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# Hunt for survivors after quake kills 415 near Iran-Iraq border

## Amir sends condolences to Iranian, Iraqi leaders

TEHRAN: Teams of Iranian rescuers dug through rubble in a hunt for survivors yesterday after a major earthquake struck the Iran-Iraq border, killing at least 415 people and injuring thousands. The 7.3-magnitude quake rocked a border area 30 km southwest of Halabja in Iraqi Kurdistan at around 9:20 pm (18:20 GMT) on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said. Many people would have been at home when the quake hit in Iran's western province of Kermanshah, where authorities said it killed at least 407 people and injured 6,700. Across the border in more sparsely populated areas of Iraq, the health ministry said eight people had died and several hundred were injured. Iraq's Red Crescent reported nine dead and more than 400 injured.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the deaths inflicted by the earthquake. HH the Amir appealed to His Almighty to bestow great mercy upon the souls of the victims and wished the injured quick recovery. Sheikh Sabah also sent condolence cables to Iraqi President Fuad Masum and Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi over the victims of the quake. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Rouhani, Masum and Abadi.

As dusk approached yesterday, tens of

thousands of Iranians were forced to sleep outside in the cold for a second night as authorities scrambled to provide them with aid. Some had spent Sunday night outdoors after fleeing their homes in the mountainous cross-border region, huddling around fires at dawn as authorities sent in help. "People's immediate needs are firstly tents, water and food," said the head of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari. "Newly constructed buildings... held up well, but the old houses built with earth were totally destroyed," he told state television during a visit to the affected region.

Hundreds of ambulances and dozens of army helicopters reportedly joined the rescue effort after Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered the government and armed forces to mobilize "all their means". Foreign media organizations had not received authorization to visit the scene of the disaster yesterday. Officials said they were setting up relief camps for the displaced. Iran's emergency services chief Pir Hossein Koolivand said landslides had cut off roads to affected villages, impeding the access of rescue workers. But by late afternoon, officials said all the roads in Kermanshah province had been re-opened, although the worst-affected town of Sarpol-e-Zahab remained without electricity, said state television.

Continued on Page 11



A woman mourns as she holds the body of her daughter who died in an earthquake in Sarpol-e-Zahab in western Iran yesterday. — AP

## News in brief

### Online license renewal eyed

KUWAIT: Acting Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Fahd Al-Showai told Al-Anbaa daily about a project to renew driving licenses online, where the applicant applies on the interior ministry website and submits the required documents, then receives the license from machines similar to civil IDs. He added the weekly income of the traffic department is KD 1.2 million from traffic fines, hoping this drops by 50 percent due to compliance with the traffic law.

### Tenants evacuated due to crack

KUWAIT: Some occupants of an apartment building in Sabah Al-Salem have been evacuated due to a crack, said Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSDD) in a statement yesterday. The residents were evacuated at dawn today due to the crack in one side of the building, the KFSDD said indicating that only occupants of the part where the crack was located had to leave their houses. The crack might have been caused by yesterday's tremors. (See Page 3)

### Banks examine Saudi accounts

KUWAIT/DUBAI: Kuwaiti banks have been told by the Central Bank to provide account details relating to some Saudi Arabian nationals, sources said yesterday. The move follows the freezing of more than 2,000 domestic bank accounts in Saudi Arabia after the detention of senior business figures and officials in a campaign against alleged graft. Kuwait's Central Bank had asked banks if they had exposure to any of the Saudi citizens who were arrested, one of the sources said. Banks had also been asked to provide information about the companies linked to the individuals. A second Kuwaiti banking source said some Kuwaiti banks had been asked by the regulator to provide details on their total exposure to Saudi Arabia.

### Erdogan to discuss Gulf crisis

ISTANBUL: Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday he will discuss a solution to the five-month dispute between Qatar and its Gulf Arab neighbors during a visit to Kuwait. Erdogan is scheduled today to visit Kuwait, which has tried to mediate in the Gulf dispute.

## Oil producers to extend cuts to rebalance market

ABU DHABI: Oil producers are expected to unanimously extend a production cut accord later this month but its duration is still under discussion, the UAE energy minister said yesterday. "I think this group of committed and responsible producers came together... and I think they will continue to do what it takes to take us to the next level," United Arab Emirates Energy Minister Suhail Al-Mazrouei told the ADIPEC international oil conference in Abu Dhabi. He said 158 million barrels of surplus crude oil remain on the market and

"we need to reduce that - which means there is a potential for extension".

Mazrouei said there was near-unanimity among the 24 OPEC and non-OPEC producers which agreed a year ago to cut output by 1.8 million barrels per day. The minister said that he had "not heard anyone" talk about allowing the cuts deal to expire, although the duration of the new extension would be "subject to discussion". "I am hopeful that we will reach an agreement that will lead to more stabilization in the market and more investments coming to the market," he said.

Mazrouei said an escalating dispute between regional powers and OPEC members Saudi Arabia and Iran will not prevent a new extension. As a result of the cuts, oil prices have rebounded to more than \$64 a barrel from \$40 a year ago, and huge stocks of crude built up over the past three years have reduced.

Continued on Page 11



ABU DHABI: UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al-Mazrouei, speaks during the ADIPEC event yesterday. — AFP

## Hezbollah crown jewel of Iran's rising influence

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah, blamed by Saad Hariri for his shock resignation as premier, has grown over the three decades since its founding into a mighty army used by Iran to project regional influence. Hariri criticized the powerful Shiite movement for its meddling across the Middle East during a televised interview from Saudi Arabia on Sunday, his first media appearance since he stepped down on Nov 4. Hezbollah has participated in Hariri's government for almost a year. From Lebanon to Syria, Yemen, and

Iraq, Hezbollah has matured into Iran's most useful "tool" - drawing the ire of Tehran's regional rival Riyadh, analysts say. Hariri's surprise resignation sparked worries that Lebanon would be caught in the crossfire of the bloody, decades-long power struggle between Saudi Arabia and Iran. "This resignation indicates Saudi's will to put a stop to Iran's expansion," said international relations expert Karim Bitar. Hezbollah had become Iran's "trump card" in the Middle East, added Bitar, of the Paris-based Institute of International and Strategic Affairs.

Since its founding in the 1980s during Lebanon's grinding war, Hezbollah has relied heavily on Iran for financial, political and military support. It is the only faction to have retained its arsenal of weapons after the end of Lebanon's 15-year civil conflict in 1990. Despite being



NABATIEH, Lebanon: This photo taken on Nov 08, 2017 shows members of Hezbollah saluting behind the coffins of three comrades killed in combat in Syria during their funeral. — AFP

branded a "terrorist" organization by the United States and Gulf countries and targeted with economic sanctions, Hezbollah has risen to play a decisive role in regional conflicts. "The most

important Iranian tool in the region is Hezbollah," said Hilal Khashan, political science professor at the American University of Beirut.

