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**Isolated Qatar campaigns** 



**Golden State hit stride; Wizards** 

## People rush out on streets after tremor jolts Kuwait

### Strong earthquake hits Iraq-Iran border, several killed



By Shakir Reshamwala and Agencies

KUWAIT: People rushed out of their homes in panic yesterday night as a tremor shook Kuwait, after an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.3 struck neighboring Iraq. An Iraqi meteorology official said the earthquake hit large parts of Iraq, including the capital Baghdad. The US Geological Survey placed its epicenter at around 32 km outside the Iraqi city of Halabja along the Iraq-Iran border, issuing an "orange" alert for "shaking-related fatalities and economic losses'

Iran's state TV said at least six people were killed and many injured in the Western Iranian town of Qasr-e Shirin. Eight villages were damaged, while electricity and water was cut in some villages. Rescue teams have been dispatched to those areas, it added. The semi-official Iranian ILNA news agency reported that at least 14 provinces had been

impacted by the earthquake. Iraqi health and local officials said at least one person was killed and 50 wounded in Darbandikhan, 75 km east of the major city of Sulaimaniyah in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

All across Kuwait, buildings were swiftly evacuated as people rushed out onto the streets, with images and videos of jittery residents immediately circulating on social media. Unconfirmed reports warned aftershocks were expected, causing further anxiety. The Kuwait National Seismic Network between 4 and 5 degrees was felt in Kuwait. The fire department said in a statement the quake did not cause any harm, adding it received more than 40 calls from people saying they felt the tremor. Interior ministry officials also assured residents that the tremor did not cause any damage or traffic incidents.

### Omantel announces trust in Bader Al-Kharafi on top of Zain pyramid for years to come

### Strategic acquisition creates synergies between Zain and Omantel

**KUWAIT:** Oman Telecommunications (Omantel) will pay \$1.35 billion to buy a further 12.1 percent stake in Kuwaiti telecoms company Zain in a deal that will expand its reach to nine Middle Eastern and North African countries. Omantel CEO Talal Al-Mamari announced Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi will continue leading the Kuwaitbased telecom, trusting his vision for the firm's future expansion plans.

"We trust Bader Al-Kharafi and we rely on his leadership at Zain Group for several years to come, and we do not have plans to make any changes in the executive administration," Mamari told CNBC Arabia. Mamari was speaking at the Kuwait Boursa after the auction of the Zain treasury shares, adding that Omantel will have five seats on the board of directors. "We are keen on strengthening the group's operations, as we expect the deal to achieve integration opportunities of a value of \$400 million over the next five years," Mamari said.

Omantel paid 0.781 Kuwaiti dinars (\$2.58) per share, around 74 percent above the current listed price, for the stake, which will take its total shareholding in Zain to 21.9 percent.



Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi

That will make it the second largest shareholder after Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund, the Kuwait Investment Authority. "The multiples paid by Omantel are equivalent or less than those paid for a similar transaction in the region," Mamari was quoted by Reuters as saying. "This transaction will bring in scale. Prior to this transaction, Omantel was operating in a single market, namely Oman, and Zain Group operates in nine markets."

Omantel purchased the stake from investment vehicles linked to Kuwait's Al-Kharafi merchant family, following its acquisition of a 9.8 percent stake in Zain in August. The purchase is aimed at creating value for Omantel's shareholders, diversifying its revenue sources and raising its regional scale, Omantel said in the bourse statement. The company has no immediate plans to raise its stake further and its priority is to accelerate the leveraging of the company's debt, Mamari said.

Omantel financed the deal with a combination of long-term and bridge loan facilities, led by Citigroup and Credit Suisse, with HSBC, Standard Chartered, Bank Muscat and Arab Banking Corporation also participating. The syndication for the bridge loan was expected to be completed by the end of the year, said Mamari. That will be followed by a roadshow early next quarter to convert around \$1.4 billion of the debt into a bond or sukuk, or a mix of both, with maturities of five and 10 years. The capital market instrument should be completed by the end of the first quarter next year, he said. —Agencies

### Trump offers to mediate in South China Sea row

MANILA: US President Donald Trump offered yesterday to mediate in a territorial dispute over the resourcerich South China Sea, after years of Chinese island-building in the contested waters. Trump's surprise proposal to insert himself into the decades-long row risked a backlash from China, which has repeatedly said the United States has no role to play in what it insists is a series of bilateral issues. "If I can help mediate or arbitrate, please let me know... I am a very good mediator," Trump told Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang in Hanoi during an

Hours later, the Communist leaders of China and Vietnam said they had reached a "consensus" on handling the disputed waters during a state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Hanoi, according to the official Chinese news agency Xinhua. The countries "reached an important consensus in accordance with leaders of the



**MANILA: US President Donald Trump shakes** hands with Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte during a gala dinner marking ASEAN's 50th anniversary yesterday. — AP

two parties and countries, to appropriately manage maritime issues, steadily advance all forms of maritime

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### Panel to resolve labor problems; work to begin on expat hospital

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh yesterday formed a supreme consultative committee to look into and resolve problems of manpower in the country, with the main aim of fighting visa trading. Health Minister Jamal Al-Harbi meanwhile will lay on Wednesday the foundation stone of the first hospital run by a private company to provide medical care to expatriates.

The supreme labor committee consists of representatives of the government and also employers and workers as well, in addition to manpower experts. The committee will be entrusted to study all problems relating to man-

power in the country and make proposals to resolve key labor problems, especially visa trading and the recruitment of unskilled expatriate workers.

The committee will also study issues notified by the minister. Board members of the committee will include the head of the manpower department, three of his assistants, representatives of the ministries of interior and commerce and the municipality, in addition to two members each from the chamber of commerce and trade unions, and two experts in the field.

Meanwhile, the new hospital for expatriates only will be constructed south of Sabahiya by the Health Assurance Hospitals Co (Daman), a public private partnership (PPP) company. The company aims to privatize health services provided to expatriates through the payment of health insurance. The first hospital is expected to become operational by 2020.

The company plans to build several other hospitals in other governorates with the ultimate objective of relieving public hospitals to provide medical care to citizens only. The new medical system for expatriates was approved by the National Assembly amid increasing calls to allocate public hospitals for the treatment of Kuwaitis only. The new system requires expatriates to pay health premiums to benefit from the Daman hospitals.

### **Qatar investigates** alleged currency manipulation plot

DOHA: Qatar is investigating an alleged attempt to manipulate its currency during the early weeks of a Gulf political crisis, now in its sixth month, a government spokesman said yesterday. The director of Qatar's government communications office said an unnamed global financial institution - partly owned by United Arab Emirates investors - had been instructed to stop trading Qatari riyals across Europe and Asia.

Sheikh Saif Al-Thani's claim is the latest development in an increasingly complex and bitter crisis. Since June 5, Qatar has been diplomatically, politically and economically boycotted by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt over charges Doha supports terrorism. Doha denies the accusations.

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### **Dubai Air Show** opens with Emirates' \$15.1bn Boeing buy

**DUBAI:** Long-haul carrier Emirates purchased 40 American-made Boeing 787-10 Dreamliners yesterday at the start of the biennial Dubai Air Show, a \$15.1 billion deal certain to please US President Donald Trump who has touted the plane's sales as a job creator in America. The deal appeared to surprise Boeing's archrival Airbus, whose staff had attended a long-delayed news conference and left the room just moments before the announcement.

Airbus has pinned hopes of continuing production of its double-decker jumbo jet on Emirates, the world's largest operator of the aircraft which took delivery of its 100th A380 earlier this month. Reports circulated before the air show that a major A380 sale would be coming.

But instead, Emirates CEO and Chairman Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum explained how the airline considered the Airbus A350 and decided to pick the

"We were comparing the two apples," he said, but found that the Boeing 787 is "the best option" for Emirates "given its maintenance and so on". It's the second time Airbus has lost out on selling the A350 to Emirates. In June 2014, the state-owned Emirates cancelled an order for 70 A350s after a "fleet requirement" review. The Boeing 787-10 typically lists for \$312.8 million. Delivery will begin in 2022. Chicago-based Boeing Co already has 171 787-10s on order. Among those waiting for the aircraft are Abu Dhabi-



DUBAI: Participants walk past drones displayed during the Dubai Air Show yesterday. — AFP

The twin-engine 787-10, however, has been a focus of Trump since he came into office. In February, he visited the Boeing plant in North Charleston, South

Carolina, which manufactures the carbon-fiber, 330-seat plane Trump described as "an amazing piece of art".

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## Palestinian leader departs Kuwait after talks with Amir

### Abbas meets top state officials





**KUWAIT:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas departed Kuwait yesterday after an official visit during which he held talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Abbas was seen off at Kuwait International Airport by His Highness the Amir, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-

Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister for Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and head of the guest accompanying delegation Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Daifallah Sharar.

In addition to meeting with His Highness the Amir, Abbas met during his

visit with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled. He also met with Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul Gheit and Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Dr Yusuf Al-Othaimeen. — KUNA

# Erdogan to discuss bilateral ties, regional affairs during Kuwait visit

ISTANBUL: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will discuss bilateral relations and regional affairs, namely Syria, Iraq and the Gulf, during upcoming talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in Kuwait, his spokesman said yesterday. The talks, scheduled for tomorrow, will focus on "boosting cooperation in the fields of contracting, investments, tourism, industry, military, defense and education," Ibrahim Kalin said in a statement.

Afterwards, the Turkish leader will travel to Doha where he will attend a third round of bilateral strategic talks with Qatar. In both Kuwait and Qatar, Erdogan's discussions will explore viewpoints on bilateral relations and regional affairs, including Syria, Iraq and the Gulf region, Kalin added.



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Meanwhile, Erdogan will meet President Vladimir Putin in the Russian city of Sochi today. Along with regional and international developments, mainly Syria, both leaders will discuss increasing bilateral trade to \$100 billion. Ankara also plans to convince Moscow to remove trade restrictions and return mutual travel visa exemption for their nationals. After Turkey shot down a Russian military jet that entered its airspace, Moscow had placed an embargo on some Turkish goods and annulled its exemption of visas for Turkish visitors. — KUNA

## Kuwait hosts first 'Women in War' conference

KUWAIT: Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah announced that the first women's social conference will be held in November in Kuwait in conjunction with the Regional Delegation of the ICRC in Kuwait and INTISARS. The conference will be inaugurated in the presence of Christine Beerli, Vice-President of the ICRC in Switzerland, Sheikha Intisar Al-Sabah, Chairperson of the Al-Nowair Initiative for Positivity and INTISARS and the Fine Artist Amira Behbehani with a group of Kuwaiti women activists.

Sheikha Intisar said that the role of women during wars is substantially multiplied in the absence of fathers and husbands as in this case women will bear several burdens such as caring for their households, ensuring their safety, fostering them with love, protection, food, clothing and medicine and defending their small families that are part of the larger society. Furthermore, women constitute a solid source for motivation and encouragement for the people surrounding them. Therefore, they are not only a pillar of the household itself but also a backbone for the whole society. However, women are often bound unfortunately to be forgotten by non-governmental and international organizations, which often dedicate their major care and resources for children, the elderly and men.

Sheikha Intisar pointed out "If we go back in history we find out that women have played a major role in wars over time. In the First World War, for example, not only did women take over from men who were either engaged in fighting or working in weapon factories, but thousands of them also served in armies as nurses. As far as Kuwait is concerned, women worked since the independence of Kuwait and during the Iraqi invasion on defending their country and protecting their families. Women are a driving force that should not be overlooked because they have always proved their resilience. That is why, they should be deemed as a shield for any society that aims at continuous prosperity."

#### Considerable role

The head of the ICRC Regional Delegation, Yahia Alibi, has also pointed out that this conference will play a considerable role in raising awareness about the International Humanitarian Law, especially in



Yahia Alibi

demonstrating the mechanisms of how it protects women in war and the services provided by the ICRC to women during armed conflicts. He also added that some categories of people are entitled to specific protection under this law, and this is the case for women and children who should receive special respect and protection especially against any form of indecent behavior. This special protection granted to children is attributed to their age related vulnerability, whereas the protection of women is mainly due to their special





Sheikha Intisar Al-Sabah

#### Fadath tit an

The activities of this conference will include an exhibition organized by the conceptual artist Amira Behbehani that will bring together international, regional and local artists to display their works on women in war. It will be held in 'The Hub' gallery.

### KIB presents lecture at Safiya Middle School

KUWAIT: As part of its leading social responsibility program aimed at promoting better financial literacy and spreading greater economic awareness amongst local youth students, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently visited the Safiya Middle School for Girls. During the visit, the bank presented a lecture entitled 'Basic skills of saving and spending', which was attended by a number of students and teachers.

This latest visit came as part of KIB's ongoing efforts to directly engage with students, and enrich their knowledge about banking and finance. This stems from the Bank's belief in the importance of spreading financial literacy amongst the future generation, especially when it comes to teaching them about the basics of saving and spending.

Speaking about the Bank's financial literacy program, Team Leader of Corporate Communications at KIB, Fahad Al-Sarhan, said: "KIB continuously looks for opportunities to organize visits to various schools across the country. In doing so, we hope to encourage students to further their educa-



tion, as we believe this is the key to the country's future development on the one hand, and an important tool to help in spreading economic awareness amongst students on the other."

Sarhan added that the visit included a lecture on 'Basic skills of saving and spending', which comes as part of KIB's ongoing efforts to foster financial and economic awareness amongst the nation's youth, as well as introduce them to various savings methods and proper financial management. At the end of the visit, Sarhan wished all students a year full of successes

and achievements, and distributed a number of gifts and mementos amongst students in a friendly, joyful atmosphere laden.

Through its leading social responsibility program, KIB continuously seeks to sponsor and organize community-based initiatives that contribute to the development of all segments across the local community. Additionally, as part of its comprehensive plan developed over the past couple of years, KIB has focused on promoting greater financial literacy and enhanced economic awareness amongst the nation's younger generations.

### Indonesian Embassy marks Independence Day

**KUWAIT:** Indonesian Ambassador to Kuwait Tatang Budie Utama Razak hosted a reception on the occasion of the Commemoration of the Independence Day of the Republic at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel over the weekend. Top officials, diplomats, media personalities and cross section of the Indonesian community in Kuwait participated in the event. — Photo by Joseph Shagra



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## Amir opens int'l conference on Palestinian children's suffering

### Abbas grateful for Kuwait's support of Palestinians





**President Mahmoud Abbas attend the conference** 



Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh (right) tours a photo exhibition with Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit (L) and Sudan's Minister of Welfare and Social Security, Mashaer Aldoulab (2nd right), during the conference. **- Photo by Yasser Al-Zayya**t







alestinian President Mahmoud Abbas delivers his speech.

Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit speaks during the event

**KUWAIT:** An international conference over the continued plight of Palestinian children amid ongoing Israeli transgression kicked off in Kuwait yesterday, sponsored and attended by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, alongside Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Addressing a packed audience comprising local, Arab and Islamic dignitaries, the Palestinian leader said that this special event, held under the auspices of His Highness the Amir, shines a light on the plight of Palestinian children. He added that he was grateful for Kuwait's enduring support of the Palestinian people, thanking the country for its diligent efforts to make this conference a reality. Abbas also lamented the fact that Palestinian children have been on the receiving end of some of the most horrific crimes in the history of humanity, which illustrates the significance of this conference.

#### Show of solidarity

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh said that her country was eager to play host to this conference as a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people. She expressed hope that the conference would yield concrete results that would ensure that through all the suffering they have had to withstand, Palestinian children would not be denied of their inalienable rights. The Kuwaiti minister revealed that the conference tackles a host of pivotal issues germane to the adversities faced by Palestinian children, in the face of unabated Israeli violence.

Attendees included National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Other officials also in attendance were Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit, Organization

of Islamic Cooperation's Secretary General Dr Yousef Al-Othaimeen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, as well as a bevy of senior officials.

#### Important event

Addressing the conference, Abul-Gheit thanked His Highness the Amir for patronizing this important event which spotlights the plight of Palestinian children. He said that the gathering came at a time when the practices of Israeli occupying authorities are growingly escalating, causing political, social and economic sufferings to the Palestinian people.

He added that Palestinian children are deprived of minimum rights and that their families have suffered the woes of forced displacement, occupation and violence. In spite of their hard circumstances, Palestinian children could play a major part in the conflict with Israeli occupying authorities by launching the so-called 'stone intifad' in occupied Palestinian territories, Abul-Gheit said. Just like other children across the world, Palestinian children want to live a normal life, have a bright future and enjoy basic childhood rights, he pointed out. The Israeli government has been fully controlled by settlement and farright groups, he lamented, estimating the number of Jewish settlers in occupied Palestinian territories at 650,000, including 200,000 in East Jerusalem.

Some 2,012 Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli occupying forces and settlers during the period between 2000 and 2016, he said, citing international reports in this regard. Furthermore, around 700 Palestinian children aged between 12 and 17 are facing trial at Israeli military courts, Abul-Gheit remarked. Only last year, 380 Palestinian children under 18 vears old were arrested and jailed in Israeli prisons, where they were subject to psychological and physical sufferings, he

noted. — KUNA



## Top Health Ministry officials referred to prosecution

### Suspected corruption in medicine purchases, supply contracts

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Public Anti-Corruption Authority referred three top Ministry of Health (MoH) officials to the public prosecution on the basis of a report it previously received concerning suspected corruption. The authority added that thorough investigations were made and eyewitnesses were cross-examined concerning suspected corruption in medicine purchases and supply contracts. Having found the suspicions to be true, it referred the case to the public prosecutor for further investigations. The prosecution will decide whether to press charges against them or shelve the case.

#### **Violations**

MP Khaled Al-Otaibi said the violations mentioned in the State Audit Bureau reports about various government bodies for the fiscal year 2016-2017 are too many and were detected in various sectors. Otaibi added that most violations had been repeated over years, such as violating the rules of paying various contractors, unlawful bonuses, twisted recruitment and failing to collect overdue public funds. "These violations are like a cancer consuming Kuwait's body," he said, noting that every minister and official should respond to the Audit Bureau's remarks to stop draining public funds to ensure keeping his position. Otaibi added that he has filed inquiries to various concerned ministers in this regard.

#### Regional developments

MP Osama Al-Shaheen warned that regional developments, in addition to domestic and foreign challenges, call for forming a special Cabinet capable of dealing with such exceptional challenges. He added that the new government should be one that respects the constitution, the people and itself in a way that will help achieve success and stability. Shaheen added that Kuwait should always maintain its neutrality as instructed by HH the Amir. "Thanks to Allah, Kuwait is not part of any of the accelerating disputes, but we must take security, diplomatic, health and food precautions," he explained, urging the government to periodically brief lawmakers concerning various related developments.

Meanwhile, MP Khalil Abul said that in view of the current regional circumstances, the new Cabinet formation should be in office as soon as possible, although he believes that "the presence of a government will not make much of a difference". "We only call for the speedy formation of the new Cabinet because we are about to go

through exceptional situations," he added, noting that the coming Cabinet should be one of emergency and political stability and that it should work on reinforcing the domestic front and be ready to face various possibilities. "The new government should be capable to attend parliamentary sessions without fearing any threats of grillings," he added. Abul denounced all talk about sectarianism in Kuwait and urged everybody to focus more on consolidation and solidarity. "Some animal-like people who had

been burying their heads underground are now trying to lift them with such calls," he warned.

#### Zone for conflicts

The Islamic Salafist Alliance (ISA) yesterday issued a statement in which it warned against attempts to turn the GCC into a zone for conflicts and wars, similar to those going on in Iraq, Yemen and Libya. ISA also called for shura (consultation), cooperation and consolidation to navigate

Union reviews

co-ops' stock

through such hard times by complying with the instructions of HH the Amir rejecting racism and sectarianism. It slammed parliamentary practices to gain more votes at the expense of public interests. ISA also called economic reform, reinforcing the value of work and avoiding unconstitutional practices. "Everybody should realize how dangerous the current political, security and eco-

nomic situations are," it underlined, calling for fighting corruption and favoritism, equal law enforcement on everybody and stopping rumors, false and misleading stories, namely those circulated through social media networks.

#### Resignation

A National Assembly panel probing Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) said yesterday that forcing the resignation of former KAC Chairwoman Rasha Al-Roumi was wrong. The committee blamed the government for not providing legal financial aid to the national carrier.

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#### **Statistics**

The Capital Municipality cleaning department removed 22,284 cubic meters of debris and waste, in addition to 235 abandoned vehicles in October, said the department manager Meshaal Al-Azmi, noting that the department also issued 5,181 notices, marked 10,173 abandoned vehicles and vehicles displayed for sale and filed 1,166 citations. Azmi stressed that inspection campaigns would be launched to track violators of ministerial decision number 9/87 pertaining with littering by throwing tissues and cigarette packs and butts on sidewalks and squares, noting that violators would be subject to a fine of up to KD 200.

#### Co-ops' stock

Chairman of the Kuwait Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies (KUCCS) Ali Al-Kandari invited all union member societies to attend a meeting at noon today to discuss their stocks of strategic goods. The meeting will be held at the KUCCS headquarters in Hawally.

#### KD 1.8 billion collected in fees

Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) Undersecretary Mohammed Boshehri said the ministry has collected KD 1.8 billion in fees for various services it provides to consumers. Boshehri stressed that the consumer sector is collecting more fees from consumers after launching easier payment methods through smartphones apps. Boshehri added that maintenance operations at various units had started in October in preparation for the summer.

local spotlight

### No to war!



**By Muna Al-Fuzai** 

**Muna@kuwaittimes.net** 

Will the Arab and Gulf region witness a devastating new war? This is the most important question that many analysts are racing to write about and discuss. A lot of people have turned into analysts, thinkers and predictors of the future of the Gulf countries. They are acting according to their sources, faith and wishes. Indeed, things seem mixed up with them and others. This article will shed light on what is happening now and its fallout on the future in light of the accelerated geopolitical changes due to the alteration in the decision-making process. I believe that only a very small circle knows for sure what will happen in the next few hours - others are mere spectators.

Arabs do not read history - I do not know exactly who said this, but the fact is that many Arabs are dealing with political events as a media story without looking into their sources and history, because not every statement is real or inevitable. An example of this is a statement by the former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in an interview with a newspaper in the US. He said "the Third World War is at hand".

These words made the headlines of several Arab newspapers. Many supporters of a war in the region applauded these words for various reasons - some of them for sectarian purposes, while others for economic and personal wishes and fantasies. But why do some believe that a world war is inevitable soon?

The problem is that things on the ground in the Arab region are not promising. For example, the war in Yemen, the armed conflict with the Houthis, the heated differences with Hezbollah, etc fuel the extreme religious divide between Sunnis and Shiites or other religions. The intensification of sectarianism has negative outcomes on the region in the presence of multiple media channels that have their supporters and financiers. It's like a wrestling championship and everyone has an audience clapping for them, but the knockout blow is expensive and deadly.

Conflicts here undoubtedly affect the stability of the region in the short and long term, especially with the continuation of the crisis with Qatar, although the severance of relations will not lead to a war, despite the darkness of the situation and its malaise. The dispute with Qatar is a bad indicator of the ineffectiveness of the Gulf Cooperation Council, but it cannot be a reason for a world war here. I believe that instability can lead to the transfer of capital from one country to another more secure and stable location and the emergence of new industries, as well as new investments in weapons, and this does not seem encouraging to the countries of the region or its people.

The other confusing element for thinkers and observers is the strategic transformation in Saudi policy, including the internal one. Decisions by Saudi Arabia to arrest government officials and businessmen recently on corruption charges have become a matter of daily talk on US channels, sometimes with a clear lack of understanding of the Middle East and its past. Some US statements, for example, are fearful, hasty and ignorant, only to contradict the US' presidency, management and relationship with Saudi Arabia.

One of the Americans described Saudi Arabia as being involved in upsetting the status quo throughout the region. But, I can claim the same about the US foreign policy that has been upsetting many people and countries for quite a long time, and even recently, when it dropped out of climate change agreement. The United States to a considerable degree is complicit in this chaos around the world. I believe that Arabs are not familiar with the speedy radical change in the process of decision making and new leadership. I am happy for this.

It is evident that the role and influence of non-governmental organizations such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen and IS in Syria and Iraq is increasing. They control large areas of land in a contested jostle for power, influence and support from different countries. Continuing armed conflicts without engaging in major wars and confrontations is a

I don't see the area moving towards a world war, but the continuation of an armed conflict is likely to occur. My concern is that such events will have impacts on the area on all levels. If there is a tip to be said here - inner security of countries is essential. Security control of internal movements of extremists and contacts with foreign organizations should be tightened.

### Municipality announces 18 camping sites

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Director General of the Municipality Ahmad Al-Manfouhi issued a circular regarding organizing spring camps for the 2017/2018 camping season. Public Relations Director Abdelmohsen Aba Al-Khail said the municipality has designated 18 sites in north, west and south Kuwait through its official website: http://www.baladia.gov.kw. Campers can fill the application and pay the fees and deposit to get the license on this site, in addition to four other sites for general services. He said the applicant must be at least 21 years of age, and it is not allowed to apply for more than one license. The camping area is 1,000 sq m, and the applicant must pay KD 50 in non-refundable fees and KD 300 as a refundable deposit if conditions are met. The camping season starts Wednesday and ends on March 15, 2018.

Awareness The awareness and guidance department at the civil

defense carried out an awareness campaign at the educa-



yesterday shows camping sites designated

tion ministry and private schools. Booklets and brochures on civil defense procedures for students and teaching faculty were distributed.

#### Man arrested for bribing detective

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** Residency detectives arrested an Arab man red-handed while trying to bribe a detective. The suspect offered an employee at the department money in order to release a detained Asian man - he was then arrested during the exchange.

#### Campaigns

Security departments in Kuwait's various governorates carried out several campaigns resulting in the arrest of 531 wanted people and 905 residency violators, in addition to dealing with 114 drugs and liquor

#### 'Villain'

A thief turned on the cooking gas after he failed to find anything to steal. A citizen told police that when he returned home, he found his house's contents scattered around, while the smell of cooking gas was very strong. When he went to the kitchen, he discovered that the thief had cut the hose of the gas cylinder after seemingly failing to steal anything. "A policeman remarked: "This is not a thief - he is a villain."

#### Molester at large

Farwaniya detectives are looking for yet another child molester, as a Bangladeshi man told police his son was raped. He said the eight-yearold boy was lured by sweets in front of the building where he lives, then the suspect took the boy to the top floor of the building where he threatened and raped him. The kid was referred to the forensic medicine department.

#### KD 180,000 stolen

A local bank accused a citizen of stealing KD 180,000, according to a complaint at Jleeb police station. A source said the citizen went to cash a KD 180 cheque, but the employee handed him 180,000. The bank manager later noticed a deficit of this amount and discovered what happened. The citizen was called but he refused to return the money and claimed it was his money.

#### Cocaine

A citizen resisted arrest, only to be brought under control by police, who found cocaine on him. He is an ex-convict in previous drugs cases and wanted on other cases.

#### KD 40,000 debt

A female citizen failed to escape from police after a chase, and was found wanted over a KD 40,000 debt. Police, on a patrol in Salmiya, asked the woman to stop, but she sped off, so she was cornered, arrested and found wanted.

#### Deportation

Nineteen expats were sent to the deportation department for selling used goods in an open yard. Police went to the area after being tipped and arrested the 19, including a Jordanian woman for begging. All were taken to Jleeb police station, then to the deportation department.

#### Unfinished business

Paramedics rushed a citizen to Mubarak Hospital after he was stabbed in the head by nine citizens who stalked him in order to settle a score between them. The attackers were arrested. The injured man was rushed to the ICU and required 17 stitches for his head wounds. Investigations continue.

**Drug possession**Two citizens were sent to the Drugs Control General Department charged with possession of drugs. The two were arrested following an attempt to escape, one of them by foot. A source said police stopped the suspects' car at a checkpoint in Salwa, and one of them refused to give police his ID and attempted to escape with a bag. He took out some substances out of it, besides swallowing tablets and throwing an envelope suspected of containing cocaine. He was also found wanted by authorities. The second suspect was in an abnormal condition. The vehicle was impounded.

#### Multiple charges

Police at a checkpoint in Abdullah Al-Mubarak noticed drugs paraphernalia in a car that police stopped with three men inside. The car was searched and a detectives' flashing light, a wireless, seven mobile phones, and several wallets containing IDs that do not belong to the persons in the vehicle were found. One of the men was found wanted over a KD 1,278 debt. All were arrested on charges of having drugs paraphernalia, posing as detectives, debts and suspicion of robberies.

### Romania urged to intensify search for missing Kuwaiti

**BUCHAREST:** The Kuwaiti Ambassador to Romania Talal Al-Hajri has discussed with Chairman of the Romanian Senate Kalin Popescu-Taricanu the disappearance of

Kuwaiti citizen Mohammad Al-Baghli in the European

The ambassador called for exerting greater efforts to determine his whereabouts and destiny. Ambassador Hajri said yesterday that the Senate's chairman affirmed his concern toward this case and pledged to nudge the relevant authorities to do more for locating the Kuwaiti national, who has been missing in Romania since August 5, 2015. He indicated that he asked the chief senator to support Kuwait's request that the European Union relieve Kuwaiti nationals of the Schengen visa. — KUNA

### Visa regulations



**By Attorney Fajer Ahmed** 

Visa regulations have been one of my most common topics in my few years as a legal columnist for the newspaper, but it seems that the regulations keep on changing. I have also written multiple times that I trust my government's decisions on making these changes and completely support it, but I also hope that I am able to share my opinion on how we can make Kuwait a better place by welcoming more people and treating those who work in this country better (not just by writing but in practice as well).

We are extremely fortunate as Kuwaitis to be living in a place as diverse as Kuwait, with so much talent and culture. The Kuwaiti people have always been welcoming, so it saddens me to see all these negative media reports on expats in Kuwait, and even more when I get emails with questions from expats who are afraid to move to Kuwait. Kuwait is a lovely place and I hope those who want to work in Kuwait can do so.

#### New changes

Question: What are the new changes in visa laws? Is it true that no expats under 30 will be provided with a work visa to work in Kuwait?

Fajer: I know that 'visa laws' can be confusing, especially since it is not just one law but different bylaws and ministerial decisions. The newest decisions state that starting from Jan 1, no work permits will be provided to expats younger than 30 in the private and oil sectors. I do not understand the logic behind this decision, although I hope that the government based this decision on a need. I see a lot of hardworking expats in Kuwait who are younger than 30, like teachers or construction workers or journalists.

There have been other changes as well. New visit laws now allow businessmen (or women) to enter Kuwait on a business visa valid for up to one year. Visas will also allow foreign students to study in private universities in Kuwait, and medical visas will be provided to those seeking treatment in Kuwait.

#### Tourist visa

Question: I have many friends working in Kuwait on a tourist visa or on their husbands' visas - is this legal?

Fajer: No. It is not legal to work under a tourist visa in Kuwait or on a dependent visa. With that said, I have seen this many times, especially with teachers. It does not make sense that schools are allowed such practices - teachers need to be qualified to be teaching our students and there have to be strict regulations in place. If you are going to do so, be prepared to be deported for violating visa regulations as it is a violation to work under tourist visas in many countries, resulting in deportation or even a ban from the country or region.

#### Temporary visa

Question: If my visa/residency has expired and I have a case at the shuoon (Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor) against my employer because of visa-related issues, what can I do? I am really worried about moving around in Kuwait without a visa.

Fajer: If your working visa/residency has expired and you have a case against your employer, then you need to get a temporary visa from the shuoon. You need to ask the shuoon for this. The process could be very complicated, but it is important that you take this step. They can give you a visa ranging from a month to three months, giving you enough time to find a lawyer in Kuwait to represent you so you can go back home or find a new sponsor.

Should you have any questions or concerns, or you require a consultation, please email me at ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

Local Monday, November 13, 2017

## Countdown to 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' begins

### Register today to walk/run on November 18



**KUWAIT:** With just days to go until the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon,' Gulf Bank along with Pro-Vision Sport Management held a press conference to announce the launch of Kuwait's most exciting sporting event. The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' will take place at 7:00 am on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at Souq Sharq.

Participants of all ages and fitness levels can participate, by either walking or running one of the four distance categories: the Family Fun Walk/Run (5KM); Soug Run for regular runners (10KM); Half Marathon for more advanced runners (21KM); and Kuwait's only Full Marathon (42KM). The Marathon starts and ends at Souq Sharq and the route takes participants past some of Kuwait's most recognisable landmarks including Souk Al Mubarakiya, the Gulf Bank head office, the Grand Mosque, Al Seif Palace, the National Assembly, the Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Center, and Kuwait

Each year the Marathon partners with a leading

group to raise awareness of an important issue. For the second consecutive year, the 'Gulf Bank Marathon' is partnering with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, to support #Voices4Refugees campaign. This awareness campaign aims to make stories of refugees heard around

the world and encourages people to add their voices

#### Tremendous success

Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank said: "We are just days away from the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon', and excitement is really building. The event has seen tremendous success over the years and we look forward to another fantastic edition. The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' is a very special initiative for us as it reflects our commitment to social responsibility for our beloved country, Kuwait. We are further proud to have the support of numerous Kuwaiti  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right)$ government ministries and agencies this year, which demonstrates the importance of this event for Kuwait. We are also glad to be once again partnering with the UNHCR and their #Voices4Refugees campaign that advocates for all refugees to live in safety."

With regard to social responsibility, Al-Hajjaj added: "The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' encourages an active and healthy lifestyle, which is an important component of our corporate social responsibility program, as is our support for youth and entrepreneurs. We are very

proud of the Pro-Vision Sport Management team who we partner with to hold this event. When the team came to us with their idea, we saw two young Kuwaiti entrepreneurs with a vision and the determination to succeed. As Gulf Bank is heavily invested in supporting Kuwait youth and entrepreneurs, we joined together to create an event that puts Kuwait on the international sporting map."

Ahmad Al-Huzami, CEO of Pro-Vision Sport Management, said: "We thank Gulf Bank for their belief in us and Pro-Vision Sport Management. When my partner Ahmed Al Majed and I first started organizing sporting events, we had hoped to create something special, today the positive response to the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' exceeds our expectations. It is the only road race in Kuwait to have three of its longer distance race categories accredited by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS), meaning they serve as qualifying events for major inter-

In Support of

**UNHCR's** 

**#Voices4** 

Refugees

national marathons. Last year competition was strong and we saw over 100 nationalities take part from around the world including Kuwait, US, Europe, and the wider GCC. This year, we anticipate even more people taking part and enjoying the event as part of an active and healthy lifestyle. We would like to thank the

Ministry of Interior, the Municipality, the Jaber Al Ahmed Cultural Center, the Public Authority for Sports, the Ministry of Information, Souq Sharq, and all our sponsors for their support of the 'Gulf Bank 642

#### Raising awareness

With regard to the importance of the private sector in raising awareness about humanitarian issues, Lulwa Al-Terkait, External Relations Associate at UNHCR -UN Refugee Agency: "I would like, in the name of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Gulf Bank for choosing for the second year in a row to address and highlight the issues of refugees and displaced persons around the world in one of Kuwait's most prominent sports and social events, the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon', for its success locally, regionally and internationally. We are proud that Gulf Bank has chosen to work again with UNHCR, as this step reflects successful cooperation with the private sector in Kuwait, where Gulf Bank is one of its pillars."

Dr Hamdan added: "UNHCR launched the



Under the Patronage of H.E. LT. GEN Sheikh. Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior















#Voices4Refugees campaign in 2015, an electronic initiative inviting you to register your names in a global petition claiming the right of every refugee to live in safety and dignity regardless of religion, nationality or race and to equal treatment in terms of protection, assistance and resettlement opportunities. The campaign also seeks to gather your signatures and express your moral solidarity with these refugees through the campaign's marathon https://voices.unhcr.org/en/gulfbank as this solidarity shows them that the world is aware of their suffering

and supports them in facing these challenges. Hamed Al-Hazeem, Director of Sports for All at the Public Authority for Sports said: "As an authority, we aim at providing the needed support to initiatives that highlight the importance the several types of sports, therefore, we thank Gulf Bank for this renowned event which provides a sophisticated model of sports focused events. We wish participants all the best"

#### Real value

As a platinum sponsor for the event, Waleed Al-Khashti, Corporate Communications and Relations Director - Zain Kuwait added: "Zain has always been committed to taking part in activities that add real value to the community, and we know that Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is one of those, as it's considered one of the biggest annual health driven events in Kuwait, and offers a wonderful opportunity to increase awareness of health and fitness issues".

Speaking on behalf of platinum sponsor Chevrolet Alghanim, Abdallah Mouazzen, General Manager for Chevrolet Alghanim, said: "We are proud to participate in the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' for the second time. At



Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at **Gulf Bank** 

Chevrolet Alghanim, we continuously support and sponsor activities throughout the year that entail community engagement. This is a great event that reaches not only to the youth, but to all segments of Kuwait's society, and we are happy to be a part of it."

To find out more about the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon book your place, www.gulfbank642marathon.com or @GulfBank642 on Instagram. Add your voice to the #Voices4Reguees campaign at voices.unhcr.org. The number 642 stands for the number of muscles in the body.

### Zain holds internal blood drive campaign

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, recently held the second internal Blood Drive campaign of the year for its employees. The campaign, held at the company's main headquarters in Shuwaikh, came in partnership with the Central Blood Bank of Kuwait and Al Salam International Hospital.

This event came as a continuation of Zain's first internal Blood Drive campaign of the year held back in April, which aims at raising awareness about the importance of donating blood and saving people's lives. The campaign falls under the umbrella of the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards the health sector.

The campaign received positively overwhelming participation from Zain employees who were eager to donate blood all-day long with the presence of the medical teams of Central Blood Bank and Al Salam International Hospital. The medical staff offered a number of free check-ups for Zain employees and answered their questions and inquiries regarding blood donation and general health.

Zain is proud of the positive feedback the blood drive campaign witnessed from its employees, which further reinforces the



company's keenness in having a productive role in social and health activities, especially those that contribute with saving people's lives. Zain strives to contribute to its community through its numerous Corporate Sustainability initiatives and is pleased with the success this particular activity has achieved.

The company is keen to organize health awareness campaigns for employees in collaboration with the leading medical entities in Kuwait to encourage them to pursue healthier lifestyles. The company's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference to people's everyday lives.

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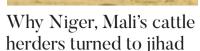
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# International

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## How Saudi turned on Hariri

### Saudi trying to weaken Iranian influence in Lebanon

touched down in Saudi Arabia on Friday Nov 3, he was in for a surprise. There was no line-up of Saudi princes or ministry officials, as would typically greet a prime minister on an official visit to King Salman, senior security officials said. His phone was confiscated, and the next day he was forced to resign as prime minister in a statement broadcast by a Saudi-owned TV channel.

The move thrust Lebanon back to the forefront of a struggle that is reshaping the Middle East, between the conservative Sunni monarchy of Saudi Arabia and Shiite revolutionary Iran. Their rivalry has fuelled conflicts in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, where they back opposing sides, and now risks destabilizing Lebanon, where Saudi has long tried to weaken the Iran-backed Hezbollah group, Lebanon's main political power and part of the ruling coalition. Sources close to Hariri say Saudi Arabia has concluded that the prime minister - a long-time Saudi ally and son of late prime minister Rafiq Al-Hariri, who was assassinated in 2005 - had to go because he was unwilling to confront Hezbollah. Multiple Lebanese sources say Riyadh hopes to replace Saad Hariri with his older brother Bahaa as Lebanon's top Sunni politician. Bahaa is believed to be in Saudi Arabia and members of the Hariri family have been asked to travel there to pledge allegiance to him, but have refused, the sources sav.

