut of JYSK in Kuwait occupying a 1100 sqm, showcasing furniture and accessories, including mattresses, bedding and outdoor products. The event was attended by AAW Chairman and CEO Faisal Ali Al Mutawa, JYSK Kuwait Manager George A. Haidar, JYSK Franchise Director Frederik Kroun, JYSK Franchise Coordinator Magnus Thorn Andersen, French Ambassador to Kuwait H.E Christian Nakhle, First Secretary to the German Ambassador in Kuwait Winfried Gores, in addition to representatives of leading media outlets.

AAW Chairman and CEO Faisal Ali Al Mutawa said: "Today is a landmark event in the development of Kuwait's retail furniture sector, which as

of today is now home to one of the world's most exciting furniture brands. Through our partnership with JYSK, we are building on our long history of providing consumers with high-quality affordable products. We look forward to introducing and growing the JYSK brand in Kuwait and have no doubt that JYSK's in-demand products will soon be in every home in Kuwait."

JYSK Franchise Director Frederik Kroun said: "We are pleased to partner with AAW to be our sole representative in Kuwait. AAW's long-standing track record of delivering the best products to consumers and the market's trust in their services makes them the ideal partner for introducing JYSK to country". The store was open to the public on November 2nd and included many activities such as a Vikings act, face painting station for children and a photo booth accompanied by live music by DJ X all day. Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co (AAW) is one of the largest trading and commercial companies in the Middle East, representing over forty different global brands in the surging Middle East retail and consumer goods market.





The "JEFEN" collection



The "cm.Loose" collection by Liu Canming



The "TENCEL" collection by Chen Wen



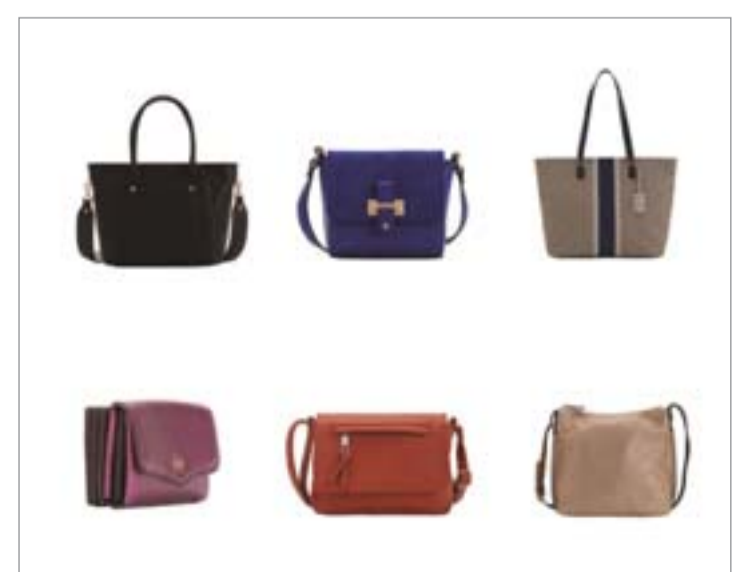
## Carpisa unveils its versatile Fall/Winter campaign

Redefining its modern and versatile sensibilities; Italian handbag curator, Carpisa embraces the spirit of being a woman of substance, to describe its brand campaign for Fall/Winter 2017. The innovative campaign showcases the lives of career-women and enters their universe full of nuances and emotions.

Carpisa portrays a complex world as it depicts many personalities who all have in common an awareness of their quintessence: values, freedom of ideas, power and energy. The campaign peeps into the world of its three ambassadors: Rula Jebreal (journalist and author), Joana Sanz (model) and Alice Balossi (food blogger). Three different professions, different habits, different lifestyles but all three determined to put themselves out there and face the day in the best possible way. Carpisa with a single bag creates a

story that tells through the hashtag #MYBAGMYLIFE: the bag enters their life, respecting their personalities and takes on their style.

With this campaign the brand celebrates the freedom of fashion and shows that every woman can wear a Carpisa bag from morning to evening, thanks to the wide variety of models and colors. With a thorough approach in craftsmanship and professional expertise, every fashion and utility need is satisfied. With a varied range in models, sizes, trends and hues; the campaign conveys that there is a Carpisa to suit every mood, look and character. The new collection for Fall/Winter 2017 is now out in the Carpisa store at Sama Mall- Fintas.



# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017



Via Kattelohong company artists, perform on stage, on November 4, 2017 at the Maison de la Danse in Lyon, during the dress rehearsal of their last production "Sophiatown". — AFP

## LOUVRE ABU DHABI GEARS UP FOR LAUNCH

More than a decade in the making, the Louvre Abu Dhabi opens its doors this week, bringing the famed name to the Arab world for the first time. French President Emmanuel Macron is set to attend the Wednesday inauguration on his first visit to the United Arab Emirates since taking office in May. For the next 10 years, 13 of France's top museums will lend works to the UAE at their discretion and for a maximum of two years each.

The museum currently has some 300 pieces on loan, including an 1887 self-portrait by Vincent van Gogh and Leonardo da Vinci's "La Belle Ferronniere". The oil-rich emirate, which has made no secret of its push on soft power, has also spent years quietly building its own permanent collection. The Louvre Abu Dhabi is displaying more than 250 works of art from the Emirati collection, including Edouard Manet's "The Gypsy" and works by Dutch abstract artist Piet Mondrian and Turkey's Osman Hamdi Bey.