Continued on Page 11

## Geldof returns Dublin honor, slams Suu Kyi

DUBLIN: Irish musician and activist Bob Geldof called Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi "a hand maiden to genocide" yesterday as he returned his Freedom of the City of Dublin award in protest over his fellow recipient's response to the repression of Rohingya Muslims, adding the city had "been duped" into bestowing the award. "I don't want to be on a very select roll of wonderful people with a killer," Geldof told state broadcaster RTE. "Someone who is at best a handmaiden to genocide and

an accomplice to murder."

More than 600,000 Muslims from Myanmar's Rakhine state have fled to refugee camps in Bangladesh after military operations described by the United Nations as ethnic cleansing. Their plight has drawn outrage around the world. But Suu Kyi, long seen as a champion of human rights, has been criticised for failing to speak out against violence. There have been calls for her to be stripped of the Nobel Peace Prize she won in 1991.

Suu Kyi was given the Freedom of Dublin in 1999 while she was held under house arrest by Myanmar's then military government. She received her award at a reception in Ireland in 2012, two years after her release. "Her association with our city shames us all and we should have no truck with it, even by default. We honored her, now she appalls and shames us," Geldof said in a statement.

Continued on Page 11



DUBLIN: Irish musician Bob Geldof holds aloft his Freedom of the City of Dublin scroll as he prepares to return it at Dublin City Hall yesterday. — AFP

# Amir receives credentials of new foreign diplomats

## Sheikh Sabah meets Egyptian FM, Brunei's top legislator



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt Sameh Shukri. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the Legislative Council of Brunei Abdul Rahman bin Tayeb.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday the credentials of new Vietnamese Ambassador Trinh Minh Manh, new Omani Ambassador Adnan bin Ahmad bin Abdallah, Peru's Ambassador Fransisco Revarola and Cuba's Ambassador Fernando Perez Maza, in addition to Egyptian Ambassador Tarek Elkouny.

The ceremony was attended by First Deputy Prime

Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarah Al-Sabah, Under-Secretary of Amiri Diwan Ibrahim Mohammad Al-Shatti, Director of His Highness the Amir's Office Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, Advisor at Amiri Diwan Mohammad Abdullah Abu Al-Hassan, and Chief of Amiri Protocols Sheikh Khaled Abdullah Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, in addition to other senior officials.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, as well as Chairman of the Legislative Council of Brunei Abdul Rahman bin Tayeb and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his visit to the country. Tayeb also met separately with Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also hosted Sheikh Sabah

Al-Khaled and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt Sameh Shukri and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of their visit to Kuwait. His Highness the Amir also received Secretary General of the Arab League Ahmed Abul Gheit and Chief of Armaments, Space and Security Affairs at Boeing Company Lien Carrett. The receptions were attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. —KUNA

## How much Arabic Latinos speak?



By Jeri Al-Jeri

Jeri@kuwaittimes.net

Being a language enthusiast, I wondered how El Chapulin Colorado spoke so much Arabic? It makes my day every time I come across a word in a language that mimics my mother tongue Arabic (Al-Arabiya). Mostly, Middle Eastern languages are expected to give me these 'jolts' my brain adores. Many Indo-European languages have adopted Arabic words, because of the historical fact that many gigantic caliphates or Islamic empires were empowering Arabic one after the other during their conquests of the east and west.

Correspondingly, the fluidity of Spanish word articulations and its unique grammar are tellingly synched with our native tongue, regardless of the fact that Spanish originated from Latin. In this article, I will explain why Spanish is the closest language to Arabic - closer to us than Turkish

Many Indo-European languages adopted Arabic words



and Persian. And why do Latinos look and sound like Arabs, who are both adored by Trump. What are the racial and linguistic relations between Arabs and Latinos?

How did Chespirito, 'super comediante,' the Mexican comedy hit television star, got to say 'cat' with an exact Kuwaiti accent - 'El gato?' And how is that when he was fighting 'Super Sam,' he was pronouncing the word 'money' as 'El dinero,' the Kuwaiti currency? Calling fruits and herbs with Arabic names such 'El naranga,' 'El lemon,' 'El Azafran' and 'Arroz,' and using Arabic for managerial descriptions during jailhouse episodes, such as Alamin and Almojarife.

There are yet many linguistic similarities - Spanish speakers' use of definite articles such as the 'El' and 'Al' is identical lexically and phonetically to how Arabs use their definite articles of 'Al,' the fast-paced rhythm of our speech, our overinflated intonations both in comedy and anger, and the double 'rr' that possibly came from the 'shaddah' that if placed on any Arabic letter will double it automatically. It is debatable that the Spanish special 'R' came from Latin such as the Italian rolling 'R'; however, Spanish has a special dispensation than Italian. 'Looks' are a sensitive issue, and genealogy is a whole different ball game than linguistics. This I would like to cover in my next article.

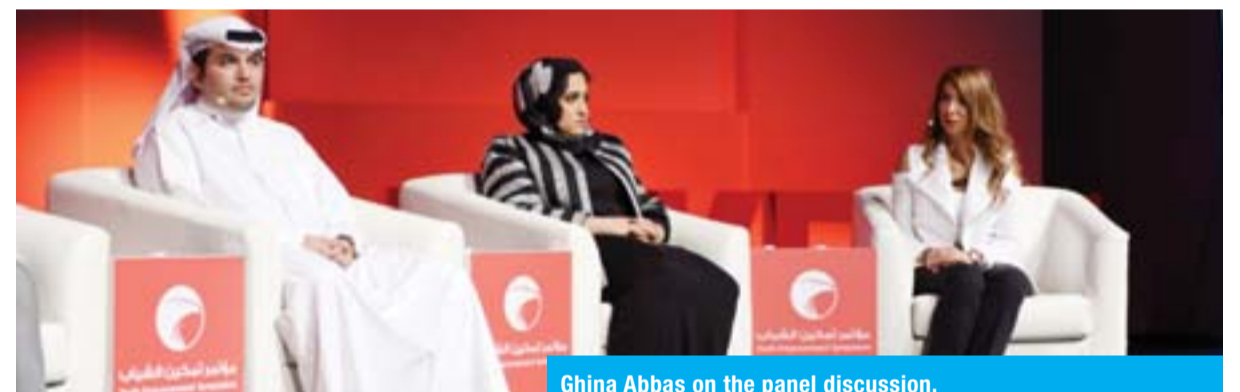
## Alghanim Industries concludes Tmkeen Youth Symposium sponsorship

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, concluded its strategic sponsorship of the 6th annual Tmkeen Youth Symposium, which was held under the patronage of the His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, from the 23rd to the 25th of October 2017.

Speaking about the sponsorship, Alghanim Industries CEO, Omar Kutayba Alghanim said: "Through six years of growth and continued success, Tmkeen's Youth Empowerment Symposium has proven to be an excellent forum for young, aspiring, entrepreneurs to interact with key business leaders. Both the public and private sectors must play an active role in enabling our youth to become masters of their economic futures. We hope to see more participants and more success stories out of Kuwait."