"When Hariri's plane landed in Riyadh, he got the message immediately that something was wrong," a Hariri source said. "There was no one was waiting for

**BEIRUT:** From the moment Saad Al-Hariri's plane him." Saudi Arabia has dismissed suggestions it forced Hariri to resign and says he is a free man. Saudi officials could not immediately be reached for comment on the circumstances of his arrival, whether his phone had been taken, or whether the Kingdom was planning to replace sources close to Hariri and top Lebanese political and him with his brother. Hariri has given no public remarks since he resigned and no indication of when he might return to Lebanon.

'No respect'

Hariri was summoned to the Kingdom to meet Saudi King Salman in a phone call on Thursday night, Nov 2. Before departing, he told his officials they would resume their discussions on Monday. He told his media team he would see them at the weekend in the Red Sea resort of

Sharm Al-Sheikh, where he was due to meet Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on the sidelines of the World Youth Forum. Hariri went to his Riyadh home. His family made their fortune in Saudi Arabia and have long had properties there. The source close to Hariri said the Lebanese leader received a call from a Saudi protocol official on Saturday morning, who asked him to attend a meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

He waited for about four hours before being present-

ed with his resignation speech to read on television, the source said. "From the moment he arrived they (Saudis) showed no respect for the man," another senior Lebanese political source said. Hariri frequently visits Saudi Arabia. On a trip a few days earlier, Prince Mohammed bin Salman had arranged for him to see senior intelligence officials and Gulf Affairs Minister

Aides say Saudi

Arabia forced

Hariri to resign

Thamer Al-Sabhan, the Saudi point man on Lebanon.

Hariri came back from that trip to Beirut "pleased and relaxed", sources in his entourage said. He posted a selfie with Sabhan, both of them smiling. He told aides he had heard "encouraging statements" from the crown prince, including a promise to revive a Saudi aid

package for the Lebanese army. The Hariri sources say Hariri believed he had convinced Saudi officials of the need to maintain an entente with Hezbollah for the sake of Lebanon's stability. Hezbollah has a heavily armed fighting force, in addition to seats in parliament and government. Saudi-backed efforts to weaken the group in Lebanon a decade ago led to Sunni-Shiite clashes and a Hezbollah takeover of Beirut.

"What happened in those meetings, I believe, is that

(Hariri) revealed his position on how to deal with Hezbollah in Lebanon: that confrontation would destabilize the country. I think they didn't like what they heard," said one of the sources, who was briefed on the meetings. The source said Hariri told Sabhan not to "hold us responsible for something that is beyond my control or that of Lebanon." But Hariri underestimated the Saudi position on Hezbollah, the source said. "For the Saudis it is an existential battle. It's black and white. We in Lebanon are used to grey," the source said. Sabhan could not immediately be reached for comment.

#### Resignation

Hariri's resignation speech shocked his team. Lebanese President Michel Aoun, a Hezbollah ally, told ambassadors to Lebanon that Saudi Arabia had kidnapped Hariri, a senior Lebanese official said. On Friday, France said it wanted Hariri to have "all his freedom of movement". In his speech, Hariri said he feared assassination and accused Iran and Hezbollah of sowing strife in the region. He said the Arab world would "cut off the hands that wickedly extend to it," language which one source close to him said was not typical of the Lebanese leader. Hariri's resignation came as more than 200 people, including 11 Saudi princes, current and former ministers and tycoons, were arrested in an anti-corruption purge in Saudi Arabia. Initially there was speculation Hariri was a target of that campaign because of his family's business interests. But sources close to the Lebanese leader said his forced resignation was motivated by Saudi efforts to counter Iran. — Reuters

### At Beirut marathon, Lebanese urge prime minister to return

**BEIRUT:** Thousands of Lebanese taking part in the country's annual marathon used the event to call on Prime Minister Saad Hariri to return home after he resigned under mysterious circumstances during a visit to Saudi Arabia. Hariri was a regular participant in the marathon, giving the international sports event a big boost. This year, President Michel Aoun had encouraged runners to call on Hariri to return. Many Lebanese suspect he was placed under house arrest as part of a Saudi plan to wreck a coalition government he had formed with Hezbollah last year.

A dual Lebanese-Saudi national and an ally of Riyadh, Hariri unexpectedly announced his resignation on Nov 4 in a pre-recorded message broadcast on Saudi TV, criticizing Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, and saying he feared for his safety. His father, former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, was killed by a car bomb in Beirut in 2005. His family lives in Riyadh.

Spectators along the 26.2 mile course wore hats and held signs reading "Running for you" and "Waiting for you." Large billboards with pictures of Hariri rose overhead, and a local TV station re-aired an hour-long profile and interview with Hariri recorded last year. One woman raised a placard reading: "We want our prime minister back." Ibrahim Al-Masri, a 37-year old Hariri supporter,



said the Lebanese don't know if the prime minister is staying in Saudi Arabia by choice.

"Whatever he chooses, we are with him. We want him to first come to Lebanon. We will die for him," Al-Masri said. Joanne Hamza, a physical education teacher who was wearing a cap with a picture of Hariri on it, said he was missed at the race. "But in a sense, his absence has been unifying. All Lebanese, from all sects, are missing their leader. This is somehow reassuring but we still want him with us." Aoun called on Saudi Arabia Saturday to clarify the reasons why Hariri has not returned home since his resignation. "The obscurity regarding Hariri's conditions makes anything that he says or does not reflect truth," the president said.

Saudi Arabia has stepped up its rhetoric against Hezbollah and its patron, Iran, accusing both of supporting Shiite rebels in Yemen known as Houthis. A Saudi-led coalition has been at war with the Houthis since March 2015. Saudi Arabia has asked its citizens to leave Lebanon, and many Lebanese fear further economic sanctions or even military action against their country. "It was a shock for the country, and already the country was suffering economically," said Ziad Zakka, a 52-year-old engineer who took part in the race. — AP

### **Bahrain opposition** leader accused of 'spying' for Qatar

**DUBAI:** Bahraini Shiite opposition leader Sheikh Ali Salman will face trial later this month for "spying" for Qatar, the state prosecution said yesterday. Salman will be tried alongside two of his colleagues, Hassan Sultan and Ali Mehdi, from November 27 after they were charged earlier this month of espionage. "The prosecution has referred the case in which Ali Salman, Hassan Sultan and Ali Mahdi are accused of spying for the state of Qatar to the High Criminal Court," the state prosecution said in a tweet. Salman has been behind bars since 2014 serving a nineyear sentence for allegedly inciting hatred.

On November 1 the state prosecution charged him with "spying on behalf of a foreign country ... with the aim of carrying out subversive acts against Bahrain and harming its national interests". Salman was also charged with "revealing defense secrets to a foreign country and disseminating information that would harm Bahrain's status and reputation". The investigation into purported links between Salman and Qatar was first launched in August, after a quartet of Arab countries-Bahrain included-accused their gas-rich neighbor of supporting terrorism and close relations with Shiite Iran. State-run Bahrain Television aired a report which claimed that neighboring Qatar was behind anti-government protests that have shaken the tiny kingdom for the past six years. — AFP

International

Monday, November 13, 2017

# Why Niger, Mali's cattle herders turned to jihad

### Arms, conflict opened door to Qaeda, then Islamic State

Herders face

life on the

tough, insecure

Sahel borderlands

**NIAMEY:** When Doundou Chefou first took up arms as a youth a decade ago, it was for the same reason as many other ethnic Fulani herders along the Niger-Mali border: to protect his livestock. He had nothing against the Republic of Niger, let alone the United States of America. His quarrel was with rival Tuareg cattle raiders. Yet on Oct 4 this year, he led dozens of militants allied to Islamic State in a deadly assault against allied US-Niger forces, killing four soldiers from each nation and demonstrating how dangerous the West's mission in the Sahel has become.

The incident sparked calls in Washington for public hearings into the presence of US troops. A Pentagon probe is due to be completed in January. Asked by Reuters to talk about Chefou, Nigerien Defense Minister Kalla Mountari's face fell. "He is a terrorist, a bandit, someone who intends to harm to Niger," he said at his office in the Nigerien capital Niamey earlier this month. "We are tracking him, we are seeking him out, and if he ever sets foot in Niger again he will be neutralized."

Like most gunmen in so-called Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, which operates along the sand-swept borderlands where Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso meet, Chefou used to be an ordinary Fulani pastoralist with little interest in jihad, several government sources with knowledge of the matter said. The transition of Chefou and

men like him from vigilantes protecting their cows to jihadists capable of carrying out complex attacks is a story Western powers would do well to heed, as their pursuit of violent extremism in West Africa becomes ever more enmeshed in long-standing ethnic and clan conflicts.

For now, analysts say the local IS affiliate remains small, at fewer than 80 fighters. But that was also the case at first with Al-Qaeda-linked factions before they tapped into local grievances to expand their influence in Mali in 2012. The United Nations this week released a report showing how IS in northern

Somalia has grown to around 200 fighters from just a few dozen last year. The US military has ramped up its presence in Niger, and other neighboring countries, in recent years as it fears poverty, corruption and weak states mean the region is ripe for the spread of extremist groups.

#### Genesis of a jihad

For centuries the Tuareg and Fulani have lived as nomads herding animals and trading - Tuareg mostly across the dunes and oases of the Sahara and the Fulani mostly in the Sahel, a vast band of semi-arid scrubland that stretches from Senegal to Sudan beneath it. Some have managed to become relatively wealthy, accumulating vast herds. But they have always stayed separate from the modern nation-states that have formed around them. Though they largely lived peacefully side-by-side, arguments occasionally flared, usually over scarce watering points. A steady increase in the availability of automatic weapons over the years

has made the rivalry ever more deadly.

A turning point was the Western-backed ouster of Libya's Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. With his demise, many Tuareg from the region who had fought as mercenaries for Gaddafi returned home, bringing with them the contents of Libya's looted armouries. Some of the returnees launched a

rebellion in Mali to try to create a breakaway Tuareg state in the desert north, a movement that was soon hijacked by Al Qaeda-linked jihadists who had been operating in Mali for years. Until then, Islamists in Mali had been recruiting and raising funds through kidnapping. In 2012, they swept across northern Mali, seizing key towns and prompting a French intervention that pushed them back in 2013.

Amid the violence and chaos, some of the Tuareg turned their guns on their rivals from other ethnic groups like the Fulani, who then went to the Islamists for arms and training. In November 2013, a young



Nigerien Fulani had a row with a Tuareg chief over money. The old man thrashed him and chased him away, recalls Boubacar Diallo, head of an association for Fulani livestock breeders along the Mali border, who now lives in Niamey. The youth came back armed with an AK-47, killed the chief and wounded his wife, then fled. The victim happened to be the uncle of a powerful Malian warlord. Over the next week, heavily armed Tuareg slaughtered 46 Fulani in revenge attacks along the Mali-Niger border.

troops by March 2018. —AFP

The incident was bloodiest attack on record in the area, said Diallo, who has documented dozens of attacks by Tuareg raiders that have killed hundreds of people and led to thousands of cows and hundreds of camels being stolen. "That was a point when the Fulani in that area realized they needed more weapons to defend themselves," said Diallo, who has represented them in talks aimed at easing communal tensions. The crimes were almost never investigated by police, admits a Niamey-based law enforcement official with knowledge of them. "The Tuareg were armed and were

pillaging the Fulani's cattle," Niger Interior Minister Mohamed Bazoum said. "The Fulani felt obliged to arm themselves."

#### 'Self-defense'

Gandou Zakaria, a researcher of mixed Tuareg-Fulani heritage in the faculty of law at Niamey University, has spent years studying why youths turned to jihad. "Religious belief was at the bottom of their list of concerns," he told Reuters. Instead, local grievances were the main driving force. Whereas Tuareg in Mali and Niger have dreamed of and sometimes fought for an independent state, Fulani have generally been more pre-occupied by concerns over the security of their community and the herds they depend on. "For the Fulani, it was a sense of injustice, of exclusion, of discrimination, and a need for self-defense," Zakaria said. One militant who proved particularly good at tapping into this dissatisfaction was Adnan Abu Walid Al-Sahrawi, an Arabic-speaking north African, several law enforcement sources said. —Reuters



International

Monday, November 13, 2017

## As Iran-Saudi Arabia 'Cold War' heats up, what next?

### Experts believe risk of direct military clash is low

**TEHRAN:** From a Yemeni missile attack to the resignation of his resignation, blaming Iran's "grip" on his country via Shiite Lebanon's prime minister, the "Cold War" between Middle East rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran has been heating up. Experts believe the risk of a direct military clash is low, but why have tensions escalated now and how will the crisis evolve? AFP looks at five questions on the Riyadh-Tehran rivalry and its

#### What are the origins of the rivalry?

Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia and Iran, the predominant Shiite power, have a long-standing rivalry based as much in geostrategic interests as religious differences. Facing off across the Gulf, the two energy-rich powers have for decades stood on opposing sides of conflicts in the Middle East. The Iranian revolution of 1979 and the advent of the Islamic Republic with its fiercely anti-American slant - were perceived as a double threat to the conservative Sunni monarchies of the Arabian Peninsula, allied with the United States.

Saudi Arabia was a key financial backer of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during his 1980-1988 war with Iran. With Iraq weakened following the 1991 Gulf War, Saudi Arabia and Iran became "the two main regional powers", said Clement Therme, a researcher at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

#### How have tensions escalated recently?

The latest round of tensions began when Riyadh and Tehran broke off diplomatic relations in January 2016, after Iranians stormed Saudi Arabia's embassy and consulate in response to the execution of a prominent Shiite cleric. That followed the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and six world powers, which Riyadh feared was a step towards ending Iran's international isolation. Rhetoric between the two grew increasingly belligerent, including over Saudi Arabia's Gulf neighbor Qatar. Riyadh and several of its Sunni allies broke off diplomatic relations with Qatar in June 2017, accusing Doha of support for extremism and links with Iran, claims that it denies.

On the first weekend of November, the animosity reached new heights. First, the Saudi-supported prime minister of Lebanon, Saad Hariri, in a broadcast from Riyadh announced movement Hezbollah. Several hours later, Saudi Arabia said its air defenses near Riyadh intercepted and destroyed a missile fired from Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is battling Iran-

That set off a fierce war of words between Riyadh and Tehran, with Saudi Arabia's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman accusing Iran of "direct military aggression". Tehran denied any involvement in the missile attack, with President Hassan Rouhani warning that Iranian "might" would fend off any challenge.

#### Why now?

"The main cause of the current tensions is related to the proxy confrontation between Iran and Saudi Arabia," Therme



How will the crisis evolve?

said, pointing to wars in Iraq, Syria and Yemen. Recent months have seen changes in these confrontations that appear to have brought the tensions to a head. In Iraq and Syria, the increasingly successful campaign against the Islamic State group has changed the situation on the ground. Offensives in both countries have forced the jihadists from nearly all the territory they seized in mid-2014.

As the threat from a common enemy "has imploded, tensions between these historic adversaries have escalated", said Max Abrahms, professor of political science at Northeastern University in Boston. As Iraq looks to a post-IS era, Riyadh has been taking steps to build stronger ties with the country's Shiite-dominated government. A flurry of visits between the two countries this year saw talk of a warming of ties, including a trip by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to Riyadh in late October.

In Syria, meanwhile, the Iran-backed government of President Bashar al-Assad has over the past year managed to reassert control over large parts of the country by defeating, among others, rebel groups backed by Riyadh. "The Saudi-Iranian rivalry has become the organising principle for Mideast alliances, reminiscent of how the Cold War divided countries along US and Soviet lines," Abrahms said. Analysts said the election as US president a year ago of Donald Trump has also contributed to the rise in tensions. Trump's open hostility towards Tehran has "released anti-Iranian energies in the Arabian Peninsula" and emboldened Riyadh, Therme said.

#### How important is the Sunni-Shiite divide?

The Sunni-Shiite divide between Saudi Arabia and Tehran is a crucial factor in conflicts between the two countries. Religious tensions have heightened since the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq that brought the majority Shiites to power in Baghdad instead of Saddam's Sunni-dominated regime. The 2011 Arab Spring uprisings, which saw Iran support the demands of sizeable Shiite minorities in Gulf monarchies, was another turning point, Therme said. "Arab states appeared vulnerable and Iran was then defined as the main threat to regional stability," he said. Iran has even called into doubt the suitability of the Saudi royal family to serve as custodians of Makkah and Madinah, the holiest cities in Islam - especially after a stampede at the annual hajj pilgrimage in 2015 left hundreds of Iranians dead.

#### How will the crisis evolve?

While the increase in tensions has raised serious concerns, few expect an outright military confrontation. "A broader regional conflict remains unlikely," said Graham Griffiths, a senior analyst at consulting firm Control Risks,



This file handout photo provided by the Iranian news agency IRNA and taken on July 17, 1982 shows Iranian sol diers fighting in the trenches battlefield of Ahvaz, during the Ramadan offensive of the Iran-Iraq War, also called the first Gulf War. —AFP

saying Riyadh would instead look to use the latest missile incident to push for further sanctions against Tehran. Therme agreed that both sides would steer clear of open conflict. "Iran has experience of the war with Iraq... and Saudi Arabia is bogged down in Yemen, after failing to define the future of the Syrian revolution... and counter Iran's influence in Iraq,"

### **US Supreme Court** to launch e-filing

WASHINGTON: Surely but slowly, the Supreme Court is entering the 21st century. The court is making new legal filings available online starting today, years behind the rest of the federal court system. Can livestreamed audio of arguments and even televised sessions be far behind? Yes, they can. But advocates of court openness will take what they can get for now, especially because the Supreme Court will not charge for documents. The federal courts' PACER system does charge fees.

Though the Supreme Court has moved glacially to join the rest of the judiciary in permitting online filing, that's better than not at all, and the institution should be commended for creating an e-filing system that, unlike PACER, will be free and easily accessible to the public," said Gabe Roth, executive director of

Over the years, the justices have at times shown a glancing familiarity with technology. Some carry computer tablets with high court briefs loaded on them. But notes between justices are routinely sent on paper, definitely not by email. Chief Justice John Roberts himself noted a few years back that the court stuck with pneumatic tubes to transmit newly released opinions from the courtroom to reporters waiting one floor below until 1971, long after their heyday. Roberts said that it's appropriate for courts "to be late to the harvest of American ingenuity" because their primary role is to resolve disputes fairly.

Many Supreme Court legal briefs already are available online and for free from several sources. Scotusblog.com obtains and posts many of them, along with opinions. The Justice Department has an easily accessible archive of its extensive high court filings on its website, and the American Bar Association posts briefs in the 70 to 80 cases the court agrees to hear each term. But the public may not know to look elsewhere. When the justices issued their highly anticipated decision upholding President Barack Obama's health care overhaul in 2012, the court's website was overwhelmed.

It, too, has recently been overhauled to make it friendlier to the public. The Supreme Court updates come amid criticism of the PACER system as outmoded and unfair. "The PACER system used by the lower federal courts is hopelessly outdated and cumbersome. And, to add insult to injury, the PACER system charges people fees to access court records that should be made freely available," said Deepak Gupta, the lead attorney in a class-action lawsuit challenging PACER fees.

The judiciary says the fees provide the only money to pay for the system. The cost to users was just one among several reasons the court opted not to join the PACER system, court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said. "The court elected to design its system in-house so that it would have the capability to customize and continuously update to meet the distinctive needs of the court and counsel," Arberg said.

Until now, lawyers have not been required to submit their filings to the court electronically. Beginning Monday, those documents should appear quickly on the court's website. People who can't afford to pay court costs will be allowed to file paper copies, which Supreme Court employees will scan and post online. Not everything is changing. Lawyers still will be required to submit up to 40 paper copies of every brief, and the court's color-coding system to distinguish types of briefs also will remain. There's no timetable for electronic filings to supplant paper as the official court record. —AP

### Tiny Texas town turns inward in wake of mass shooting

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS: The people of Sutherland Springs have not held news conferences, they haven't made appearances on network morning television shows, and while they've been polite to the media, they're not exactly forthcoming. Instead, this rural community is turning to the one thing that has buoyed them in good times, and sustains them now: an unshakeable faith in God. David Colbath, one of about 20 people who were injured but survived Devin Patrick Kelley's rampage at the First Baptist Church, held Bible study from his hospital bed.

Judy Green, a church member who avoided the carnage because she and her husband were running an errand, sought counseling at another church because of what she saw when she drove up to the building that day. Crystal Barkley, a Sutherland Springs resident who doesn't even attend the church, prayed and "stayed at home for a couple of days, collecting strength." There have been no fewer than three prayer vigils for the victims. One, held Wednesday and attended by Vice President Mike Pence, was so large that it had to be held in the neighboring town's football stadium.

Yesterday, the town gathered for church services in its community center, which is next door to the church and was part of the crime scene for several days. Residents have included reporters in impromptu prayer circles and have tried, quietly, to let the world know that it is a God-loving town, not a place of violence. "We want to be known for more than this," sighed Tambria Read, president of the local historical museum, schoolteacher and lifelong resident. "We are not a



shoot-'em-up community."

It's difficult to put into words what happens to a place after a mass shooting, and each has its own way of dealing with the horror. In big cities like Orlando and Las Vegas, it was possible for those not directly affected to mourn and move on, to try to get back to normal as quickly as possible and mend aching hearts. Suburban sprawl and the comforts of urban life helped smooth over the raw emotion and residents could ignore the media, the outsiders coming to help, the constant reminder of loss.

In Sutherland Springs, there's been no escaping Sunday morning's shooting that left more than two dozen people dead. Every resident in town knew at least one person who was killed, and most knew several. The victims were cousins, former students, people who they laughed with not long ago at the annual Fall Festival. Eight were children. In all, the gunman fatally shot 25

people at the church. Authorities have put the official death toll at 26 because one of the victims was pregnant. "It's a good, simple community," said Rod Green, Judy's husband. Green said he got a call from the church pastor, who was out of town. "He said, 'what's going on,' and I said, 'what do you mean?' He said, 'there's been a shooting at the church. Aren't you there?'

By the time Green and his wife arrived, police and first responders were there. There were wounded people in the parking lot. The Greens tried to comfort the wounded, while ambulances crisscrossed the road outside. Helicopters landed nearby to fly the critically wounded to hospitals. "I saw a lot of stuff in Vietnam, and I never expected to see that type of thing here," he said. And now there are outsiders in Sutherland Springs, who stick out by virtue of the fact that they're asking questions during a time when people are pleading for answers from God. —AP

### PM urges return of 'democratic, free' Catalonia

BARCELONA: Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said yesterday he wanted to return to a "democratic and free" Catalonia as he aimed to rally support for a unified Spain on his first visit to the turbulent region since it declared independence. A day after hundreds of thousands of people marched in Barcelona to demand the release of separatist officials detained over their independence drive, Rajoy also urged businesses not to flee the wealthy northern region. "We have to recover the sensible, practical, enterprising and dynamic Catalonia... that has contributed so much to the progress of Spain and Europe," Rajoy told members of his Popular Party in

"We want to regain a Catalonia for everyone, democratic and free," he added. The Catalonia crisis has caused concern in the European Union as the bloc deals with Brexit and uncertainty over the fate of the region's 7.5 million people. More than 2,400 businesses have moved their legal headquarters elsewhere. Rajoy yesterday urged those businesses "not to go". Separatist lawmakers, who were dismissed by Madrid after declaring their region independence from Spain last month, insist that they were given a mandate for secession by a banned October 1 referendum.

However, pro-unity camps say that the vote was deeply flawed and largely boycotted by opponents of independence, though more than 90 percent of those who turned out backed a breakaway. Several officials have been detained over their

role in pushing for independence, which is outlawed under Spain's post civil-war constitution. The region-which accounts for a fifth of Spanish GDP-remains deeply divided on independence and Barcelona¥s mayor on Saturday slammed separatist lawmakers for dragging Catalonia into chaos.

A poll commissioned yesterday by the Madrid-based El Pais daily showed that less than a third of Catalans now believed independence was possible in the near future. The 28 percent of respondents who said they thought swift secession was viable was down sharply from a similar poll in October. Rajoy has used his powers as head of Spain's central government to dismiss Catalan lawmakers, suspend the region's autonomy and call for fresh regional elections on December 21. The prime minister, who attended a presentation by a party candidate at hotel in Barcelona, did not appear in public.

#### 'Independence is toxic'

Rajoy's Party Popular won only 8.5 percent in Catalona's last election two years ago that saw pro-independence parties sweep to power. His candidate Xavier Garcia Albiol yesterday said events since the October 1 referendum showed that "independence is toxic and is destroying Catalonia." Eight ministers under Catalan ex-leader Carles Puigdemont have been detained on charges of sedition, rebellion and misuse of public funds. Two heads of pro-independence lobby groups are also behind bars. Six former parliamentarians were granted bail last week by Spain's Supreme Court on similar charges. Local police said 750,000 people turned out in Barcelona on Saturday to demand the release of detained officials. The demonstrators gathered on an avenue next to the regional parliament building waving Catalan independence flags and chanting "Freedom!" while some held up banners announcing: "SOS Democracy". Children in riding helmets climbed castells-the region's traditional human towers-as others held placards bearing caricatures of some jailed lawmakers. —AFP



## India rejects UN criticism of 'Clean India Mission'

### Government aims to eliminate open defecation by Oct 2019

**Indian lower-caste** 

communities left

to clean toilets

**MUMBAI:** The Indian government has rejected criticism of its ambitious sanitation program by a United Nations official who said lower-caste communities had their rights violated by being left to clean toilets built in a nationwide drive. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, or Clean India Mission, with much fanfare after he took office in 2014. The main aim is to eliminate open defecation by October 2019 by building individual and public toilets.

But activists say the campaign has failed to end the practice of manual scavenging, or clearing faeces by hand,

and has even exacerbated the problem because the toilets are not connected to water supplies or the sewage system. The UN special rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation affirmed those observations. The emphasis on building toilets should not "contribute to violating fundamental rights of others, such as those engaged in manual scavenging, or

ethnic minorities and people living in remote rural areas," Leo Heller said in a statement on Friday.

"Eliminating open defecation is not only about building latrines, but requires adequate methods for behavior change, and sufficient water supply is a pre-requisite for the sustainable and safe use of adequate, low-cost latrines." The Indian government dismissed Heller's "sweeping judgments" as "either factually incorrect, based on incomplete information, or grossly misrepresent (ing) the situation". The campaign fully conforms to human rights principles established by the UN, it said in a statement, adding that it "strongly rejected his mostly baseless assertions".

Despite laws to end the practice of manual scavenging, a euphemism for clearing faeces from dry toilets and open drains by hand, it is prevalent in many Indian states. The occupation has long been thrust upon the Dalit community, the lowest ranked in India's caste system. At least 90 percent of the country's estimated one million manual scavengers are women, who clean public and private dry latrines with barely any safety equipment.

While caste-based discrimination was banned in 1955, Dalit communities continue to face threats of violence if they try to give up manual scavenging. Dozens of manual scavengers have died in recent years from toxic fumes in septic tanks, activists say. The Indian government has shown "unprecedented commitment" in tackling the gaps in sanitation, but it also needs to adopt a humanitarian focus in addressing the issues, said Heller, who will submit a full report of his findings in September 2018.

#### Smog shortening lives

Meanwhile, in the emergency ward of a Delhi hospital, men and women gasp for breath as they wait to be treated for symptoms triggered by the choking blanket of smog that descended on the Indian capital this week. Doctors at the government-run Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute say patient numbers have more than tripled

since pollution levels spiked amid a change in weather conditions and the annual post-harvest burning of crop stubble in surrounding areas.

Shopkeeper Manoj Khati said he initially dismissed his heaving cough but it grew gradually worse and he has now been diagnosed with chronic bronchitis. "For three days I haven't stopped coughing, I felt as though I would die," the 46-year-old said as he waited to undergo further tests. Levels of PM2.5 - the fine pollution particles linked to higher rates of chronic bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease-regularly topped 500 this week, at one point

Levels between 301 and 500 are classified as "hazardous", while anything over 500 is beyond the official index. The World Health Organization's guidelines say 25 is the maximum level of PM2.5 anyone can safely be exposed to over a 24-hour period. Emergency ward doctor Mansi Verma said the hospital had seen a huge spike in patients



NEW DELHI: Indian workers use brooms to sweep away dust in the morning fog in Greater Noida, near New Delhi. A thick gray haze has enveloped India's capital region as air pollution hit hazardous levels. —AP

suffering from respiratory problems. They are treated with steam inhalation or using nebuliser machines, which provide immediate relief by administering drugs directly to the airways. "Beginning this week, we are seeing between 250-300 patients, more than three times the usual," Verma said. "Most of them suffer from intense coughing and inflammation of the respiratory tract."

#### Slow killer

Despite the rise in emergency cases Arvind Kumar, a

respiratory diseases specialist at the private Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi, said many of the worst health effects would not be seen for years to come. "Pollution kills you slowly," he said. "Whatever toxins levels we are exposed to today, suppose it continued for 10 days, this would have shortened the life of each one of us by several days or several weeks. "But that effect will be noticed many, many years later, so it's not an immediate killer. And that's why its potential lethal value is not immediately appreciated, but nonetheless, it's a lethal killer." —Agencies

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey yesterday dismissed as "ludicrous

and groundless" a report that Turkish officials may have

discussed kidnapping a US-based Muslim cleric in

exchange for millions of dollars. On Friday, The Wall

Street Journal reported that Special Counsel Robert

Mueller was investigating an alleged plot involving for-

mer US National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and his

son to forcibly remove Fethullah Gulen and hand him

over to Ankara for as much as \$15 million. Turkey blames

Gulen for last year's failed coup attempt. Gulen denies

the claim. In a statement on Twitter, Turkey's embassy in

Washington reiterated demands that the US extradite

Gulen so he can stand trial. The embassy said Turkey has

been working with US agencies to provide evidence of

Gulen's culpability and rejected "allegations that Turkey

FREETOWN: Sierra Leone said yesterday miners had

unearthed a huge 476-carat diamond, eight months after

an even more valuable find in the country's diamond-rich

east. It appears to be the 29th largest diamond ever

found, according to experts, but it is unclear what the

hefty stone might be worth. The latest discovery came, as

did its predecessor, in the province of Kono, said Sahr Wonday, director general of Sierra Leone's National Minerals Agency. For Wonday, the latest find "provides a

remarkable indication of the potential of the mineral

resources" in the area. He said the company that uncov-

ered the stone, Meya Mining, has won government

approval to export it and the diamond is to be sold at

international auction. Last month, Sierra Leone

announced it plans to auction off a massive 709-carat

diamond at a December sale in New York, aiming to make

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong police have raided a crack

cocaine laboratory sited in an upmarket apartment and

seized narcotics ingredients and drugs worth some \$7.6

million, a statement said Sunday. The ingredients were

thought to have been imported from Peru and could

have been used to produce 40 kilograms of cocaine.

This, plus another 10 kilograms of suspected crack

cocaine found in the apartment, would together have

been worth about HK\$59 million (\$7.56 million), police

said in a statement. It was believed to be the first time a

luxury apartment had been used as a base for manufac-

turing drugs, police said. The four-bedroom flat in Hong

Kong's New Territories measured 1,000 square feet-

a clean break with the "blood diamonds" of its past.

Cocaine lab busted

would resort to means external to the rule of law."

476-carat gem found

News in brief

Turkey denies 'plot'

### 'Old' Trump takes dig at 'short and fat' Kim Jong-Un

HANOI: US President Donald Trump took his verbal jousting with Kim Jong-Un to a new level yesterday, taunting the North Korean leader over his height and weight before musing over the idea of them eventually becoming friends. While they have never met, Trump and Kim have form when it comes to name-calling, with the US president a more than willing match for the highly rhetorical flourishes deployed by his adversary in Pyongyang.

Trump has referred to Kim as a "madman" and "Rocket Man" while the 33-yearold responded by calling the 71-year-old former reality TV star a "mentally deranged dotard". Yesterday Trump got down to basics, with a sarcastic tweet prompted by recent descriptions of him in the North's state media as a "lunatic old man".

"Why would Kim Jong-Un insult me by calling me 'old,' when I would NEVER call him 'short and fat'?" the president tweeted from Hanoi-the latest leg of a lengthy Asia

tour that had, until then, appeared to have moderated his Twitter habit. "Oh well, I try so hard to be his friend - and maybe someday that will happen!" he wrote. Sarcastic or not, the dig about Kim's weight, which has increased significantly since he came to power following the death of his father Kim Jong-Il in 2011, is unlikely to go down well in Pyongyang.

The members of the ruling Kim dynastypast and present-enjoy near god-like status in North Korea, which has demonstrated extreme sensitivity to any remark that might be seen as mocking or disrespectful of the leadership. Foreign tourists to Pyongyang are generally obliged to pay homage-laying flowers and bowing deeplybefore giant statues of Kim's father and his grandfather-founding leader Kim Il-Sungat some point during their visit.

Questioned later about his Tweet, Trump insisted he had not been entirely joking about one day befriending the man he described just last week as a dictator with "twisted fantasies".

"That might be a strange thing to happen but it's certainly a possibility," he told reporters at a press conference in the Vietnamese capital. "If that did happen, it would be a good thing, I can tell you, for North Korea ... I don't know that it will, but



ture of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un during a pro-US rally near the US embassy in Seoul. — AFP

it would be very, very nice if it did," he added. Trump has played hawk and dove with the North during his sweep of five Asian countries-denouncing it as a "cruel dictatorship," while offering Kim Jong-Un a diplomatic way out of the crisis over

Pyongyang's growing nuclear arsenal. During his election campaign, Trump said he would be willing to sit down with Kim and negotiate over a "hamburger" - an offer the North Korea leader has so far chosen to ignore.— AFP

### Israel signals free hand in Syria as US, Russia expand truce

JERUSALEM: Israel signaled yesterday that it would keep up military strikes across its frontier with Syria to prevent any encroachment by Iranian-allied forces, even as the United States and Russia try to build up a ceasefire in the area. US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday affirmed joint efforts to stabilize Syria as its civil war wanes, including with the expansion of a July 7 truce in the southwestern triangle bordering Israel and Jordan.

A US State Department official said Russia had agreed "to work with the Syrian regime to remove Iranian-backed forces a defined distance" from the Golan Heights frontier with Israel, which captured the plateau in the 1967 Middle East war. Moscow did not immediately provide details on the deal. Israel has been lobbying both big powers to deny Iran, Lebanon's Hezbollah and other Shiite militias any permanent bases in Syria, and to keep them away from the Golan, as they gain ground while helping Damascus beat back Sunni-led rebels.

In televised remarks opening Israel's weekly cabinet meeting yesterday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanvahu did not speak about the new US-Russian arrangement for Syria. His regional cooperation minister, Tzachi Hanegbi, sounded circumspect about the deal, telling reporters that it "does not meet Israel's unequivocal demand the there will not be developments that bring the forces of Hezbollah or Iran to the Israel-Syria border in the north".

'There's reflection here of the understanding that Israel has set red lines, and will stand firm on this," Hanegbi said. That was an allusion to Israeli military strikes in Syria, carried out against suspected Hezbollah or Iranian arms depots or in retaliation for attacks from the Syrian-held Golan. In the latest incident, the Israeli military said it shot down a spy drone on Saturday as it overflew the Golan. Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman blamed the drone on the Syrian government. Damascus did not immediately respond. Repeating Israel's warnings to Iran and Hezbollah, Lieberman said: "We will not allow the Shiite axis to establish Syria as its forefront base". —Reuters

### Israel warns Gaza militants against revenge attack

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday warned Palestinian militants against carrying out attacks in revenge for the blowing up of a tunnel stretching from the Gaza Strip into the Jewish state last month. The Islamic Jihad militant group meanwhile threatened to hit back at Israel over the destruction of the tunnel it says it dug. Israel's operation on October 30 resulted in the deaths of 12 Palestinian militants from Hamas and Islamic Jihad. "There are still those who toy with trying new attacks on Israel," Netanyahu said at the opening of his weekly cabinet meeting.

'We will react forcefully to whoever tries to attack us or attacks us from any arena. I mean anyone-rebel factions, organizations, anyone," he said in an apparent reference to Islamic Jihad. "In any case, we hold Hamas responsible for any attack against us originating from Gaza or organized there," he said of the Islamist group that runs the Gaza Strip. Netanyahu's remarks came on the heels of a Saturday night Arabic-language video issued by Major General Yoav Mordechai, head of a defense ministry unit responsible for activities in the Palestinian territories.

Referring to the Israeli operation on October 30, he said

that Israel "destroyed a terror tunnel in Israeli sovereign territory"."We are aware of the plot that the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group is planning against Israel," said Mordechai, whose defense ministry unit is known as COGAT. "They are playing with fire at the expense of Gazan residents, the Palestinian reconciliation efforts and the stability of the entire region. "Let it be clear: Any attack by Islamic Jihad will be met with a harsh and determined

Mordechai also addressed the Damascus-based Islamic Jihad leadership, mentioning Ramadan Shalah and Ziad Nakhaleh by name. He called on them to "take control over the situation," as they are the ones "who will be held accountable" for any attack. Islamic Jihad rejected Mordechai's message, saying "the enemy's threat to target the leaders of the movement" was "a declaration of war". "We will respond to it," the militant movement said in a statement, stressing it had "the right to respond" to the blowing up of the tunnel.

Israel has said it is holding the bodies of five militants retrieved from the tunnel and implied it would try to use them as bargaining chips to retrieve the remains of two Israeli soldiers believed to be held by Hamas. Two Israeli civilians, said to be mentally unstable, are also believed to have entered Gaza and to be held by Hamas. Hamas and Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas's Fatah signed a landmark reconciliation deal on October 12 aiming to end their decade-long split. The deal is supposed to see the Palestinian Authority retake control of the Gaza Strip by December 1. — AFP

GAZA: A picture taken from the eastern outskirts of Gaza Strip shows an Israeli drilling

machine stationed on the Israeli side of the border yesterday. -AFP

## Iraq helicopter crashes

large by the city's cramped standards.

KOUT: An Iraqi army helicopter crashed yesterday south of Baghdad during a training exercise killing all three crew members due to a technical problem, military officials said."A Mi-17 military helicopter crashed during a training exercise and its crew was killed," the army said in a statement. Three air force officers were killed in the crash in the province of Wasit, southeast of Baghdad, an air force official told AFP on condition of anonymity. Another air force officer said the helicopter came down at 0530 GMT "due to a technical problem". In January, a Russian-made Mi-35 attack helicopter went down south of the northern city of Mosul, killing all four crew members-two pilots and two technicians-also due to a technical failure. The accident came as Iraqi forces were battling the Islamic State group and an Iraqi officer at the time said the intensity of the war on IS meant that necessary maintenance work on such helicopters was not always satisfactory.