### 'More universal than Louvre'

The UAE government is promoting the museum as the first of its kind, a 23-gallery "museum city in the sea" on Saadiyat Island off the Abu Dhabi coast. Some five percent of the museum is dedicated to contemporary and modern art, including a monumental piece by China's Ai Weiwei. The main focus, however, is on world history and religions.

Among the exhibits are a sixth century Quran, a goth-

ic Bible and a Yemeni Torah facing each other, open at verses carrying the same message. Jack Lang, who was France's culture minister when the Louvre in Paris received its controversial pyramid, said the Abu Dhabi museum would be "much more universal than the Louvre in Paris".

"It is a chance to open the idea of a museum to different continents and different civilisations," he said. "It joins the art of the Louvre (and) the Musee d'Orsay, in a space that is much more open and less separated." The opening comes a decade after France and the UAE agreed to a 30-year partnership initially reported to be worth \$1.1 billion, including nearly half a billion dollars for the rights to the Louvre brand alone. Emirati and French officials declined to disclose the final cost of the project.

The museum design, by France's Pritzker Prize-winning architect Jean Nouvel, conjures up the image of an Arab Medina as seen through the eyes of a contemporary cinematographer. A silver-toned dome with perforated arabesque patterns appears to float over the white museum galleries, creating what Nouvel describes as a "rain of light". To reach the ground, each ray of light must cross eight layers of perforations, creating a constantly shifting pattern that mimics the shadows cast by palm trees or the roof of a traditional Arab market.

### Climate control, counter-terrorism

Authorities have taken serious measures to protect the art from the heat during transport and storage, in a coun-



Abu Dhabi's Louvre museum, designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, surrounded by sea water. — AFP photos

try where summer temperatures soar well above 40 degrees Celsius (more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit). The art is also guarded by Emirati forces in coordination with French experts including civil defense and terrorism security forces.

The museum initially sparked heated debate in France, where criticism erupted in the early years of the project over the sale of a French name to an Arab state. Questions of labor rights have also hung over the project, linked to the overall status of migrant workers in the Gulf. Notably, Human Rights Watch has raised the alarm around conditions for migrant workers employed to build the museum.

It documented rights violations connected with the museum in 2015, after the UAE introduced improved labor rights laws. The Louvre Abu Dhabi is the first of three museums to open its doors to the public on Saadiyat Island, where the UAE plans to launch the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, designed by Frank Gehry, and the Norman Foster-designed Zayed National Museum. A spokesperson for the Guggenheim in New York told AFP a contractor had not yet been selected for the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and that construction was still on hold. — AFP



Workers placing the final piece of the outer cladding of the dome structure of the future Louvre museum on Saadiyat Island.

## Louvre Abu Dhabi: A first of its kind

The Louvre Abu Dhabi, the first museum to bear the Louvre name outside France, presents around 600 pieces in a modern, light-filled structure in harmony with its desert-island setting. Flagged as "the first universal museum in the Arab world", it sits on the low-lying Saadiyat Island, a developing tourism and culture hub 500 meter off the coast of the United Arab Emirates' capital. It is the first museum to open on the island, also the site of the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, which is still under construction.

### 'Geometry with lights'

French architect Jean Nouvel was inspired by the island's position "between sand and sea, shade and light", the Louvre website says. "I also wanted to play on this idea of openness, that of a desert open to the sea," the winner of the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize said in September. The site comprises 55 white buildings reminiscent of traditional Arab medinas.

Two-thirds of the museum is covered by a dome, 180 meters in diameter, which provides welcome shade from the scorching Gulf sun. Pierced with 7,850 star-like openings formed by the layering of the

building's structure, like interwoven palm leaves, the dome is intended to resemble silver lace. "For me, great Arab architecture (is) geometry with lights," Nouvel said. As the museum put it, "sun filters through the dome like a delicate, protective rain of light... reflecting the constant interplay of light and shadow in the country." The vast project claims to be "the first museum of its kind in the Arab world: a universal museum that focuses on shared human stories across civilizations and cultures".



This file photo taken on October 21, 2014 shows workers and journalists standing near the Louvre museum.

### 30-year accord

The museum's price tag was initially estimated at \$654 million, to be put up by Abu Dhabi under a deal signed with France in 2007. But costs have risen due to funding and construction delays. Under the 30-year agreement, France provides expertise, loans works of art and organizes temporary exhibitions-in return for one billion euros (\$1.16 billion). The Louvre in France takes a 400-million-euro share of that sum for the use of its name up to 2037.

For the next 10 years, the Paris museum will lend works to its Abu Dhabi partner on a voluntary basis, for a maximum of two years. For its permanent collection, the museum has acquired hundreds of pieces, dating from the earliest Mesopotamian civilizations to the present day. Thirteen top French museums, including the Musee d'Orsay and the Palace of Versailles, will also loan the Louvre Abu Dhabi 300 works of art over the first year. These include Leonardo da Vinci's "La Belle Ferronniere", "Napoleon Crossing the Alps" by Jacques-Louis David, and a self-portrait by Vincent Van Gogh. — AFP