He went on to say, "Alghanim Industries is dedicated to youth empowerment and education - that's why we will continue to support initiatives that address this key segment of our society. We're proud to have taken part in Tmkeen, and are happy to see it thrive year after year." The first day of the symposium held at the Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Centre (JACC) started with two panel discussions on both "Youth Opportunities in the Energy Sector" and "Startup Opportunities in the Private Sector", in which a group of local business leaders participated in the discussion. Following that, a seminar on "Strategic Leadership" was held, which included Simon Ainslie, former Global Vice President of Nokia, who discussed his perspective on the subject.

The second day of the symposium had a group of young local entrepreneurs engage in a panel discussion titled, "Tech Startups: Growth Challenges". The event continued with two seminars, the first titled "The Secrets of Launching a Startup" where Ghina Abbas, Senior Research Manager of Marketing Services and Insights at Alghanim Industries, spoke about her experience alongside Victoria Grace, Founder of Colle Capital. The day was concluded with a seminar titled "Next Generation of Tech Entrepreneur" featuring Patrick Pichette, former Senior Vice President and Chief



Ghina Abbas on the panel discussion.



Photo from the Tmkeen Youth Symposium.

Financial Officer at Google Inc.

On the third and final day, Sam Chamberlain, Chief Operating Officer of Five Guys Group, spoke of his endeavors in a seminar titled "Building and Evolving Your FanB Brand". The final seminar, "Lessons for Young Entrepreneurs", included Mike Tattersfield, Chairman of Caribou Coffee, who shared his insights on the subject.

Chairman of the Tmkeen Youth Symposium, Ali Al-Ibrahim said: "Alghanim Industries is one of the first companies to support us. We share the same goals to inspire youth to become future leaders and entrepreneurs. As an organization that has set many of the standards that businesses in the country follow today, we are grateful for their partnership and leadership. We thank them once again for placing their trust and confidence in our work and look forward to more successful partnerships in the years to come."

This initiative comes as part of Alghanim Industries' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, which is committed to giving back to the community, supporting education and encouraging entrepreneurship. It is worth noting that the company supported the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) in the "Educate for a Brighter Kuwait" campaign aimed at providing educational opportunities to all non-Kuwaiti children living in the country. The company has also partnered with UNHCR, signing a MoU through which Alghanim Industries will support the education of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon.



Alghanim Industries CEO Omar Kutayba Alghanim

## Cultural forum for Arab youth begins tomorrow

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Youth held a press conference yesterday to announce a cultural forum for Arab youth beginning tomorrow as part of the activities of Kuwait, the Arab youth capital. The three-day forum coincides with a book exhibition that will be attended by 48 participants and a large number of Arab intellectuals and writers from 11 countries.

During the conference, chairman of the organizing committee of the forum and the director general of the authority Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said the forum will include a competition in three fields - short story, poetry and art - in addition to several seminars and lectures. Mutairi

stressed that the forum reflects the role of Kuwait as a center of science, literature, culture and arts to promote and spread the values of moderation. He said the Kuwaiti youth is capable of making this event a success and elevating it to a high level of creativity.

Mutairi said Sheikha Dr Suad Al-Sabah is the guest of honor as a role model for young people with her dedication to work, where she will present many of her poetry, literary novels and historical books. He said that the presence of a person of such literary stature among the Arab youth is an excellent addition to the forum, as it is "the wisdom of the pioneers and the enthusiasm of young people that brings experience and the transfer of knowledge and diversity of work".

Mutairi said that the forum will be an opportunity to enable young people to acquire important positions and skills in the literary, cultural and arts fields, calling on Kuwaiti youth who are interested in cultural aspects to attend and contribute to the activities to benefit from the various events of the forum.

Director of the forum Salah Al-Arjani reviewed the most important activities of



KUWAIT: Director General of the Public Authority for Youth Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi (center) speaks during the press conference. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

the forum, which will start after the opening with the participation of the distinguished Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation, which will honor participating delegations and then hold a symposium entitled "Kuwaitis' pens" by writers Reem Al-Moussawi and Abulwahab Rifai.

Arjani said the second day will start with a cultural tour of the participating Arab delegations to see the activities of the Association of Students of the Faculty of Arts at the National Library of Kuwait, followed by a lecture entitled "Arabic language - necessity or intellectual luxury", presented by Mohammed Al-Sadani. This will be followed by a symposium on the

history of art by the president of the association of fine arts Abdul Rasool Salman.

Arjani said the committee has formed judging committees that include a group of academics and specialists. Dr Salman Al-Shatti, professor of literature and criticism at Kuwait University, chairs the short story contest jury; Dr Abdullah Al-Muhaini, professor of Arabic poetry at Kuwait University, chairs the Arab poetry competition jury; while secretary of the fund of the Kuwaiti society for fine arts artist Salem Al-Kharji chairs the art contest jury. Results will be announced at the end of the festival.

## Local

# Crack forces building evacuation after Sunday's tremors

## No damage to schools, state departments

**KUWAIT:** Some occupants of an apartment building in Sabah Al-Salem district have been evacuated due to a crack, said Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) in a statement yesterday. The residents were evacuated at dawn yesterday due to the crack in one side of the building, the KFSD said, indicating that only occupants of the part where the crack was located had to leave their houses. The crack might have been caused by Sunday night's tremors, resulting from the 7.3 earthquake that jolted Iraqi-Iranian border areas, KFSD said. The regional quake caused 4-5 degree tremors in Kuwait.

Several ministries and state agencies have assured that Sunday's quake did not cause any damage to schools or other state installations. No damage to schools were reported after the earthquake that rocked the country Sunday evening. Undersecretary of the Education Ministry Haitham Al-Athari said, adding that yesterday was a normal school day.

Meanwhile, spokesman of Ministry of Public Works Assistant Engineer Abdulmohsen Al-Enezi said that the ministry's facilities and projects were not affected by the quake. Furthermore, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water Engineer Mohammad Bushehri announced that the quake caused no harm to the ministry's installations. Bushehri noted that all facilities are working normally. The ministry is cooperating with civil

defense department and other relevant bodies to take all precautionary measures for dealing with any emergency, he said.

In the meantime, the Interior Ministry said that a comprehensive security survey in addition to the reports from the police patrols across the state have detected no damage or security and traffic repercussions due to the quake. It added that the Civil Defense Department has taken all precautionary measures in collaborations with relevant state agencies to guarantee the state security and people safety.

KFSD had stated that the earthquake that was felt by most of people in Kuwait on Sunday did not cause any harm to public or private properties. The Kuwait National Seismic Network (KNSN) stressed that the earthquake that struck Iraq-Iran borders does not pose any threat on Kuwait but people felt it due to its strength and proximity. Dr Abdullah Al-Enezi said in a statement that KNSN recorded at 21:18 local time an earthquake measuring 7.2 degrees on Richter scale on the Iraq-Iran borders, with the epicenter 20 kms beneath surface, and was 600 kms away from Kuwait City. KNSN recorded some aftershocks, the highest was 4.6 degrees, he said. Earlier, the KNSN said a tremor measuring between four and five degrees on Richter scale hit the country, caused by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Iraq-Iran borders. —KUNA



Police officers gather outside a building in Sabah Al-Salem which was evacuated due to a crack following Sunday's tremors.