Israeli response. "This will not only apply to Islamic Jihad

### Analysis

COMMERCIAL



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## E-sport popularity mushrooms but money lags behind

It is a paradox pitting popularity against relative pittances - e-sports have exploded into the global consciousness but the big money has not yet appeared pitchside, or screenside. Participation has soared as virtual games gain traction, with a worldwide fan audience now estimated at 280 million, approaching that for the NFL. Such a leap in growth has helped fuel talk that competitive electronic sports, or professional gaming, could even soon become an Olympic "discipline". But even if the League of Legends final drew a huge audience to the "Bird's Nest" National Stadium in Beijing earlier this month the sector has yet to mature economically and needs to secure more funding in order to secure a longer term foothold in the sporting world, analysts say

And the question of how to open the revenue stream sluice gate is complex. "This year, e-sport should earn a little over 850 million euros (\$990 million) and studies show that come 2021 we'll reach turnover of some three billion euros," says Laurent Michaud, director of studies at Idate, a leading European think tank on the digital economy. "But that's set against a global video games market worth more than 65 billion euros."

How to ramp up low monetization is exercising minds given that an e-sport fan brings only three euros to the table annually on average, according to a recent study by Nielsen Sports. Soccer generates typically some ten times more.

#### 'Complicated audience'

One reason for the disparity between the virtual and the non-virtual sporting universes is the difficulty of engaging with e-fans via traditional broadcasting outlets. "Our football stadiums are still sold outbut clubs shouldn't feel too safe because the crowds are not so young. Traditional sports don't have to be afraid of e-sports, TVs should," says Tim Reichert, chief gaming officer at German top-flight football club Schalke 04. "We're still at the point we have to educate broadcasters and outside sponsors on how to interact with this complicated audience, because they don't watch TV and they all have ad blockers," Reichert told AFP at the Web Summit in Lisbon, a kind of "Davos for geeks" where virtual gaming featured high on the agenda.

Many e-sport fans are used to receiving their visual fare for free via platforms such as YouTube, rather than switching on the TV set. Traditional media are still taking baby e-steps after coming late to the genre. "We've had a partnership with BBC 3 which is a really good space to explore it, and with some success," says Barbara Slater, who heads the BBC's sports coverage. "We've covered an e-gaming event live. I just think we'll step forward cautiously but there is no question the interest and the amount time and engagement that e-sports is achieving with

our audience."

An additional obstacle is dubious image a substantial swathe of society has of video gaming and esport in particular. "People are afraid of what they don't understand. There is still a generation that doesn't know anything about video games. Twenty ago that was a majority, now it's 50-50 and in the future there will be less people that don't understand it," says Ralf Reichert, founder of Electronic Sports League (ESL), the oldest and largest-scale organizer of e-sport competitions. "The simple changing of generation will remove the fear" of making the e-leap, says Reichert.

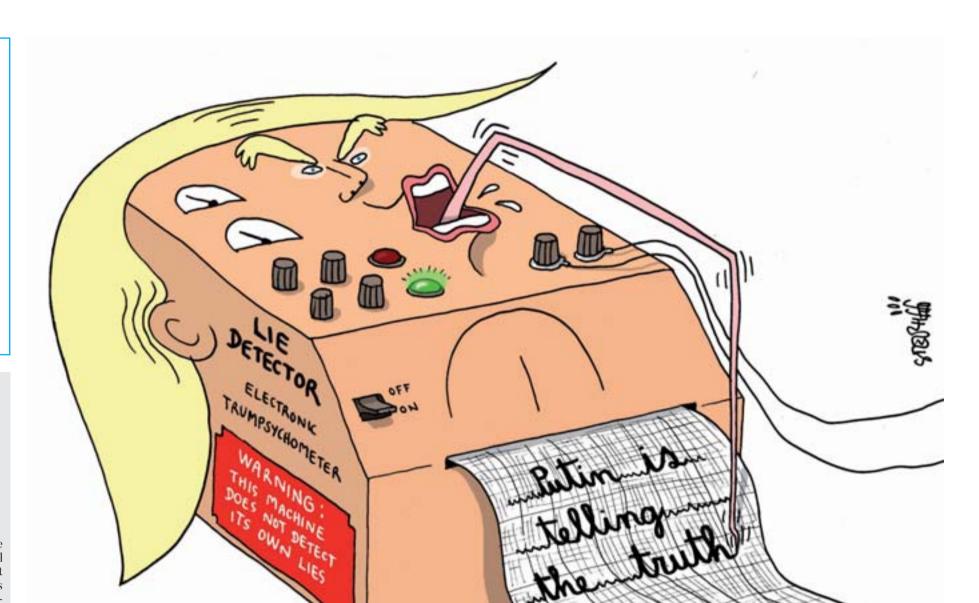
#### Web wonder

The generational shift is moving in e-sport's favor, says Andy Dinh, a former star gamer now heading his own team. In his view, "today's fans take their children to watch an e-sport competition e-sport as some take theirs to watch the baseball. These are the upcoming generations of fans." That will increasingly bend the ear of sponsors and broadcasters when it comes to showing and investing in competitions which are set increasingly to become unmissable

attractions on the e-circuit.

"Our sponsoring costs are rising and will continue to do so, but so will our earnings," insists Bracken Darrell, president and chief executive officer of IT device developer Logitech. IDate's Michaud weighs in that "the future of e-sport is not on television, everything is on the web". He added: "Broadcasting rights will concern platforms, there will be (rights) for the organisation of events, everything connected

to sports betting could comprise important revenue." Facebook or YouTube, cited as potential broadcast rights buyers for sports events, could be tempted by e-sport instead of more traditional sports that they might judge a less profitable return in investment terms. "Football is much bigger and it's going to be there for a long time but it's totally fine," insists RESL's Ralf Reichert. "If e-sport becomes the second largest sport in the future, everyone in the industry will be very happy with that!" —AFP



### Alarm over moves to make French less macho

Moves to make French more female-friendly have sparked impassioned debate in France, with an appalled Academie Francaise warning of a "mortal danger" to the language of Moliere. At the center of the debate is the growing use of formulations such as "lecteur.rice.s" for the word "readers" to embrace both genders. Several government ministries, universities and labour unions use so-called "inclusive writing", but it had largely escaped public notice - until this autumn when it turned up in an elementary school history textbook.

The Academie Francaise, the arbiter of the French language which has inducted just eight women since its foundation in 1635, did not mince words. "In the face of this 'inclusive' aberration, the French language finds itself in mortal danger," the body intoned. The widespread adoption of inclusive writing would add a layer of complexity that would make French less attractive on the world stage to the benefit of other major languages, it argued.

French Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer also weighed in to decry "repeated attacks on the French language". French "should not be exploited for fighting battles no matter how legitimate they are," he said. But "defenseur.e.s" (defenders) of inclusive writing say the French language must keep up with changing times.

Raphael Haddad, whose public relations firm published an inclusive writing manual last year, welcomed the debate, saying it would foster acceptance of the feminization of the names of professions. "Ten years ago, people criticized words like ambassadress... The revolution is under way," he told AFP. The debate comes as the issue of sexual harassment, abuse and violence is capturing headlines worldwide

in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

But it is nothing new, and follows feminist linguistic campaigns dating to the French Revolution. Efforts in the 1980s by Socialist president Francois Mitterrand to introduce feminine versions of the names of professions met with stiff resistance from the Academie Francaise. Then in 2015, France's High Council for Equality Between Women and Men issued a guide urging public bodies to use gender-



neutral language that avoids sexual stereotypes. It suggested that feminine forms of the words for "firefighter" and "author" would make women "more visible".

But the school textbook referring to farmers as "agriculteur.rice.s" and shop owners as "commercant.e.s" - complete with a new punctuation mark called the "middle dot" at the level of a hyphen - sparked particular rage among

French language purists. Former education minister Luc

Ferry asked in a tweet: "Who is the cretin or cretine who invented (this) unpronounceable inclusive writing?" "Rationalist" feminist Peggy Sastre, writing in the weekly Le Point, called it "intellectual terrorism".

#### 'Masculine is nobler'

It was the Academie Francaise that reversed earlier more egalitarian rules derived from Latin. Last week, 314 schoolteachers signed an op-ed on the French edition of the Slate news website pledging to scrap a rule governing the gender of adjectives. They cited an 18th-century grammar book that stipulated a preference for masculine forms, saying "the masculine is seen as nobler than the feminine because of the superiority of the male over the female". Teaching this in schools, which "symbolize emancipation through knowledge... lead women and men to accept the domination of one sex over another," the teachers wrote.

Viviane Youx, president of a French language teaching association, told AFP she encouraged a debate that would help "change mentalities". But critics such as philosopher Raphael Enthoven object to what they see as a prescriptive, authoritarian approach to the language spoken by some 275 million people worldwide. They say language usage should be allowed to evolve naturally over time. Others question complicating the language at a time when official figures show a steep drop in pupils' verbal skills, notably in spelling.

But if inclusive writing prevails, the French Standardisation Association will be ready: early next year it will authorize two new French keyboard layouts that will include the "middle dot" needed to write "informaticien.ne.s" (computer techs) correctly.—AFP

### Ghana maritime boundary win to spark oil bounty

Ghana's "long and arduous journey" to boost offshore oil exploration and extraction will be fuelled with billions of extra dollars after a key court victory over Ivory Coast. Thanks to efforts by successive governments and conquering lawyers at the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) over a disputed maritime boundary with Ivory Coast which resulted in a ruling in Ghana's favour, the money will soon will be pouring in.

Ghana has produced oil commercially since 2010, leading to a burst of growth that transformed it into an emerging economy, piquing the interest of global investors. But new exploration and production was halted in 2014 when Ivory Coast said drilling off Ghana's western coast had strayed into its territory. Fruitless talks saw the issue taken to the ITLOS, which in September said Ghana had not, in fact, breached its neighbor's sovereignty.

In October, President Nana Akufo-Addo said the tribunal ruling opened up "possibilities of development, progress and prosperity". Expected oil revenue will likely mean more funding towards roads, schools and hospitals, he said. Operator Tullow Oil said output from its Twenboa, Enyenra and Ntomme (TEN) fields was currently about 50,000 barrels per day (bpd) and will be maintained until the end of the year. Exploratory drilling will then resume, eventually allowing production to increase towards the 80,000 bpd capacity on its floating production storage facility.

TEN field reserves are estimated at 306 million barrels of oil while the wider Tano Basin, which was the subject of the boundary dispute, holds the equivalent of 3-4 billion barrels. At current prices of around \$55 per barrel, the TEN field has the potential to generate \$16.7 billion in revenue and the Tano Basin \$165 billion,

said petroleum economist Theo Acheampong. "That is really what was at stake in this ruling," said Acheampong, from analysts IHS Markit. And with the area already known for being rich in oil and gas resources, he said there was likely even more to be discovered.

#### Economic development

Compared with other oil-producing nations in Africa such as Nigeria and Angola, whose output is upwards of 1.5 million bpd, Ghana's production is still low. Acheampong said as a result, the extra billions expected after the tribunal ruling would still not necessary lead to a turnaround in the country's economic fortunes. Ghana's economy in 2011 soared with rates of growth topping 14 percent but then slowed, inflation soared and public sector debts spiralled.

lic sector debts spiralled.

The government took a \$918-million International Monetary Fund loan in 2015 on condition of reform, tighter fiscal discipline, lower inflation and stronger public finances. Recovery is expected to continue this year and next with estimates of 7.1 percent and 8.0 percent growth, according to the African Development Bank. That depends on "new hydrocarbon wells coming on stream and the timely resolution of technical issues that led to disruptions in the Jubiles oil and gos field in 2016" it added

Jubilee oil and gas field in 2016", it added. Since oil production began in 2010, some \$3.5 billion in oil money has gone towards funding development projects, new roads and hospitals. Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara meanwhile visited Accra in October in what was interpreted as a sign to investors that ties remained strong between the neighbors. Benjamin Boakye, executive director for the African Centre for Energy Policy, said instead of souring relations, the tribunal case appeared to have strengthened ties. That bodes well for any possible discovery of oil that straddles both sides of the border, he added. "Given the number of discoveries on both sides of the border, it could be possible that at some point the countries will have to unitise one discovery or the other," he said. "So there is need for that kind of cooperation to

### Tijuana drawing shoppers who once flocked to San Diego

Rahil Iqbal sugarcoats nothing: "Business is finished." The 64-year-old of Pakistani origin says sales have plummeted at his California clothing stores in San Diego's San Ysidro district, which borders Tijuana, Mexico. He blames US President Donald Trump's fierce rhetoric against immigrants, especially Mexicans. Business has plunged some 70 percent, he estimates, while the local Chamber of Commerce calculates that area shops have seen sales drop by 35 to 45 percent since Trump entered the White House. "The feeling is palpable," said Jason Wells, the chamber's president. "It's the uncertainty that affects us," he told AFP, explaining that Mexicans who used to cross the border to shop now fear to make the journey.

Jorge Trujillo, who has seen sales at his cell phone store drop 30 percent, said a government order for border agents to check the social-network contacts of foreigners entering the country has fanned fears. If Mexicans buy a phone number stateside without being residents, they worry that customs agents will think they live in the US and take their tourist papers, the shop owner said. Trump's aggressive rhetoric - including his threats to build a massive border wall and deport millions of undocumented immigrants - has stirred both anger and newfound pride among residents of the border region.

The president has moved to eliminate the DACA program, which allowed undocumented immigrants who arrived in the US as children to work - an Obama-era measure that benefited more than half a million Mexicans. "He has promoted a sense of Mexicanness, particularly on the border," said Mario Carignan, president of Tijuana's Chamber of Commerce, who said members there report sales increases of up to 10 percent.

#### 'I buy in Tijuana'

It happened to Soraya Vasquez: "I prefer to consume in Tijuana; it's a matter of dignity," she told AFP. "I've stopped crossing to the United States," she said. "There is something holding me back from crossing." The San Ysidro entry point is the busiest land border crossing in the world, traversed daily by thousands of people. Two metal fences divide the sector, and in nearby Otay Mesa sit eight prototypes for the border wall

Trump has vowed to build.

With discontent growing over the new US president, Tijuana's chamber in January launched an "I buy in Tijuana" campaign to promote local consumption and seek to reverse the habits of Mexican consumers who in the past spent an estimated \$6 billion annually in the United States. One of the most successful stores taking part in the campaign is "Tijuana I Love 664", a reference to the city's area code. "People come to buy clothes that say 'Tijuana' in large print," said Carlos Zuniga, the brand's marketing director. Many clients - both Americans and Mexicans - aim to send Trump a message.

#### A question of brands

"They tell us they're going to stand in one of Trump's buildings and take a photograph," he said, explaining it is a way to convey, "Look, we're Mexicans, and we came to visit you." Not everyone has given up crossing the border, however; some still prefer shopping in the US for what they consider a better cost-to-quality ratio. John Walker, who manages a large shopping center near a border crossing, said he has not felt the Trump effect as others have, which he owes to labels. It's "brand, brand, brand," he said. "The folks that come from Mexico are looking for the control of the cont

One merchant, who identified herself only as Carmen, crosses once a week to stock up on merchandise at a US warehouse. "People on the border are used to buying American products," the 56-year-old said as she stuffed a black garbage bag with sports socks and women's underwear. "I have been coming for more than 25 years. The Mexican product is not the same; to get quality it's very expensive." But what about Trump? "That's politics," she said. "I work to survive." —AFP

News

## Hariri says he's free in Saudi and will return 'soon'

BEIRUT: Saad Hariri, whose resignation as Lebanon's prime minister a week ago sent shockwaves across the region, said yesterday he is "free" in Saudi Arabia and will return to Lebanon "very soon". In an interview from Riyadh with his party's Future TV, Hariri brushed aside rumours that he was under de facto house arrest in the kingdom, from which he announced his surprise departure. "I am free here. If I want to travel tomorrow, I will," Hariri said. "I will return to Lebanon very soon," Hariri said, adding later that he would land in Beirut "in two or three days".

Hariri, 47, announced he was stepping down from his post in a televised address on November 4 from Riyadh, and has yet to return to his native Lebanon. The statement sent shockwaves across the region as tensions rise between Riyadh and Tehran, which back opposing sides in power struggles from Lebanon and Syria to Yemen.

At the time, Hariri accused Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah of taking over his country and destabilizing the broader region. "We cannot continue in Lebanon in

## Qatar investigates alleged currency...

Continued from Page 1

"If this financial warfare is true, it is disgraceful and dangerous not only to Qatar's economy but the global economy," Sheikh Saif told AFP. "One of the financial institutions stopped trading in riyals for a few days and it was only when we reached out to them" that it resumed, he said. Qatar's intelligence agencies are carrying out an investigation and "have engaged with law enforcement officials in the relevant jurisdictions", he said.

The Qatari claim comes just days after The Intercept, a US-based investigative website, said it had

## Trump offers to mediate in South...

Continued from Page 1

cooperation, including joint development and jointly strive to uphold peace and stability in the South China Sea," Xinhua reported.

China claims nearly all of the strategically vital sea, through which \$5 trillion in shipping trade passes annually. It is also believed to sit atop vast oil and gas deposits. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have claims in the sea, and the dispute has long been seen as a potential trigger for conflict in Asia. Vietnam has courted support from Washington in the row, as it and other claimants have been powerless to stop China's efforts in recent years to cement its claims by building artificial islands in disputed areas.

Those islands are capable of serving as military bases, and some of the rival claimants are concerned that China will soon establish de facto control of the waters. Tensions spiked this year when Vietnam suspended an oil exploration project in an area of the sea also claimed by Beijing, reportedly over pressure from its powerhouse communist neighbor. In 2014, China moved an oil rig into waters off Vietnam's coast, sparking violent protests in several Vietnamese cities. Trump's offer came just before he flew to the Philippine capital of Manila for another regional summit.

However, his proposal was not immediately accepted by the Philippines, which under President Rodrigo a situation where Iran interferes in all Arab countries, and that there's a political faction that interferes alongside it," he repeated yesterday in apparent reference to rival movement Hezbollah. "Maybe there's a regional conflict between Arab countries and Iran. We're a small country. Why put ourselves in the middle?"

#### 'Rescind resignation'

Wearing a suit and tie and with a Lebanese flag in the background, the former premier looked tired yesterday and spoke softly but firmly throughout the interview. Hariri, who also holds Saudi citizenship, told journalist Paula Yaacoubian that he wrote his resignation himself and wanted to submit it in Lebanon, "but there was danger". He also appeared to lay down an exit strategy, saying he would be willing to "rescind the resignation" if intervention in regional conflicts stopped. "We need to respect the disassociation policy," Hariri said, referring to an agreement among Lebanese political factions that they would not interfere in Syria's six-

He appeared to be alluding to Hezbollah's military intervention on behalf of the Syrian government, to which Hariri is opposed. Lebanese President Michel Aoun has yet to formally accept Hariri's resignation and said the premier has been "restricted" in his movements. Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said Friday that Hariri was "detained in Saudi Arabia, he is banned from returning to Lebanon". — AFP

uncovered a UAE plot to "wage financial war" on Doha. It claimed leaked emails belonging to the UAE's ambassador in Washington, Yousef Al-Otaiba, revealed a complex plan to attack the riyal through bond and derivatives manipulation. The plan allegedly aimed to destabilize Qatar's economy to the extent that it would have to give up the right to host the football World Cup in 2022.

Sheikh Saif said Qatar had become aware of the currency issue in July but was revisiting the issue following recent media reports. "Definitely they are attacking 2022 in one way or another," he said. Qatar is the first Arab country to be chosen to host the FIFA World Cup and has launched massive construction projects in preparation, triggering a huge influx of migrant labor. The UN's labor agency on Wednesday closed a three-year probe into the alleged mistreatment of those workers, praising a reform plan agreed by the emirate. — AFP

Duterte has sought to defuse tensions with China over the row in favor of closer economic ties. "We thank him for it. It's a very kind, generous offer because he is a good mediator. He is the master of the art of the deal," Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said when asked about Trump's offer. "But of course the claimant countries have to answer as a group or individually and not one country can just give an instant reply because mediation involves all of the claimants and non-claimants."

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he had discussed the dispute with Xi when they met on the sidelines of APEC in the Vietnamese city of Danang on Saturday. "He assured us again: 'Do not worry, you have all the rights of safe passage. That will also be applicable to all countries'," Duterte told reporters after arriving back in Manila. But that assurance appeared to be based on a premise of China controlling the waters, and whether it would allow other countries to pass through them.

Today, China and ASEAN are expected to announce in Manila that they have agreed to begin talks on a code of conduct for the sea. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang will promote the agreement as an important breakthrough, Filipino foreign department spokesman Robespierre Bolivar told reporters last week. However, the talks are not expected to begin until "sometime next year" and, at China's insistence, any agreement will not be legally binding, Bolivar said. Vietnam had been pushing for the code to be legally binding. But with the Philippines acceding to China's demands, ASEAN agreed in August that it would not have any legal force. China agreed in 2002 to begin talks on a code, but has delayed actually doing so while carrying out its expansionist strategy. — AFP

# Isolated Qatar campaigns to protect 2022 World Cup

SHEFFIELD, England: The birthplace of modern football is now an unassuming site: A couple of pitches with no stands for supporters, and a ramshackle indoor facility where damp rises on the walls and paint peels from the goalposts. When Sheffield FC formed in this northern English steel city 160 years ago, the wealth awash in the modern game was unimaginable to the founders of the world's first soccer club. The symbol of how vastly football has changed is thousands of miles away in the Gulf, where stadiums are springing up in the Qatari desert and tens of billions of dollars are invested in infrastructure to ensure a tiny nation can host the 32-team World Cup in 2022.

But Olive Grove, where the first rules of the modern game were conceived by Sheffield FC's founders, was the latest stop this week for Qatar World Cup leader Hassan Al-Thawadi on a mission to convince the global football community that his country remains a worthy host of the FIFA showpiece. Seven years after the controversial vote and five years until kickoff, doubts linger about Qatar's suitability and right to host the Middle East's first World Cup.

"I believe we will always be in campaign mode," Thawadi, secretary general of Qatar's World Cup organizing committee, said at the self-styled "Home of Football" in an interview with AP. "Most host nations or host cities suffered from criticism." Perhaps, but none on the scale faced by Qatar, which was unprepared for the sharp scrutiny that followed victory in the secret ballot that took the game's biggest showcase to the smallest country yet.

The greatest threat to Qatar's hosting status initially came from corruption investigators, who were troubled by some of the bid conduct but ultimately found there was no improper activity that swayed the vote. Censure came from labor watchdogs who believed a form of modern slavery formed the backbone of World Cup construction, and Qatar was compelled to safeguard rights and conditions for migrant workers. While progress has been made in a region unaccustomed to providing such protections, Qatar still faces demands to be more transparent about the cause of worker deaths and to eradicate exploitative practices like the "kafala" sponsorship system which binds workers to their employer. "The World Cup is a catalyst and an engine for accelerated reforms," Thawadi said.

Now more powerful forces are at play threatening the

## Dubai Air Show opens with Emirates'...

Continued from Page 1

"As your president I'm going to do everything I can to unleash the power of the American spirit and to put our great people back to work," Trump said at the time. "This is our mantra: Buy American and hire American." Sheikh Ahmed made a point to say the deal will help

create more jobs, echoing Trump's mantra. The deal was signed in the presence of Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, who also serves as the United Arab Emirates' prime minister and vice president. "The order will take Emirates' total (number of) wide body aircraft of the Boeing to 204 aircrafts, units worth over \$90 billion," Sheikh Ahmed said. "This is a long-term commitment that supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, not only at Boeing but also throughout the aviation supply chain."

Trump and the White House made no immediate comment on the sale amid the president's trip to the Philippines yesterday. Emirates' business has suffered under Trump's travel bans affecting predominantly Muslim nations, as well as the recent ban on laptops in airplane cabins. Emirates said it slashed 20 percent of its flights to the US in the wake of the restrictions, though Dubai International Airport remains the world's busiest international travel hub.



a photo following an interview on Nov 9, 2017. — AP

World Cup: Four Arab countries have severed diplomatic ties and placed Qatar under a blockade since June in a move claimed to stop the natural-gas-rich country from supporting terrorism - charges denied by Thawadi. "For whoever may want to bring this World Cup into a political debate, that is an action that they are doing unilaterally," he said.

However sure Thawadi is, the World Cup will be played as scheduled from Nov 21 to Dec 18, 2022 - contentiously chosen by FIFA to avoid the fierce summer heat in the usual June-July slot - and he is clearly troubled by attempts to undermine the tournament. A day after speaking to AP in Sheffield, Thawadi ducked out of the royal box at Wembley Stadium in London just before watching England play Germany to launch a broadside against what he perceives as efforts by Qatar's regional rivals to bring down the World Cup.

Dubai's security chief has already said the only way to end "Qatar's crisis" was to give up the event, though he later said he was referring to the financial impact of hosting. An Emirati minister followed up by tweeting that Qatar's hosting of the tournament should "include a repudiation of policies supporting extremism & terrorism". Lobbying firms backed by the nations opposing Doha have increasingly targeted the World Cup, while Twitter has been promoting anonymous paid posts attacking Qatar's fitness as a tournament host, citing corruption allegations and worker abuses.

"We refuse to have this World Cup used as political pawn or a political tool because we believe in separating politics from sports ... and using sports as a means of resolving conflict," Thawadi said in the Wembley library. "I hope that the blockading nations see reason to be able to participate and join for the sake of the region benefiting out of this World Cup." — AP

Emirates now relies solely on the Airbus 380 and the Boeing 777 for its flights, making it the largest operator of both. It now has 165 Boeing 777s in its fleet today. Last week, the US plane manufacturer secured an order valued at more than \$37 billion at list price for 300 of its single-aisle and double-aisle planes during Trump's visit to China. Trump also was present for the signing ceremony last month between Boeing and Singapore Airlines for 39 new aircraft, including 19 of the 787 Dreamliner, in a deal worth up to \$14 billion.

While a big sale, the Dubai Air Show opened yesterday on what seemed to be a quieter note. The only other major sale for airplane manufacturers involved Azerbaijan Airlines, which will buy five Boeing 787-8s, two other freighter aircraft and landing gear maintenance from it for some \$1.9 billion. It's a far cry from 2013, when airlines made \$140 billion in new orders before the collapse of global oil prices. Prices have rebounded recently to around \$60 a barrel.

Other airlines than Emirates are taking part, but missing from the trade show this year is one of the region's largest long-haul carriers, Qatar Airways, amid a diplomatic fallout between Qatar and four Arab nations. Qatar Airways previously had played a big role in the Dubai Air Show, reserving a large pavilion and displaying its latest aircraft to visitors. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain cut ties with Qatar in June over its ties with Iran and its support of Islamist groups, accusing the small Gulf state of supporting extremists, charges it denies. The Arab quartet cut direct flights with Qatar and closed their airspace to Qatari aircraft. — AP





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Monday, November 13, 2017 Sports

#### Marquez wins fourth MotoGP world title

CHESTE: Spain's Marc Marquez sealed his sixth world championship and fourth in the premier MotoGP category with third place at the season-ending Valencia Grand Prix yesterday. Holding a commanding 21-point lead in the championship from Andrea Dovizioso, Marquez was guaranteed the title with a top-11 finish or if Dovizioso failed to win the race. And Dovizioso's fate was sealed when he crashed out five laps from the end. Marquez's Honda teammate Dani Pedrosa won the race from France's Johann Zarco

in second. Starting from pole, Marquez waved Zarco through on the fourth lap to rule out any chance of an untimely early crash. However, he couldn't resist an attack on the Frenchman to try and win the championship in style with eight laps to go and ran wide, dropping him down to fifth. Yet, Ducati's hopes of usurping Marquez were quickly undone as Jorge Lorenzo and then Dovizioso both crashed out as they paid the price for pushing at the limit for the whole race. —AFP

#### Ousted Evra backed by former team-mate Mandanda

PARIS: After being hit with a season-long ban and losing his job at Marseille for a karate kick on a supporter, Patrice Evra was backed by former team-mate Steve Mandanda yesterday. "He's a really good guy," the Marseille goalkeeper said of the 36-year-old Evra, who parted ways with the club after being banned from European football until June 30, 2018. "I'm very disappointed for Pat, a true friend and a real good guy. We have lost a leader," said Mandanda of the former France captain who also played 379 times for Manchester United. Evra had been widely condemned for the assault on a Marseille fan which took place ahead of a Europa League tie at Portuguese side Vitoria Guimaraes last week. And Mandanda acknowledged his former team-mate had made a major error. "As a professional you need to set an example and this is not the kind of thing you can do," he said. —AFP

#### **Boston's Irving suffers** minor facial fracture

**BOSTON:** Boston's Kyrie Irving has been diagnosed with a facial fracture and could miss today's game against the Toronto Raptors, where the Celtics will be seeking to win their 12th straight game. The minor fracture to Irving is just the latest health problem for the Celtics, who are one of the hottest teams in the NBA despite the rash of injuries. The loss of Irving means Boston is without all of its Big Three which also comprises Gordon Hayward (out for season) and Al Horford (concussion). Rookie Jayson Tatum is nursing a sore ankle. Irving suffered the injury in the first quarter of Friday's game at the Boston Garden, when he took an accidental elbow to the mouth from teammate Aron Baynes. After the hit, Irving fell to the floor holding his face. Irving was attended to by Celtics trainer Art Horne and left the court clutching a towel over his bloodied face. He was also checked for a concussion. —AFP

## RunKuwait raises over KD 40,000 in support of children's rehabilitation

### Charity event attracts 2,300 participants



The outcome of

this year's race

is impressive

**KUWAIT:** Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN) is pleased to announce the successful completion of the seventh installation of the RunKuwait annual charity event, which took place on Saturday, November 11 at The Scientific Center, with the support of the founding partner, Agility. This year's race attracted 2,300 participants who crossed the finish line amidst the cheers and applauds of family and friends.

The initiative successfully raised a total of companies. KD40,000 which will be channeled towards providing free of charge and subsidized treatment of vulnerable children with disability at the non-profit Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC), founded

by FSHN. CERC offers services for children in a number of areas which include physical therapy, hydrotherapy, speech pathology, coun-selling/behavior therapy and occupational therapy.

"We are proud to com-

plete another successful installation of the RunKuwait initiative and witness our community members stepping up and supporting this

to successfully host this year's event through the support of our founding partner, Agility and our other generous sponsors and partners who shared our vision and goals in helping children in need. We would also like to thank all the individual participants and companies for media sponsors for the RunKuwait initiative this year

joining us this year and we look forward to their continuous support towards the RunKuwait initiative," commented Dr Elham Hamdan, medical director at FSHN.

Excited participants were welcomed with a series of warm-up exercises prior to the start of the race at the race village. The race village was also the hub in offering refreshment options to the attendees, which were provided by both sponsors and contributing

Henadi Al Saleh, Agility Chairperson said: "The outcome of this year's race is impressive. On behalf of Agility, I thank all participants, volunteers and runners who took part in RunKuwait and helped raise funds that

help give children with disabilities the much-needed support they require."

RunKuwait's race this year was supported with generous contributions from the following sponsors: Agility as the founding partner, The Promenade as the Platinum sponsor, The Scientific Center as the venue partner, ASAR Legal and INTER-SPORT as the Gold spon-

cause through an exciting sporting event. We were able sors, KDD as the Silver sponsor, Fitness First, Orbex and Zain as the Bronze sponsors, IKEA, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa and Porsche Centre Kuwait, Behbehani Motors Company as the Friend sponsors and Gotap as the payment sponsor. The





are Al Anbaa newspaper, Kuwait Times newspaper and 248am blog as the exclusive social media sponsor.

First, second and third place winners were awarded across different categories for the 5KM & 10KM race including, Male, Female, Youth (18 years and below) & Masters (55 years and above). The serious athletes were able to complete the 10KM race distance within 38 minutes. The first place winners announced were Abdullah Mona (Male), Dorra Al Sbouai (Female), Abdul Aziz Al Duaij (Youth), Chris Robson (Masters).

The sports enthusiasts who opted for a shorter race distance, 5KM, were also awarded within the same categories. The first place winners included, Mohammad Al Matar (Male), Amal Al Roumi (Female), Ahmed Sallam (Youth), Xavier Le Varlet (Masters). All the participants received their participation medal and numerous gifts as they crossed the finish line and returned to the race village to join in relaxing yoga sessions.

### Kenyan Kalalei triumphs in **Athens Marathon**

**ATHENS:** Samuel Kalalei won the 35th Athens Classic Marathon yesterday as Kenyan runners dominated the gruelling, largely uphill course by sweeping the top five places in the men's race.

The 23-year-old crossed the line in two hours, 12 minutes and 17 seconds, ahead of Milton Kiplagat Rotich, who clocked 2:14.18, with Jonathan Kiptoo Yego in third at 2:16.08. The women's race was won by 18-year-old Ethiopian Bedaru Hirpa Badane in a

Around 18,500 runners from dozens of countries took part in the authentic marathon which began near the tumulus erected for the Greek dead from the Battle of Marathon. Another 30,000 participated in the shorter 5km and 10km races in downtown

According to legend, the 42km route from Marathon to Athens was first run by Pheidippides, an Athenian messenger who in 490 BC dashed to the city to announce victory over the Persians, before dying of exhaustion.

Run on a four-lane concrete avenue through the urban districts of east Athens with a finish at the allmarble Panathenaic Stadium, the site of the 1896 Olympics, the race is a challenge for runners as much of it is uphill. — AFP

### Olympic marathon champ Sumgong banned for 4 yrs

NAIROBI: Olympic marathon champion Jemima Sumgong was banned for four years after a doping tribunal rejected her explanation that blood-boosting hormone EPO was in her system from being treated at a hospital in Kenya days before her failed test.

The tribunal found no legitimate record of the hospital visit and treatment for an ectopic pregnancy claimed by Sumgong, it said Tuesday in a decision released by the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya. The panel ruling on her case said the 32-year-old Sumgong's hospital story was "inconsistent at best."

We might go so far as to state that the athlete's attempt to explain how the substance entered her body bordered on an attempt to deceive the panel," the rul-

Sumgong became the first Kenyan woman to win Olympic gold in the marathon when she triumphed at last year's Rio de Janeiro Games. She failed an outof-competition test on Feb. 28 and was banned for four years from April 3, the date her provisional suspension was announced. It makes her ineligible for the 2019 world championships and the 2020 Tokyo

Olympics. Sumgong is the highest-profile athlete on a long list of Kenyans to be banned for doping in recent years. Her case follows that of Rita Jeptoo, who was the top women's marathon runner in the world when she also tested positive for EPO in an out-of-competition test in Kenya in 2014. Jeptoo also received a four-

Sumgong waived her right to have her backup "B" sample tested and said she had taken EPO unintentionally after visiting Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi six days before her doping test to be treated for an ectopic pregnancy. She claimed she was suffering from severe abdominal pain and was given a blood transfusion and unidentified medication by an unnamed

The Olympic champion couldn't provide the name of the doctor who supposedly treated her or reliable documents showing she was admitted to the hospital, the tribunal said. It said documents she provided were denounced as fake by the hospital. The hospital visit was not disclosed by Sumgong at the time of the doping test. She said that was because of the "taboo" surrounding ectopic pregnancies and she wanted to hide it from her husband, who is also her manager.

The only record the hospital had of a visit by Sumgong was in April, when she inquired about treatment for ectopic pregnancies. —AP



## Home winner at last as amazing Grace triumphs at Sun City

### 'This is really the one I wanted to win. I grew up watching it'

62 at the British Open has been overtaken for his best memory of 2017. South Africa's Grace won the Nedbank Golf Challenge by one shot after finishing 11under par yesterday, making a 30-foot birdie putt on No. 16 to edge in front and become the first home winner at Sun City in a decade.

Grace's long putt at the par 3 put him one ahead of playing partner Scott Jamieson and two clear of Victor Dubuisson, who was also part of the final group. Grace made pars on the last two, tapping in on No. 18 for a 66 and his eighth European Tour title, and first since January 2016.

The Nedbank Challenge holds major-like prestige for South Africans, and Sun City hadn't seen a local player win since Trevor Immelman in 2007. On clinching victory, Grace raised his arms, closed his eyes, and leaned back as he was sprayed with champagne by fellow South African players Louis Oosthuizen and Darren Fichardt.

There was also a big hug from Gary Player. "I think this was probably the loudest applause I've ever received coming up the 18th hole,' said the 29-year-old Grace, who grew up a couple hours' drive away in Pretoria. "It's awesome. This is really the one I wanted to win. I grew up watching it."

Scotland's Jamieson, the overnight leader, finished second at 10 under after a final-round 70. France's

**SUN CITY:** Branden Grace's record-breaking round of Dubuisson also finished with a 70 and a shot further back in third. There were repercussions for the European Tour's Race to Dubai title following the penultimate tournament of the season.

Race to Dubai leader Tommy Fleetwood carded a 1under 71 to finish 3 under and in a tie for 10th at Sun City, where a win would have sealed the season title for the Englishman. It means the Race to Dubai will be a three-player race in Dubai at the season-ending World Tour Championship next weekend, when Fleetwood tries to hold on from Justin Rose and Sergio Garcia.

Despite becoming the first man to shoot a 62 at a major when he went 8 under at Royal Birkdale in July,

Grace said 2017 had been "a tough year."He had a tough day on Friday, too, carding 75. He was back in the frame with a third-round 68, but still started Sunday three shots behind Jamieson. Grace was sublime tee to green in the final round, hitting all 18 greens in regulation. He went bogey-free and made six birdies, but there could have been more if not for the putter letting him

down. That was until No. 16.

I just knew

I had to stay

patient

"I just knew I had to stay patient and had to take my chances when they came," he said. "I missed a couple of short ones but the big key was 16." Grace, Jamieson and Dubuisson arrived at the tee on No. 15 all tied for the lead at 10 under and ready to take their battle down the final stretch at Gary Player Country Club.



Dubuisson dropped back with a bogey there.

Jamieson then sliced his tee shot at No. 16 way right and the ball disappeared among the hospitality tents only to bounce back into view and settle behind a bunker. His chip over the trap lipped out of the cup,

nearly giving him a spectacular birdie.

Grace drilled his long putt into the middle of the hole, though, and reacted with a low fist pump and a shout of joy. He said he and his pregnant wife found out on Wednesday that they were expecting a boy. —AP



### **Justin Rose** wins 2017 **Turkish Airlines Open**

**KUWAIT:** Justin Rose claimed victory at the Turkish Airlines Open 2017 yesterday, with a final round of 65 leaving him 18 under par for the tournament, which was played in front of record crowds.

The close fought competition was decided on the 72nd hole where Rose, the gold medallist at last year's Olympics, pulled clear with a fine birdie leaving him a shot ahead of Nicolas Colsaerts and Dylan Frittelli at the Regnum Carya Golf and Spa Resort for his second win in two weeks.

Rose's win was not the end of the drama for the huge crowds, with Turkish Airlines taking to the skies to present the Englishman, who won the 2012 Turkish Airlines World Final and last week's WGC-HSBC Champions, with the trophy.

Hoverboard world record holder

Alexandru Duru flew in to hand the trophy over and his appearance from the Belek skies provided a fitting end to another remarkable week at the Turkish Airlines

The Turkish Airlines Open is part of the European Tour's Rolex Series - a selection of eight premier events on the European Tour, each with a prize fund of at least \$7 million. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mevlut Cavusoglu said: "Welcome to my hometown Antalya and to my country. This is the fifth year of this tournament and without Turkish Airlines it would not have happened. Thanks to this event, golf is growing in this country and is more popular than ever." Minister of Youth and Sports, Osman Askin Bak said: "Today we have reached the end of another successful Turkish Airlines Open. Our support to this event will continue until 2023 which is the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. I also extend my thanks to Turkish Airlines."