## Cabinet commends Amir's message to lawmakers

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday applauded His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's recent message to National Assembly members, which contained noble meanings and wise directives. This came in a press statement by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah

Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah following the cabinet's customary weekly meeting.

During the meeting, the ministers addressed the contents of His Highness the Amir's message conveyed by the National Assembly's Speaker to the members, which stressed national unity and firm internal front, the minister said. The message included emphatic rejection of sectarian, tribal or factional groupings, and of sentimental response to the Gulf crisis, while underlining the significance of stopping all political and media tensions in this regard, he added. It also spotlighted Kuwait's ceaseless efforts to heal up Gulf rifts, and the important constitutional role of MPs, and emphasized national unity, awareness and wise response to existing challenges, Sheikh Mohammad noted.

Also during the meeting, the cabinet hailed the noble meanings and wise directives of the Amiri mes-

sage, especially under the current regional circumstances, while urging cooperation between both executive and legislative authorities in order to ensure national security and stability.

The cabinet pointed out the full interaction of the assembly's members with the Amiri message, and their eagerness to support His Highness the Amir's wise leadership just out of their belief in the significance of this message and due to the existing challenges that require ensuring unity, prioritizing public interest, and strengthening and safeguarding democracy.

On November 7, National Assembly Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanem delivered a message from His Highness the Amir to members of parliament regarding the swift regional developments. The message stressed the necessity of keeping national unity stronger and national front firmer, and decried all sectarian, tribal and factional tensions. —KUNA



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

# CONDOLENCES

**Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,  
Management and Staff**

**convey their deepest condolences to**

**Al-Awadhi Family**

**on the sad demise of**

**Abdullatif Abdullah**

**Mohammad Al-Awadhi**

**Brother of Dr Khalil Al-Awadhi, Dr Yousuf Al-Awadhi,  
Attorney Khalid Al-Awadhi and Consultant Suleiman Al-Awadhi**

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him

# Zain sponsors seventh RunKuwait charity marathon

## Company continues to support humanitarian programs

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its sponsorship of the seventh annual RunKuwait charity marathon. The event, organized by Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN), aimed at supporting children with special needs in Kuwait.

Zain's support to this initiative came in line with its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards humanitarian, social, and health sectors. The company seeks to contribute to the welfare of the society in several ways, and prides itself on its long-track of records and contributions in philanthropic areas. The company strongly believes that such initiatives help infuse a sense of responsibility into members of the society, to help support those who are in need of help.

RunKuwait, held at The Scientific Center, witnessed overwhelming participation of over 2,000 racers from all ages. The initiative successfully raised a total of KD 40,000 to be channeled towards providing treatment services to children with disabilities at the non-profit Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC), which is founded by Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN). CERC offers services for children in a number of areas, including physical therapy, hydrotherapy, speech pathology, counseling/behavior therapy and occupational therapy.

Zain is keen to take part in events and initiatives that aim to encourage the community to pursue a healthier lifestyle in order to live healthy and fit through sports and physical activities. Zain will continue to find ways to inspire and motivate people in leading humanitarian initiatives so as to foster a better world for all members of society. The company will always be keen on shouldering initiatives that work towards enhancing the society's welfare.

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



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## KIB visits retirees' diwaniya

KUWAIT: On the occasion of World Diabetes Day, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently organized a field visit to the Ministry of Interior's retirees' diwaniya. In the presence of the Director of the Service Centers, General Adeb Al-Suwaidan, Director of the Department of Retirement Care Colonel,

gifts and souvenirs to those in attendance. On this occasion, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "KIB always strives to organize visits such as these, as they strongly reflect the important role the Bank plays in the community by supporting various health programs and community-based initiatives. This visit reaffirms our continued dedication over the years in supporting the local health sector, as we continue to serve the community and meet the diverse needs of all people."

Najia also added that KIB has a special interest in shedding light on diabetes, as Kuwait currently has one of the highest diabetes prevalence rates in the world, according to health statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO). He also pointed out that the Bank believes in the importance of prevention, and always seeks to spread greater health awareness across the community to help reduce and prevent risk factors that lead

Saif Al-Mutairi and his assistant, Colonel Badr Rabah and a large number of retired officers. The visit included a number of activities, such as free blood sugar level tests provided in cooperation with International Clinic, as well as draws for valuable prizes and the distribution of

to various diseases, including diabetes. As part of its leading social responsibility program, KIB remains actively committed to participating in a variety of different activities and initiatives that aim at serving the interests of diverse segments across the local community.



### On World Diabetes Day



Local

# Free trade zone to move under Investment Promotion Authority

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) finished renewing lease contracts for investors within the free trade zone in Shuwaikh, pending procedures to transfer authority over the area to Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) to be run and developed on par with international standards. KDIPA will restructure the zone's commercial, service and investment licenses, in addition to licensing some restaurants, travel agencies and hot beverage bars as stipulated in ministerial decision number 575/2013, which allows including publicity, ads, interior design, postal services, shipping, navigation, a hotel, and hotel apartments in no more than two percent of the free zone's total area.

Notably, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry had presented a memo to the free zone's committee on Jan 10, 2016 titled 'Free Zones in a Changing World,' explaining that the main purpose of free zones should remain economically developmental and that they should be able to attract investors.

### KD 2.2 billion

A government document released yesterday showed that the oil sector had signed 586 contracts during the fiscal year 2016-2017 of a total value of KD 2.2 billion. The document also showed that the total number of contracts including commissions was 211, with a total value of KD 1.3 million. The document showed that Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) had the lion's share of the contracts, signing 321 contracts of a total value of KD 92 million, 171 of them including commissions.

The document showed that Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) came second by signing 123 contracts of a total value of KD 1.8 billion, followed by Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) with 86 contracts of a total value of KD 281 million, followed by Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC) with 18 contracts worth KD 18.5 million, the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) with 17 contracts worth KD 12.6 million, the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) with 12 contracts of a total value of KD 3.3 million and finally Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) with seven contracts with a total value of KD 3.8 million.

### Jobs rejected

Recruitment and budgets manager at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Aisha Al-Mutawwa said all citizens undergraduate or graduate degrees in account-

ing, law and engineering who had registered for employment had been nominated for jobs in state departments. Mutawwa added that more citizens had started studying and specializing in engineering, information technology, accounting, law and other technical fields. She added that some citizens had been rejecting the jobs they get nominated to (2,083 rejections in one month), which had been delaying CSC plans.

### Blackout

A blackout was reported in some residential and investment blocks in Maidan Hawally yesterday morning, said informed sources, noting that emergency services were notified and emergency teams were working

on resolving the problem at the time this report was made. Meanwhile, the renewable energy resources development committee held its 13th meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Electricity and Water's (MEW) headquarters in South Surra. The meeting was presided by MEW Undersecretary Mohammed Boshahri. The committee aims to list and document all renewable energy uses in response to HH the Amir's announcement that Kuwait plans to produce 15 percent of Kuwait's total energy production from renewable resources.

The head of the technical committee Dr Salah Al-Modhi made a presentation showing the percentage of current and future related projects. Col Hamad Al-Kharraz made a presentation on a project to use solar

power at border posts to reduce pressure on the main power grid and cut operational costs of generating electricity.

### No permission

Kuwait Municipality issued warning notices to around 130 camps pitched without prior permissions and licenses in various desert areas, said informed sources, noting that the municipality will start issuing licenses from today through the municipality's website. The sources added that special inspection teams had toured various desert areas that had not been allocated for camping and where camps were unlawfully pitched, warning the owners to remove them within 24 hours.

## Kuwaiti tried to smuggle tiger cubs through Cairo airport

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** Authorities at Cairo airport foiled an attempt by a Kuwaiti to smuggle two tiger cubs in his bag. His trip was cancelled until legal procedures were completed. The suspect put the cubs under anesthesia, then placed them in his bag. They were discovered during a routine inspection. He said he did not know that it was illegal to take them that way. The cubs will be sent to a zoo.

### Forgery

Detectives arrested a citizen yesterday on charges of forging official documents. The arrest came following investigation after residency affairs detectives received information about a company that issued 53 residency permits based on a cancelled government contract. The detectives were able to identify a Kuwaiti man who according to investigations signed a contract with a ministry to lease cars with drivers, and he was able to get permission to hire 63 workers in December 21, 2016. The contract was cancelled in May 22, 2017, but the man used the contract to issue the work permits though it was terminated. The man was sent to concerned authorities for further action.

### Smoke inhalation

A citizen, his wife and three of their children were rushed to Jahra Hospital and admitted in the intensive care unit (ICU) after they suffered smoke inhalation due to a fire in their house in Qaser. Firemen and paramedics responded to an emergency call, and found the family was trapped. The family members were rescued and rushed to hospital. Investigations are underway to determine the cause of the fire.

### Addicts arrested

A citizen called police operations and told them that his son was using drugs, so police went to their house and arrested the youngster, who was sleeping, and drugs were found near him. Police woke the addict up, then placed him under arrest and sent him to the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD). Meanwhile, a female citizen and a Jordanian man were found using drugs in a car, and sent to DCGD. The car was parked in a dark area, so police approached it and found the two were in an abnormal condition and having difficulty speaking. Drugs and drug paraphernalia were found on them, so they were sent to the DCGD. In a separate case, two men were found sleeping in a car, and both had drugs and joints with them, so they were sent to the DCGD for further legal action. The arrest was made in Nahda by a routine patrol.

### Missing woman found

A Kuwaiti woman was arrested three years after being reported missing. The woman was arrested by Capital police and sent to Mubarak Al-Kabeer police station to find out where she had been all this time. Police found the girl walking after midnight, who tried to escape on foot when she was approached.



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How Saudi Crown Prince purged royal family rivals

Fashion designer exposes domestic servitude in India 'sunshine state'

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HARZ: Hikers take a rest and enjoy the view on snow-covered Brocken mountain in the Harz region near Schierke, Germany yesterday. — AP

# World carbon emissions on the rise

## Global 2% rise in CO2 'giant leap backwards for humankind'

**BONN:** The carbon dioxide emissions that drive global warming, flat since 2014, are set to rise two percent this year, dashing hopes they had peaked, scientists reported at UN climate talks yesterday. "This is very disappointing," said Corinne Le Quere, director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia and lead author of a major study detailing the findings. "With global CO2 emissions from human activities estimated at 41 billion tons for 2017, time is running out on our ability to keep warming below two degrees Celsius, let alone 1.5 C." The 196-nation Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, calls for capping global warming at 2 C below pre-industrial levels.

With the planet out of kilter after only one degree of warming-enough to amplify deadly heatwaves, droughts, and superstorms-the treaty also vows to explore the feasibility of holding the line at 1.5 C. Earth is overheating due to the burning of oil, gas and especially coal to power the global economy. Deforestation also plays a critical role. "The news that emissions are rising after a three-year hiatus is a giant leap backward for humankind," said Amy Luers, a climate policy advisor to Barack Obama and executive director of Future Earth, which co-sponsored the research.

This year's climate summit is presided by Fiji, one of dozens of small island nations whose very existence is threatened by rising seas engorged by warmer water

and melt-off from ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica. Thousands of diplomats in Bonn are negotiating the "rulebook" for the Paris pact, which goes into effect in 2020. To stay below the 2 C threshold, greenhouse gas emissions should peak and begin to curve downward by 2020, earlier research has shown. Stalled CO2 emissions from 2014 through 2016 - due to better energy efficiency, a boom in renewables, and reduced coal use in China-raised expectations that the world had turned the corner.

Those hopes were premature. "As each year ticks by, the chances of avoiding 2 C of warming continue to diminish," said co-author Glen Peters, research director at Center for International Climate Research in Oslo, Norway. "Given that 2 C is extremely unlikely based on current progress, then 1.5 C is a distant dream," he said. The study fingered China as the single largest cause of resurgent fossil fuel emissions in 2017, with the country's coal, oil and natural gas use up

three, five and 12 percent, respectively.

### Earth outside safe zone

China alone accounts for nearly 30 percent of global carbon pollution. Emissions from India-the world's fourth largest emitter after the United States and the European Union-are projected to grow by two percent, down from a 6.7-percent increase the year before. 2017 CO2 emissions in the United States will drop by only 0.4 percent, compared to 1.2 percent annually over the previous decade. For the first time in five years, US coal use is projected to rise.

"Human-induced warming has accelerated over the past few years despite the slowdown in carbon dioxide emissions because of other drivers of climate change, notably methane," said Myles Allen, a professor at the University of Oxford, commenting on the findings. The Paris Agreement rests on voluntary carbon-cutting pledges from virtually every country in

the world. But even if fulfilled, those promissory notes are not enough to keep Earth in the safe zone, and would still see global temperatures rise a devastating 3 C (5.6 F) by the end of the century. "Global commitments made in Paris to reduce emissions are still not being matched by actions," said Peters.

The bottom line, say experts, is that the global economy is not shifting quickly enough from fossil fuels to low- or zero-carbon energy. Solar and wind energy have grown 14 percent annually since 2012, but still only account for a tiny fraction-less than four percent-of global energy consumption. The transition from dirty to clean energy has been slowed by oil, gas and coal subsidies that topped \$320 million dollars (270 million euros) in 2015, according to the International Energy Agency.