Turkish Airlines' Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, M. Ilker Ayci, said: "Flying to more countries than any other airline and attaching our name to the finest tournaments in the world, Turkish Airlines is once again proud to have displayed our high service quality and our hallmark hospitality through this tourna-



ment to a global audience. Moreover, Turkish Airlines Open has earned Antalya, and Belek in particular, a place in the itinerary of many players as a top golf destination, thanks to the tournament's wide reach across the world. We were also delighted to surprise everyone with Alexandru Duru flying in to deliver the trophy today. Turkish Airlines remains committed to growing golf globally, through both our sponsorship of this event and organisation of the Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup Amateur series, which gives almost 8,000 amateurs a chance to tee off at some of the world's best golf courses."

Winner of the Turkish Airlines Open 2017 Rose said: "It's been great to be back in Antalya. I really love it here. I've had a great week and really enjoyed playing this course.It was lots of fun. Before I have won with two putts on the last green and it was unique to make a putt that really counted on the last hole."

It is the fifth time that Turkish Airlines has sponsored the tournament, which took place between 2-5 November 2017. The airline's agreement with the European Tour last one more year.

### William Byron wins Phoenix as Xfinity Series field is set

AVONDALE: A rag-tag pit crew led William Byron to his fourth victory of the season. He also was one of the four drivers to qualify Saturday for next week's Xfinity Series championship finale. Byron, Justin Allgaier, and Elliott Sadler - all from JR Motorsports - and Daniel Hemric took the four spots in all-Chevrolet race for the Xfinity Series championship.

Byron wrapped up his spot on points during Saturday's race at Phoenix Raceway. With nothing to lose, he used the final pit stop to take two tires in an effort to gain track position and win the race. He got out first, behind a crew that was assembled on the fly.

JR Motorsports, the team owned by Dale Earnhardt Jr., his sister, Kelley, and Rick Hendrick, found themselves scrambling Saturday morning when a mechanical issue forced a plane carrying its pit crews to make an emergency landed on its way from North Carolina.

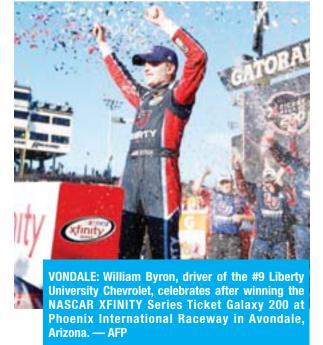
The plane landed in Arkansas, and even though Hendrick Motorsports sent a plane to retrieve the crew members, they did not arrive at Phoenix in time for the race. So, Byron, Sadler and Allgaier were missing regular pit crew members. Dale Earnhardt Jr. said after the race he was "freaking out" when he learned about the crew situation. All four berths in next Saturday night's race at Homestead-Miami Speedway were on the line in Phoenix. It made for an enjoyable race for the final spot between Hemric and Cole Custer, as the two battled for position in the closing laps. Custer was fourth and Hemric fifth, and if they stayed that way, Hemric had the spot. But Christopher Bell chased Hemric, who couldn't afford to give up a position between Custer.

Bell used a three-wide pass on the outside to get by both drivers, and Hemric eventually passed Custer and finished fifth. Custer faded to seventh, and praised his firstyear Stewart-Haas Racing team. "I knew we needed to beat him, but I guess we needed a buffer in between us to beat him," Custer said. "I think we made the best of our day with what we had, but, overall, we're still not in the championship four. But for a first-year team we came a long ways.'

Ryan Blaney led 147 of the 200 laps but finished second. He took four tires on the late pit stop and had to drive his way back to the front. Although he was disappointed, he understood the bigger picture for him is Sunday when he races for a shot at the Cup championship.

Blaney starts from the pole. "I didn't think our Cup car was very good today, which was kind of a letdown a little bit," Blaney said. "It was a frustrating day. We weren't great in race trim all weekend. Even when we unloaded on Friday we weren't great in race trim.

"Obviously, qualifying trim went well, but race trim we've just struggled a lot. We've been struggling to find



speed and anything we've done hasn't really changed the balance up very much, which is probably the most frustrating part. We change everything and I can't really feel any difference and it's still just slow."— AP

### **Defending champ** Paul Goydos opens lead in Phoenix

PHOENIX: Defending champion Paul Goydos took a one-stroke lead Saturday in the PGA Tour Champions' season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Govdos shot a 5-under 66 to reach 12-under 130 at Phoenix Country Club, the tree-lined course hosting its first tour event since the Phoenix Open left for TPC Scottsdale in 1988. "This golf course doesn't hide where it wants you to hit the ball," Goydos said. "You kind of follow the line of the trees and you'll be OK. I mean, you need to drive it good." Lee Janzen was second after a 67. The two-time U.S. Open champion birdied the par-5 18th playing alongside Goydos in the final group.

"Even on good shots today sometimes it was a challenge," Janzen said. "I expect a challenge. I think even if I was in complete control of my golf game in all regards I should expect a challenge because that's just the way golf is. But right now, I'm expecting a little bit more of a challenge because I'm not super confident with how I'm swinging. "I hit some wild shots, but I just keep hoping I have a swing and some sort of opening and I'll figure out a way to get it near the green and make a par." Govdos made a 7-footer for birdie on the par-4 16th, then missed a 6-foot try on 18.

'I get in there, I want to hit a fast one, I looked at the hole and all I saw was the sun," Goydos said. "I should have backed away and I didn't. ... You talk about the difference between a Langer or a Watson or a Woods or a Spieth and a Govdos is that I was too quick there. I should have stopped." Bernhard Langer, trying to sweep the three playoff events and win the Charles Schwab Cup season points title for the fourth straight year and fifth overall, was tied for 22nd at 3 under after a 68.

Kevin Sutherland and former Arizona State player Billy Mayfair were 10 under. Sutherland eagled the 18th for a 63, the best round of the week. Mayfair shot 65. Goydos won last year at Desert Mountain in Scottdale, about 35 miles northeast of the new venue just north of downtown Phoenix. He's trying to join Mike Hill (1990-91), Jim Thorpe (2006-07) and John Cook (2009-10) as the only players to win the season finale in consecutive years. The two-time PGA Tour winner took the 3M Championship in Minnesota in August - shooting a tour season-best 60 in the second round - for his fifth senior title. Janzen won his lone senior title in 2015. Sutherland hit a 4-iron from 231 yards to 5 feet to set up the closing eagle. "That was the best 4-iron I've hit in a while," Sutherland said. Winless on the senior tour, Sutherland entered the week fifth in the Charles Schwab Cup

season points standings, the last spot where the player has to only win the tournament to top the yearlong competition. "I played good, got myself back in the tournament," Sutherland said. "But you're going to have to go out and probably shoot something similar to that tomorrow." The only player to shoot 59 in senior tour history, the 53-year-old Sutherland has 14 top-10 finishes this season, finishing second three times and third twice. His lone PGA Tour victory came in 2002 at La Costa in the Accenture Match Play Championship.

"I can't change what happened yesterday, what's happened in the past, so I just keep moving forward," Sutherland said. "I can't change what happened at a tournament earlier this year, so I'm not going to dwell on that at all tomorrow. It will have no effect.'

Scott McCarron is second in the season standings, followed by Kenny Perry, Miguel Angel Jimenez and Sutherland. McCarron was tied for eighth at 8 under after a 66, Perry was tied for 17th at under after a 66, and Jimenez was tied for 34th at 1 over after a 69.

"I had a lot of really good putts that just didn't go in," McCarron said. "They're right on the edge all day long. So it was one of those days that could have been really, really low. But I've got a chance tomorrow. I've got one round left, and if you had told me at the start of the year you have one round left to win the Schwab Cup, I'd would say what a wonderful opportunity."—AP

Sports

Monday, November 13, 2017

## Ottawa tops Colorado 4-3 to sweep series of Sweden games

### Scheifele scores 100th career goal, Jets beat Coyotes

Dubnyk kept

Minnesota in

the game with

strong saves

STOCKHOLM: Mike Hoffman scored two goals to Guentzel and Brian Dumoulin countered for Pittsburgh. help the Ottawa Senators beat the Colorado Avalanche 4-3 on Saturday for a sweep of their two regular-season games in Sweden. Mark Stone and Johnny Oduya also scored for Ottawa, which trailed 3-2 after two periods. Defenseman Erik Karlsson had two assists, giving the captain 17 points in 11 games this season. Oduya, a Stockholm native, drove a slap shot by Jonathan Bernier at 7:01 of the third, tying it at 3 and delighting the crowd of more than 13,000. Hoffman got the game-winning goal on a one-timer on a power play with 6:37 left. Alexander Kerfoot and Sven Andrighetto each had a goal and an assist for the Avalanche, who have dropped three in a row. Bernier finished with 36 saves. The two games in Stockholm were part of the 2017 NHL Global Series. It was the fifth time the NHL has played regular-season games in Europe, but the first since 2011. The Senators beat the Avalanche 4-3 in overtime in the opener on Friday.

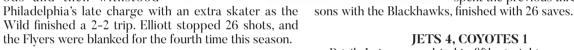
#### **BLUE JACKETS 2, RED WINGS 1**

Jack Johnson scored in the ninth round of the shootout, lifting the Blue Jackets to the road win. Columbus stopped a four-game losing streak and halted Detroit's run of shootout victories at 12. Artemi Panarin scored for the Blue Jackets in regulation, and Andreas Athanasiou replied for the Red Wings.

#### WILD 1, FLYERS 0

Jason Zucker scored his sixth goal in three games

and Devan Dubnyk made 32 saves for his second straight shutout, leading Minnesota to the victory. Zucker has scored Minnesota's last six goals, extending his team record when he banked in a rebound off Brian Elliott 1:06 into the third period. Dubnyk kept Minnesota in the game with several strong saves through two scoreless periods and then withstood



#### **RANGERS 4, OILERS 2**

Rick Nash scored twice, leading New York to its season-high sixth straight win. Pavel Buchnevich also scored for the Rangers, and Michael Grabner added an empty-netter with 1.4 seconds remaining. Henrik Lundqvist made 26 saves, and Mats Zuccarello picked up two assists. Connor McDavid and Jesse Puljujarvi scored for the Oilers, who lost to the Rangers for the fourth consecutive time. Cam Talbot made 30 saves.

#### PREDATORS 5. PENGUINS 4. SO

Filip Forsberg scored the shootout winner to lift Nashville past Pittsburgh in a rematch of the Stanley Cup Final. The Predators won for the fourth straight game and handed Pittsburgh its fourth loss in five games. Kyle Turris had a goal and an assist in his Predators debut, after arriving from Ottawa in a threeway trade earlier in the week. Forsberg and Kevin Fiala scored for the Predators in the shootout, with Sidney Crosby scoring Pittsburgh's lone shootout goal. P.K. Subban, Craig Smith and Calle Jarnkrok also scored in regulation for Nashville. Bryan Rust, Phil Kessel, Jake

#### **ISLANDERS 5, BLUES 2**

John Tavares scored early to start New York's threegoal first period, Thomas Greiss stopped 35 shots and the Islanders beat St. Louis. Anders Lee had a goal and an assist, and Casey Cizikas, Jordan Eberle and Joshua Ho-Sang also scored to help the Islanders bounce back from a 5-0 loss at Dallas the previous night. Greiss won for the third time in his last four starts for New York, which had just one win in its previous four games (1-2-1). Brayden Schenn and Scottie Upshall scored for the Blues, and Jake Allen had 14 saves before he was pulled after Ho-Sang put the Islanders up 4-0 at 3:35 of the second period. Carter Hutton came on and stopped 10 of the 11 shots he faced.

#### MAPLE LEAFS 4, BRUINS 1

Mitch Marner and James van Riemsdyk each had a goal and an assist, Curtis McElhinney stopped 38 shots and the Maple Leafs beat the Bruins to complete a sweep of a home-and-home series. Morgan Rielly and Patrick Marleau also scored to help the Leafs win their fourth straight one night after a 3-2 overtime victory at home over the Bruins. Frank Vatrano had Boston's goal and Tuukka Rask finished with 21 saves. The Bruins have lost four of five games (1-3-1).

#### BLACKHAWKS 4, HURRICANES 3, OT

Brandon Saad scored at 1:44 of overtime, and

Chicago got a sorely needed victory on the road. Alex DeBrincat had two goals and Gustav Forsling also scored for Chicago, which trailed 3-1 after two. Anton Forsberg stopped 35 shots. The Blackhawks had dropped five of seven. Brock McGinn scored twice and Jeff Skinner also had a goal for Carolina. Scott Darling, who spent the previous three sea-

#### **JETS 4, COYOTES 1**

Patrik Laine scored in his fifth straight game, Steve Mason stopped 29 shots and Winnipeg rallied from an early hole. One night after ending their nine-game points streak at Vegas, the Jets fell behind early before rallying behind Mason and Mark Scheifele. Mason, who came on in relief of Connor Hellebuyck against the Golden Knights, was sharp in his first start since Oct. 27, helping the Jets withstand Arizona's early push with some difficult saves to win for the first time this season (1-3-1). Matt Hendricks scored his first goal of the season in the second period and Scheifele beat Antti Raanta for his 100th career goal in the third. Scheifele also had an assist on Kyle Connor's goal later in the third period, giving him seven goals and 12 points the past seven games. Laine scored an empty-net goal for his ninth of the season.

#### **CANADIENS 2, SABRES 1, OT**

Max Pacioretty scored at 3:08 of overtime, sending Montreal to the win. Pacioretty broke in alone and beat Chad Johnson with a backhand shot. Andrew Shaw also scored for Montreal, and Charlie Lindgren made 34 saves to improve to 4-1-0. The Canadiens have won



DETROIT: Markus Nutivaara #65 of the Columbus Blue Jackets tries to get around the stick of Trevor Daley #83 of the Detroit Red Wings during the third period at Little Caesars Arena on November 11, in Detroit, Michigan. — AFP

#### NHL results/standings

San Jose 5, Vancouver 0; Winnipeg 4, Arizona 1; NY Islanders 5, St. Louis 2; Nashville 5, Pittsburgh 4 (SO); Toronto 4, Boston 1; Montreal 2, Buffalo 1 (OT); Columbus 2, Detroit 1 (So); New Jersey 2, Florida 1; Minnesota 1, Philadelphia 0; Chicago 4, Carolina 3 (OT); Ottawa 4, Colorado 3; NY Rangers 4, Edmonton 2.

			nference	e					rn Conf ntic Div				
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	Tampa Bay	13	2	2	69	45	28
St. Louis	13	4	1	58	44	27	Toronto	12	7	0	72	63	24
Winnipeg	9	4	3	52	46	21	Ottawa	8	3	5	59	53	21
Nashville	9	5	2	45	46	20	Detroit	8	8	2	49	51	18
Dallas	9	7	0	47	43	18	Montreal	8	9	1	46	61	17
		-					Boston	6	6	4	44	51	16
Chicago	8	7	2	48	42	18	Buffalo	5	9	3	40	60	13
Colorado	8	7	1	54	55	17	Florida	5	9	2	53	62	12
Minnesota	7	7	2	46	44	16		Metrop	olitan l	Divisio	n		
	Pac	ific Di	ivision				New Jersey	10	4	2	54	49	22
Los Angeles	11	3	2	54	39	24	Columbus	10	7	1	55	50	21
Las Vegas	10	5	1	57	46	21	Pittsburgh	9	7	3	50	68	21
San Jose	9	6	0	42	35	18	NY Islanders	9	6	2	60	55	20
Calgary	9	7	0	44	46	18	NY Rangers	9	7	2	60	59	20
		-					Washington	9	7	1	51	52	19
Vancouver	8	1	2	43	46	18	Philadelphia	8	7	2	50	45	18
Anaheim	7	6	3	47	48	17	Carolina	6	5	4	41	43	16
Edmonton	6	9	1	37	50	13	Note: Overtime los	sses (OTL)	are wor	th one r	oint in	the sta	andings
Arizona	2	14	3	45	75	7	and are not include						

four of five to improve to 8-9-1. Ryan O'Reilly scored for Buffalo. The Sabres were coming off a 4-1 home loss to Florida on Friday night.

#### **DEVILS 2, PANTHERS 1**

Cory Schneider made 32 saves to help New Jersey stop a four-game slide. Damon Severson and Kyle Palmieri scored for the Devils (10-4-2). The Panthers have lost seven of 10. James Reimer made 19 stops, and Nick Bjugstad scored Florida's lone goal.

#### SHARKS 5, CANUCKS 0

Logan Couture and Chris Tierney each scored twice to help San Jose keep up its dominance over Vancouver. Tomas Hertl had a goal and an assist, and Aaron Dell stopped 41 shots for his second career shutout as San Jose won for the fifth time in six games. The Sharks swept all five games of last year's series from the Canucks and picked up where they left off. Jacob Markstrom stopped 26 of 29 shots for Vancouver, which has lost three of four. — AP

### Papua New Guinea beat US 64-0, reach World Cup quarterfinals

PORT MORESBY: Lachlan Lam scored two tries on debut as Papua New Guinea overwhelmed the United States 64-0 yesterday to advance unbeaten into the quarterfinals of the Rugby League World Cup.

Lam lived up to a rich pedigree as the son of one of

Papua New Guinea's most famous rugby league products, Adrian Lam, who played 14 times for Queensland in Australia's State of Origin competition and has both played for and coached his home nation.

Playing at halfback, just as his father did, Lam scored the Kumuls' first try and touched down again as Papua New Guinea raced to a 22-0 lead after 16 minutes, putting the result of the match beyond doubt.

Papua New Guinea progressed to the quarterfinals against England, which beat France 36-6 in the last of the group games in Perth last night, while the United States exited the tournament with three straight losses after being beaten 58-12 by Fiji and 46-0 by Italy.

Ireland posted its largest test victory when it beat Wales 34-6 but was denied a quarterfinals place as the unluckiest team at the tournament. Oliver Roberts scored two tries and Liam Finn scored a try and kicked five goals from six attempts as Ireland posted its second win from three matches in group play.

But only one team could progress from Group C and Papua New Guinea's 14-6 win over Ireland in the second round ensured the Irish missed out on a quarterfinals place. PNG beat Wales 50-6 and Ireland by eight points, playing all of their pool matches in front of jubilant home crowds in the capital Port Moresby. Sunday's match was played in intense heat, forcing play to be suspended in both halves for players to rehydrate. PNG will have to adapt for the quarterfinal against the English in Melbourne, Australia.

The United States was unable to compete with Papua New Guinea's physical style, its pace and offloading ability. Its 27 missed tackles in the first half alone contributed



**CARDIFF: Australia's Kurtley Beale steals the ball** from Wales' Steff Evans to go on and score a try during a rugby union international match at the Principality Stadium, Cardiff. — AP

to the home team's largest ever win in a rugby league international, beating the mark it set against Wales earlier in the tournament.

Lam set the ball rolling with his first try in the eighth minute. Winger Justin Olam scored next and went on to score three tries in the match, two in the second half.

James Segenyaro, a constant attacking threat out of dummy half, touched down in the 13th minute and when Lam scored his second, Papua New Guinea had taken charge of the match with four tries inside the first quarter.

Further tries to Rod Griffin and Stargroth Armean carried Papua New Guinea to a 34-0 lead by halftime. There was no respite in the second half; fullback David Mead scored his fourth try of the tournament only two minute after the break as Papua New Guinea's lead reached 40-0.

Watson Boas and Nene McDonald scored through the middle of the second half then Olam finished with his second and third tries, in the 65th and 75th minutes to complete to rout. Lam was voted player of the match, after waiting through the first three weeks of the tournament for his international debut. "It was a great game and I got a couple of tries there too which made it more special," Lam said. In other quarterfinals, confirmed by matches on Saturday, hosts Australia will face Samoa in Darwin on Friday night and New Zealand will meet Fiji after its shock 28-22 loss to Tonga. Group B winner Tonga will face Lebanon in Christchurch next Saturday.—AP



### host Manchester Utd **Supporters Club in** Al Rai showroom

KUWAIT: Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, was honored to invite the official Manchester United Supporters Club to Safat Alghanim showroom in Al Rai on November 5, and host the exciting televised match between their beloved football club and its challenger, Chelsea in the Premier League.

Inspired by the game's competitive spirit, Chevrolet Alghanim announced a special raffle draw for a chance to win PS4, FIFA 18 to all attendees and other small souvenir gifts to those who were not lucky to win, while the food was being served by Slim Chicken.

The event reflects the Chevrolet complete care and brand's commitment to be an integral part of the Manchester United brand as one of the biggest General Motors' divisions and car manufactures; the car brand continues to be one of the club's proud sponsors, supplying the team with jerseys for 7 years throughout their tournaments. The total value of the sponsorship has been estimated to be over 175 million pound sterling, which means that the company will be paying a whopping 25 million Pound Sterling each year.

Kuwait's Manchester United Supporters Club is considered to be the oldest fan club in the country compared to other local clubs. It was founded more than four years ago, and has been officially recognized by Manchester United on November 27, 2012, after the club members' official visit. The undertaking complements Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive's sports initiative and solidifies its dedication to be a vital part of the youth's lifestyles and passion. The event saw the attendance of more than 100 Manchester United supporters who were treated with refreshments as they supported their beloved football team through a stunningly giant display screen, cumulatively creating an enjoyable atmosphere bolstered by the club member's enthusiasm for the game.

Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive looks forward to supporting the interest of the youth of Kuwait in future events as part of its ongoing promise to build supportive relationship and trust for many years to come.

### Silva leads Spain's assault on Costa Rica in friendly

#### Costa Rica had only one chance of note before break

Every game

will be a

different world

MALAGA: Manchester City midfielder David Silva played a starring role as an irresistible Spain showed their class to thrash Costa Rica 5-0 in an international friendly on Saturday. Silva struck twice in the second half to further stretch the 2010 World Cup winners' lead after Barcelona's Jordi Alba had fired them into the lead in the sixth minute and Alvaro Morata had doubled their advantage midway through the first half.

Veteran midfielder Andres Iniesta rounded off the

drubbing with a distance strike in the 73rd although there was some concern on the Spain bench when Isco

asked to be substituted after a brutal tackle from Kendall Waston although the Real Madrid midfielder did not appear to be seriously injured. Spain coach Julen Lopetegui said he was unsure if Isco would travel to Russia for Tuesday's friendly against next year's World Cup hosts. "Isco has a big knock, it's not serious or important and we'll decide

tomorrow if he travels to Russia or not," Lopetegui told a news conference. "What I'm most pleased about was our attitude and we need to keep it up. Every game will be a different world. We have to believe in the type of team we are and have faith in the things we do well."

Lopetegui picked a near full-strength side for Spain's first friendly since sealing their place in the 2018

finals with an almost perfect qualifying campaign. He rested No. 1 goalkeeper David de Gea to hand a debut to Athletic Bilbao's Kepa Arrizabalaga but played

an otherwise familiar side which steamrolled its way through qualifying by winning nine out of 10 games and

Alcantara and Isco ensured Spain monopolised possession in front of a buoyant, sold out crowd at Malaga's La Rosaleda stadium, barely giving Costa Rica a look in. The Central American side, who reached the quar-ter-finals of the 2014 World Cup and will also be in Russia next June, were missing Real Madrid goalkeeper Keylor Navas and his understudy Danny Carvajal

proved to be a poor substi-tute, offering up little opposition to Spain's attacking onslaught. Alba thrashed a Silva cutback beyond Carvajal to get Spain off to the perfect start, while the goalkeeper was at fault for the second goal, spilling a tame cross from Silva at the feet of Morata who gobbled up the rebound from close range. Costa Rica had only

one chance of note before the break and Spain showed no mercy after the interval.

Silva pounced on a mix up in the Costa Rica defence to score six minutes into the second period and four minutes later recovered the ball before slamming it low under the grasp of Carvajal to score again. Carvajal made a third costly slip of the game in allowing Iniesta's distance shot through his hands, capping another impressive win for Spain, who will be one of the favourites to lift the World Cup next year. —Reuters



MALAGA: Spain's lago Aspas, left, and Costa Rica's Ronald Matarrita vie for the ball during the internati friendly soccer match between Spain and Costa Rica in Malaga, Spain, Saturday.—AP

#### Italy's old guard face final stand in WCup play-off

MILAN: Italy's old guard face a final stand in today's World Cup play-off against Sweden in the San Siro after Gian Piero Ventura's side lost the away leg 1-0. Here AFP Sport looks at the three veteran warriors of the 2006 World Cup-winning campaign who face an inglorious exit if Italy fail to qualify for the tournament for the first time in

#### **GIANLUIGI BUFFON (Juventus)**

The Italy and Juventus captain is targeting a record sixth World Cup appearance in Russia. He made his international debut as a 19-year-old in October 1997 in the snow of another World Cup play-off against Russia, coming on for the injured Gianluigi Pagliuca, and immediately saved hero-ically from Dmitri Alenichev and ensured Italy qualified for the following year's World Cup. Buffon, whose mother was a discus thrower and father a weightlifter, made his Serie A debut with Parma, win-ning the Italian Cup, the Italian Super Cup and the UEFA Cup before joining Juventus for 51 million euros in 2001 and going on to become a club legend with

eight Serie A titles with the Turin giants. At age 39, his statistics are staggering. With a remarkable 627 staggering, with a remarkable 021 Italian top-flight appearances he will also will earn his 175th cap against Sweden on Monday. That is 39 more than another 2006 World Cup winner, Fabio Cannavaro, and 63 more than the legendary Dino Zoff. "I don't want to think it's the game of life, but I'm convinced that with the help of the public we will do it," he insists.

#### DANIELE DE ROSSI (Roma)

Defensive midfielder De Rossi is going for a fourth World Cup. The 34year-old has spent his entire senior career with hometown club Roma which he joined in 2000, rejecting big money moves away. He scored on his international debut in 2004 in a World the first time in a 0-0 friendly draw against Iceland in March 2005. De Rossi overtook the recently-retired Andrea Pirlo in the all-time appearances list when he earned his 117th cap in the first leg of the play-off in the Swedish capital, but Buffon's haul is well out of reach. "It would be great to be able to play at my fourth World Cup. It's a tournament that no one wants to miss," said De Rossi. "The stakes are so high that the idea of shedding blood and sweat is appropriate. We must give everything right to the finish.'

ANDREA BARZAGLI (Juventus) Barzagli has won the World Cup, Bundesliga and six Scudettos, but



MILAN: Italy coach Gian Piero Ventura, left, and goalkeeper Giantulgi Buffon arrive fo a press conference ahead of today's World Cup qualifying play-off. — AP

despite being one of the most decorated defenders of his generation the 36-yearold often goes under the radar. Barzagli started playing midfield but was advised by Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri to switch to defence when the pair played together for Pistoiese in the Italian second division. "I said that if he wanted a different kind of career, he needed to change-he needed to drop back 15 metres," said Allegri. Barzagli

went on to star for Ascoli, Chievo, Palermo and Wolfsburg before joining Juventus in 2011. "Andrea is our professor. He's always in the right place at the right time," says Juventus teammate Giorgio Chiellini. He won his first senior cap in November 2004, in a 1-0 friendly win against Finland under Marcello Lippi. Capped 73 times, it would be his third World Cup after being overlooked by Lippi in 2010. — AFP

#### Randolph frustrates Denmark

COPENHAGEN: The Republic of 0-0 draw in the first leg of their World Cup play-off in Copenhagen on Saturday.

The closest either side came to a goal was when Pione Sisto fired wide in the first half for the hosts, while Yussuf Poulsen saw a 90th-minute header saved by Darren Randolph.

Both sides will be satisfied with the result, as Martin O'Neill's Irish now know victory in Dublin on Tuesday would secure a first World Cup appearance since 2002, but an away goal for the Danes could prove decisive after this clean sheet.

"A draw has always got to be seen as a positive result. Although we could have done with scoring an away goal," Ireland midfielder Harry Arter told Sky

Sports.
"It (the World Cup) feels a bit closer than it did before the game. If before the campaign, we'd have been offered a one-off game against Denmark to qualify for the World Cup, we'd have bitten off your hands for it." Denmark coach Hareide left striker Nicklas Bendtner on the bench in favour of

Feyenoord's Nicolai Jorgensen. Irish manager O'Neill made just one change from the team that beat Wales 1-0 to snatch second place in qualifying Group D last month, bringing in Bristol City midfielder Callum O'Dowda to replace the suspended David Meyler The hosts started strongly and could have taken the lead in the 11th minute when Randolph saved Danish left-back ting back to his feet to hold onto Andreas Cornelius' follow-up effort. Sloppy defending from Ireland skipper Ciaran Clark gave the ball straight to Christian Eriksen and West Ham United keeper Randolph could only palm the midfielder's effort back into the middle, but Sisto fired the rebound wide with the goal gaping.

But the visitors grew into the game

as the first half wore on and Cyrus Christie was denied by the onrushing Kasper Schmeichel after bursting into the area with an enterprising run from full-back.

Ireland continued to sit deep and frustrate Denmark, who finished second to Poland in Group E, after the break.

Hareide threw on former Arsenal man Bendtner with less than 20 min-utes to go as the home side went in search of a lead to take to Lansdowne Road. The Danes had a late rally, with RB Leipzig forward Poulsen drawing a save from Randolph after climbing above the away defence to power a header towards goal, but Ireland held on. - AFP



match that threatened to boil over at times with Dirar and Crystal Palace flyer Wilfried Zaha wrestling each other to the ground. Tunisia dominated possession at the Stade Olympique, but unpredictable Libya

Had Tunisia lost, they would have ceded top place to DR Congo, who finished strongly to overcome Ousmane Sidibe conceded an own-goal after 61 minutes and Keita Junior levelled just three minutes after coming off the bench. Jonathan Bolingi put the Congolese Lions ahead again two minutes into additional time and Neeskens Kebano added a third goal almost immediately. — AFP

#### Morocco, Tunisia take different paths to World Cup

JOHANNESBURG: North African nations Morocco and Tunisia took contrasting routes Saturday as they qualified for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Morocco scored twice within five minutes through Nabil Dirar and Medhi Benatia during the opening half to tri-

umph 2-0 in the Ivory Coast and win Group C.

The "Atlas Lions" are going back to the tournament for the first time since 1998 after finishing with 12 points, having not conceded a goal during the six-match group campaign. Ivory Coast, who never looked like recovering from the first-half blows, came second with eight points followed by Gabon with six and Mali with four

Morocco coach Herve Renard revealed after the match that Moroccan King Mohammed VI had called to congratulate the team. "I thank His Majesty for

calling me. It's a huge honour," said the Frenchman.

"He wanted to talk to us to pay tribute to everyone. Tonight we are proud of the Moroccan shirt, proud that the Moroccan flag returns to the World Cup. This is the fifth qualification so Morocco is not

a small (football) country."

Tunisia could not break down neighbours Libya in Rades on the outskirts of Tunis and had to settle for a 0-0 draw that was just enough to see them first over the finishing line. With second-place Democratic Republic of Congo netting twice in stoppage time to defeat Guinea 3-1 in Kinshasa, only one point sepa-

deleat Guinea 3-1 in Kinshasa, only one point separated the top two.

Unbeaten Tunisia collected 14 points to book a first World Cup appearance since 2006, DR Congo had 13, Libya four and Guinea three. Senegal sealed a place in Russia Friday by winning 2-0 in South Africa and the other two African qualifiers, Nigeria and Egypt, secured slots last month.

Ivory Coast had the first chance at a packed 35,000-seat Stade Felix Houphouet-Boigny but vet-35,000-seat stade renx Houphouet-Boigny but ver-eran Gervinho blazed over with only the goalkeeper to beat from inside the box. It was to prove a costly miss for the home side, who had to win after begin-ning the match one point behind a Moroccan team coached by former Ivorian handler, Frenchman Herve

The first blow came when an intended cross from Dirar went over an Ivorian defender and a Moroccan attacker and slipped past goalkeeper Sylvain Gbohouo into the far corner. Rattled Ivory Coast fell further behind as they failed to cut off a corner and Juventus defender Benatia struck a first-time shot

Belgian coach Marc Wilmots tried to revive the lacklustre Ivorians by introducing Ghislain Konan at half-time and Maxwel Cornet and veteran Salomon Kalou during the second half. But Morocco comfortably contained the hosts in a

defended resolutely, creating an increasingly tense Guinea 3-1 at the Stade des Martyrs, Guinean

# Sport Times

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Home winner at last as amazing **Grace triumphs at Sun City** 



Ottawa tops Colorado 4-3 to sweep series of Sweden games



Italy's old guard face final stand in play-off





## Harden scores 38 points, Rockets wins

### Golden State hitting their stride, Spurs stop Bulls

**HOUSTON:** James Harden scored 38 points to lead the Houston Rockets to a 111-96 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Saturday night. After suffering two losses to Memphis in the first two weeks of the season, the Rockets finally solved their shooting woes against the Grizzlies. In their previous two meetings, Memphis held the Rockets to 90 and 89 points, the only two times the Rockets have been held under 100 points this season, and Houston's lowest two scoring efforts ever under head coach Mike D'Antoni. On Saturday night, Houston jumped out to a 9-0 lead by draining three 3s and never let Memphis go ahead, leading by as many as 25 points. The Rockets outdid their previous scoring against Memphis by the end of the third quarter, entering the fourth with a 93-70 lead. Houston hit 16 of 45 (35.6 percent) from beyond the arc, including 6 of 14 from Harden, who added eight assists and four rebounds. Eric Gordon added 26 points on 6 of 11 3-point shooting for Houston. Tyreke Evans led Memphis with 22 points.

#### **WARRIORS 135, 76ERS 114**

Kevin Durant returned from missing one game with a leg injury to finish with 29 points, leading Golden State past Philadelphia for its sixth straight win. Draymond

Green had 10 points, 10 rebounds, seven assists, five blocks and two steals. Stephen Curry added 22 points and nine assists to surpass the 4,000-assist mark for his career and Klay Thompson scored 23 as the Warriors pulled away in the second half. Durant sat out Wednesday's win against the Timberwolves with a bruised left thigh but hardly showed any signs of an issue. Curry, sporting new cornrows in his hair, briefly went to the locker room early in the second but returned. JJ Redick scored 17 points to lead the Sixers.

#### **BUCKS 98, LAKERS 90**

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points to help Milwaukee overcome Lonzo Ball's triple-double for Los Angeles. Ball became the youngest player in NBA history to record a triple-double, finishing with 17 points, 13 assists and 12 rebounds. At 20 years and 15 days, he bested LeBron James by four days to become the youngest to accomplish the feat. Milwaukee used a 9-2 run at the end of the third quarter to grab a 77-67 lead. The Bucks maintained a double-digit lead throughout most of the fourth. After the Lakers pulled within seven with just over five minutes left, Antetokounmpo threw down a dunk while being fouled. He made the free throw to grow the Bucks' lead back to 10 points. He followed with a twisting layup on the next possession as the Bucks gained control.

#### PELICANS 111, CLIPPERS 103

DeMarcus Cousins had 35 points and 15 rebounds and Anthony Davis added 25 points and 10 rebounds to help New Orleans beat Los Angeles. Jrue Holiday had eight assists for New Orleans, half of the total assists generated by the entire Clippers team. The Pelicans also overcame 23 turnovers. Cousins lost the ball eight times - two on offensive fouls - and Holiday had seven turnovers. Blake Griffin led the Clippers with 27 points, but it came on 9-of-27 shooting. DeAndre Jordan has 12 points and 14 rebounds.

#### **SPURS 133, BULLS 94**

Pau Gasol had 21 points and 10 rebounds and shorthanded San Antonio beat Chicago, setting a season high in points despite missing a third of their roster Saturday night. Dejounte Murray added 17 points and Davis Bertans had 16 points in 18 minutes for San Antonio. Chicago lost rookie forward Lauri Markkanen to a

sprained left ankle late in the first half. The severity of the injury is unknown. The Spurs were without six players, including three starters. In addition to Kawhi Leonard and Tony Parker, who have yet to play this season due to quadriceps injuries, San Antonio was without Danny Green. Manu Ginobili rested on the second night of a back-to-back.

### **CAVALIERS 111, MAVERICKS 104**

Kevin Love had 29 points and 15 rebounds and Kyle Korver scored all 13 of his points in the fourth quarter to help Cleveland beat Dallas. The Mavericks were down by as many as 11 points in the fourth quarter and cut the lead to one on two occasions but could never take the lead. With the American Airlines Center crowd standing for most of the game's final four minutes, Harrison Barnes missed a 3-pointer that would have put Dallas up by one. Korver was fouled on the rebound and made both free throws to put the Cavs up 106-102, and Cleveland clinched the game with free throws. Barnes finished with 23 points. LeBron James, averaging 36 points in November, had just 19, but two came on an emphatic dunk with 1:08 to play that put Cleveland up 104-100.— AP

### Sasnovich beats Stephens to force Fed Cup decider

MINSK: Belarus' Aliaksandra Sasnovich battled back from a set down to beat American Sloane Stephens and force a deciding rubber in the Fed Cup final in Minsk yesterday. Earlier, CoCo Vandeweghe put the United States 2-1 up by beating teenager Aryna Sabalenka 7-6 (7/5), 6-1.

The world number 87 Sasnovich prevailed 4-6, 6-1, 8-6 in two hours and six minutes to chalk up her second win over Stephens, who has lost all of her six matches since winning the US Open title in September, in as many meetings. Vandeweghe and Shelby Rogers take on Sasnovich and Sabalenka for the title

in a doubles clash later.

"It was one of the most tense matches in my life," Sasnovich said. "I gave everything I have for the win, the god of tennis was on my side today. The support of the crowd helped me to stay concentrated throughout the game. It was a fantastic match."

Both players produced a catalogue of unforced errors in the opening set but the 24-year-old Stephens held on to take it after an early break. But in the second Stephens, ranked 13th in the world, suddenly ran out of gas allowing Sasnovich to break twice to level at one set all. In the deciding set, Stephens led 5-2 before Sasnovich, 23, roared back with four straight games before eventually closing it out 8-6. In Sunday's early match, Sabalenka and Vandeweghe both played with confidence from the start on the hard court at a packed Minsk Chizhovka 8,000-capacity arena, holding their serves until the 11th game when Vandeweghe broke.

But Sabalenka broke back immediately

under the watchful gaze of Belarus president Alexander Lukashenko to force a tiebreak, which the 25-year-old American won 7-5. In the second Sabalenka, who is 78th in the world rankings, lost her nerve, allowing Vandeweghe to break twice for a commanding 5-0 lead minutes before she took the set and the match with an accurate backhand. "I knew if I just kept giving myself opportunities and getting my nose in front in her service games, I'd keep getting opportunities and she'd eventually break down," Vandeweghe said.

'She did what she's supposed to do and did what I expected her to do - just swing and pray for it to go in and she did. So you just got to recover and keep fighting. "And then it showed in the second set, she withered when I kept the pressure on her, and then I just closed it out.

On the opening day, Vandeweghe put the USA ahead with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Sasnovich, while Sabalenka beat Stephens 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 to pull the tie level. — AFP



Sloane Stephens of the United States during the Fed Cup final match between Belarus and USA, in Minsk. - AP

# BISINESS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Dollar lower on tax reform concerns; Fed chair decided

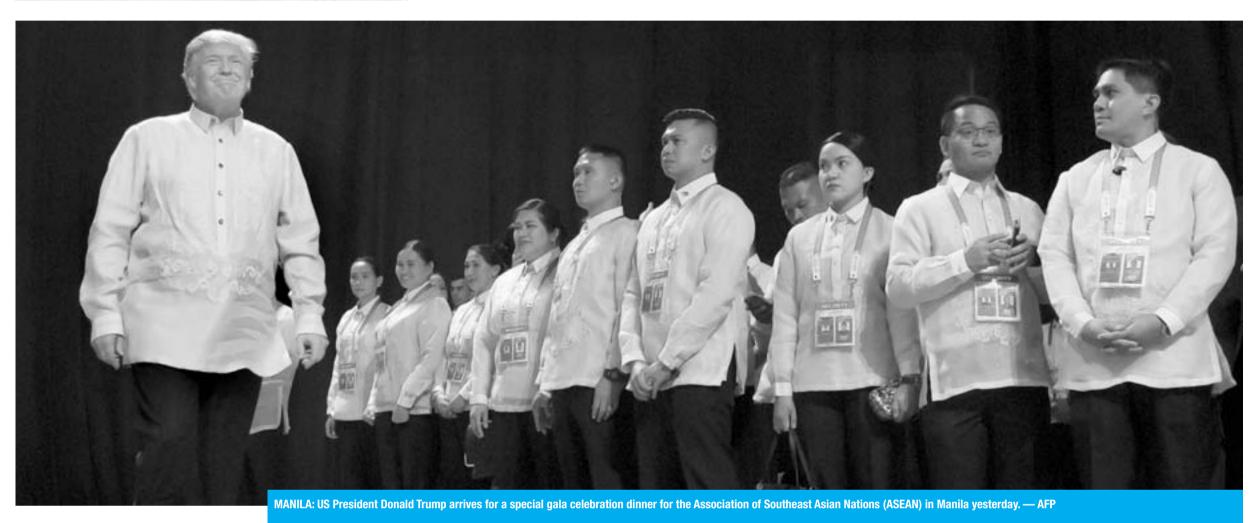


China's push to revive Silk Road trade hits the buffers



Flydubai showcases its first Boeing 737 MAX 8





## ASEAN signs free trade pacts with Hong Kong

### Despite Trump, Asia-Pacific forum sticks to free-trade gospel

MANILA: Hong Kong signed free trade and investment 

Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Vietnam agreements with the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations yesterday, in what one of the Chinese territory's officials called a "loud and clear" vote against rising regional trade protectionism.

The pacts, which conclude nearly three years of talks, are expected to take effect on January 1, 2019, at the earliest. They aim to bring "deeper and bolder" integration of market access with the bloc, said Edward Yau, Hong Kong's commerce and development secretary. "In the face of protectionist sentiments in other parts of the world, these two agreements are in fact a loud and clear vote from all of us here for freer and more open trade," Yau said. "Hong Kong, being a free trade promoter and advocate of a strong, rule-based, multilateral trading system, will continue to take this pathway, continue to do our utmost.'

Total merchandise trade between Hong Kong and ASEAN wasHK\$833 billion (\$107 billion) last year, official figures show. Total services trade was HK\$121 billion in 2015. The ASEAN Hong Kong China Free Trade Agreement (AHKCFTA) was signed on the sidelines of a summit of the regional grouping in the Philippine capital of Manila.

It came after leaders attending an Asia-Pacific

agreed to tackle "unfair trade practices" and "marketdistorting subsidies" in a statement on Saturday that bore the imprint of US President Donald Trump's efforts to reshape the global trade landscape.

That summit offered a contrast between the vision of Trump's "America First" policy and the usual consensus favoring multinational deals that China now seeks to champion. Hong Kong has one of the world's freest and most open economies, and the pacts will see many ASEAN countries gradually reduce or eliminate customs duties on Hong

Kong goods. Professional services should also benefit, with increased investment flows, Yau said.

The partnership "will usher in greater trade synergies and more job opportunities for people and businesses in the region," said Philippine Trade and

Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez. Efforts to get an agreement on how to proceed without the US stumbled at the last moment, with leaders unable to formally endorse the proposal. But trade ministers announced a preliminary deal, with some details to be worked out

Agreements

to take effect

on Jan 1, 2019

later. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters that environmental protection, labor rights, gender issues and the auto industry were areas needing work, though he

did not go into specifics. "We got a lot of work done, but there is still more work to do," Trudeau said. The revisions required for the 11 remaining TPP countries

to continue talks required a difficult balance between high standards and pragmatism, said Japanese Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

"The substance is something all the TPP countries can agree on," said Motegi. "This will send a very strong message to the US and the other countries in the region." Trudeau said his unexpected absence from a TPP leaders' meeting on Friday, which caused consternation among his fellow leaders and confusion about Canada's stance, stemmed from an extra-long meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"We were not ready to close the TPP 11 yesterday," he said. The ministers dropped some key provisions the Americans had required on protection of intellectual property, among others. They also changed the trade accord's name to the unwieldy Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, or CPTPP. Those trade talks took place on the sidelines of APEC summitry: ceremonial arrivals in bright tailored shirts to a gala banquet, a closed-door retreat and scores of bilateral meetings between the 21 leaders attending the event in this coastal resort city. Increasingly, APEC summits have become more of an opportunity for such side talks, and for host nations to showcase their growing affluence. Trump's dramatically different stances from his predecessor, Barack Obama - such as his "America First" trade strategy and his skepticism over climate change - were apparent in Danang. But his hosts and the other leaders took it in stride. — Agencies

### **Emirates unveils** new first class cabins at **Dubai Show**

**DUBAI:** Emirates, the Middle East's largest air carrier, has unveiled new, state-of-the-art, first class private suites. In an industry first, passenger suites in the middle aisle without windows will be fitted with "virtual windows" relaying the sky outside via fiber optic cameras on the plane. There's also a video call feature in the suites that connects passengers to the cabin crew, as well as temperature control and various mood lighting settings.

Emirates President Tim Clark unveiled the cabin yesterday at the start of the biennial Dubai Airshow. Clark declined to say how much a ticket in the 40 square-foot (3.7square-meter) private suite will cost. The private suites will be available on the airline's Boeing 777.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan Airlines said it would buy five Boeing 787-8s and two other freighter aircraft from the Chicago-based manufacturer, a deal worth an estimated \$1.1



billion. The airline made the announcement yesterday at the opening day of the biennial Dubai Air Show.

The company did not offer terms for the deal, though five 787-8s at list price have a

value of over \$1.1 billion. A landing gear replacement deal also was included, further boosting the price. However, airlines and manufacturers typically negotiate discounts on such deals. — Agencies

### Dubai property giant Emaar profits surge

**DUBAI:** Dubai construction giant Emaar Properties posted a sharp rise in third quarter profits yesterday as residential sales in the glitzy emirate gathered steam. Dubai has started recovering from a three year downturn after a 2014 oil price crash slammed the Gulf economies which underpin its real estate sector. But yesterday Emaar, which owns the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa, chalked up a \$411 million (350 million euro) net profit for the third quarter, up 32 percent on the same period of 2016.

"The impressive growth in sales of our Dubai residential property launches this year puts us in a strong position to generate strong cash flows for the coming years," Emaar chairman Mohamed Alabbar said. "The sustained demand for proj-

ects in Dubai is a strong indicator of the investor trust in Dubai, which is today one of the fastest-growing hubs for business and leisure." Officials and analysts say prepara-

tions for the emirate's six-month Expo 2020 trade fair have breathed new life into the sector, battered by low demand and sluggish growth.

Sales of properties in Dubai rose rapidly in the years after the market opened to foreigners in 2002. Prices soared as investors piled in, but when the global financial crisis hit the debtladen emirate in 2009, it sent them into free-fall.

Tourism, trade and transportation supported a brief recovery, but the 2014 oil price crash slapped prices for homes back down by over 15 percent. But the Middle East's first World Expo, expected to generate as many as 300,000 jobs by 2020, has boosted the sector, analysts say. — AFP

#### Business

**NBK Money Markets Report** 

## Dollar lower on tax reform concerns; Fed chair decided

### China's trade with US experiences \$26.6bn surplus

**Brexit continues** 

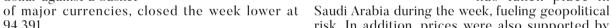
to haunt UK

businesses

**KUWAIT:** Last week in the United States, with no major economic indicators released, and with the Fed chair already decided, the US tax plan has been brought into the spotlight. The details of the largest overhaul of US tax law since the 1980s are yet to be decided upon, as the Republicans in the Senate proposed a corporate tax rate cut to 20 percent and a delay to 2019. This differs from the House proposal, and the bill will need to undergo a process of reconciliation in order to be implemented. Therefore, markets are skeptic about whether the tax reform plan will be finalized before the end of the year.

Despite the dollar's movement away from the 21/2-year lows witnessed in September, the greenback did not manage to have a positive performance last week. The Senate's plan to delay the corporate tax cuts by one year disappointed

markets which proceeded to trade the dollar lower. According to analysts, any potential delay in the implementation of tax cuts, or the possibility of proposed reforms being watered down, would tend to work against the dollar. The dollar index, which measures the dollar against a basket



In the United Kingdom, worries regarding Brexit continued to haunt businesses, which have been calling on Prime Minister Theresa May to provide clarity on how Brexit will work. On her part, May gave little in terms of new information as talks on how goods and services will flow between Britain and the European Union after Brexit in March 2019 have made slow progress, fueling fears of a mass departure of multinational firms. Firms in Britain have already started to feel the heat as one survey showed that most European businesses plan to cut back orders from British suppliers because of the slow progress of

As far as the cable goes, the pair underwent a time in more than 10 years. The rise in output was

quiet week. The pair reached a low of 1.3084 before closing at 1.3188 in a fairly uneventful week. Against a soft Euro, the Sterling did manage to gain some ground closing the week at

Alternatively, the euro experienced a mellow week as recent trends continued to dominate. A dovish ECB in October put an end to a 9-month rally that took the single currency from a level of 1.0339 in January to a high of 1.2092 in September. The European Central Bank's decision to stick with an ultra-loose policy stance by choosing to prolong its bond purchases program continued to hinder the European currency. The Euro closed the week at a level of 1.1663.

Last week, the Japanese yen managed to appreciate to a November high against a soft US dollar. This was triggered mainly by uncertainty

of US tax reforms, which took center stage during a relatively quiet week. After opening the week at 113.98, the USDJPY pair closed at 113.53.

On the commodities front, oil prices soared to 21/2-year highs following an anti-corruption campaign that has taken place in

risk. In addition, prices were also supported by reports that OPEC members' compliance reached a level of 104 percent in October. Accordingly, Brent Crude futures surged to a high of \$64.65 last week, as optimism grew for an extension to the output-cut agreement beyond March.

UK manufacturing

In the United Kingdom, industrial output increased in September at the fastest pace this vear. Additionally, the goods trade deficit also improved. Despite also showing a sharp downturn in construction, the figures as a whole are likely to reassure Bank of England policymakers who last week voted to raise interest rates for the first



mainly attributed to a rise of 0.7 percent in manufacturing, compared to a prior gain of 0.4 percent seen in August.

#### Reserve Bank of Australia

The Reserve Bank of Australia kept interest rates unchanged for the fifteenth straight month. The cash rate target was held at 1.5 percent during the RBA's November meeting, as expected by analysts. Additionally, RBA governor Philip Lowe commented that "the central forecast is for GDP growth to pick up and to average around 3 percent over the next few years". The Australian dollar managed to rise 0.3 percent following the release of the statement before depreciating back to the same level it was trading at initially.

#### China trade balance

In China, trade balance figures indicated that exports rose at a slower pace in October, but import growth beat forecasts in a sign domestic demand remained robust despite Beijing's crackdown on pollution that analysts say will reduce factory output and crimp overall economic growth. Exports rose 6.9 percent v/v, somewhat lower than analysts' forecasts of a 7.2 percent y/y increase. Meanwhile, imports grew at 17 percent morning.

y/y, coming in higher than a 16 percent expectation. Looking more closely at the data, trade with the US, China's largest export market, experienced a surplus of \$26.6 billion in October, down from \$28.1 billion in September.

#### China inflation

Inflation figures in China came in above expectations last week, as the consumer price index climbed 1.9 percent y/y, exceeding analysts' forecast of a 1.8 percent rise. More significantly however, is the producer price index which signaled that factory prices kept surging in October as authorities curb production in smokestack industries to combat pollution. During China's communist party congress last month, policy makers indicated a shift away from the growth-at-allcosts model as they shined a greater light on limiting pollution and taming financial risk. China has stepped up restrictions on steel mills and aluminum factories before winter, when pollution levels are often at their worst in the northern part of the country.

The USDKWD opened at 0.30250 yesterday

### SoftBank fund could shake up tech world

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Japan-based SoftBank is sending tremors through the tech world with a massive new venture capital fund for investing in startups that's expected to dominate the industry so thoroughly it's playfully referred to as a "gorilla."

The Vision Fund's \$100 billion coffers nearly equals the total amount pumped into venture capital-backed companies last year, according to market intelligence firm CB Insights, and some say it may be a game-changer for Silicon Valley.

"SoftBank shows a remarkable amount of bravery, confidence and optimism to look to apply this much money in technology," said Bill Maris, who started Google Ventures nearly a decade ago and runs his own California-based investment firm Section 32.

"I can't say it's a wrong bet, if you think the trends in tech will continue in the future. I would be much more worried if SoftBank was saying tech is dead."

Last year, VC-backed firms received \$100.8 billion across 8,372 deals around the world, according to CB Insights data. The huge amount of cash could accelerate the trend where fastgrowing startups remain private-without the scrutiny and transparency of a stock market debut. Some investors worry that the Vision Fund will buy into startups at high prices, overinflating the market, while crowding out other investors and prolonging the time it takes for young companies to go public. SoftBank has outlined plans to focus on late-stage investments when startups are more established, and on investments of at least \$100 million.

#### Matchmaking

The SoftBank fund is widely expected to pump some \$10 billion into ride-sharing giant Uber, which has a whopping valuation near \$70 billion. Such a deal would boost the profile of the Japanese group in Silicon Valley. Maris predicted the venture capital market would adapt to the Vision Fund, and in the end there would be more money available for entrepreneurs.

"I always think more dollars available to innovators and inventors is a good thing," Maris said. "If it does shake up the market, maybe things do need to be shaken up a little bit." SoftBank chief executive Masayoshi Son has demonstrated a strategic appreciation for bringing together startups with the potential to benefit one another, according to analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights & Strategy.

Moorhead added that he was expecting either spectacular wins or failures from the Vision Fund. nothing in between. "It is looking for megainvestments," he said.

#### Consolidation goals

SoftBank's early, lucrative, investment in Alibaba was part of a strategy focused on booming e-commerce in China, according to GGV Capital managing partner Hans Tung. SoftBank's recent investments in ride-sharing firms in various countries fits a pattern of seeking money-making synergies by bringing competitors together to share technology, learnings and more. "Masayoshi Son understands the value of consolidation," said Tung. "It is affecting the way society moves from less efficient to more efficient, and the amount of innovation that could happen."

"If consolidation is somewhat expedited with SoftBank money, that is not necessarily a bad thing," Tung said. He added the caveat that the kind of power that comes with such a large fund could be abused. "If that money is used correctly, he should do well and do better for society," Tung said of Son. —AFP

US Dollars Mint



NEW YORK: In this file photo, then President-elect Donald Trump (left), accompanied by Softbank CEO Masayoshi Son, speaks to members of the media at Trump Tower in New York. —AF

### **EXCHANGE RATES**

Al-Muz	zaini Exchange Co.
AS	IAN COUNTRIES
Japanese Yen	2.655
Indian Rupees	4.692
Pakistani Rupees	2.878
Srilankan Rupees	1.972
Nepali Rupees	2.937
Singapore Dollar	223.240
Hongkong Dollar	38.912
Bangladesh Taka	3.686
Philippine Peso	5.919
Thai Baht	9.172
G	CC COUNTRIES
Saudi Riyal	80.014
Qatari Riyal	83.441
Omani Riyal	788.981
Bahraini Dinar	806.700
UAE Dirham	82.714
AF	AB COUNTRIES
Egyptian Pound - Cash	0.000
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.159
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.219
Tunisian Dinar	122.420
Jordanian Dinar	428.390
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.024
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.367

Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.367
EUROPEAN	& AMERICAN COUNTRIES
Dollor Line	WILLIAM COULTING
US Dollar Transfer	303.600

398.630
238.870
80.320
304.360
234.080
302.400
GOLD
260.520
133.180
67.430

#### Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

354.000

Selling Rate
303.250
238.145
397.935
353.615
305.300
804.850
82.955
83.780
81.725
429.000
17.222
1.974
4.689
2.876
3.716
5.911
18.040

apanese Yen	3.650
Syrian Pound	1.590
Vepalese Rupees	2.935
Malaysian Ringgit	72.430
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.110
Гhai Bhat	10.135
Furkish Lira	78.555

BAHRAIN EX		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
	Europe	
British Pound	0.395434	0.402934
Czech Korune	0.005854	0.017854
Danish Krone	0.043541	0.048541
Euro	0.349151	0.356651
Georgian Lari	0.135223	0.135223
Norwegian Krone	0.033365	0.038565
Romanian Leu	0.065015	0.081885
Russian ruble	0.005231	0.005231
Slovakia	0.009062	0.019062
Swedish Krona	0.032290	0.037290
Swiss Franc	0.298728	0.309728
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.224779	0.236779
New Zealand Dollar	0.204516	0.214016
	America	
Canadian Dollar	0.234258	0.243258
US Dollars	0.299500	0.303920

0.30000 0.303920

Bangladesh Taka Chinese Yuan Hong Kong Dollar Indian Rupee Indonesian Rupiah Japanese Yen Korean Won Malaysian Ringgit Nepalese Rupee Pakistan Rupee Philippine Peso Singapore Dollar Sri Lankan Rupee

Thai Baht Bahraini Dinar Egyptian Pound Iranian Rival Iraqi Dinar Jordanian Dinar Kuwaiti Dinar Lebanese Pound Moroccan Dirham Omani Riyal Qatar Riyal Saudi Riyal Syrian Pound Tunisian Dinar Turkish Lira **UAE Dirhams** 

Yemeni Riyal

0.003317 0.003901 0.044221 0.036933 0.039683 0.004128 0.004769 0.000018 0.000024 0.002596 0.002776 0.000261 0.000276 0.068551 0.074551 0.003030 0.003200 0.002663 0.002953 0.005790 0.006090 0.218098 0.228098  $0.001648 \quad 0.002228$ 0.010030 0.010210 0.008816 0.009373

Arab  $0.798309 \quad 0.806809$ 0.014562 0.020280 0.000084 0.000085 0.000207 0.000267 0.423604 0.432604 1.000000 1.000000 0.000156 0.000256 0.022816 0.046816 0.782253 0.787933 0.079101 0.084041  $0.079873 \quad 0.081173$ 0.001287 0.001507 0.125384 0.117384 0.073493 0.083793 0.081234 0.000987 0.001067

Monday, November 13, 2017

**NBK Economic Report** 

## China's push to revive Silk Road trade hits the buffers

### Hurdles risk tarnishing economic crown jewel of Xi

Indonesia rail

line plan runs

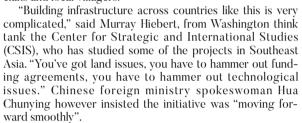
into trouble

SINGAPORE: From a stalled Indonesian rail project to an found excavators flattening land but no track laid for the train, insurgency-threatened economic corridor in Pakistan, China's push to revive Silk Road trade routes is running into problems that risk tarnishing the economic crown jewel of Xi Jinping's presidency.

The "One Belt, One Road" initiative, unveiled by Xi in 2013, envisages linking China with Africa, Asia and Europe through a network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks. Xi, the most powerful Chinese leader in decades, has pushed the infrastructure drive which is central to his goal of extending Beijing's economic and geopolitical clout. The initiative was enshrined in

the Communist Party's constitution at a key congress last month, and some estimates say more than \$1 trillion has been pledged to it, with projects proposed in some 65 countries.

But on the ground it has run into problems. Projects traverse insurgency-hit areas, dictatorships and chaotic democracies, and face resistance from both corrupt politicians and local villagers.



#### Troubled train line

Beijing won the contract to build Indonesia's first highspeed railway in September 2015, but more than two years later work has barely started on the route from Jakarta to the city of Bandung. A recent visit to Walini, where President Joko Widodo broke ground on the train line in January last year, which is meant to start operating in 2019. "The first year after the ground-breaking ceremony, I did not see any progress at all," Neng Sri, a 37-year-old food stall owner from nearby Mandala Mukti village, told AFP. The central problem has been persuading villagers to leave their land on the proposed route, which is often an issue in the chaotic, freewheeling democracy.

The Indonesian transport ministry declined to give an update on the project and the consortium of Chinese and Indonesian companies building the line did not respond to repeated requests for comment. On another planned high-

speed line from southern China to Singapore, the Thai stretch of the railway was delayed by tussles over financing and protective labor regulations, and it was only in July that the military government finally approved \$5.2 billion to start con-

Work is under way on the 415-kilometre (260-mile) part of the line in Laos, a staunch ally of Beijing. But even there the project has

stoked controversy due to its huge price tag at \$5.8 billion, roughly half the country's 2015 GDP-and the question of how much deeply poor Laos will gain from the project.

#### Lopsided gains

There have been concerns in many countries about how much they will benefit from One Belt, One Road initiatives. Gains for China, such as access to key markets and tackling overcapacity in domestic industries, are often more obvious than those for their partners.

Such worries have bedevilled projects in Central Asia, part of a potential route from western China to Europe. These include a free trade zone at Horgos on the China-Kazakh border, notable for flashy malls on the Chinese side and relatively little on the Kazakh side, and a planned railway to Uzbekistan that has stalled in large part due to opposition



JAKARTA: This file photo taken on August 13, 2015 shows Indonesian models looking at scale models of Chinese-made bullet trains on exhibition at a shopping mall in Jakarta. —AFP

in Kyrgyzstan, through which the line would run.

"I am against this railway as it stands because the financial benefits that could accrue to Kyrgyzstan accrue to (China and Uzbekistan) instead," said Timur Saralayev, head of the Bishkek-based New Generation movement

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a \$54billion project launched in 2013 linking western China to the Indian Ocean via Pakistan, has been targeted by separatist rebels in Balochistan province, who have blown up gas pipelines and trains and attacked Chinese engineers.

But the Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua insisted the One Belt, One Road initiative enjoyed broad support. 'We have seen more and more support and approval of our projects. Many projects have delivered tangible benefits to he people in these countries," she said.

The view from the ground, however, is not always so positive. "The high-speed train... is only for super busy people who think time is money," said the villager Sri, who lives next to the Indonesian rail project. "We are not rushing to go anywhere." —AFP

### Crisis-stricken GE to unveil painful roadmap to salvation

**NEW YORK:** Iconic American industrial behemoth General Electric, which has lost investor confidence amid bad investment decisions, is preparing to slice up its empire again, selling major business segments and laying off thousands. Hammered by financial markets, with its market capitalization down more than \$100 billion since January, the maker of jet engines and power turbines is paying dearly after making losing bets that the energy sector, in particular oil and gas, would grow indefinitely.

Shareholders appear resigned to a cut in dividends, the first since 2009, as GE had only \$7 billion in cash flow at the end of September, but was due to pay out \$8 billion. "There is no scared cow," newly installed CEO John Flannery has said repeatedly about the need to cut costs and restructure. To rebuild trust, Flannery, who has been CEO for only three months, will roll out plans to revive the company today.

Deutsche Bank analyst John Inch said there was no way to sugarcoat the situation. "They have a crisis of investor confidence," he told AFP. "GE is in a cash crunch." Scott Davis of Melius Research put it even more starkly, calling the company "disgraced" and saying it "needs to clean house as fast as possible." Flannery took the helm after 16 years of leadership by Jeff Immelt, who sold off GE's stake in TV and movie giant NBCUniversal as well as its household appliance segment and much of its banking and finance business.

The newly-installed GE chief will unveil another austerity plan that will include significant layoffs, according to a source who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity. The power generation business GE Power will be particularly hard hit. The belt tightening follows a \$2 billion cost-cutting program that already had seen staff levels fall 11 percent to 295,000 over the course of last year.

#### Sell everything not nailed down

GE also is likely to close its research and development centers in Shanghai, Rio de Janeiro and Munich, leaving the company with R&D facilities only in New York and Bangalore, India.

The company declined to answer queries from AFP on the plan, but in mid-October Flannery told CNBC: "It's a pretty straightforward thing that we have to tighten the belt." The company expects to cut more than \$2 billion in additional costs, according to another person familiar with the matter, and also may announce the sale of its transportation and medical IT segments. The transportation unit produces locomotives and last year had revenues of \$4.7 billion. The medical data management group led by API Healthcare and its subsidiary Centricity EMR, are part of a GE branch that took in \$18.3 billion in 2016.

Selling these businesses could bring GE a big step closer toward its goal of shedding \$20 billion in assets over the next two years.

Another route the company could take involves spinning off its aircraft leasing operation GE Capital Aviation Services, which maintains a fleet of nearly

"GE will likely sell anything that isn't nailed down," Davis said. Beyond its financial picture, GE will have to repair damage to its corporate image following revelations that former CEO Immelt secretly traveled on a corporate jet at company expense. —AFP

### **CBK** announces winners of Al-Najma Account draw

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the daily draw on "Al-Najma Account" yesterday at the Bank's Head Office to select 5 winners to win a cash prize of KD 7000 for each. The draw was held in the presence of Abdulaziz Ashkanani, representative of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The following names were announced as winners of the prizes:

- 1. Ali Ahmad Jaber Ali
- 2. Mehboob Mira Saheb Kazi
- 3. Mahmoud Mohammad Ezzat Hafedh Mohammad

4. Basem Kamel Aajel

5. Moamen Ahmad Rudhwan Mohammad

Al-Najma Account allows its customers to win a daily prize of KD 7,000 which is the highest daily prize in Kuwait. In addition, the account offers quarterly draws that provide customers with opportunity to get their dreams turned to reality by winning great prizes starting from KD 100,000 for the first quarter escalating thereafter by KD 50 thousand for each quarter to reach KD 250,000 in the last quarter. Customers can enjoy additional benefits including obtaining ATM card and a credit card against the customer's account along with enjoying all other banking services.

The bank congratulates all the lucky winners and draws their attention that the cash prizes will be credited into their accounts with the Bank. Further, the Bank appreciates the Ministry of Commerce & Industry's significant role and its continuous cooperation and effective supervision on the draw that was smoothly and transparently organized.



### Alibaba takes record \$25bn on 'Singles Day'

**BEIJING:** Chinese online shoppers spent a record \$25 billion on this year's "Singles Day" promotion run by e-commerce giant Alibaba, up nearly 40 percent from last year, figures showed yesterday.

At the peak, 256,000 payments were being processed per second on Saturday, the firm said, more than 90 percent of them placed via mobile. The company's gross merchandise volume for its annual sales extravaganza known as "Double 11" representing November 11, came in at 168.3 billion (\$25.3 billion), Alibaba said in a statement on its website.

The figure represents sales processed through Alibaba's online payment system Alipay. The total sales were up 39 percent from last year's 120.7 billion yuan (\$17.8 bil-

lion) — a milestone this year eclipsed in under 14 hours, according to Alibaba. Rivals such as JD.com also reported brisk business.

Analysts expect Chinese e-commerce retailers to take "Singles Day"-which originally celebrated the idea of being unattached-abroad as growth rates slow in the years ahead. Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported that more than 140,000 overseas brands participated in this year's

"Alibaba looked to elevate this year's 11.11 from a shopping day to a virtual holiday," the company said in its statement, "complete with a motto-'Wishing you a Happy 11.11'-that closely resembles the sort of greetings Chinese all over the world exchange at the Lunar New Year." —AFP



SHANGHAI: Alibaba staff pose for photos in front of a screen showing total sales at over 168 billion yuan shortly after the end of the 11.11, or Singles Day shopping festival, at a gala event in Shanghai early yesterday.

### Holy guacamole! **How NAFTA** drove America's avocado boom

WASHINGTON: Love it or loathe it, America's avocado craze shows no sign of fizzling out, but fans of the Mexican staple may not realize they can thank the NAFTA trade deal for ensuring its bountiful supply. In a little over two decades, American store shelves have been transformed as mounds of avocados, mangos, papayas and peppers stamped "Mexico" flooded over the border.

The year-round profusion of fresh fruits and vegetables is directly attributable to the North American Free Trade Agreement, which the United States, Canada and Mexico are renegotiating at the demand of President Donald Trump who dubbed it the 'worst deal ever."

"I'm 49 years old and remember when I was little asking my mother in winter 'Where are the strawberries?' and my mother would say 'It is out of season," says Jaime Chamberlain, who runs JC Distributing, a family business that imports fruit and vegetables from Mexico.

Thanks to the 1994 trade deal, there is now a whole new generation of Americans who will never know such seasonal hardship. While NAFTA was never intended as a vehicle to change the American diet, Steven Zahniser, economist and researcher at the US Agriculture Department (USDA), sees a correlation between the agreement and Americans eating more fresh fruits and

#### Cheaper produce

Chamberlain notes that before the trade deal took effect in 1994, import duties on fresh produce were "astronomical." Melons were taxed at 30 percent, tomatoes at around 20 percent. Pre-NAFTA conditions made it difficult to export to the US market, and for consumers to find fresh produce that was both varied and affordable. Only three or four Mexican states were exporting to the United States before the deal. Today, all the states send their fresh produce to their neighbor, said Chamberlain, who took over the reins of the company in 1987. "It has been a fantastic wave of agriculture growth that has been extremely beneficial to the final consumers both Canadian and American," he said.

The most dramatic example is the avocado. Virtually banned from the United States until 1993 for phytosanitary reasons-the technical term for rules on agriculture to protect health and prevent pests-NAFTA opened the floodgates to imports of the green fruit that today is massively consumed across America.

Avocado consumption has tripled since 1994, according to the USDA, and the United States is now the largest importer of the fatty fruit in the world, totaling \$1

#### Super Bowl guacamole

The presence of a large Mexican community in the United States helped popularize the use of the buttery, green topping in sandwiches and on salads-with its biggest use in the form of guacamole.

The mashed avocado cream mixed with lime, onion and tomato, and consumed by the gallon with nachos, has become the most popular snack of the Super Bowl, the American football championship game that is biggest event of the year for US television.

But the past few years saw avocado's popularity escalate among health-conscious Americans into a national craze which has since gone global, to the point of a backlash. There have been warnings the avocado boom is fuelling illegal deforestation in Mexico, while avocado toast became a standing joke after it was suggested the high-priced brunch staple was the reason millennials could not afford to buy homes. USDA agricultural economist Agnes Perez, in a recent study on NAFTA, said the boom was partly attributable to "increasing awareness of the benefits of 'healthy fats,' like the mono-unsaturated fats found in avocados.'

Campaigns to encourage Americans to eat a more healthy and balanced diet also have boosted appetite for other fruits. Demand for Mexican strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries has been "overwhelming," Chamberlain said, noting that berries have been touted "as a super brain food" for the past 10 to 15 years.—AFP

#### Business

Wall Street Week Ahead

### MLPs poised for bounce, but could be short-lived

NEW YORK: Master limited partnerships (MLPs) have been beaten down in 2017, but conditions may be turning in their favor for a short-term bounce by year-end.

An MLP is a limited partnership that is publicly traded and, as such, enjoys the benefits of paying no tax at the company level as well as the liquidity that comes with being traded on a major stock exchange.

They generally deal in the production, processing, storage and transport of commodities such as oil and natural gas, which makes them sensitive to fluctuations in the price of the underlying commodity. A high dividend yield also makes them attractive in low interest rate environments.

But there has been a dislocation this year, as WTI and Brent crude oil have climbed about 20 percent since the

0.0

end of August yet MLPs have yet to follow suit. "If you told me what oil did, interest rates did, credit spreads, all of these things so far this year, I would say MLPs should be up 10 percent this year," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank in Chicago. "Oil prices going above \$55 a barrel, interest rates remaining pretty low, US oil production seems to be pretty strong - if you take those factors and triangulate then MLPs should be a

A recent Reuters poll showed oil will likely rally into 2018 with periods of volatility as an anticipated extension of OPEC-led output restrictions offsets higher US production. The Alerian MLP Index is down more than 4 percent since Aug. 31 and nearly 15 percent for the year despite

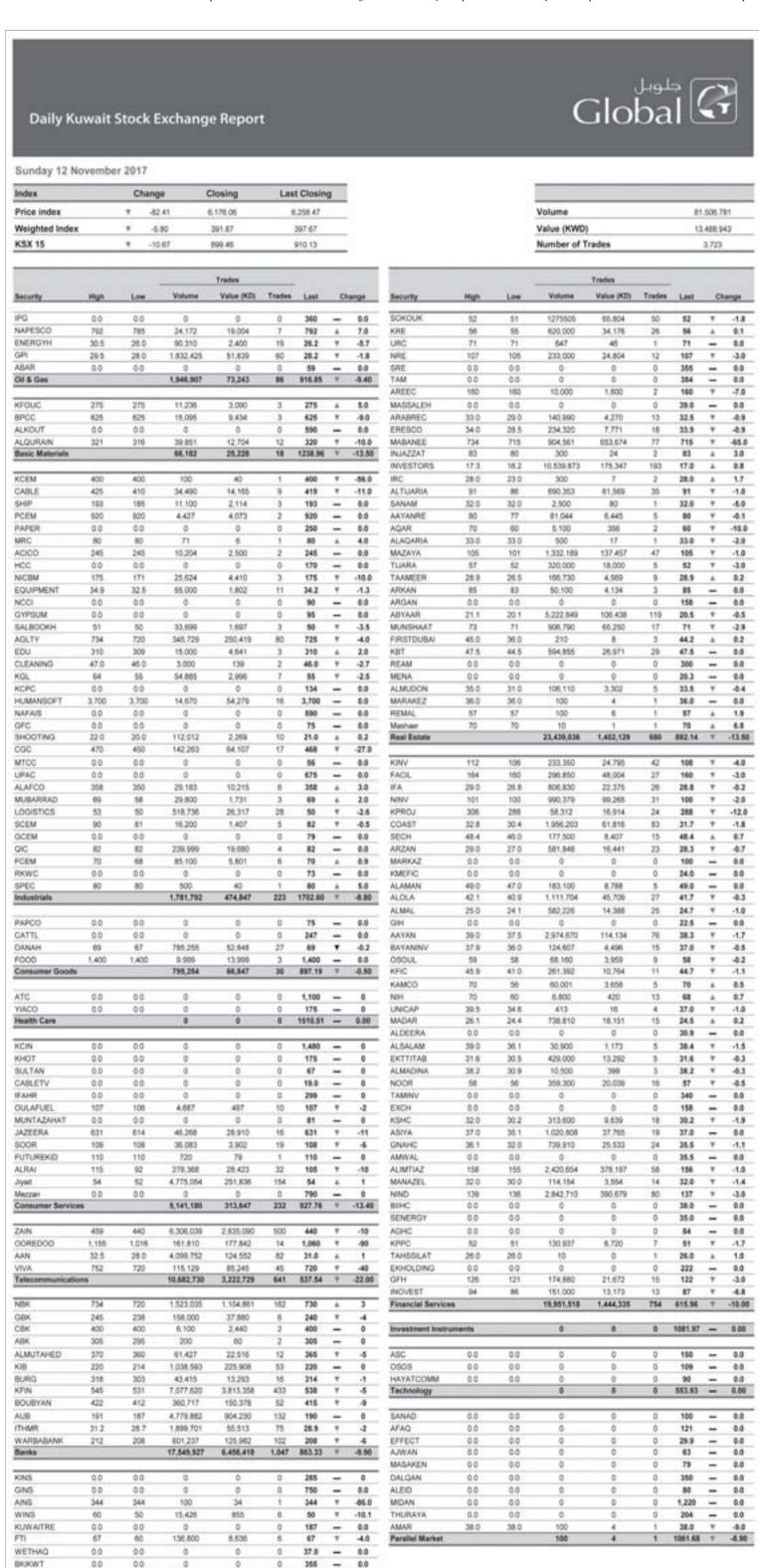
the climb in oil prices. That lags well behind the gain of more than 4 percent in the broad S&P 500 since Aug. 31 and 15 percent gain for the year.

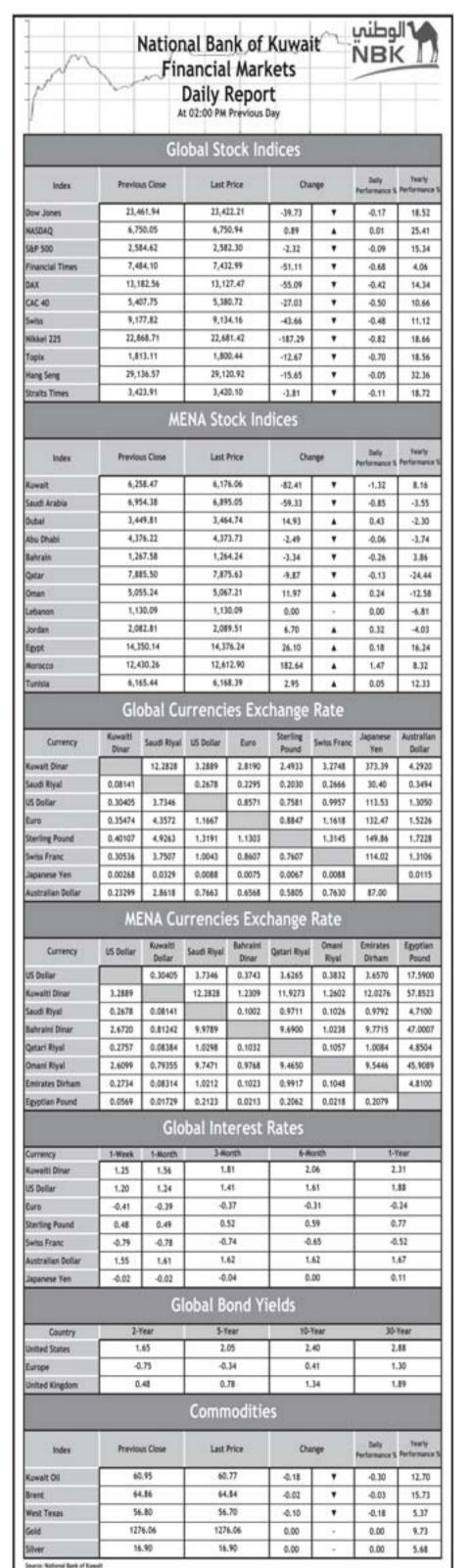
That decline has made MLPs cheap and coupled with their high dividend yields in a low interest rate environment, should make them attractive to investors. The average dividend yield of the Alerian index is 7.8 percent, according to Thomson Reuters data. Enbridge Energy Partners (EEP.N), and Suburban Propane Partners (SPH.N) are among the highest-yielding stocks in the index with dividend yields of over 9.5 percent.