Oceans and forests combined absorbed over half of the CO2 emissions from human activity, with the rest staying in the atmosphere, the study showed. "We would expect that the carbon sinks will eventually weaken as temperatures continue to rise, but how much and how fast is an active area of research," said Peters. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), meanwhile, released a report yesterday showing that climate change now imperils one in four natural World Heritage sites, including coral reefs, glaciers, and wetlands-nearly double the number from just three years ago. — AFP



### Researchers warn time is running out

## Earthquake leaves trail of death and destruction in Iraq

**DARBANDIKHAN:** Nizar Abdullah spent the night sifting through the ruins of the two-storey house next door in the mountainous town of Darbandikhan in Iraqi Kurdistan after a killer quake hit the region. "There were eight people inside," Abdullah, an Iraqi Kurd said yesterday, outside the pile of concrete debris where the house once stood.

Some family members managed to escape, but "neighbours and rescue workers pulled out the mother and one of the children dead from the rubble", said the 34-year-old. The 7.3-magnitude quake hit on the Iraq-Iran border area on Sunday night, killing hundreds of people and injuring thousands of others. Iran took the brunt of it, with at least 336 people killed and 3,950 injured, while in Iraq the quake claimed eight lives and injured 535 others, officials from both countries said.

The quake hit a border area 30 kilometers southwest of Halabja in Iraqi Kurdistan at around 9:20 pm (1820 GMT), the US Geological Survey said. Most people were at home when the quake struck. "All at once the electricity went out and I felt a strong tremor," said Loqman Hussein. "I immediately ran out of the house with my family," he added. Akram Wali, 50, said many families in Darbandikhan



DARBANDIKHAN, Iraq: People gather around a leveled building in the mountainous town of Darbandikhan in Iraqi Kurdistan yesterday, following a 7.3-magnitude quake that hit on the Iraq-Iran border. — AFP

sought shelter with relatives outside of the town. They fled as authorities in Iraqi Kurdistan called on the population in the southern area of the town to leave their homes, fearing that the Darbandikhan dam would burst.

### All eyes on dam

The dam, which spans the Diyala River, is located in Sulaimaniyah province, where seven people were killed, including four in Darbandikhan. One person died in Diyala province. Authorities in the Darbandikhan region, home to 40,000 people, say the dam has withstood the fury of the quake and did not suffer any major cracks. Taha Mohammed, 65, has not heeded the call to leave Darbandikhan, even if the quake totally destroyed his house. "We ran out and no one was injured," said the man dressed in the traditional baggy pants of

Iraqi Kurds, counting his blessings despite the tragedy. Iraqi health ministry spokesman Seif Al-Nadr said that the quake injured 321 people in Iraqi Kurdistan, 170 others in Diyala province and 44 in the disputed northern province of Kirkuk. Most of them were treated for shock, he said in a statement. "The Iraqi government must help the victims," said Yassin Qassem, whose house was badly damaged by the quake. "We are Kurds but also Iraqis," he added. Tensions have run high between the autonomous Kurdish region and the federal government in Baghdad since the Kurds held an independence referendum in September in defiance of Baghdad. Sunday's quake was also felt in southeastern Turkey. Ankara has sent humanitarian assistance to Iraq, including tents and blankets, as well as a medical team, a Turkish government spokesman said. — AFP

## Tribal justice awaits returning Iraqis who joined Islamic State

**AL-OBEIDI:** In the unforgiving deserts of Iraq, there is just one way to deal with defeated members of the Islamic State group who try to come home-tribal justice. No pardons are possible among tribes which have agreed among themselves to treat with the utmost severity those members who became jihadists. As for the families of IS members, many have already fled, fearing reprisals. The former army commander for operations in the western province of Anbar, where IS once held sway after a sweeping offensive across Syria and Iraq in 2014, told AFP returning jihadists face short shrift.

"The Bumahal and the other tribes have agreed to adopt a common stance" on the issue, said General Ismail Mehlawi, himself a Bumahal. In the vast Sunni region where tribal law prevails, the tribes have addressed the thorny question of what to do about any relatives who pledged allegiance to the self-proclaimed IS "caliphate".

"They've all fled to neighboring Syria," say residents of Al-Obeidi village in the heart of what was the last jihadist bastion in Iraq, which has just been retaken by Iraqi forces.

But if any return or are discovered in the area, they "will be treated with severity", Mehlawi said. "No pardon will be possible," said the moustachioed Iraqi whose home was dynamited by members of his own tribe who had joined IS. "We will punish them as prescribed by God so justice is done to the tribesmen who have been wronged" during the jihadist occupation. The cycle of revenge has already begun in Al-Obeidi, said a security official in the Al-Qaim region whose 150,000 inhabitants belong to around half a dozen tribes.

### Acts of vengeance

"A week ago, Busharji fighters blew up the house of a member of their tribe who had joined IS" and who was himself accused of blowing up homes in Al-Obeidi, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Before destroying his home, the tribe shunned him, leaving the former IS man unprotected in a country where tribal law often takes precedence over the law and the courts. Mohammed Al-Mohammed heads the municipal council in Hit near the Anbar provincial capital of Ramadi. He told AFP that several months ago, he was approached by families demanding "the expulsion of relatives of jihadists". — AFP

International

# A house divided: How Saudi Crown Prince purged royal family rivals

## More than 200 ministers, princes, businessmen detained

**BEIRUT:** The first hint that something was amiss came in a letter. On Saturday Nov 4, guests at Riyadh's Ritz Carlton were notified by the opulent hotel that: "Due to unforeseen booking by local authorities which requires an elevated level of security, we are unable to accommodate guests ... until normal operations are restored." The purge was already under way. Within hours security forces had rounded up dozens of members of Saudi Arabia's political and business elite, mostly in the capital and the coastal city of Jeddah. Among them were 11 princes as well as ministers and wealthy tycoons.

Some were invited to meetings where they were detained. Others were arrested at their homes and flown to Riyadh or driven to the Ritz Carlton, which has been turned into a temporary prison. The detainees were allowed a single, brief phone call home, a person familiar with the arrests told Reuters. "They don't receive calls and are kept under tight security. No one can go in or out," the insider said. "It is obvious that there was a lot of preparation for it." The purge was ordered by 32-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Officially next in line to the throne to his father, King Salman, he is now in effect running the country which he has said he will transform into a modern state.

To do that - and in an attempt to shore up his own power - he has decided to go after the Saudi elite, including some members of the royal family, on accusations such as taking bribes and inflating the cost of business projects. Those arrested could not be reached for comment. At stake is political stability in the world's largest oil producer. The Crown Prince's ability to rule unchallenged depends on whether the purge is successful. The Crown Prince believes that unless the country changes, the economy will sink into a crisis that could fan unrest. That could threaten the royal family and weaken the country in its regional rivalry with Iran.

### The 'corruption stick'

Prince Mohammed decided to move on his family, the person familiar with events said, when he realised more relatives opposed him becoming king than he had thought. "The signal was that anyone wavering in their support should watch out," said the person familiar with the events. "The whole idea of the anti-corruption campaign was targeted towards the family. The rest is window dressing." King Salman said the purge was in response to "exploitation by some of the weak souls who have put their own interests above the public interest, in order to, illicitly, accrue money". Insiders said the accusations were based on evidence gathered by the intelligence service.