"You buy things that are cheap, that have good income, you sit there and collect your dividend checks and kind of wait it out," said Stephen Massocca, senior vice president at Wedbush Securities in San Francisco. "Fortunately you get these big dividends and it offsets a lot of the pain." One factor that could work against MLPs could be seasonality, as investors begin to engage in taxloss selling by the end of the year, when investors dump underperforming stocks in order to reduce or negate capital gains taxes.

The Alerian index has also become less correlated with oil prices themselves, with a 50-day correlation of negative 0.66 to US crude, the biggest disconnect in four years. So as oil prices have increased, MLPs have gone in the other direction.

That could indicate investors are not convinced oil prices will continue to rally. —Reuters





Monday, November 13, 2017

Business

## MENA Pensions Conference to look at institutional investment portfolios

### Conference to take place in Bahrain on Nov 28

MANAMA: TAKAUD, the specialist provider of pension, savings and investment solutions for the MENA region, is pleased to announce that a highly esteemed panel of multi-regional experts at the 2017 MENA Pensions Conference will examine the landscape and new trends of pension fund and institutional investment portfolios. The 2017 MENA Pensions Conference will take place at the Four Seasons Hotel, Kingdom of Bahrain, on November 28, 2017.

Pension funds are significant players in financial markets, constituting in excess of 30 percent of world's financial assets and eclipsing the value of national GDPs in several countries. This year's conference will feature a session, representing the first time the MENA region has had such an opportunity, to professionally examine how the huge accumulations of pension assets in every country can and should be invested to support growth and sustainability given anticipated payouts over a very long time.

To discuss this vital topic, TAKAUD has assembled a panel of top-notch experts. The session, entitled "The landscape for pension investing," will be moderated by Mark Burbach, chief investment officer of OSOOL, who brings a macro perspective to the issue. Speakers include Dr. Mohamed Maait, Vice Minister of Finance for Public Treasury Affairs, from Egypt's Ministry of Finance, representing the most populous country in the MENA region. Abdullatif Al-Seif is Advisor to the Governor on Investment Affairs at the Public Pension Agency in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and will bring the investment perspective of the largest pension fund in the GCC. Possible investment options and asset allocations will be examined by global asset management panelists, Lukas Daalder, CIO - Investment Solutions at Robeco, and Dr Wolfgang Mader, Head of Investment & Risk Strategy at Allianz Global Investors (Managing Director of risklab), who represent firms that manage investments valued in the trillions of dollars.

"Given the broad experience of this panel in invest-



Mark Burbach, Chief **Investment Officer** at OSOOL



er of Finance for Publi **Treasury Affairs, Egypt** 



Abdullatif Al-Seif, Advisor to the Governor on Invest **Affairs, Public Pension** 

TAKAUD hosts

a panel of

top-notch

experts





nent & Risk Strategy **Allianz Global Investors** 



**Ebrahim K Ebrahim TAKAUD** 

investment portfolios. It will be interesting to see how the different entities have approached the issue and fared in this landscape over time. We need to under-

allocation models and techniques, touch on beliefs and learn lessons from the past," said Burbach the session moderator.

stand evolving asset

The Panel's speakers will draw from their experience with leading MENA pension funds to present current structures of institutional investment portfolios and possibilities for perform-

ance optimization. Dr Maait said, "Pension investing is report, which was published just weeks ago, points out an important economic driver whose importance can-

Participants will hear how the representatives of key regional entities have gained lessons from the past, and

will be presented with asset management models and techniques for portfolio construction. Al-Seif said, "There have been great lessons as the region have built substantial pension reserves and we are eager to share our experience with others even as learn from them."

Lukas Daalder, author of Robeco's Expected Returns 2018-2022

that while traditional asset classes such as equities and ing, we will be discussing the structuring of institutional not be minimized. Getting the right mix of investments fixed income remain core holdings for pension funds,

it's becoming increasingly important to have multi-asset 'higher-yielding' tools and capabilities to reinvigorate and optimize portfolio construction over the coming

Dr Mader said, "A long-term investment strategy for pension investors needs to be aligned with the longterm return ambition as well as with short and longterm risk goals. These dimensions need to be brought together in defined benefit and defined contribution pension schemes on top of existing investment guidelines and investment regulations."

"We are more than pleased that such a distinguished panel of speakers will be discussing this vital topic at the 2017 MENA Pensions Conference," said Ebrahim K Ebrahim, TAKAUD's Chief of Government Business, the Conference Chairman. "If we can think of investing as being like chemistry, where each element must be carefully weighed and proportionally balanced with other ingredients, these men are the chemists. We will be looking to them for the right investment formulas, advice, opportunities and cautions."

### Flydubai showcases its first Boeing 737 MAX 8 at the Dubai Airshow

**DUBAI:** Dubai-based flydubai marks its fifth Dubai Airshow by unveiling its brand-new Boeing 737 MAX 8. This is the first aircraft to be delivered from the largest single-aisle Boeing aircraft order placed in the Middle East in the 2013 edition of the show.

The new aircraft, bearing the UAE registration mark A6-MAX, is the first of 76 aircraft on order from Boeing; all of which will be delivered by 2023. Six of these aircraft will join the flydubai fleet by the end of the last quarter of 2017.

flydubai's Chairman, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum commenting on the occasion said: "At the 2013 Dubai Airshow we made history by placing the largest order for this aircraft type in the Middle East. This was made before this aircraft took its first commercial flight. To see that commitment being fulfilled today is another milestone in Dubai's aviation success story. The efficiency and enhanced performance this aircraft promises is going to play an important role in the new chapter of flydubai's growth strategy."

flydubai's Chief Executive Officer, Ghaith Al-Ghaith, commenting on the arrival of the MAX 8: "We are gearing up and putting the final touches to these new aircraft which will improve our overall fleet performance, bring more flexibility and efficiency to our operations and further support our commitment to opening up new destinations, whilst delivering an exceptional onboard experience for our passengers."

flydubai's new Boeing 737 MAX 8s will initially be deployed on the furthest points on the carrier's network. Destinations including Bangkok, Prague, Yekaterinburg and Zanzibar will be among the first to be served by the MAX 8. The additional aircraft being delivered over the next few years will be rolled out across the fleet and will become available on most of the routes on the network.

The 737 MAX family is the fastest-selling airplane in Boeing history with about 3,950 orders from 93 customers worldwide," said Marty Bentrott, vice president, Sales for Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Middle East, Turkey, Russia, Central Asia and Africa. "It is tremendous





to see flydubai's MAX at the Dubai Airshow bearing the A6-MAX registration which is a very special accolade to our valued partnership with flydubai and to the MAX airplane." Since the beginning of 2017, flydubai has



launched six new destinations and grown its network to more than 95 destinations, increased the schedule to more than 1,700 flights per week as well as rolled out its new uniform worn by more than 2,500 uniformed staff.



### Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD

The lucky winners are:

Asmaa Ahmed Thiab Al-Jayar

Ammar Hussain Gholoum Hussain Baher Tharwat Henary Saeed

Fadhel Abdulazeez Ahmad Al-Musallam

Zaid Natae Khalaf Rowaie

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the Ouarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account, the new quarterly draw or on any of the bank's products and services, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch, or simply call the bank's Call Center. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.

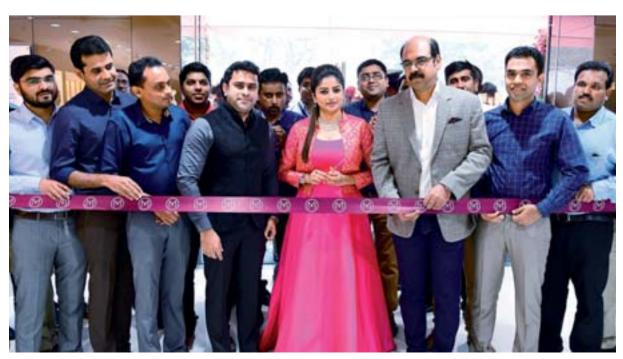
### Malabar Gold & Diamonds launches its 195th store in Mandya, Karnataka, India

**KUWAIT:** Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the big five jewelry retailers globally with a strong retail network of 195 retail outlets spread across nine countries has launched its latest showroom in Karnataka, India. The showroom located in KVS Complex on the Mysore Bangalore Highway, Mandya was inaugurated by Cine Actress Rachita Ram on 11th November, 2017 in the presence of Asher. O, Managing Director - India Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Iflu Rahman - Regional Head, Malabar

Gold & Diamonds, other management team members, invited guests, media & well-wishers.

The store displays the exclusive range of Malabar Gold & Diamonds sub brands: Mine -Diamonds Unlimited, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Precia -Gem Jewellery, Divine - Indian Heritage Jewelry, Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewellery, Hi - Casual jewelry collection and Starlet - Kids' Jewelry. Apart from that, the newly opened outlet unveil a significantly large collection of traditional as well as contemporary designer jewelry and the grand opening was celebrated exhibiting the finest collection of IGI GIA certified diamonds and PGI certified platinum jewelry in latest designs for the jewelry lovers.

"This is the group's 19th store in Karnataka Region and we also has plans to further expand our presence in this region. Karnataka has a niche customer base and offers vast market potential for our ensemble gold and diamond jewelry products. We are committed to providing the best money value deals to our esteemed customers," stated Asher O, Managing Director - India Operations, Malabar Gold &



Technology

## Honda Alghanim launches Nov offers with 0% profit and no down payment

### Chance to own one of the Pilot, Civic or Odyssey J cars

KUWAIT: Honda Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of to be every driver's daily delight. While the spacious, dual-Honda cars, motorcycles and marine equipment in Kuwait, launched its October offers campaign, giving customers an unprecedented opportunity to own one of its renowned Pilot, Civic 1.6 and 2.0 liter or Odyssey J cars at 0 percent profit installments over five years and without a down payment.

The October campaign from Honda Alghanim also brings exclusive offers on the Accord's sedan and coupe vehicles, giving customers the chance to own the sedan at a starting price of KD5,999, and the coupe at KD6,999.

The November offers also reveal the fifth generation 2018 Odyssey, which brings a whole lot of features and the world's first technologies such as CabinWatch, CabinTalk, 10 Speed AT and Magic Slide 2nd row seats. The exterior of the Odyssey has been redesigned to portray sophisticated and modern new styling that incorporates a signature flying wing front grille with Halogen Headlights (in LX and EX-L) and LED headlights with Auto On-Off timer making it energy efficient.

Known for being the ideal vehicle for families and youth, and suitable for the lifestyle of every segment of customers, Honda Alghanim ensures great value, strong

performance, comfort, reliability and an advanced design which derives from Honda's vision of, "Engineered for Better."

#### **Pilot**

The Pilot designed to be stylish, useful and trouble-free when driving, with its sporty and refined design redefining the modern family SUV. The Pilot is built for comfort

with seating for as many as eight persons, while not compromising on premium interior and exterior features.

#### Accord's sedan and coupe models:

The 2017 Accord has just been named one of Car and Driver's 10 best for the 31st time. The signature Honda vehicle upholds a legacy that Honda started in 1976. With further design refinements and even more efficient performance, the Accord 2017 is available as either a twodoor coupe or a four-door sedan, and continues to offer four- and six-cylinder engine choices.

#### Civic 1.6 and 2.0 liter

The iconic Honda Civic has set an all-new standard in compact car style and performance with its sleek, sporty lines and improved power-to-weight ratio that has proven zone automatic climate control and premium-grade cabin is loaded with premium features for class-above comfort and convenience, the exterior features boast color-coordinated power side mirrors. Convenience was a key factor in the redesigned Honda Civic. From the cap-less fuel system, electric parking brake and aerodynamic wing spoiler to the smart entry engine start and stop button and 7-inch touchscreen audio display, the Honda Civic is truly the ideal car for the youth who yearn for a smooth and comfortably stylish drive that reflects their lifestyle.

#### Odyssey J

Ranked among the best family cars for 2017, the Odyssey J is known for its safety, value, reputation, driving manners, comfort and convenience, cargo versatility, technology, and fit of various rear-facing and forward-facing child safety car seats when choosing the vehicles that best meet the needs of today's families.

#### The new 2018 Odyssey

With a completely re-designed exterior and two new

#### Competitive prices on the Accord Sedan and Coupe

colors, the 2018 Odyssey is available in three grades namely, LX, EX-L and Touring, and offer luxurious interiors with New Magic Slide second-row seat and 60/40 3rd row seat to provide the ultimate family comfort. The car also comes with an advanced connectivity and entertainment system in a new 8inch Display Audio Screen, CabinWatch, CabinTalk and a Rear Entertainment system with children

friendly apps. The car is equipped with a new 10-Speed Automatic Transmission mated to a 3.5-liter direct injected i-VTEC 24-Valve SOHC V6 engine with variable cylinder management. Standard across all grades are eight airbags including knee airbags for additional protection. Honda Alghanim also offers a large range of cars catering to the different needs of audiences that can be viewed at all Honda Alghanim showrooms.

Customers can take any of these cars on a test drive by visiting one of the two Honda Alghanim showrooms located in Al Rai and Shuwaikh. The Honda Alghanim showroom in Al Rai area operates from 9:00am to 10:00pm, Saturday to Thursday, and from 9:30am to 10:00pm on Fridays. The Shuwaikh showroom operates from 9:00am to 10:00pm every day. The cars service center waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers, digital satellite





TV, free wireless internet, relaxing massage chairs a

PlayStation 4 corner and more. The service center operates 7 days a week, from

Saturday to Wednesday from 7:30am to 8:30pm, from 7:30am to 6:30pm on Thursdays, and from 2:00pm to 7:00pm on Fridays.

Monday, November 13, 2017

### Privacy fears over artificial intelligence as crimestopper

WASHINGTON: Police in the US state of Delaware are poised to deploy "smart" cameras in cruisers to help authorities detect a vehicle carrying a fugitive, missing child or straying senior.

The video feeds will be analyzed using artificial intelligence to identify vehicles by license plate or other features and "give an extra set of eyes" to officers on patrol, says David Hinojosa of Coban Technologies, the company providing the equipment.

"We are helping officers keep their focus on their jobs," said Hinojosa, who touts the new technology as a 'dashcam on steroids." The program is part of a growing trend to use vision-based AI to thwart crime and improve public safety, a trend which has stirred concerns among privacy and civil liberties activists who fear the technology could lead to secret "profiling" and

US-based startup Deep Science is using the same technology to help retail stores detect in real time if an armed robbery is in progress, by identifying guns or masked assailants. Deep Science has pilot projects with US retailers, enabling automatic alerts in the case of robberies, fire or other threats.

The technology can monitor for threats more efficiently and at a lower cost than human security guards, according to Deep Science co-founder Sean Huver, a former engineer for DARPA, the Pentagon's long-term research arm. "A common problem is that security guards get bored," he said.

Until recently, most predictive analytics relied on inputting numbers and other data to interpret trends. But advances in visual recognition are now being used to detect firearms, specific vehicles or individuals to help law enforcement and private security. Recognize, interpret the environment

Saurabh Jain is product manager for the computer graphics group Nvidia, which makes computer chips for such systems and which held a recent conference in Washington with its technology partners. He says the same computer vision technologies are used for selfdriving vehicles, drones and other autonomous systems, to recognize and interpret the surrounding environment.

Nvidia has some 50 partners who use its supercomputing module called Jetson or its Metropolis software for security and related applications, according to Jain.

One of those partners, California-based Umbo Computer Vision, has developed an AI-enhanced security monitoring system which can be used at schools, hotels or other locations, analyzing video to detect intrusions and threats in real-time, and sending alerts to a security guard's computer or phone.

Israeli startup Briefcam meanwhile uses similar technology to interpret video surveillance footage. "Video is unstructured, it's not searchable," explained Amit Gavish, Briefcam's US general manager. Without artificial intelligence, he says, "you had to go through hundreds of hours of video with fast forward and rewind." "We detect, track, extract and classify each object in the video. So it becomes a database." —AFP

### The HUAWEI Mate 10 and Mate 10 Pro: Pushing the boundaries of smartphone design

KUWAIT: It takes an innovative hardware and a luxurious design to make a difference in the world of smartphones. At a time when smartphone designs are said to be too similar or too common, Huawei continues to create increasingly luxurious designs that push boundaries by leveraging its meticulous craftsmanship and exploring new materials

This year, Huawei brought the ultimate design with the HUAWEI Mate 10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro that feature bigger screens, less bezels and more compact bodies to fit comfortably into consumers' hands and offer an unparalleled experience.

3D glass body with a stunning display
The HUAWEI Mate 10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro

introduce a luxurious 3D glass body, beautifully and symmetrically curved for an improved in-hand feel. They feature Huawei's first FullView Display which maximizes the screen. The HUAWEI Mate 10 features a 5.9-inch 2K screen, 16:9 LCD display and HDR10, while the HUAWEI Mate 10 features a 6-inch AMOLED, 18:9 OLED screen; both have thin, symmetrical bezels at the top and bottom. The reduction of bezels allows for more screen usability: 18 percent more for the HUAWEI Mate 10 and 16 percent more for the HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro.

#### A luxurious design

To come up with an ultimate design, Huawei leveraged its advanced craftsmanship to deliver a smartphone that everyone would love to carry. Both smartphones come with a 3D Glass body that brings totally new visual experience, along with a metal frame that creates a seamless transition at each corner, creating a perfect contrast and combination of glass and metal materials. The back of the devices feature a "reflective band" design to highlight the

**Elegant colors**The HUAWEI Mate 10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro come in a palette of elegant color that can satisfy the most discerning consumers. The HUAWEI Mate 10 is available in



Black, Mocha Brown and Champagne Gold while the HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro is available in Midnight Blue, Mocha Brown and Titanium Grav. The HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro is IP67 Water and Dust Resistant.

### Take a walk in all of South Africa's parks with Google Street View

Search giant Google announced recently that all South Africa's national parks and reserves were available on the Google Street View platform. A year in the making, the project aimed to create 360° imagery of the country's wildest areas and comprised 206 South African volunteers.

"The hundreds of volunteers who helped along the way, proved to be truly passionate about showing the best of South Africa through their participation in the loan program," said Magdalena Filak, Program Manager for Google.

Collectively, the volunteers trekked 900 km on foot in all nine provinces, explored 170 new trails, and encountered lions, cheetahs and elephants on foot. "The Trekker camera is a 22-kg custom-made backpack, fitted with 15 cameras pointing in all directions. The on-board technology plots the camera's exact location on the trail. While recording, the camera takes a 360∞ photo every two seconds. It's basically the off-road equivalent of Google's Street View cars," said Andre Van Kets of loan program partner, Drive South Africa.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization heritage sites, such as iSimangaliso Wetland Park, as well as Mapungubwe Hill, the Richtersveld and Drakensberg Mountains are some of the natural environments on display. All of South Africa's 19 national parks are covered on the platform, which also has built-in functionality to give tourists an overview of the country's natural heritage.

"Harnessing technology allows SANParks to showcase the 19 South African national parks like never before. Google Trekker allows South Africans and foreigners to explore and discover what the different parks have to offer. We are really excited that this introduces a new dimension to planning a trip and what better way to do it than through a virtual itinerary which you can then make reality," said Janine Raftopoulos, SANParks Head of Communications. South Africa took fourth position - moving up from last year's fifth position - when it comes to being an appealing destination for Muslim travellers, according to the Mastercard-CrescentRating Global

Muslim Travel Index 2017, held in Jakarta. With an index score of 53,6, this placed South Africa behind Singapore, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Non-Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) markets for the third consecutive year while Malaysia kept the pole position for OIC and overall. Indonesia moved up to third place in the overall rankings.

The index, which covers 130 destinations, showed a number of non-OIC destinations in Asia move up the rankings; a result of the concerted effort to adapt their services to cater to and attract the Muslim travel market.

The rankings saw Hong Kong make up the top five for the non-OIC destinations, with Japan moving up two places to take the sixth spot with Spain entering the top 10 for the first time and Singapore remaining the only non-OIC destination in the overall top 10. Over and above, Indonesia, Japan and Taiwan saw the biggest improvements in ranking on the overall top 10 list.

The research showed that the Muslim travel market would continue to grow at a fast pace with the sector estimated to grow to \$220 billion (about R2 937 billion at R13.35/\$) in 2020 and expected to grow a further \$80 billion (about R73 285 billion at R13.35/\$) to reach \$300 billion (about R247 825 billion at R13.35/\$) by 2026.

Health Monday, November 13, 2017

## Chinese farmer turned eco-warrior now plans to take on big business

### At war with a subsidiary of China's largest chemical firm

YUSHUTUN: Wang Enlin, an elderly farmer who left school when he was 10 years old and taught himself law armed with a single textbook and dictionary, makes for an unlikely eco-warrior. Yet the 64-year-old is determined to reap justice as he readies for a fresh battle in his war with a subsidiary of China's largest chemical firm, which he accuses of polluting and destroying his farmland.

"In China, behind every case of pollution is a case of corruption," he said of his mission to bring Qihua Chemical Group (also known as Heilongjiang Haohua Chemical) to account. Wang and others villagers from northeast Heilongjiang province have sued Qihua accusing it of contaminating their soil, rendering it untenable for crops, in a case that has stretched on for more than 16 years.

This February, Wang and his self-styled "Senior Citizen Environmental Protection Team" earned a rare victory when a local court ordered Qihua to clear up their chemical waste site-adjacent to the farmers' land-and pay a total of 820,000 yuan (\$120,000) to compensate for lost harvests in 55 affected rural households. But that ruling was overturned on appeal, and Wang is now gearing up to fight back on another day in court. "We will absolutely win. The law is on our side," Wang said. His case is testing the possibilities of a national environmental protection law revised in 2015. The legislation was widely touted as a way to open the courts to public interest environmental damage lawsuits, but has been criticized for poor implementation.

**Change your fate**Qihua is a subsidiary of the state-owned ChemChina, the country's largest chemical enterprise. It specializes in crude oil processing and petroleum products. Wang's battle began in 2001, when a village committee leased 28.5 hectares to Qihua for use as a chemical waste dumping ground without the villagers' consent.

The villagers claim that the company failed to take proper pollution control measures. Wang says he felt compelled to teach himself law after realising he lacked the knowledge or resources to take on the might of an industrial giant. China had just emerged from its Great Famine when Wang left school: "It didn't matter at the time whether you got an education," he said. "It wouldn't change your fate." He was well into middle age when he found a textbook on environmental law at a local bookstore. It took him years to understand as he painstakingly looked up unfamiliar terms in a dog-eared dictionary.

After petitioning the local authorities to no avail, he



YUSHUTUN: Books are stacked inside the room of farmer Wang **Enlin in his house** 

**Behind every** 

case of pollution

is a case of

corruption

YUSHUTUN: In this picture taken on August 21, 2017, farmer Wang Enlin sits in his room inside his house. - AFP photos

received aid in 2007 from the Centre for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims, which helped the villagers put together a lawsuit using evidence he had compiled. A 2013 sam-

pling of mercury levels conducted on the site by the Green Beagle Institute, a Beijing-based non-profit, found the land was "not suitable for agricultural use". Ministry

Environmental Protection included Qihua in a 2014 list of "major" environmental cases. But it was still another year before Wang's case was accepted into China's justice system. Prominent environmentalist Ma Jun told AFP

that while the litigation process has been streamlined since 2015, pollution lawsuits can still take years to be heard partly because "local governments give some degree of

protection to polluting companies". Today Wang prepares his own legal paperwork and hosts daily gatherings at his home for villagers hoping to learn about their rights.

Wang, who suffers from lung problems and requires medi-cine to help him breathe, accuses Qihua of "pretending to be deaf and mute" on the issue. He says he is frequently visited by police officers who urge him to drop the case and stop talking to the media. Qihua's lawyers declined to comment on the case.

#### 'Corrupt officials'

In September, the Qiqihar Intermediate People's Court

accepted Wang's request to appeal the ruling that overturned his initial victory. "We're just farmers, without any resources or power," said Wang Baoqin (no relation), a member of Wang Enlin's senior citizens' environmental group. "Against the government, we can't win. Against those corrupt officials, we definitely can't win. So we decided to take the side road and fight the company.'

According to Rachel Stern, the author of Environmental Litigation in China: A Study in Political Ambivalence," the number of new legal cases related to natural resources has increased tenfold over the past decade. The Supreme People's Court heard 133,000 such cases last year. Some complainants have found success: in 2015, a petrol giant was ordered to pay 1.68 million yuan (\$265,000) to 21 fishermen whose livelihoods suffered from oil spills.

Qihua's plant did not appear to be in operation when AFP reporters visited in late August. The land was dry and marked by patches of overgrown grass, no longer the site of a massive wastewater pond. But no crops will grow in the spot again, Wang Baoqin predicted. "We may not even see justice in our lifetimes," she said. "We're doing this for the generations to come." —AFP

### Frozen treats, supplies rocketing toward space station

CAPE CANAVERAL: A stash of frozen treats and other supplies rocketed toward the International Space Station vesterday, this time from Virginia's cold eastern shore. NASA's commercial shipper, Orbital ATK, launched the cargo ship just after sunrise from Wallops Island, aboard an unmanned Antares rocket. The Cygnus capsule should reach the orbiting lab Tuesday. It's loaded with 7,400 pounds of cargo, including sweet treats for the six station astronauts. There are frozen fruit bars, ice cream bars, ice cream sandwiches and cups of chocolate and vanilla ice cream - about 80 in all, according to NASA.

This marked Orbital ATK's first launch from its home turf in more than a year. The last time it made a space station delivery, it used another company's rocket flying from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Crowds gathered at Wallops in freezing temperatures and cheered as the rocket soared toward the southeast. Sunrise made it hard to see the launch farther from New England to the Carolinas.

A launch attempt on Saturday was nixed after a plane strayed into the restricted airspace. Sunday's try was almost foiled by a couple of boats that briefly wandered into the keep-out zone. Orbital ATK named the capsule after the last man to walk on the moon, Apollo 17's Gene Cernan, who died in January. During the final minutes of the countdown, a launch controller paid tribute to Cernan as well as JR Thompson, a highranking NASA and Orbital ATK official who died last week. SpaceX is NASA's other prime supplier. It's making a station delivery next month. —AP

#### US cities, states defy Trump, still back Paris climate deal

BONN, Germany: A group of US states, cities, are still committed to curbing global warming even as US President Donald Trump's administration is walking away from the Paris climate accord. But the alliance, which has an economy larger than Japan and Germany combined, says it won't be able to achieve the necessary cut in greenhouse gas emissions without some efforts at the federal level.

"It is important for the world to know, the American government may have pulled out of the Paris agreement, but the American people are committed to its goals, and there is nothing Washington can do to stop us," former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg said at a global climate meeting in Bonn, Germany. Gov Jerry Brown of California

echoed those comments.

"In the United States, we have a federal system, and states have real power as do cities. And when cities and states combine together, and then join with powerful corporations, that's how we get stuff done," he said. His speech was briefly interrupted by anticoal and anti-fracking protesters, who held up banners and shouted "We're still in! Trump's

The group calling itself "America's Pledge" said states, cities and private groups have been taking considerable steps to reduce emissions by promoting renewable energy use and climate-friendly transportation systems. "This is a pledge, and it's a pledge that you can cash, because it's real," Brown said. We are doing real stuff in California."

In a report, however, the group said that "we cannot underscore strongly enough the critical nature of federal engagement to achieve the deep decarbonization goals the US must undertake after 2025." Daniel Firger, one of the report's contributors, said it was intended to show that many in the US aren't prepared to wait for Trump to change his

mind on climate change again or wait for the next administration to tackle the issue. "The good news around Trump's announcement to withdraw is that it has galvanized a groundswell of bottom-up support from all corners of the US economy," Firger told The Associated Press.

Cities, regions and businesses in other nations around the world could look to the group for inspiration and support, he said noting that the lessons learned by local authorities and businesses in the U.S. could be applied elsewhere. Also Saturday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in her weekly podcast that every country needs to pitch in to keep global temperatures from rising.

Merkel also said it's the responsibility of the industrial countries to develop environment-friendly technologies that are futureoriented, but "don't lead to a loss of jobs." "We don't gain anything if steel mills, aluminum plants and copper mills leave our countries and go somewhere else where environmental regulations are less strict - because then we haven't made any gains for world climate," she said. — AP



Kuwait 🥗 Times 248 33 199



Monday, November 13, 2017 What's On

## Kuwait Marriott Hotels celebrate Global Customer Appreciation Week







s part of Marriott's Global Customer Appreciation Week, Kuwait Marriott Hotels held a glamorous event to thank their loyal guests and partners for their business throughout 2017. The event took place at the prestigious Al-Thuraya Ballroom, located on the 16th floor at the IW Marriott Kuwait, and was attended by more than 170 VIP guests from the biggest companies in Kuwait and members of the local media.

The beautiful garden-themed party transformed Al-Thuraya Ballroom into a stunning floral fantasy. The event kicked off by a speech given by Samer Gerges, the Cluster Director of Sales at Kuwait Marriott Hotels, in which he thanked all the guests for their

support to Marriott Hotels and for being a part of the Global Customer Appreciation Week 2017 grand celebration.

George Aoun, Cluster General Manager of Marriott Hotels in Kuwait also took the stage to welcome everyone and thank them for attending the Global Customer Appreciation Week 2017 Gala Dinner and for being loval partners to Marriott Hotels in Kuwait and around the world.

After that, the attendees were treated to a mouthwatering selection of international dishes, and enjoyed breathtaking performances delivered by a live band. Aoun said "We are delighted to celebrate the Global Customer Appreciation Week (GCAW) 2017 in a different way this year. This is a great

opportunity for us to express our appreciation to our valued customers for their continuous support and lovalty.'

Other Global Customer Appreciation Week initiatives included a wide range of sales activities such as telemarketing campaign designed to call and personally thank all Marriott guests for their business. Visiting companies and delivering Certificates of Appreciation by the Sales team and members of the Executive Committee, including the Cluster General Manager. Also, the team organized a 'Spirit to Serve' activity to clean some areas in Kuwait as part of their ongoing efforts to support the local community. All under the theme of 'Unrivalled Experiences. Made Together.'



### KG students visit Police Museum



Al-Taef Kindergarten students visited the Kuwait Police Museum vesterday as part of the visits' program that the Interior Ministry conducts for public school students in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

### Wendy's Middle East opens 4th restaurant in Kuwait

endy's Middle East, operated by Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately-owned companies in the region, recently opened its fourth store in Kuwait, located at The Avenues Mall food court.
In celebration of the opening day a ribbon cutustomer experience through great tasting food ting ceremony took place with Wendy and the Frosty Man mascots in attendance to keep the little ones entertained, and customers who visited enjoyed free creamy Frosty ice creams as a treat on the first day.

Shoppers at The Avenues Mall can now take a break and enjoy a variety of Wendy's beef and chicken burgers, made with 100 percent Halal Australian Angus beef or 100 percent Whole Chicken fillet. Wendy's only uses quality ingredients to produce great tasting menu



options for its customers, having consistently made its mark with its 'deliciously different' attitude in the Food and Beverage market. In addition to this new location, Wendy's Middle East has three other restaurants in Kuwait, located on Blajat Street in Salmiya, the Marina Mall and across from Al-Kout Mall in Fahaheel.

Phil Broad, Vice President of Food and Beverage at Alghanim Industries, said: "Our and amazing hospitality. The latest restaurant opening at The Avenues Mall marks our fourth restaurant in twelve months as we continue to expand our brand in the Kuwait food scene."

All meals from Wendy's Middle East are made with quality ingredients, served fresh for every order. Wendy's lettuce and fresh tomatoes are locally sourced, and its hamburgers are made with 100 percent Halal Australian Angus Beef. For more information about Wendy's, visit www.wendysme.com.

### Home Centre introduces new outdoor collection

























t is the season to be outdoors. Echoing the feeling and going by the glorious weather, ■Home Centre, the largest home retailer in the Middle East has introduced its new collection of outdoor and garden furniture to suit every style and budget across its stores in the region.

The collection offers a wide array of garden furniture and household accessories such as modular sofa sets, dining sets, swing sets and gazebos. The outdoor furniture uses robust solid wood or synthetic wicker composed of polyresin to make each piece resistant to water and sunlight. Along with the furniture, Home

Centre also offers contemporary styles and practical choice of decor items. Fountains, artificial and dried plants, rugs, lanterns, fragrances and decorative cushions complete the perfect outdoor setting.

From spacious terrace furniture to garden accessories as well as decorative items, at Home Centre you will find the furniture items you need to make the most of this gorgeous spell of weather. The collection will be available across all Home Centre stores, located at Al-Rai, Shuwaikh, The Avenues, Kuwait City, Fahaheel and Sama Mall (Fintas).





#### TV

01:05

### MOVIES

Life On The Line

ACTION

02:45 The Viral Factor 04:45 Knight And Day 06:40 Life On The Line The Viral Factor 10:20 Knight And Day Batman: The Killing Joke

Savage Dog 15:15 Virtual Revolution Avengers Grimm Mission: Impossible - Rogue

Nation Tiger House 20:35 22:00 The Night Crew 23:40 REC 3 Genesis



00:50 Lone Star Law Treehouse Masters 01:45 Treehouse Masters 03:35 Treehouse Masters 04:25 Treehouse Masters Treehouse Masters Bad Dog Biggest And Baddest 06:02 06:49 Meet The Orangutans Meet The Orangutans 08:00 Gorilla School 08:25 08:50 Gorilla School 09:15 Treehouse Masters Biggest And Baddest 10:10 12:00 Gorilla School Gorilla School Keeping Up With The Kruger Dogs 101: New Tricks 13:50 Dogs 101: New Tricks 14:18 Biggest And Baddest 15:40 North America Lone Star Law 16:35 Treehouse Masters 18:25 Monsters Inside Me 19:20 River Monsters

### BB@ FIRST

Biggest And Baddest

Monsters Inside Me

Mountain Monsters

Gorilla School

Gorilla School

Wild Iberia

20:15

21:10

21:38

23:00

00:35 Kat & Alfie: Redwater 01:30 Line Of Duty Sherlock 02:30 04:05 Doctors 04:35 EastEnders 05:05 Call The Midwife 06:00 Doctors 06:30 Doctors EastEnders 07:00 07:30 The Coroner Doctor Who 08:20 09:15 Doctors 09:45 EastEnders 10:15 The Coroner Casualty 12:00 Doctor Who Call The Midwife 12:45 Doctors 14:15 EastEnders 14:45 The Coroner Doctor Who 16:25 Call The Midwife Casualty Casualty

19:10

20:05

22:00

22:50

23:40 Casualt crime &investigation

The Coroner

In Plain Sight

The Coroner

Rillington Place

Rillington Place

00:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill 01:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence 02:00 Homicide Hunter 03:00 Jo Frost On Britain's Killer Kids Homicide: Hours To Kill

05:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence 06:00 Homicide Hunter The First 48 Crimes That Shook Australia 07:00 08:00 It Takes A Killer 10:00 Homicide Hunter

11:00 Evil Up Close It Takes A Killer It Takes A Killer Crimes That Shook Australia 15:30 16:00 18:00 The First 48 Nightmare In Suburbia 19:00

20:00 It Takes A Killer 20:30 It Takes A Killer 21:00 Homicide Hunter Crimes That Shook Australia Jo Frost On Britain's Killer 23:00

CENTRAL CADAMOS 00:05 Josh Widdicombe - And

Another Thing

00:55 South Park 01:20 Problematic With Moshe Kasher The Half Hour Broad City Real Husbands Of Hollywood 02:10 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 03:25 The Half Hour 03:50 **Broad City** 

04:15 Kroll Show 04:40 Key And Peele 05:05 Tosh.0 Disaster Date 05:30 Ridiculousness Arabia 05:55 06:20 Bondi Ink. Catch A Contractor 07:15 Impractical Jokers UK 08:30 Disaster Date 08:55 Workaholics Kroll Show Key And Peele 09:20 09:45 10:10

Bondi Ink. 10:35 Disaster Date Ridiculousness Arabia Impractical Jokers 11:50 12:40 13:30 Catch A Contractor Key And Peele Impractical Jokers UK

14:20 Disaster Date Workaholics 15:10 Friends 15:35 Kroll Show Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef Impractical Jokers 16:30

16:55 Workaholics Impractical Jokers UK 17:45 Disaster Date Ridiculousness Arabia 18:10

Catch A Contractor 19:25 Impractical Jokers 19:50 Friends 20:12 Friends Real Husbands Of Hollywood 20:35 The Daily Show - Global 21:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef Lip Sync Battle UK 22:00 Teachers Another Period Real Husbands Of Hollywood

Lip Sync Battle UK Discovery

Now That's Funny 01:20 Now That's Funny 02:10 Pick A Puppy Pick A Puppy Pick A Puppy 03:00 Pick A Puppy Bear Grylls: Born Survivor 03:25 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor 05:30 Storm Chasers

06:20 How It's Made 06:40 How It's Made 07:00 Pick A Puppy Pick A Puppy 07:50 Storm Chasers 08:40 How It's Made Mythbusters 09:30 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor 10:20 Free Ride Kings Of The Wild 12:00

How It's Made

12:50

How It's Made Mythbusters 14:30 Wild Family Rescue Storm Chasers Bear Grylls: Born Survivor 17:00 Tethered Kings Of The Wild 17:50 Mythbusters 18:40 How It's Made 19:30

How It's Made 20:20 Now That's Funny 21:10 Tethered Kings Of The Wild Bear Grylls: Born Survivor Storm Chasers

00:50 American Monster

01:45 Haunted Towns 02:40 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff 03:35 Bill Cosby: An American Scandal

American Monster Six Degrees Of Murder The Perfect Murder 06:20 Gone In Georgia: A 07:10 Disappeared Special 08:00 I Was Murdered 08:25 Disappeared 09:15 I Was Murdered 10:10 Betraved Murder Chose Me Forbidden: Dying For Love 12:00 12:55 Disappeared 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It 14:45 Betrayed Murder Chose Me 15:40 16:35 Georgia: A Gone In eared Special Disapp

Disappeared I Was Murdered 17:30 I Almost Got Away With It 19:20 20:15 Betraved Evil Ónline Disappeared Obsession: Dark Desires Bill Cosby: An American

HD Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage 00:10

Binny And The Ghost 00:35 01:00 Hank Zipzer 01:25 Alex & Co. 01:45 The Hive **Evermoor Chronicles** 

01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage 02:15 Witch Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage 02:40 Binny And The Ghost 03:05 Binny And The Ghost 03:30

03:55 Hank Zipzer 04:15 The Hive Hank Zipzer 04:20 Alex & Co. 05:10 Alex & Co. Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage 05:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage 06:00

Witch Binny And The Ghost 06:45 The Hive Rolling With The Ronks 06:50 07:00 Tangled: The Series 07:25 07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts The Zhuzhus 08:20 Elena Of Avalor

08:45 Bunk'd Stuck In The Middle 09:10 09:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir 10:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir 10:25 Loli

Lolirock 10:50 Lolirock Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage 11:15 Witch Hank Zipzer 12:30 Alex & Co. Lolirock Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug

& Cat Noir The Zhuzhus 15:00 K.C. Undercover Stuck In The Middle 15:40 Disney Mickey Mouse Elena Of Avalor 16:35 Bizaardvark Tangled: The Series 17:00 Bizaardvark 17:30 Bunk'd K.C. Undercover K.C. Undercover

18:45

Hotel Transylvania: The Series Star Wars Forces Of Destiny Stuck In The Middle 19:40 Girl Meets World Descendants Wicked World Liv And Maddie 20:35 **Jessie** Tangled: The Series K.C. Undercover

21:00 Hotel Transylvania: The Series 21:50 Bizaardvark Bunk'd Rolling With The Ronks 23:05 23:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug

23:45 Lolirock

00:00 PJ Masks Vampirina 01:00 The Hive Calimero 01:55 Henry Hugglemonster 02:05 Loopdidoo Henry Hugglemonster Calimero 02.35Henry Hugglemonster 02:50 Art Áttack 03:30 The Hive 03:40 Loopdidoo Henry Hugglemonster 04:10 Art Attack

04:35 Loopdidoo Calimero 05:05 Art Attack Henry Hugglemonster 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster 06:00 06:30 Henry Hugglemonster Loopdidoo 07:00 Henry Hugglemonster 07:15 Calimero 07:30 Loopdidoo 07:45 Henry Hugglemonster

08:00 Sofia The First Puppy Dog Pals Mickey And The Roadster 09:00 Racers 09:30 Doc McStuffins PJ Masks PJ Masks 10:00 10:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 11:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West The Lion Guard 12:00 The Lion Guard 13:00 Sofia The First 13:30 Sofia The First 14:00 PJ Masks 14:30 PJ Masks My Friends Tigger & Pooh 15:00 Doc McStuffins

Puppy Dog Pals 16:00 Mickey And The Roadster 16:30 Racers Sofia The First 17:00 17:30 Doc McStuffins 18:00 PJ Masks Puppy Dog Pals 18:30 19:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons Mickey's Pirate Adventure 19:05 Minnie's Bow-Toons 19:50 PI Masks 20:00 The Lion Guard 20:30 Doc McStuffins 21:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates

Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital

Puppy Dog Pals Discovery CHANNEL

Goldie & Bear

22:00

22:30

00:20 Street Outlaws 01:05 Harley And The Davidsons Mega Trains 01:50 What On Earth? 02:35 Sacred Steel Bikes Deadliest Catch 04:05 Alaska: The Last Frontier 04:50 How Do They Do It? Gold Divers: Under The Ice 06:00 06:45 Street Outlaws 07:30 Sacred Steel Bikes 08:15 Deadliest Catch 09:00 Auction Kings How Do They Do It? How Do They Do It? 09:48 Street Outlaws 10:10 Carspotting Misfit Garage How Do They Do It? 12:25 12:48 Extreme Collectors Alaska: The Last Frontier 13:55 Deadliest Catch Gold Divers: Under The Ice 14:40 Sacred Steel Bikes 16:10 Street Outlaws How Do They Do It? How Do They Do It? Baggage Battles 17:50 18:20 Auction Kings Deadliest Catch

22:40 Deadliest Catch 23:30 Sacred Steel Bikes

How Do They Do It?

How Do They Do It?

How Do They Do It?

Gold Rush

Gold Divers

20:35

21:00

21:50

06:00 Disney11 06:25 Supa Štrikas 06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man Right Now Kapow Disney Mickey Mouse 07:15 07:45 Mech-X4 08:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 08:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 09:00 Supa Strikas Supa Strikas Walk The Prank Walk The Prank 09:50 10:20 Gravity Falls 11:10 Gravity Falls Lab Rats Elite Force Lab Rats Elite Force Two More Eggs Phineas And Ferb Phineas And Ferb 13:20 Zeke And Luther Zeke And Luther 13:45 Disney Mickey Mouse Gamer's Guide To Pretty 14:15

Much Everything Gravity Falls 15:05 Lab Rats Milo Murphy's Law Star Wars Freemaker 15:30 15:55 Star Adventures Walk The Prank 16:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero 17:15 Mech-X4 17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man Supa Strikas Star Wars: The Freemaker 18:30 Adventures Disney11

Penn Zero: Part Time Hero Right Now Kapow 19:00 19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot 19:55 Mech-X4 20:20 Walk The Prank 20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 21:10 Gravity Falls Marvel's Rocket And Groot 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

Lab Rats

21:45

22:35

Lab Rats Phineas & Ferb 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

00:00 WAGs La Famously Single 00:55 01:50 E! News 02:50 Celebrity Style Story 03:20 Celebrity Style Story 03:50 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 04:40 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 05:30 Celebrity Style Story 06:00 So Cosmo 06:55 E! News 07:25 So Cosmo So Cosmo 09:15 So Cosmo

10:10 E! News 10:40 Celebrity Style Story WAGs La Keeping Up With The 12:05 Kardashians 13:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians Keeping Up With The Kardashians 15:00 E! News

Celebrity Style Story 16:00 Botched 17:00 Botched WAGs La 19:00 The Platinum Life The Platinum Life 20:00 The Platinum Life 22:00 22:30 Eric And Jessie Celebrity Style Story E! News

tood

Famously Single

00:00 Bakers vs. Fakers 01:00 Siba's Table 01:30 Siba's Table Jenny And Reza's Fabulous 02:00 Food Academy Jenny And Reza's Fabulous 02:30 Food Academy 03:00 Chopped Bakers vs. Fakers 04:00 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games 06:00 Barefoot Contessa 06:25 Barefoot Contessa 06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh 07:15 The Kitchen The Pioneer Woman 08:05 08:30 The Pioneer Woman Siba's Table 09:25 Siba's Table 09:55 Bake With Anna Olson 10:25 Bake With Anna Olson

10:55 The Kitchen Cooking For Real 11:45 The Pioneer Woman The Pioneer Woman 13:00 Siba's Table Siba's Table Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Chopped The Kitchen 16:00 Bake With Anna Olson 17:00

Bake With Anna Olson 18:00 Chopped Iron Chef America 19:00 20:00 Restaurant Stakeout 21:00 Mystery Diners 21:30 Mystery Diners Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Chopped



00:00 Guess This House 01:00 Emmerdale 01:30 Emmerdale 02:00 Coronation Street The Chase 03:25 Britain's Secrets With Anne It's Not Rocket Science

Robinson 05:15 Murdoch Mysteries 06:10 Guess This House The Chase 08:00 Britain's Secrets With Anne Robinson 09:00 It's Not Rocket Science Murdoch Mysteries 10:55 Guess This House The Chase

Emmerdale 13:15 Coronation Street Coronation Street Who's Doing The Dishes? 15:10 The Chase Inside Windsor Castle 16:00 Tracey Ullman's Show Raised By Wolves 17:25 Murdoch Mysteries 17:50 Emmerdale 18:45 Coronation Street 19:15 Coronation Street 19:45 20:10 The Chase Inside Windsor Castle 21:00 Tracey Ullman's Show

22:25

22:50

23:15

Coronation Street

Raised By Wolves

Coronation Street

Emmerdale

00:00 The Great Train Robbery 01:00 **UFO Files** 02:00 Hoard Hunters 03:00 How The States Got Their 03:25 How The States Got Their 03:50 America's 9/11 Flag: Rise From

04:40 The Greeks 05:30 The Great Train Robbery Ancient Discoveries 06:20 07:10 The Universe 08:00 UFO Files

09:00 How The States Got Their Shapes Ancient Impossible 11:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar 12:00 Hoard Hunters 13:00 How The States Got Their 13:30 How The States Got Their

14:00 UFO Files 15:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files Ancient Impossible Pirate Treasure Of The 17:00 Knights Templar 18:00 Hoard Hunters Ultimate Guide To The... 19:00 History's Greatest Blunders 20:00 Serial Killer Earth

> **Hoard Hunters** HISTORY

Ancient Aliens

Swamp People

22:00

23:00

American Pickers Best Ofs Mountain Men 01:10 02:00 Counting Cars 02:50 03:15 American Pickers 04:05 Mountain Men 05:00 Swamp People 06:00 Fifth Gear American Pickers 06:50 07:40 Counting Cars 08:05 Counting Cars 08:30 Pawn Stars 08:55 Pawn Stars Aussie Pickers Ax Men 09:20 10:10 Fifth Gear 11:50 American Pickers 12:40 Counting Cars Counting Cars 13:30 Time Team Swamp People 14:20 Alone: Lost And Found 16:00 American Pickers

16:50 Counting Cars Counting Cars 17:40 Swamp People Alone: Lost And Found 18:30 Mountain Men President Obama: In His Own Words WW2 Treasure Hunters Time Team President Obama: In His Own 22:40

NAT GEO people III

The Food Files A Is For Apple Trekking The Great Wall 01:10 01:40 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 03:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure 03:30 Chasing The Sun

04:00 The Food Files 04:25 Route Awakening Eat Street 05:20 Hotel India 06:15 A Is For Apple A Is For Apple Trekking The Great Wall 07:10 08:05 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen John Torode's Malaysian Adventure 09:00 Chasing The Sun

The Food Files 09:55 Route Awakening 10:20 Eat Street Hotel India 11:45 A Is For Apple 12:10 A Is For Apple Places We Go 13:05 Places We Go Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 13:35 Adventure

John Torode's Malaysian Chasing The Sun 14:30 15:00 The Food Files 15:25 Route Awakening 15:50 Eat Street 16:20 Hotel India 17:15 A Is For Apple 17:40 A Is For Apple 18:10 Lucky Chow Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen 19:05 Route Awakening 19:30 Eat Street 20:00 Hotel India 21:00

A Is For Apple A Is For Apple 22:00 Lucky Chow Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen Places We Go Places We Go Miguel's Tropical Kitchen

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL [10]

Cold Water Gold The Long Road Home Tales From The Frontline Yukon Gold Cold Water Gold 04:00 05:00 Caught In The Act 06:00 The Known Universe 07:00 Hard Time Building Invincible 08:00 09:00 Caught In The Act Facing... Live Free Or Die Nazi Megastructures

10:00 11:00 Building Invincible 13:00 Uncensored With Michael 14:00 Ware 15:00 Hard Time 16:00 Facing.. Live Free Or Die 17:00 Nazi Megastructures 18:00 19:00 Inside

20:00 Facing.. Live Free Or Die 20:50 Nazi Megastructures Inside Uncensored With Michael Ware

00:20 David Attenborough's Rise Of Animals

NAT GEO

**Amazing Animal Selfies** 01:10 02:00 Dark Side Of Crocs Wild Indonesia 02:50 Going Wild 03:45 Photo Ark 04:40 Dark Side Of Crocs 05:35 06:30 Wild Indonesia 07:25 Going Wild 08:20 Photo Ark 09:15 Monster Frog Animals Gone Wild 10:10 Wild Case Files 11:05 12:00 Salmon Wars Snake Underworld 13:50 Wild Indonesia 14:45 Going Wild Photo Ark 15:40 16:35

World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts Animals Gone Wild 17:30 18:25 Wild Case Files

Going Wild 20:10 Photo Ark World's Weirdest Extreme 21:00 Body Parts Animals Gone Wild 21:50 22:40 Wild Case Files 23:30 Salmon Wars

Rabbids Invasion

Rabbids Invasion

00:36

01:00

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

01:24 Sanjay And Craig 01:48 Sanjay And Craig 02:12 Winx Club 02:36 Winx Club 03:00 Harvey Beaks 03:24 Harvey Beaks The Loud House 03:48 04:12 The Loud House 04:36 Breadwinners 05:00 Breadwinners 05:24 Get Blake 05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants SpongeBob SquarePants SpongeBob SquarePants Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 06:12 06:36 07:00 The Loud House Rabbids Invasion 07:24 07:48 Get Blake 08:12 Harvey Beaks 08:36 Sanjay And Craig Rank The Prank 09:00 09:24 Harvey Beaks 100 Things To Do Before High 09:48 School

10:12 Game Shakers 10:36 Regal Academy SpongeBob SquarePants Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles The Loud House 12:36 Rabbids Invasion 13:00 Breadwinners Sanjay And Craig 13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn

The Thundermans

School

100 Things To Do Before High

15:00 Hunter Street School Of Rock 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 16:12 The Loud House Sanjay And Craig 17:00 17:24 Harvey Beaks Hunter Street Henry Danger Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 18:36 School Of Rock Game Shakers The Thundermans 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 21:00 The Loud House Sanjay And Craig 21:48 22:12 Rabbids Invasion Breadwinners Harvey Beaks 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

SpongeBob SquarePants

23:24

Shimmer And Shine 00:38 Shimmer And Shine Max & Ruby 01:01 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom 01:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom 01:45 The Day Henry Met The Day Henry Met 01:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines 02:18

Blaze And The Monster Zack & Quack 02:41 Shimmer And Shine 03:02 03:24 Nella The Princess Knight Paw Patrol 03:36 03:59 Little Charmers 04:11 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom 04:22 Dora The Explorer

04:45 Max & Ruby 05:06 The Day Henry Met Nella The Princess Knight 05:12 Shimmer And Shine 05:35 Wallykazam! 05:59 06:21 Zack & Ouack The Day Henry Met 06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines

07:00 Rusty Rivets Paw Patrol 07:37 Dora The Explorer Nella The Princess Knight 08:23 Bubble Guppies 08:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines 09:07 Paw Patrol Shimmer And Shine 09:31Nella The Princess Knight

10:04 Nella The Princess Knight 10:14 The Day Henry Met 10:20 Paw Patrol 10:43 Rusty Rivets 11:06 Wallykazam! **Bubble Guppies** Team Umizoomi 12:15 Shimmer And Shine Max & Ruby 13:23 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom 13:45 The Day Henry Met Blaze And The Monster 13:56 Machi

Zack & Quack 14:40 Shimmer And Shine Nella The Princess Knight 15:24 15:36 Paw Patrol Little Charmers Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom 16:22 Dora The Explorer 16:45 Max & Ruby The Day Henry Met Nella The Princess Knight 17:13 Nella The Princess Knight Shimmer And Shine Wallykazam! 18:00

18:22 Zack & Ouack 18:33 The Day Henry Met 18:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines 19:00 Rusty Rivets 19:13 Paw Patrol 19:37 Dora The Explorer

20:00 Nella The Princess Knight 20:23 Bubble Guppies 20:46 Blaze And The Monster 20:23 21:08 Paw Patrol 21:32 Shimmer And Shine 21:54 Nella The Princess Knight Nella The Princess Knight The Day Henry Met 22:05

22:21 Paw Patrol 22:44 Rusty Rivets 23:07 Wallykazam!

**Bubble Guppies** 23:30 23:54 Team Umizoomi

### OM MOVIES HID

#### COMEDY

Tommy Boy 03:05 Highland Park 04:40 Don Verdean Hard Promises 06:20 08:00 Holiday Joy Don Verdean 09:40 **Hard Promises** 11:25

13:10 Hope Springs 14:50 Big 16:35 After The Ball 18:20 Impromptu 20:10 Guess Who 22:00 Bananas

Broken Flowers MOVIES .

FESTIVAL 01:25 Cobain The Best Of Me 03:40 05:50 Jappeloup 08:00 Fort McCoy The Best Of Me 10:00 11:50 13:50 The Better Angels 15:35 Before I Disappear 17:20 Rushmore Roger Waters: The Wall 19:00 21:20 Belles Familles The Conversation

### M MOVIES HE

00:45 The Wheelers 02:10 Twigson 03:50 Mune Emilie Jolie 05:25 06:45 Zodiac: The Race Begins Last Wizard Mia And The Migoo 08:25 09:45 Tom And Jerry: Back To Oz 12:55 Twigson 14:35 Mune Song Of The Sea Mia And The Migoo Ethel & Ernest Moomins And The Comet

### M MOVIES EL

00:00 Sommersby 02:00 The Internship 04:00 I'll See You In My Dreams

Song Of The Sea

05:40 Little Man Tate Concussion 09:30 The Boxtrolls 11:10 Creed The Intern 15:30 Changeling Jurassic World 17:55 20:00 Trainwreck 22:05



00:40 Gamechangers: Inventing The World Futurescape With James

02:20 Futurescape With James

Woods 03:10 How The Universe Works 04:00 Mythbusters 04:48 Mythbusters 05:36 Mythbusters Mythbusters 06:24 07:12 Mythbusters 08:00 How Do They Do It? 08:26 Kings Of Construction Mythbusters

Gamechangers: Inventing The World 10:50 How Do They Do It? Food Factory How The Universe Works 11:38 Kings Of Construction Mythbusters How Do They Do It? 13:14 14:02 14:26 Food Factory 14:50

Gamechangers: Inventing The World Kings Of Construction 15:38 16:26 How The Universe Works Mythbusters 17:14 Gamechangers: Inventing The 18:02

Kings Of Construction 18:50 19:40 Mythbusters X-Machines 20:30 How Do They Do It? 21:20 Food Factory 21:45 22:10 Smash Lab 23:00 X-Machines Kings Of Construction

#### STAR MXVIES HD

01:30 The Time Being Ask The Dust 03:00 Autumn In New York 05:00 06:45 Ginger & Rosa Stardust 08:15 Cold Mountain 10:30 13:00 Finding Neverland The Time Being 14:45 16:15 25th Hour Laws Of Attraction The Congress 22:00 The Pledge

### W RLD HD

00:00 Who Lives Here? 01:00 Who Lives Here? 02:00 Style By Jury 02:30 Style By Jury 03:00 MAFS: The First Year 04:00 Black Box 05:00 House Of DVF 06:00 Who Lives Here? 07:00 Who Lives Here? Style By Jury 08:00 08:30 Style By Jury 09:00 MAFS: The First Year 10:00 Black Box 11:00 House Of DVF 12:00 Who Lives Here? 13:00 Who Lives Here? Style By Jury 14:30 Style By Jury 14:59 MAFS: The First Year 16:00 Black Box 17:00 Fashion Star Project Runway 18:05

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00



Wedding Band MAFS: The First Year

Project Runway

Black Box

00:20 Cake Boss Cake Boss 01:05 My Big Fat Fabulous Life Promzillas Outdaughtered: Busby Quints 03:20 Our Little Family 04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach

04:50 Your Style In His Hands 05:35 Say Yes To The Dress UK 06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners 06:45 Cake Boss 07:07 Cake Boss

07:30 7 Little Johnstons 08:15 Our Little Family 09:25 Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach Wars 10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners Married By Mum And Dad 10:55 Cake Boss 12:02 Cake Boss

Say Yes To The Dress Sister Wives 13:10 Our Little Family Married By Mum And Dad 14:40 Love, Lust Or Run Cake Boss Say Yes To The Dress UK 16:35 Say Yes To The Dress UK 17:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners 18:50 Your Style In His Hands Say Yes To The Dress UK Cake Boss 19:40

Cake Boss 21:00 7 Little Johnstons **Baby Changes Everything** 90 Days To Wed

trave

00:00 Ghost Hunters International **Ghost Hunters International** 02:00 Larry And George Lamb Turkey A To B 02:30 Larry And George Lamb Turkey A To B

03:00 Mysteries At The Museum 04:00 Bizarre Foods With Andrew 05:00 Ghost Hunters International 06:00 Mysteries At The Museum Mysteries At The Museum 08:00 House Hunters International 10:00 The Treehouse Guys Hotel Impossible

Mysteries At The Museum Expedition Unknown 12:00 House Hunters International 16:00 Flippin' RVs 17:00 Jeni And Olly's West Coast

Wine Adventure 17:30 Take Me Home

### Stars

#### **CROSSWORD 1760**

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43			T	П		44	$\top$		45	46		47	┖	$\top$	T
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64	65	┖	$\top$	$\vdash$		66	67	┖	$\top$				68	69	70
71			$\vdash$		72		73	$^{\dagger}$	$^{\dagger}$	74		75	┖	$\vdash$	$^{\dagger}$
76				77		78		$\top$			79	1	80	$\vdash$	T
81	$\top$	$\top$		82	$\top$	$\top$	$\top$	$\top$	$\top$	$\top$	$\top$		83	$\top$	$\top$
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#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Provide with clothes or put clothes on. 4. East Indian evergreen tree bearing very
- acid fruit. 11. (of molten metal or glass) Formed by pouring or pressing into a mold n 1.
- 15. The month following March and preceding May.
- 16. A member of the Caddo people who formerly lived in the Dakotas west of the Missouri river.
- 17. A Loloish language.
- 18. Liquid excretory product.
- 19. Having short a smooth or spirally ridged shell with thick usually toothed outer lip and toothed operculum.
- 21. A fraudulent business scheme. 23. Gallery where works of art can be dis-
- played. 24. A telegram sent abroad.
- 25. A sock with a separation for the big toe. 27. Noisy talk.
- 29. With no effort to conceal.
- 30. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
- 32. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc..
- 33. Botswanan statesman who was the first president of Botswana (1921-1980).
- 35. A former copper coin of Pakistan. 37. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure
- equal to about a bushel. 43. Mosses similar to those of genus Bryum
- but larger. 44. (astronomy) The angular distance of a
- celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith cross-45. Relating to the blood vessels or blood.
- 48. The use of bacteria or viruses of toxins to destroy men and animals or food.
- 51. Respiratory disorder characterized by
- wheezing.
- 52. A rounded thickly curled hairdo. 55. A Hindu prince or king in India.
- 57. Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
- 58. An ancient town on Crete where Bronze Age culture flourished from about 2000 BC
- to 1400 BC 60. A work of art (composition or drama)
- that is part of the standard repertory but has become hackneyed from much repeti-
- 62. A neutral middle vowel.
- 63. A sock with a separation for the big toe. 64. Clear to the mind.
- 66. A mountainous landlocked communist state in southeastern Asia.
- 71. Any of a class of organic compounds containing the cyano radical -CN.
- 73. A wine bottle made of leather. 75. Open-heart surgery in which the rib
- cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
- 76. In or of the month preceding the present one.
- 77. (microbiology) Having complicated
- nutritional requirements. 80. A loose sleeveless outer garment made
- from aba cloth. 81. Having a toe or toes of a specified kind. 82. The capital of the Democratic Republic
- of the Congo on the Congo river opposite Brazzaville. 83. (Irish) The sea personified.

#### **DOWN**

1. (military) Signal to turn the lights out. 2. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.

3. Relatively large in size or number or

4. A decree that prohibits something. 5. Genus of tropical American herbs or

6. The basic unit of money on Malta.

7. In a cold and icy manner.

8. 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).

9. An administrative division of some larger or more complex organization. 10. A state in midwestern United States.

- 11. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- 12. Jordan's port. 13. A decoy who acts as an enthusiastic customer in order to stimulate the partici-
- pation of others. 14. Brought from wildness into a domesticated state.
- 20. Being ten more than one hundred nine-
- 22. A Portuguese province on the south coast of China and two islands in the South
- China Sea. 26. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- 28. Unknown god.
- 31. (Welsh myth) The other world. 34. A woman sahib. 36. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic
- element that is resistant to corrosion. 38. Of or relating to or functioning as a phrase.
- 39. A pilgrimage to Mecca.
- 40. A colorless volatile highly inflammable
- liquid used as an inhalation anesthetic. 41. Any of several plants of the genus
- Camassia. 42. A group of biological taxa or species that share features inherited from a common ancestor.
- 46. (Akkadian) God of wisdom. 47. An autonomous area in northeastern
- Greece that is the site of several Greek Orthodox monasteries founded in the tenth century.
- 49. Beside one another in a row or rank.
- 50. A serration on a saw blade. 53. An ornament or pattern resembling a rose that is worn as a badge of office or as
- recognition of having won an honor. 54. An annual award by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for
- achievements in motion picture production and performance. 56. Genus of New Zealand mat-forming
- herbs or subshrubs. 59. Sharp piercing cry. 61. A soft silvery metallic element of the
- alkali metal group.
- 65. (trademark) A type of inflatable air mat-
- 67. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural). 68. Any of numerous local fertility and
- nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples. 69. A French abbot.
- 70. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
- 72. Being one more than sixty.
- 74. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands. 78. An associate degree in nursing.
- 79. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.

#### **Yesterday's Solution**



#### **STAR TRACK**

#### Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are able to enjoy and understand your life situation. Some difficult situation comes to a close at this time. A visitor in your home may compliment you on your tastes or belongings. This is a time during which you are unusually motivated in new and unexpected directions. You could receive unexpected backing and, in general, your efforts are successful and you reach new heights of originality—creative. New and unexpected emotions may arise. There is an urge to change and try new things that may prove challenging but fun. A kind of romantic nostalgic approach characterizes life now. This could mean a longing for a soul mate or a yearning to save the world; it could also mean needing a vacation.



#### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new horizons—these are some of the focal points in your life at this time. This may be a time you decide to travel a distance to come to the aid of some world problem or state difficulties. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizons open new doors of opportunity. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have special appeal for you now; transmitting ideas on a broader scale brings gain. This is a time to enjoy and appreciate your ties to others and to seek and promote harmony in the interaction between people. You are able to dispense with some of the unessential problems. Concentrate on healing family affairs this evening. You may find a wonderful surprise tonight.



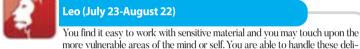
#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could find yourself on top of the roof decorating and taking care of things for the winter season. This is a great time to be with others and to work toward some agreed end result. Just being yourself and living your life for the moment is where your attitude is at this time. In some sense, just being you is both the goal and the means of traveling to that goal. Others sense that your life is important. You are your own reason for being. You are yourself—both the end that you are heading for and the designer of the path that gets you there. You are very sensitive—even vulnerable—when it comes to expressing yourself. Periods of intense creativity enable you to go through changes and inner growth. This creative intensity is good for music, poetry and art.



#### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a time of expanding your mental horizons. Religion, philosophy, law and education are some of the things that may have special importance for you. Being in touch with faraway people and places satisfies an intellectual yearning curiosity will take you anywhere and maybe everywhere. Travel is a topic of conversation today and if there is somewhere special you want to visit or see or learn about ... There will be a way when you set your mind to it and create a goal. You may appreciate and discover the beauty in your life and in those around you. This afternoon you could find yourself shopping. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much just now. When asked to help others, you know just what to do and can act without haste.



#### Leo (July 23-August 22)

more vulnerable areas of the mind or self. You are able to handle these delicate matters without ever breaking stride—emotional and tender areas of the human psyche do not disturb you. You enjoy getting beneath the surface and you have a natural instinct for handling touchy subjects. This time is perfect for research, social work or detective work. Your inner resources and emotions are accented today. There will be support from those around you. You may be moved to appreciate the beauty in your life. At the same time, everything could take on added value and importance. Be careful while shopping that you do not overspend just now.



#### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You appreciate a winner and are drawn to successful and powerful people. You make your living by virtue of your good taste, sense of quality and discrimination. New ways to organize and discipline yourself are possible. Here is an opportunity to get some insight into some of your problems and responsibilities that may prove very valuable in the years to come. A new cycle begins for you, signaling a greater than usual interest in relationships, social connections and the arts—probably on a more intellectual level than in the past. Seeing both sides of an issue and figuring out resolutions to opposing views take on more importance in your life as well. You are determined to break up old

#### **Wordsearch Puzzle**

#### Baby

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 50 letters spell a secret message

BOTTLERLHJLPROTINOM

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AWAKE BLANKET BODYSUIT BOOSTER SEAT BOTTLE BOWL CAR SEAT CARRIER CREAM

**CR18** 

CRYING

DROOL MOBILE FEED MOMMY GIGGLE GRIN ONESIE HIGHOHAIR PACIFIER HOODIE PLAY POWDER INNOCENT LAUGH RATTLE

SLEEP MONITOR SMOLE NURSERY SPOON STROLLER PARENTS SWING TEDDY BEAR TEETHER

SKIN CARE

#### **Libra (September 23-October 22)**

A philosophical subject grabs your attention this morning. What you learn could be the answer to your problems. Take a partner's suggestions seriously. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have special appeal. A meeting with someone older or in authority is in order early this afternoon. The ability to listen and express yourself in clear messages is important now. You will be pleased with your success in getting your message across convincingly. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most spontaneous. This afternoon you can relax and just sit back and eniov what you have—to live life. Your desires are strong and you will want to enjoy yourself. There is a basic drive to enjoy life.



#### **Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

Your grasp for abstract and spiritual ideas helps you to convey important messages to others. Your value system may receive a challenge from a new independent streak that wants to break away and try new things. You may not appreciate the urge to upset and change things that are already disrupted. You look forward to the end results that are forecasted. You have a lot of energy for improving most any situation. You are very motivated. Careful; there could be some hard feelings, especially from young people, if you become too aggressive. You tend to be radical when it comes to self-analysis, which means health care, food, physical wellbeing, etc. Serving and caring for yourself and others are primary sources of inner growth and changes now.



#### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Chores are performed and shopping is accomplished by early afternoon. Your communication skills are good and you might consider teaching your skills at a nearby community college. Faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of horizons are some of the focal points in your life now. Travel plans for education and other ways to stretch your horizon may be considered at this time. You put forth much effort not to spend your money on the fancy things that catch your eye while shopping this afternoon. Budgeting helps you get all the things you need. You may decide to put more emphasis on saving and investing at this time. You feel like relaxing this evening. A candle-

#### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

light dinner can be a marvelous way to end a very busy day.

This is a good day to get things done. A major life event marks the end of a formative period and the beginning of more independence at this time. You are on your own and you look forward to a time of increased responsibility and accountability. Deep thoughts about goals may come into play—this may be more like a review of self-accomplishments. You can expect some sort of major reevaluation of your likes and dislikes; how and what you enjoy or appreciate about yourself and life. You may find that your appreciation for the quality of everything is strong. An appraisal could be in order. Interactions with family and friends are positive. Any advice you need comes to you at the right time. Seek clarity on what you are told. Focus on priorities now



#### **Aquarius (January 20- February 18)**

A searing vision that cuts through what passes for conventional religion comes to your attention this day—perhaps a vision of the endless process of life is on your mind. Your love of children and animals shows today as you take care of their upkeep. There may be more than one animal learning a trick at this time. Invitations are beginning to come in with regard to the next family gathering and you do some careful planning. There is always the push to reciprocate—picking and choosing becomes an important issue. You have a renewed appreciation for the commitment of a relationship and you will do everything in your power to make things positive between home and family. Your own growth and success may be linked to questions of security.

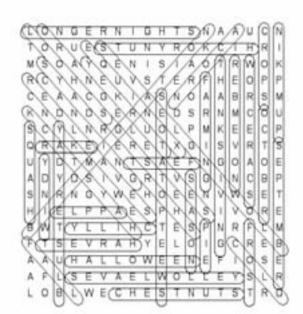


#### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Like birds, the humans imprint on their first homes. You may be thinking today about where you lived when you were very young. There may be fun discussions around the breakfast table. A loved one may decide to go back to the old hometown and show you where he or she grew up and share a few old stories with you. Make yourself available to listen-listening may be all that is needed. There will be pictures to share as well. It could be possible to send off for some old snapshots from a sibling or friend. You will benefit as you give your loved one time to be expressive. Later this afternoon you may once again reflect on your own youth or some event of the past. Positive things are happening and there is a sense of satisfaction.

#### **Yesterday's Solution**

#### Autumn



APPLE BIRD MIGRATION **BLOWING LEAVES** BLUSTERY DAY CANNING CHESTNUTS CHILLY COLD CROPS

FEAST

FR05T

HARVEST

HAYSTACK

OCTOBER. PUMPKIN HALLOWEEN RAKE RED LEAVES SCARECROW HOCKORY NUTS SCHOOL LONGER NIGHTS

SHORTER DAYS ORANGE LEAVES SQUASH SWEET POTATOES THANKSGIVING TURKEY WINDY YELLOW LEAVES

The hidden sentence is: AUTUMN IS A SECOND SPRING WHEN EVERY LEAF IS A FLOWER

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#### **Yesterday's Solution**

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# Color Kuwait Simes of the Color Cimes of the Color



STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw



#### **Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**

**BY DAY:** Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening over costal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

 $\textbf{BY NIGHT:} \ \ \text{Fair with light to moderate freshening over costal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 15-42 km/h} \ .$ 

No Current Warnings

WEATHER WARNING		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	30 °C	21 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	29 °C	17 °C
ABDALY	28 °C	14 °C
BUBYAN	28 °C	14 °C
JAHRA	30 °C	18 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	28 °C	21 °C
SALMIYAH	28 °C	22 °C
AHMADI	27 °C	24 °C
NUWAISIB	29 °C	21 °C
WAFRA	30 °C	19 °C
SALMY	28 °C	14 °C

SFC. CHART	12/11/2017 0000 UTC						
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Value pitch UTC 12 NOV 2017: (2)							

4 DAYS FORECAST										
DAY				ratures						
	DATE	WEATHER	MAX.	MIN.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed				
Monday	11/13	Relatively hot	29 °C	19 °C	NW	15 - 40 km/h				
Tuesday	11/14	Partly cloudy	28 °C	18 °C	NW	10 - 30 km/h				
Wednesday	11/15	Relatively hot and some scattered clouds will appear	29 °C	18 °C	VRB-NW	08 - 26 km/h				
Thursday	11/16	Relatively hot	30 °C	19 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 28 km/h				

PRAYER TIMES							
Fajr	04:47						
Sunrise	06:09						
Zuhr	11:32						
Asr	14:33						
Sunset	16:55						
Isha	18:14						
13114	10.14						

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT K	UWAIT AIRPORT
MAX. Temp.	28 °C
MIN. Temp.	19 °C
MAX. RH	59 %
MIN. RH	30 %
MAX. Wind	N 32 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

## AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Alitalia	22414427
Balkan Airlines	22416474

**Bangladesh Airlines** 

**Czech Airlines** 

**Indian Airlines** 

**Turkish Airlines** 

**Oman Air** 

**Aeroflot** 

### FOR RENT

#### Villa in Nuzha

A 25m front, main street, basement, ground and second floors. 4 master rooms, 2 guest bathrooms, elevator, laundry and maid's room, diwaniya, driver's room, away from the villa.

#### Tel: 6 6 6 8 4 5 5 8

#### ACCOMMODATION

One room available for rent in C-AC flat airport road Khaitan for couple/ working lady/ one bachelor. Rent KD 85. Contact: 66253647, 51614467. (C 5359)

EMERGENCY
(t) 112

13-11-2017

#### **CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Anil P. V. Perumprethu Veedu son of Varghese, holder of Indian Passport No. H4169325 & Civil ID No. 284052405349 has changed my name to Muhammed Ashiq P.V. hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5360) 13-11-2017

## Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988



## Flight Schedule

#### Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

22452977/8

22417901/ 2433141

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22404838/9

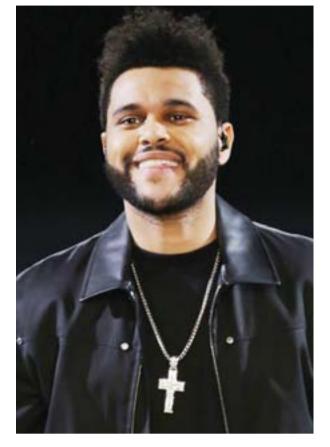
#### **DIAL161** FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

	Arrival Fligh	ts on Monday 13/11/2017	7	QTR	1078	Doha	14:20		Departure Fl	ights on Monday 13/11/201	7	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	672	Dubai	14:25	Airlines	•	Route	Time	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:00
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:01	KAC	286	Dhaka	14:35	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	JZR	176	Dubai	13:40
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	KAC	412	Bangkok	14:35								
KAC	504	Beirut	00:30	KAC	352	Kochi	14:35	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	FDB	076	Dubai	13:45
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	GFA	221			FDB	072	Dubai	00:35	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	539					Bahrain	14:40	PIA	206	Lahore	01:00	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
		Cairo	00:50	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	MSC	502	Alexandria	01:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	14:55	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	JZR	502	Luxor	01:30	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:25
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:10								
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	JZR	142	Doha	01:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	KAC	562	Amman	15:30	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	502	Beirut	15:30	KAC	285	Dhaka	01:55	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:45
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:15	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	QTR	1072	Doha	15:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	118	New York	16:00	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:45	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	ABY	127	Sharjah	16:00								
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	JZR	779	,		KAC	351	Kochi	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10			Jeddah	16:25	UAE	854	Dubai	03:40	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB	051	Dubai	16:40	QTR	1087	Doha	03:40	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:40
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
				KAC	542	Cairo	17:05	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	SAW	706	Damascus	16:55
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55	QTR	1073	Doha	17:15
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	WAN	954	GYD	17:15	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	ETD		Abu Dhabi		KAC	283	Dhaka	17:30
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	JZR	125	Bahrain	17:35		306		04:05		052		
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:40	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	FDB		Dubai	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10	FDB	070	Dubai	05:45	KAC	357	Kochi	17:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	JZR	177	Dubai	18:15	KAC	303	Mumbai	06:05	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	JZR	560	Sohag	06:25	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40	KAC	744	Dammam	19:10	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	JZR	538	Cairo	18:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:10		643		07:05	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10			,		RJA		Amman		JZR	184	Dubai	18:30
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	WAN	115	Bahrain	18:50
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:20				
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:30	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:30	KAC	167	Paris	07:35	KAC	381	Delhi	18:50
WAN	342	Sohag	06:35	ETD	995	Abu Dhabi	19:40	ACP	101	Baghdad	08:00	FDB	064	Dubai	19:10
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00	WAN	115	Bahrain	19:20
BAW	157	London	07:10	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	161	Geneva	08:20	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
				KAC	616	Bahrain	19:55	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	KNE	381	Taif	20:00					QTR	1081	Doha	20:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	KAC	620	Doha	20:15	KAC	787	Jeddah	08:40	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC	691	Muscat	08:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:45	QTR	1088	Doha	20:45	BAW	156	London	08:50	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:45	KAC	117	New York	09:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	20:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC	162	Geneva	21:00	KAC	561	Amman	09:40				
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	KAC	671	Dubai	09:45	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	KAC	101	London	09:45	KAC	301	Mumbai	20:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40									OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00	KAC	168	Paris	21:20	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:25	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00	DLH	624	Bahrain	21:30
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:35	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	ETD	996	Bahrain/Abu Dhabi	21:40
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:50	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	KAC	564	Amman	22:00	KAC	617	Doha	10:15				
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	AZQ	4565	GYD	22:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:20	KAC	205	Islamabad	22:05
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:15	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05					ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
FDB	075	Dubai	12:15	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
				WAN	116	Bahrain	22:20	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	10:30	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR	241	Amman	22:40	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:40	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:35
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	SVA	502	Jeddah	22:45	IRA	666	Esfahan	11:00	KAC	383	Delhi	22:40
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	185	Dubai	23:10	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:50
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:15	WAN	983	Tbilisi	12:00	UAE	860	Dubai	23:00
KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55				23:30	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00				
KAC	618	Doha	14:15	MSC	405 071	Sohag		AXB	890	Mangalore	12:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
KAC	692	Muscat	14:15	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45			•		QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	MSC	411	Asyut	23:55	QTR	1075	Doha	12:30	SVA	503	Jeddah	23:45

### Lifestyle Gossip

## The Weeknd is dating Justin Bieber's ex-girlfriend

he 'Can't Feel My Face' singer has seemingly moved on from Selena Gomez - who is believed to have reconciled with the 'Never Say Never' hitmaker - as he was seen getting cozy with Yovanna Ventura at French Montana's birthday party at a Beverly Hills mansion on Thursday. A source said: "The Weeknd was there hand in hand with Yovanna Ventura all night. "They arrived together. They were holding hands. He was there for a solid two hours with her and everywhere they went they held hands." Another insider told Us Weekly magazine: "He was parading her around. He was trying to make it obvious that he was with someone. They were pretty affectionate and were together the entire night." And the 27-year-old singer - whose real name is Abel Tesfaye - was seen again with the brunette beauty the following evening as they were pictured in the back of a car leaving Hyde nightclub. Yovanna, 21, previously dated Justin in 2015, around a year after his on/off romance with Selena, 25, ended. The 'Wolves' singer split from The Weeknd in October after 10 months of dating and has grown increasingly close to her former flame in recent weeks. It was previously claimed The Weeknd and Selena split because he felt their romance was fizzling out. The high-profile duo had rarely seen each other over recent months and because they both have jam-packed working schedules, they had hardly even been speaking on the phone, so the 'Party Monster' hitmaker decided to call it a day because he didn't see them having a long-term future together.