Government backers have rejected suggestions that the campaign is really about eliminating political enemies. There was no immediate comment from the royal court on this story. Among those now holed up at the Ritz Carlton hotel is Prince Miteb bin Abdullah, who is head of the powerful National Guard and Prince Mohammed's cousin. Miteb was in his farm house in Riyadh when he was called to a meeting with the Crown Prince. Such an invitation, even at night, would not be unusual for a senior official and would not have aroused suspicion.

"He went to the meeting and never came back," said a second insider who has connections to some of those who were detained. Others held include Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, who is chairman of international investment firm Kingdom Holding and a cousin of Prince Mohammed, and Prince Turki bin Abdullah, former governor of Riyadh province and a son of the late King Abdullah. Some royal watchers said tensions were laid bare during family meetings over the summer. One insider said it was widely known to Prince Mohammed that some of the powerful royals, including Miteb, were resentful about his elevation.

Prince Mohammed, who is widely known in Saudi Arabia by his initials MBS, had said openly in interviews that he would investigate the kingdom's endemic corruption and would not hesitate to go after top officials. The vehicle was an anti-corruption committee created by King Salman, and announced on Nov 4. The king put the Crown Prince in charge, adding another power to the many he has been given in the past three years. Saudi authorities have questioned 208 people in the anti-cor-

ruption investigation and estimate at least \$100 billion has been stolen through graft, the attorney-general said on Thursday. The head of the committee said investigators had been collecting evidence for three years.

By launching a war on corruption, the prince has combined a popular cause with the elimination of an obstacle to acceding to the throne. "MBS used the corruption stick which can reach any one of them," said Jamal Khashoggi, a former adviser to Prince Turki al-Faisal, intelligence chief from 1979 to 2001. "For the first time we Saudis see princes being tried for their corruption." But Khashoggi, who lives in the United States, said Prince Mohammed was being selective in his purge. "I believe MBS is a nationalist who loves his country and wants it to be the strongest but his problem is that he wants to rule alone," he said.

### De facto ruler

Prince Mohammed was appointed defense minister in 2015 when King Salman became monarch. In June, the King named him heir to the throne, pushing aside his older cousin Mohammed bin Nayef, a veteran head of the security apparatus. The royal family acquiesced and by September the Crown Prince had rounded up and jailed religious and intellectual opponents. The latest detentions are intended to help him push through reforms that promise the greatest change since the reign of King Abdulaziz, founder of the current Saudi state in the 1930s.

That state has rested on an enduring accommodation between the royal family and the Wahhabist clerics who control the hardline version of Islam that originated in Saudi Arabia. —Reuters



**RIYADH:** Photo shows the hallway of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in the Saudi capital Riyadh. Its chandelier-studded ballrooms hosted global business titans just weeks ago. Now Riyadh's palatial Ritz-Carlton is reported to have morphed into a makeshift prison after the kingdom's unprecedented crackdown on the coddled elite. —AFP

## Iran-backed militias routed in last Syrian militant stronghold

**AMMAN:** Islamic State militants yesterday regained control of Albu Kamal city, their last stronghold in Syria, after Iranian-backed militias who captured the city a few days earlier were ambushed and forced to retreat, tribal leaders, residents and a war monitor said. Fighters from Lebanese Shi'ite Hezbollah in Syria who joined forces with Iraqi Shi'ite fighters crossing the border into Syria were taken by surprise by militants hiding inside tunnels in the heart of the city they claimed to have taken on Wednesday, they said.

The Shi'ite fighters had launched a ground offensive on the city, located in Syria's eastern Deir al Zor province, where the Euphrates river meets, after months of mainly heavy Russian bombardment against the city that killed dozens of civilians and caused widespread destruction. "Islamic State militants began surprise attacks with suicide bombers and rocket attacks after the Iranian militias were duped that Daesh (Islamic State) had left the city," said Qahtan Ghanam al Ali, a tribal leader in touch with relatives.

The Syrian army had on Thursday declared victory over Islamic State claiming it had killed many militants while scores surrendered. It said the capture of Albu Kamal marked the collapse of the militants' three-year reign in the region. The offensive was spearheaded by elite forces from Lebanon's Hezbollah group fighting inside Syria alongside an array of Iraqi and Afghan Shi'ite militias that had entered from Iraq, a commander in that alliance said. "These militant attacks lead to big human losses in the ranks of fighters supporting the regime," the UK based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. —Reuters

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## International

# EU signs defense pact in decades-long quest

## Britain risks losing clout in the aerospace industry

BRUSSELS: France and Germany edged towards achieving a 70-year-old ambition to integrate European defenses yesterday, signing a pact with 21 other EU governments to fund, develop and deploy armed forces after Britain's decision to quit the bloc. First proposed in the 1950s and long resisted by Britain, European defense planning, operations and weapons development now stands its best chance in years as London steps aside and the United States pushes Europe to pay more for its security. Foreign and defense ministers gathered at a signing ceremony in Brussels to represent 23 EU governments joining the pact, paving the way for EU leaders to sign it in December. Those governments will for the first time legally bind themselves into joint projects as well as pledging to increase defense spending and contribute to rapid deployments.

"Today we are taking a historic step," Germany's Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel told reporters. "We are agreeing on the future cooperation on security and defense issues ... it's really a milestone in European development," he said. The pact includes all EU governments except Britain, which is leaving the bloc.

Denmark, which has opted out of defense matters, Ireland, Portugal and Malta. Traditionally neutral Austria was a late addition to the pact. Paris originally wanted a vanguard of EU countries to bring money and assets to French-led military missions and projects, while Berlin has sought to be more inclusive, which could reduce effectiveness.

Its backers say that if successful, the formal club of 23

members will give the European Union a more coherent role in tackling international crises and end the kind of shortcomings seen in Libya in 2011, when European allies relied on the United States for air power and munitions. Unlike past attempts, the U.S.-led NATO alliance backs the project, aiming to benefit from stronger militaries. The club will be backed by a 5-billion-euro defense fund for buying weapons, a special fund to finance operations and money from the EU's common budget for defense research.

Members will also be required to submit national plans and be subject to a review system identifying weak spots in European armies with the goal of plugging those gaps together. Many governments say Russia's seizure of Ukraine's Crimea in 2014 was a turning point, after years of defense spending cuts that left Europe without vital capabilities. "This is a commitment for countries to do better together," French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said. "It comes at a time of significant tension," he said, referring indirectly to Russia's rising military reach and Islamic militants who have attacked European cities.