### Moore 'couldn't bear' George Clooney being president

he 56-year-old actress' 'Suburbicon' director has been widely tipped to run for office in the future, but the Oscar-winning star insists the commander-in-chief position should only be taken by someone "experienced in government". Asked if she thinks George should run for president, Julianne - an outspoken critic of current US leader and former 'Apprentice' star Donald Trump - said: "Honestly, I can't bear it, this idea of relating leaders with entertainment figures. "What you want is a president who is experienced in government. You don't want a reality show person. I don't even want to joke about movie stars being president of the United States." However, Julianne praised how "prepared and thoughtful" her 56-yearold pal was when they worked on 'Suburbicon', and she thinks he has changed a lot since he married his wife Amal in September 2014. She told You magazine: "She is so lovely and you can see the difference in George's personality, how settled he seems with her, how fondly he speaks of her. I always say it's a great sign when someone talks about their partner a lot and he adores Amal." The 'Still Alice' actress who has children Caleb, 19, and Liv, 15, with husband Bart Freundlich - is thrilled to see the joy George is taking in being a father to his five-month-old twins Alexander and Ella, and he's even taking sleep deprivation in his stride. She said: "It's always difficult to



explain to people the tremendous joy children bring to your life, so I'm happy he's experiencing it... "I texted him when I got home after seeing 'Suburbicon' in New York - I didn't want to call him because it was the middle of the night in London. Then my phone buzzed and it was George. He said he was up with his babies!"

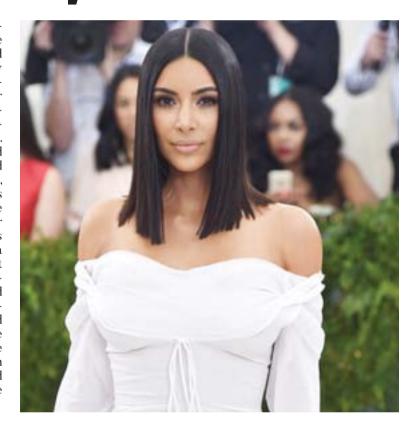
## Sheridan Smith has split from Graham Nation



he 36-year-old singer-and-actress previously described the tattooed hunk as her "dream man", but they recently ended their four-month romance and the model has now moved out of her London home and the 'Moorside' actress has turned to her friends for support. A source told The Sun on Sunday newspaper: "Sheridan doesn't do things by halves when it comes to relationships. "She really fell for Graham and he was living with her a few weeks after they started dating. "So when they decided to end things recently, it hit her very hard. "There is no animosity and Graham is still there for her, but she feels quite lonely at the moment. "She has been struggling to sleep and has taken to calling her friends at 3am. "It doesn't help she has been working so hard recently. Her friends think it's time she gave herself a break." The 'Cilla' star - who previously had an on/off relationship with former 'Hollyoaks' star Greg Wood - is planning to stay "close friends" with the American model. The source added: "Sheridan hasn't had the best luck when it comes to love and she thought she and Graham might really have something. "Unfortunately, though he remains a close friend, she was wrong." Sheridan recently admitted she can be a "disaster in relationships". And the BAFTA-winning actress also admitted she "lost her mind" when her beloved father Colin died last year, but the tragedy ultimately made her stronger. She said: "I lost my mind a bit. "Everyone can relate, because everyone has been through that type of thing. You can't choose when it happens but you come out the other side stronger."

## Kim enjoyed a cherry blossom-themed baby shower

he 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star - who has children North, four, and Saint, 23 months, with husband Kanye West - celebrated the upcoming arrival of her third child via surrogate with a Tea for Three party staged in a "cherry blossom forest" at her Los Angeles home. Guests at the bash included her siblings Kylie and Kendall Jenner, and Khloe Kardashian, her grandmother, and pals Chrissy Tiegen, hairstylist Jen Atkin, and eyebrow artist Anastasia Soare. Kim's daughter North was also in attendance, teaming a Chinese-style dress with a pair of fuzzy slippers. The 37-year-old beauty shared a Snapchat clip of the youngster and wrote: "Look at the cute little dress Northie is wearing." Kim and her guests all shared clips of the bash on their social media accounts, with Kylie - who is reportedly expecting her first child with Travis Scott - heard to exclaim the decor was "so gorgeous" as she made her entrance on Snapchat. Kim gave her guests party favors from her latest KKW Beauty label range, the upcoming new fragrances Crystal Gardenia, Crystal Gardenia Citrus and Crystal Gardenia Oud. It was previously claimed Kim - who was told by doctors not to get pregnant again because it was too risky - had been experiencing "sympathy cravings" with her surrogate. A source said recently: "It's so weird - Kim can't believe it. Kim had a week of feeling so fatigued, just like when she was pregnant with North and Saint. "She spoke to the surrogate, who said she'd been feeling the same. "Kim was also obsessed with a Parisian cheesecake when she was pregnant, and she had her chef perfect the recipe. She's been craving it so much again lately. "Kim says she feels very connected to the baby and is always checking in with the surrogate so she reckons it's no wonder she's getting sympathy cravings."



## **Lupita Nyong'o** is 'addicted' to nail polish



he 34-year-old actress has a huge cosmetics collection but her favorite items are paints for her fingers and she can't bear to lose any of them. She admitted: "I own more makeup than I could ever imagine. "I love eyebrow definition, so a good eyebrow liner is essential, and an eyeliner, usually a pencil. "And a bright blush really warms up my cheeks. "Nail polish is an addiction. I'd give away a handbag before I'd give away a nail polish." But when she was younger, the 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' actress wasn't allowed to wear make-up, but as she's grown older, she's learned to use cosmetics to accentuate her features, rather than mask them. She told Grazia magazine: "My mother - who has never worn make-up herself - didn't allow me to wear make-up growing up. "She always said, 'Your skin is beautiful the way it is.' "For me, make-up is not a necessity. Make-up is not a mask, it's an adornment, an accessory." Lupita can still recall how she first understood the power of good make-up while promoting her first movie, '12 Years a Slave', in 2013. She said: "For dark skin, the idea of blush is quite a foreign one. Then my make-up artist used a Lancome blush and it was the first time I understood what blush can do for dark skin." When it comes to fashion, the 'Jungle Book' star doesn't follow trends, but she was terrified the first time she worked with a stylist. She admitted: "My first fitting was nerve-wracking, because I'd never done anything like that before. "And I'd never had to try and articulate my style to anyone, as I'd only ever dressed myself."

## Victoria Beckham sends emails on the toilet

he former Spice Girls singer insists her life isn't particularly 'glamorous" and her husband David Beckham is constantly urging her to stop working on her fashion empire when they're at home together. She said: "If you dream big and work hard, you can achieve great things. "I learnt an enormous amount being very young and very, very famous - having everything one minute and then losing it just as quickly. "You realize it's much more difficult to maintain success than it is to actually achieve it - and it's not as glamorous as people would think. "Quite often at the weekend, I'll end up hiding in the toilet sending emails because David is like, 'Put that phone down'. "The 43-year-old designer - who has children Brooklyn, 18, Romeo, 14, Cruz, 12 and six-year-old Harper with David - moved into fashion in 2008 and she's only just realized how much of a "brave" move it was to start a new career away from her pop star image. She said: "Looking back, I don't think I realised how brave I was to get into this. "I always loved fashion, even in the Spice Girls days, but if I had known then what I know now, I would have been much more frightened about the whole thing." But Victoria recently admitted she poured everything into achieving her fashion "vision". She recalled: "I really put everything into this; it was a new career for me and I had a vision. I surrounded myself with the right people, which, when I started was just two people - one girl working with me on the design and another on the production. It was very different from what other people had done; I wasn't a celebrity with a licensing deal."



## Gal Gadot says Wonder Woman and Princess Diana share similar qualities

he 32-year-old actress - who has daughters Alma, six, and Maya, seven months, with husband Yaron Versano - believes her superhero character is so popular because she is very compassionate and she thinks she adopts the same approach to life that the late princess, who died in a car crash in 1997, used to. Discussing her character's popularity, she said: "I remember a quote from Princess Diana where she hit the nail on the head. She said she worked from the heart and not the head and I think that Wonder Woman, Diana Prince, is the same. "I know one Diana was real and the other isn't, but Wonder Woman is such a great character because she works from the heart. "She only means well, and the fact she's so strong and mighty, and the most iconic warrior, doesn't take away her femininity." The 'Justice League' star believes her comic book alter ego perfectly captures the strength women have within them and she thinks she's a great female role model. She added to Glamour magazine: "I think that's the strength of women; that we can be strong -I don't mean just physically, although physically as well - but at the same time we can be connected to our emotions and be sincere and honest. This is our strength. "We are so exposed all our lives to amazing male superheroes and never to one really good female superhero and I think Wonder Woman really captures the beauty of what it means to be a woman." — Bangshowbiz



Monday, November 13, 2017

# Russia's pre-Revolutionary estates crumble in neglect







Photos show the neglected estate of Grebnevo, east of Moscow. — AFP photos

Boris Netchaeff's family estate was once the image of aristocratic life in pre-Revolutionary Russia but is now a long-neglected site where teenagers hold what he calls "Satanist parties". Netchaeff's grandfather abandoned the complex of buildings after the 1917 Revolution, leaving his home and his country along with a wave of other anti-Bolshevik Russians. But nearly a century later, Netchaeff has returned to the country with plans to rescue from oblivion the Novosiltsev estate in the Oryol region, about 270 kilometers southwest of Moscow.

"Since my childhood, I dreamed of restoring the estate, it is a big part of my life," said Netchaeff, who grew up listening to his grandfather's stories in France but now lives with his wife and children in Moscow. The Novosiltsev estate is one of thousands in the country, a specter of the life of Russia's aristocracy and merchant classes, who lovingly built their family nests over generations before often brutal nationalization by the Bolsheviks. Most of these places passed through the Soviet era as various state institutions. Some were turned into museums. The majority met the post-Soviet period in

ruin, with the government providing formal protection but no longer willing or able to care for them. "To say that these estates have some sort of bright future is difficult," said Vadim Solovyov, who heads a company overseen by the culture ministry that seeks investors for several state-owned estates. "The government should admit it cannot save all heritage and hand some of it to private hands, using the profits to save what it can," he said. The problem is that restoring estates takes millions of dollars but generating a profit from them is next to impossible, he said.

#### 'Stalin's darkest crimes'

The estate of Grebnevo, east of Moscow, was once one of the region's most famous. Manicured grounds included "French" and "English" gardens, a cascade of ponds and islands, and neoclassical buildings around an elegant courtyard. Changing hands several times in its history, the estate was owned by decorated diplomats and military commanders, who had peaches and

apricots growing in the orangerie and staged

ballets. It turned into an expensive retreat in 1913. But after the revolution, the estate was nationalized, becoming a tuberculosis sanatorium. Local historians that kept the heritage of Russia's estates alive following the disappear-

A specter of the life of Russia's aristocracy class

ance of the original owners were persecuted between 1929 and 1931 to stamp out efforts seen as ideologically hostile to the new Soviet order. "It was one of Stalin's darkest crimes," said Professor Boris Sokolov, an art historian and

specialist on estate gardens at the Russian State University for the Humanities. Like the Novosiltsev estate, Grebnevo stood empty and neglected for years, its regal colonnaded buildings now lacking roofs and covered in graffiti.

Its most recent scheduled auction in October had a starting price of 80 million rubles (\$1.4 million, 1.2 million euros) but failed to attract any buyers, just like the previous attempts at a sale.

#### A 'wasteland'

Bringing Grebnevo back to its former glory would take at least a further \$10 million, said Solovyov, admitting the auction price might already be inflated. But, he said, that despite the disintegration of the structures, overgrown by weeds, the government is not permitted by law to go lower after

the price was set by an independent expert. Grebnevo, which needs urgent work, could be waiting for new owners until it completely falls apart. Investors are not interested in a scenic landscape if it is illegal to build on the land

because of cultural protection regulations, Solovyov added, as is the case for Grebnevo. Professor Sokolov, whose grandfather was a gardener at Grebnevo, said the scheme of selling famous ruins is fundamentally flawed. "Who would live in this wasteland?" he said, referring to its out-of-the-way location far from Moscow. "To whom would they show off the restored palace?"

Instead the government should figure out why Russian society as a whole needs these estates and involve the broader public, he said. Boris Netchaeff, however, is still yearning to breathe life back into his ancestors' home. He expects to win the right to rent the site long-term and develop a French cultural centre with the help of the French Embassy and cash from a Russian oligarch. "We want to clean up the park and alleys, to fix up the facade of the house" and set up artistic residencies for French and Russian artists, he said, in the hope of kindling his family's local memory. "My family was dispossessed of a lot more than just real estate," he said. "They lost their nation, their country." — AFP

# Controversial Da Vinci painting is New York auction season star



Christie's employees pose in front of a painting entitled Salvator Mundi by Italian polymath Leonardo da Vinci at a photocall at Christie's auction house in central London. — AFP

hat is the only Da Vinci painting on the open market worth? A Russian billionaire believes he was swindled when he bought it for \$127.5 million. This week he'll find out if he was right. "Salvator Mundi," a painting of Jesus Christ by the Renaissance polymath Leonardo da Vinci circa 1500, is the star lot in New York's November art auctions that will see Christie's and Sotheby's chase combined art sales of more than \$1 billion.

It goes under the hammer at Christie's on Wednesday, something of an incongruous lot in the post-war and contemporary evening sale, which attracts the biggest spenders in the high-octane world of international billionaire art collectors. The auction house, which declines to comment on the controversy and identifies the seller only as a European collector, has valued it at \$100 million.

"Look at the painting, it is an extraordinary work of art," said Francois de Poortere, head of the old master's department at Christie's. "That's what we should focus on." But the price will be closely watched-not just as one of fewer than 20 paintings by Da Vinci's hand accepted to exist, but by its owner Dmitry Rybolovlev, the boss of soccer club AS Monaco who is suing Swiss art dealer Yves Bouvier in the city-state.

Rybolovlev accuses Bouvier of conning him out of hundreds of million dollars in parting with an eye-watering \$2.1 billion on 37 masterpieces. One of those works was "Salvator Mundi" which has been exhibited at The National Gallery in London. Bouvier bought the Da Vinci at Sotheby's for \$80 million in 2013. He resold it to the Russian tycoon for \$127.5 million. The painting's rarity is difficult to overstate.

For years it was presumed to have been destroyed. In 1958, it fetched 45 pounds (\$60 in today's money) and disappeared again for decades, emerging only in 2005 when it was

purchased from a US estate. It was long believed to have been a copy, before eventually being certified as authentic. All ll other known paintings by Da Vinci are held in museum or institutional collections. "For auction specialists, this is pretty much the Holy Grail," Loic Gouzer, co-chairman of Christie's Americas post-war and contemporary art department, has said. "It doesn't really get better than that."

#### Ferrari first

Christie's has sought to emphasize Da Vinci's inestimable contribution to art history by hanging "Salvator Mundi" next to Andy Warhol's "Sixty Last Suppers"-which depicts Da Vinci's "The Last Supper" 60 times over, also on sale with a \$50 million estimate. Pablo Picasso holds the world record for the most expensive piece of art ever sold at auction. His "The Women of Algiers (Version O)" fetched \$179.4 million at Christie's in New York in 2015.

Other highlights being offered by the auction house are "Contraste de formes," a 1913 Fernand Leger valued at \$65 million and "Laboureur dans un champ" by Van Gogh, painted from the window of a French asylum in 1889 valued at \$50 million. Sotheby's, whose May sales languished behind Christie's, says it has more than 60 works making their auction debuts this week.

Chief among them is Francis Bacon's "Three Studies of George Dyer," valued at \$35-45 million, and which it says is appearing in public for the first time in 50 years. Painted in 1966 during his passionate relationship with Dyer, two other such triptychs are in museums and two others have been offered at auction in recent years. Sotheby's other star lot is a 1972 Warhol "Mao," exhibited in Berlin, Turin and Paris, and now back in public view for the first time since 1974. It has been given an estimate of \$30-40 million. — AFP



Alyssa Bordonaro
walks with her
Harris's Hawk
named Dany as
schoolchildren ask
questions at the
Museum of
Modern Art.

# HUSBAND-WIFE TEAM USES HAWKS TO SCARE OFF 'PEST' BIRDS IN LA

hawk named Riley soars between high-rises in downtown Los Angeles. Smaller birds take notice. And take flight. Riley lands on a branch, surveys the concrete jungle below and swoops down to land on the gloved hand of her owner. Blazer-clad professionals on their way to lunch do double-takes.

Husband-and-wife falconers Alyssa and Mike Bordonaro are "The Hawk Pros," just one of a number of Southern California bird-abatement businesses. They and their birds of prey are hired guns, brought in to scare away seagulls, pigeons and other "pest birds" that create nuisances and leave behind messes. Their clients include the agricultural city of Oxnard, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and downtown Los Angeles' US Bank Tower, the second-tallest building west of the Mississippi River. Most of the places they work are outdoor eating areas.

"What seagulls do in their aftermath when they eat, it's pretty messy," says Mike, 35. Alyssa, 30, says pest birds are able to thrive in metropolitan areas because they feel safe there. "They need shelter, food and water, and they're finding it in these false environments basically that



This April 7, 2017 photo shows falconer Alyssa Bordonaro releasing her Harris's hawk named Dany at the Museum of Modern Art in Los Angeles.



Alyssa Bordonaro gives a kiss to Dany her Harris's Hawk.

have sprinklers and fountains and food 24/7, but they're also using the humans as a shield against the predators who are too scared to come in," she says. "So by bringing in a predator that's not afraid of people, it just ruins everything for the pigeons." Alyssa got the idea for the business while in college, when she spent time working with someone else's hawk scaring off seagulls at a landfill. Occasionally people criticize the use of hawks for bird abatement, saying they should be free. For one, the birds are born in captivity and can't be released to the wild, Alyssa says. "I say, 'Look, she's totally free.' I fly them free and they come back, and it instantly changes their mind," she says. "All she's doing is flying, which she loves, and coming back for treats, which she loves." — AP



Falconer's Mike Bordonaro and his wife Alyssa pose for a photo with their children Hunter and Ayla in the families backyard. — AP photos

### Lifestyle | Features



French film director Agnes Varda, left, collects her honorary Oscar onstage as presenter Angelina Jolie applauds at the 2017 Governors Awards.



Actress Jennifer Lawrence attends the 2017 Governors Awards yesterday in Actor Donald Sutherland accepts his honorary Oscar at the 2017 Governors Awards.



## Hollywood welcomes allegations shining light on abuse

ilmmakers on Saturday welcomed the sexual misconduct scandal engulfing Hollywood as a "positive" moment that could end decades of abuse and serve as an example to other industries. Several directors told AFP at the annual Governors Awards the flood of allegations against Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey and others might finally force reform and protect future aspiring stars.

James Gunn, the director of Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy" movies, said it was "a really positive thing for the industry." It's been something that has existed for a long time. It's something that stopped workflow, harmed creativity, harmed making money and it's just not good for us," he told AFP. The acclaimed director repeated previous allegations that a priest at his Catholic school in Manchester, Missouri, had been a pedophile.

"For me this is a light being shone upon a lot of things.... And at the same time a lot of people

in Hollywood are really terrible people and that's coming to light," he added. Gunn spoke out ahead of veteran movie star Donald Sutherland accepting an honorary Oscar at Hollywood's Ray Dolby Ballroom "for a lifetime of indelible characters, rendered with unwavering truthfulness.'

Stars at the glitzy ceremony included Jennifer Lawrence, Jake Gyllenhaal, Tom Hanks, Chadwick Boseman and Emma Stone, who was deep in conversation for much of the evening with ex-boyfriend and "Spiderman" co-star Andrew Garfield. Denis Villeneuve, the Oscar-nominated director of "Arrival" and "Blade Runner 2049," told AFP there was "something very positive" about victims of abuse finally breaking their silence.

"Hollywood is a mirror of society and I think that what's happening here, I hope, will spread in society because those things cannot be," he said. "We are in 2017. I cannot believe it is still happening today. What I'm hearing is that people are sad and there's a feeling of relief at the same time that it's out.

> It's been something that has existed for a long time

Andy Serkis, best known as the award-winning motion capture artist in Peter Jackson's "King Kong" and "Lord of the Rings" movies, said he hoped the scandal would lead to abusers in the political sphere being exposed. "Hopefully some great will come from it which is people who are in positions of power will not

be able to feel that they can get away with being bigots or bullies, or predatory and misusing power," the actor, who made his directorial debut this year with "Breathe," told AFP.

Canadian national Sutherland, a twotime Golden Globe winner, got his big break in "The Dirty Dozen" (1967) and has more than 140 film credits spanning six decades. The 82-year-old has had starring roles in numerous iconic movies, including "M\*A\*S\*H," "Don't Look Now," "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," "The Italian Job," "Pride and Prejudice" and "The Hunger Games" series.

Married three times, he has five children, including actor Kiefer Sutherland ("The Lost Boys," "24"). Quoting vaudeville comedian Jack Benny, he said: "I don't deserve this. But I have arthritis and I don't deserve that either.' Writer-director Charles Burnett, cinematographer Owen Roizman and filmmakers Agnes Varda and Alejandro G Inarritu were also awarded honorary Oscars. Belgian-born Varda, sometimes described as the "mother of the French New Wave," was introduced by A-lis-

ters Jessica Chastain and Angelina Jolie. She jokingly expressed disappointment that no man had been willing to get up on stage and sing her praises, before bringing the house to its feet by dancing onstage with Jolie. The Governors Awards were created as a separate event in 2009 to allow more space for the honorees to accept their statuettes and to unclutter the main show's packed schedule. Previous winners of honorary Oscars include Jackie Chan, Lauren Bacall, Francis Ford Coppola, Oprah Winfrey, Angelina Jolie and Spike Lee. — AFP

## Fashion rental offers top labels for price of pizza

ancy hitting the town in the latest Dior dress with an outrageous- Iy expensive Louis Vuitton bag on your arm-but haven't the cash to afford even the clasp? The fantasy is no longer a pipedream for thousands of women in Paris, the world's fashion capital, where hiring luxury clothes and handbags is beginning to catch on.

A new service has started which allows fashionistas to rent Dior Gucci, Saint Laurent and other luxury brand handbags for as little as 10 euros (\$11) a day. A 4,500-euro classic Chanel black shoulder bag can be hired for 25 euros a day, although customers have also to cough up 20 euros in insurance and pay for a courier to deliver the



This file photo taken on September 26, 2017 shows a model presenting a creation for Christian Dior during the women's 2018 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP

bag to their door. Yann Le Floc'h, founder of the Instant Luxe website. which already sells secondhand designer clothes and bags to its one million members, said the site was responding to a new "pattern of consumption" where women see no shame in renting their wardrobe.

In his view, many women would rather use than own a luxury bag, which is why his company has begun renting out about "20 classic handbags styles for a minimum of four nights," he told AFP. "Uber has changed transport, Airbnb accommodation and habits are changing in the luxury goods market too," Le Floc'h said. "We are changing our consumption habits from ownership to use. And people are not renting just for special occasions but to treat themselves," he added. While France has long had a thriving market in secondhand designer clothes and bags, fans of luxury labels have been much more reluctant about renting until quite recently, even as "the market has exploded in the

#### 'Cinderella syndrome'

Fashion expert Julie El Ghouzzi, who heads France's Luxury Goods and Creation Centre, calls the new rental trend the "Cinderella syndrome". "There is a real change in society. We have less need to possess things and greater need for appearances. This Cinderella effect means that even if we become a pumpkin at midnight we can still be the most beautiful princess at the ball, and have all the pleasure of luxury without having to own it."

El Ghouzzi described this as the "quintessence of consumption-we consume the object which then disappears." Emmanuelle Brizay, cofounder of the Panoply City fashion rental site, said a whole new market was opening up. "More than 90 percent of our clients have never rented clothes before. We are in a period of education, not to say evangelisation." Since January the site has rented out 4,000 items from the latest women's collections from Marc Jacobs, Kenzo, Courreges and Sonia Rykiel. For 60 euros a month customers can hire a different piece every week, while a 350-euros-a-month subscription gives them access to 10 outfits.

#### Clothes 'clouds'

"Renting changes the relationship with clothes," said Brizay. "One continues to buy them but you also can have more fun. Instead of buying an umpteenth black coat for the winter, with the same money you can change the color every week." Even though the rental market for top-end luxury brands is still in its infancy, Brizay said the signs were very encouraging.

The attitude of the brands themselves has changed, she said. "At the beginning we had to convince them and now some of them are coming to us to make sure they feature in the selection." The big question is how long can rental pieces, even high quality ones, be hired as "new". "The idea is certainly not to wear them out," Brizay said, while at Instant Luxe used bags can be sold on on the site as secondhand. The millennials of "Generation Y (those born during the 1980s and 1990s) are completely ready for the fashion rental market," according to El Ghouzzi. "They already have all their lives stored in clouds, so not 'possessing' something by having it in their hands all the time is not a problem for them." —  $\mbox{\rm AFP}$ 

Guru Indradyumna Swami (L) and Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni (C) with Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra (R) attend the announcement of 'The Mumbai Fest' in Mumbai. — AFP

### In the wake of Weinstein, women say Bollywood ignores harassment

into the southern state of Kerala in 2015, she thought it was for a business meeting with an award-winning director about a role in his upcoming film. Instead, she was called to the director's hotel room at 9 pm, where the man propositioned her for sex and told her she would have to make compromises if she wanted to succeed in the film industry. "You always hear of actresses getting called by directors to hotel rooms at night, but I didn't think twice because I was going in with a reference," she told Reuters.

Unny said she rejected the advances of the director, whom she declined to name, and left without a role in the movie. Reuters was unable to confirm her accusations. Three other women involved in India's film industry, the world's largest, told Reuters that Unny's experience isn't unique. But even after allegations of sexual assault and harassment leveled at Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein prompted a wave of similar complaints, Bollywood has been reluctant to name and shame perpetrators.

"The way men are being called out in Hollywood right now, I don't know if it can happen in India," said Alankrita Shrivastava, a director whose last film, "Lipstick Under my Burkha" was acclaimed for its examination of women and sexuality. "In terms of how our psychology is, how patriarchy functions, it is much more entrenched," she said. The vast majority of Bollywood's biggest producers and film-makers are men, many from prominent film families who until recently controlled most of the industry.

Mukesh Bhatt, who co-heads production house Vishesh Films, said India's film industry should not be singled out and was limited in what more it could do to prevent harassment. "What can we do? We cannot do any moral policing," Bhatt, told Reuters in a telephone interview. "We cannot keep moral cops outside every film office to see that no girl is being exploited." The industry also had to be cautious about false allegations, said Bhatt, who was previously the chairman of apex industry body, the Film and Television Producers Guild of India.

"I am not saying men have not been exploitative. They have been for centuries. But today's woman is also not as simple as she pretends to be," he said. "But just as there are good men and bad men, so also there are women who are exploitative and very cunning. Also blatantly

hen Indian actress Divya Unny flew shameless to offer themselves." He declined to provide any examples.

#### Few complaints

Despite laws requiring Indian companies to form internal committees to investigate sexual harassment at the workplace, very few of cases are reported to the police, said women's rights activist and lawyer, Flavia Agnes. "They (companies) may have a committee or they may not have one. They may do an investigation or they may not do one. And they may or may not file a complaint. It could go wrong at every stage," she said. Reports of sexual assault, while rare, are not unheard of in India's film industry.

Earlier this year, Gopalakrishnan Padmanabhan Pillai, a popular actor in the Malayalam film industry best known by his stage name Dileep, was arrested by police who accused him and several others of kidnapping and molesting an actress. Dileep denies the accusations. "He says it is a completely false case. He was framed by the police and some enemies," B Raman Pillai, a lawyer for Dileep, told Reuters. Fans cheered and distributed sweets as he walked out on bail last month after more than 80 days in prison. The police haven't filed formal charges in court, after which a date for the trial would be set. "We will file a charge sheet in the next two weeks. Maybe next week,' Biju Paulose, an inspector of police in charge of the case, told Reuters by phone.

#### Harassment depicted as love

Kangana Ranaut is one of the few Bollywood actresses who has publicly spoken out about the sexual assault and harassment. Ranaut, who has appeared in 30 films in the past decade, told Reuters she had faced "severe sexual exploitation and harassment at the work place", without elaborating. "I've read some stories (about harassment) shared by few prominent people, but most people find it hard to open up about such experiences," she said. "Victim shaming is very common in our society, it's done brutally and openly." According to a survey conducted by The Indian National Bar Association this year, around 70 percent of Indian women said they would not report sexual harassment at the workplace because they weren't confident about the complaint mechanism and because of the stigma attached to victims. — Reuters

### Mozambique war-time Western wins at Tunisia film festival

The story of an epic train journey across war-torn Mozambique by a Brazilian director has been awarded the top prize at Tunisia's Carthage Film Festival. "The Train of Salt and Sugar" by Licinio Azevedo, a Brazilian who lives in the African country, received the Tanit d'Or as

the festival wrapped up on Saturday. Like a Western, the film follows the perilous journey of a train that sets off across

rebel-held areas to exchange salt for sugar in 1989 during Mozambique's civil war. The Tanit d'Argent went to South Africa's John Trengove for his first feature "The Wound", which has sparked controversy at home over its portrayal of homosexual love and an ancestral initiation rite. Veteran Moroccan director Faouzi Bensaidi received the Tanit de Bronze for "Volubilis", a social critique of extreme liberalism. Among the documen-

taries, the jury awarded Palestinian director Raed Andoni's "Ghost Hunting", which recreates a notorious Israeli interrogation centre and has former prisoners re-enact experi-

ences in a bid to free them of their demons. Third place went to Nada Mezni Hafaiedh's "Upon the shadow", a frank documentary about the lives of gay Tunisians in a country where homosexuality is a crime. Hafeidh said she was "surprised there were so few complaints" after her documentary's screening in its home country on Friday. She said she was astonished her film had been selected for the festival at all, enabling Tunisians to see it, "because I know that sadly in Tunisia being gay is an abomination". — AFP

Monday, November 13, 2017

## Canadian Embassy, Kuwait Times celebrate Canada 150 with student art competition

### The major themes of the anniversary are diversity and inclusion

By Faten Omar

The Canadian Embassy, in cooperation with Kuwait Times, is proud to launch the 'Celebrate #Canada150' drawing competition for students in Kuwait. The contest aims to make students gain knowledge of the heritage, culture and civilization of other countries. Kuwait Times spoke with the Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait Martine Moreau to learn more about the competition.



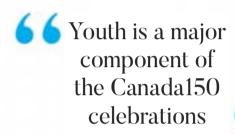
The Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait Martine Moreau. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

Kuwait Times: What can you tell us about the Canada150 celebrations?

Martine Moreau: 2017 marks a significant milestone in the History of Canada. 150 years ago, Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia united to create the Canadian Confederation, called the Dominion of Canada. This effort was culminated in the British North America Act passed by the British Parliament that became law July 1st 1867, under which these British colonies would be recognized as a separate and distinct nation. In the years that followed, the other colonies and

territories joined the Dominion, which would stretch from the Pacific to the Atlantic to the Arctic Oceans, as reflected in the country's motto A Mari Usque Ad Mare ("from sea to sea").

The 150th anniversary of Confederation gives Canadians the opportunity to commemorate this event by getting involved in their communities and celebrate our shared values, our achievements, our majestic environment and our country's place in the world. The major themes of the 150th anniversary of Confederation are diversity and inclusion, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, the environment and youth. Memorable events have been held throughout the year in Canada and throughout the world. In Kuwait, we are marking the celebrations over the next few weeks with our Celebrate #Canada150 art competition, a Canada-Kuwait friendship hockey tournament and our own Canada Day celebration.



KT: What was the major inspiration behind the Celebrate #Canada150 art competition?

Moreau: Youth is a major component of the Canada150 celebrations. Most students in Kuwait know something about Canada but have never had a chance to visit our country. What better way to engage students to learn about Canada, its history, people, cultures, geography, vast and breathtaking landscapes and unique wildlife than through a fun competition as this one? Students in Kuwait are very talented, and I cannot wait to see their artistic renditions

KT: What advice do you have for students who want to participate?

**Moreau:** Get inspired by reading up or surfing the web on Canada, ask your parents and teachers what they know about our vast and beautiful country. Go beyond the usual cliches such as the maple leaf, the beaver,

Niagara Falls, the polar bear, igloos, hockey, Mountains and poutine! Use the radiant yellows and reds of our autumns, the soothing greens of our springs and summers and the silvery whites of our winters and don't forget the palettes of blues from our rivers, lakes and oceans.

KT: How does Canada celebrate the diversity of cultures and communities within its borders?

Moreau: Canada is a country of diversity. Founded by the French and English who were preceded by the aboriginal "First Nations", it has welcomed several waves of immigration over the past two centuries. Now, with more than 20% of our citizens born outside of the country, Canada is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. Our success as a nation depends on our ability to integrate a broad range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds within our

mainstream culture, while still embracing the variety and richness this diversity of cultures brings. In Canada, we celebrate Eid Al-Adha, the Chinese New Year, Diwali, Christmas, Yom Kippur. We also host large scale cultural festivals such as the Toronto Caribbean festival, Le festival de la Francophonie, the Quebec Winter Festival, the Calgary Stampede. And across Canada smaller scale festivities are organized to celebrate the

various cultures and communities that make up our social fabric.

KT: We know that more around 12,000 students are participating in this competition. This is the first time that you are having this competition in Kuwait where Canada isn't so well known. What can you say about this figure?

Moreau: 12,000 drawing boards have been distributed to schools across Kuwait. I am told that the uptake is very good. I have even had people sending me photos of their children's drawings so there is certainly great enthusiasm around this initiative. This is very heart-warming and tells me that Canada projects a positive image internationally, and while most people have never travelled there they recognize it as being a land of opportunity, with a diverse and tolerant society where everyone is encouraged to realize their dreams and achieve their full potential.



















Universal Civilizations Academy students take part in the '#Canada150 drawing competition'.









Students from Dasman Model School are seen working on their entries in the '#Canada150 drawing competition'.

# Lifestyle

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017** 



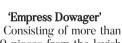
# Art from China's 19th century woman leader comes to US

or more than a century she has been known as the woman behind the throne, the empress who through skill and circumstance rose from lowly imperial consort to iron-fisted ruler of China at a time and in a place when women were believed to have no power at all.

But it turns out Empress Dowager Cixi was much more than that. The 19th century ruler, who consolidated authority through political maneuvering that at times included incarceration and assassination, was also a serious arts patron and even an artist herself, with discerning tastes that helped set the style for traditional Asian art for more than a century.

That side of Cixi comes to the Western world for the first time with yesterday's unveiling of "Empress Dowager, Cixi:

Selections From the Summer Palace" at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. The wide-ranging collection, never before seen outside China, will remain at the Southern California museum through March 11 before returning to Beijing.



Consisting of more than 100 pieces from the lavish Beijing palace Cixi called home during the final years

of her life, "Empress Dowager" includes numerous examples of intricately designed Chinese furniture, porcelain vases and stone carvings, as well as several pieces of Western art, rare in China at the time, that she also collected. Among them are a large oil-on-canvas portrait of herself she commissioned the prominent Dutch artist Hubert Vos to create.

Other Western accoutrements include gifts from visiting dignitaries, among them British silver serving sets, German and Swiss clocks, a marble-topped table from Italy with inlaid stones in the shape of a chessboard and even an

American-built luxury automobile. The latter, a 1901 Duryea touring car, is believed to be the first automobile imported into China and as such may have involved the empress in the country's first automobile accident when her driver is said to have hit a pedestrian.

"We already have a lot of scholarship on who she is and how she ruled China. But this show brings you a different angle," said exhibition curator Ying-Chen Peng, as she led a recent pre-opening tour of it through the museum that was kicked off by a raucous performance of Chinese lion dancers accompanied by musicians loudly banging gongs cymbals and drums. "This exhibition seeks to introduce you to this woman as an arts patron, as an architect, as a designer," the

American University art

That's an approach that may finally have gotten it to Taste that set the Western world. Anne Shih, who chairs the musethe style um's board of directors, noted recently that she for traditional spent 10 years trying to persuade the Chinese gov-Asian art ernment to lend Cixi's art. The Bowers has built an impressive international reputation over the years by hosting exhibitions of

priceless, historical, often larger-than-life artworks from Tibet, the Silk Road, the tomb of China's first emperor and other historic sites. However, Shih says the Chinese government initially turned her down repeatedly. Officials told her the empress, who outlived two much younger emperors, including one who died mysteriously of arsenic poisoning, was just too controversial. She's been portrayed in numerous films and books and not always positively. Shih finally prevailed, however, when she emphasized this show would focus on art, not politics.



The Reception Throne Set is shown in the exhibition.

#### Larger-than-life portrait

Although it does, it still becomes apparent to visitors what a formidable presence Cixi must have been as they enter a recreation of her throne room to be greeted by a larger-than-life portrait of her covered in jewels and razor-sharp fingernail protectors as she glares ominously at her audience.

Nearby, however, are objects that quickly make her passion for art clear. Prominent among them is a towering calligraphy work of black ink embossed on a sheet of paper that, stretching to about 6 feet, is taller than the dowager was. She is said to have made it by wielding a large heavy brush while standing on a stool as some of the eunuchs who served her stretched out the paper. Not far away are ink-and-paper

drawings of flowers the empress also created, although Peng notes with a laugh that when it came to painting, Cixi was a much better calligrapher.

Placed into the emperor's harem as a low-level teenage consort, she quickly elevated her status by giving birth to his only son in 1856. When the emperor died six years later she installed the boy as his successor and, as the woman behind the throne, ousted opponents, brought in loyalists and ran the country herself for the next 43 years. She died in 1908 at age 72. Although she led her country through numerous wars launched by foreign invaders during those years, she also found time to visit with dignitaries from other countries and to pursue her own passion for art. — AP



Catherine Shiao looks at the exhibition "Empress Dowager, Cixi." at Orange County's A 1901 Duryea Surrey is shown during the unveiling of the exhibition. Bowers Museum, in Santa Ana, California. — AP photos



1901 Duryea Surrey is shown during the unveiling of the exhibition.



Exhibition curator Ying-Chen Peng talks during the unveiling.