**23 governments sign; Austria joins at last minute**

### Role for Britain?

Despite an Anglo-French-led EU defense integration effort in 1998, Britain blocked formal collaboration on military matters, wary of the creation of an EU army. Defense integration was revived by France and Germany, with support from Italy and Spain, in a show of unity after Britons voted to leave the EU in June 2016. The EU had struggled in military and humanitari-



BRUSSELS: EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini (right) and NATO Secretary General attend a foreign/defense affairs council at the European Council in Brussels yesterday. —AFP

an missions in the Balkans, Libya and in Africa over the past 20 years and were caught off guard by Russia's Crimea annexation.

As the EU initiative, known as Permanent Structured Cooperation, has gained momentum, British officials have been pressing for involvement. Britain's aerospace industry and its biggest defense firm BAE Systems fear losing

out, diplomats said. British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson likened London's support to Gothic architecture, saying: "We are there, like a flying buttress to support the cathedral," he told reporters. In a possible compromise, Britain may be able to join in, but only on an exceptional basis if it provides substantial funds and expertise. —Reuters

## Weather forecasts help farmers fight extreme climate

ARGOBA: Armed with a spear and undeterred by the intense sunlight, Tarekegn Kareto meticulously plucks weeds in his maize field in Argoba village, in southern Ethiopia. "With both dry weather and unusually heavy rains hitting us in the past year, I've lost over half of my harvest of maize and sorghum," he said, pausing to wipe sweat off his forehead. "That means I've had to dip into my crop reserves - which I can no longer sell for extra income - or even rely on neighbors' charity for food," he added.

Prolonged drought and erratic rainfall across the country have hit harvests and livestock, eating into farmers' and herders' income and meals, experts say. In the second half of 2017, at least 8.5 million Ethiopians needed urgent food aid, up from 5.6 million in January, according to an August report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. To remedy this, a project hopes to help Ethiopian herders and farmers access weather information to make more informed decisions and better absorb climate shocks.

It has set up 25 automatic weather stations across Ethiopia's Afar, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) regions, which supply weather data to relevant government agencies and local communities. The initiative, led by aid agencies Farm Africa and Mercy Corps, is part of the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) program, funded by the UK Department for International Development. The data helps herders and farmers predict the availability of water and grass for grazing, and allows government agencies to predict and track extreme weather events.

"Although Ethiopia already has automated weather stations, populations in these remote regions have little to no access to climate information," explained Dereje Agize, program coordinator at Mercy Corps. Tsegaye Ketema, head of developmental meteorology at Ethiopia's National Meteorological Agency, said that "with millions of Ethiopians in need of food aid due to very dry weather, access to reliable climate information can literally be a life saver". Setting up weather stations in rural areas is part of the government's Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy, which aims to achieve self-sufficiency in food by 2025.

### Reliable climate info

Ethiopia is particularly vulnerable to extreme weather, said Kareto, explaining that "in recent years I've witnessed several droughts during what was supposed to be rainy seasons and heavy rainfall at periods which are supposed to be dry". That makes it difficult to know what to plant and when, he added. Getu Guleya, chief administrator of Derashe woreda - an Ethiopian term for district - explained that "weather volatility in our area is a big challenge, even contributing to communal tensions and food insecurity". Worsening drought has created increased competition for resources and land between ethnic groups, which can result in deadly conflict, he said.

The BRACED project aims to prevent this by providing communities with regular and reliable climate information. The Ethiopian met agency, which runs the weather stations, uses the weather data to share local information on air temperature, rainfall and wind direction - among other indicators - and produce regular climate reports. The forecasts are then broadcast on community radios in local languages, which break down the technical terms into information that's easier to understand. Guleya hopes that timely weather information will "reduce the need for pastoralists to migrate or raid neighboring communities in search of food and pastures". —Reuters

## Yemeni rebels vow escalation

SANAA: Saudi Arabia announced yesterday that the Saudi-led coalition fighting Shiite rebels in Yemen will begin reopening airports and seaports in the Arab world's poorest country, days after closing them over a rebel ballistic missile attack on Riyadh. The announcement from the Saudi mission at the United Nations came after the coalition fighting Yemen's rebels, known as Houthi, faced widespread international criticism over the closure, with the UN and over 20 aid groups saying it could bring millions of people closer to "starvation and death." "The first step in this process will be taken within 24 hours and involves reopening all the ports in areas controlled by" Yemen's internationally recognized government, which the coalition backs, read the mission's statement.

Those ports are in Yemeni cities of Aden, Mocha and Mukalla. For ports in rebel-held or disputed territories, such as the city of Hodeida, the mission said it has asked the UN to send a team of experts to discuss ways to make sure weapons can't be smuggled in. The Saudi-led coalition hopes that will prevent "the smuggling of weapons, ammunitions, missile parts and cash that are regularly being supplied by Iran and Iranian accomplices to the Houthi rebels," the statement said.

Despite the Saudi announcement, a top leader of Yemen's Shiite rebels yesterday vowed retaliation against the oil-rich kingdom over its disastrous blockade of his war-torn country. The war has killed over 10,000 civilians, displaced 3 million people and left much of the infrastructure in ruins. The fiery comments by Saleh al-Sammad, the head of the Presidency Council of the Houthi, came during a rally of thousands of rebel supporters marching down a main boulevard in the capital, Sanaa.

Al-Sammad said that with the blockade, the coalition "shut down all doors for peace and dialogue." The more the blockade tightens, he said, the more the Houthi will develop their abilities to "respond to the assault of the enemy." After two years of a devastating war, the Houthi still control much of Yemen's north while the south falls under the embattled President of Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, whose government is recognized by the



SANAA: Yemenis take part in a demonstration calling for the Saudi-led coalition's blockade to be lifted yesterday in the rebel-held capital Sanaa. —AFP

international community and who is supported by the Saudi-led coalition.

Saudi Arabia announced it shut down all ports after a Houthi ballistic missile attack near Riyadh's international airport. The missile was intercepted but Saudi Arabia and the United States both accused Iran of supplying the missile, saying it bore "Iranian markings." The Houthi have denied that. For its part, Iran long has denied supplying any arms to Yemen, though it has backed the Houthi and highlighted the high civilian casualties from the Saudi-led coalition's campaign of airstrikes.

### Yemeni secret prison

Meanwhile, a senior Yemeni official and families of prisoners say dozens of detainees have been moved to a government-run prison in the southern city of Mukalla. The official said yesterday that 133 detainees were transferred from the Riyan airport. It's one of 18 secret prisons that an Associated Press investigation revealed as run by the United Arab Emirates or its allies, where former prisoners said torture was widespread. The UAE denies the allegations and says all prisons in government-controlled territory are run by Yemeni authorities. —Agencies

## 66 people perish in Kenya turmoil

NAIROBI: Kenya's police monitor said yesterday investigations into the alleged killings by police of a girl and a baby in election-related violence were complete, and a spokesman said the case would probably end up in court. Kenyan police frequently face accusations of brutality and extrajudicial killings from civilians and rights groups, but officers are rarely charged and almost never convicted.

Human rights groups say at least 66 people have died in bloodshed associated with the August election, which was later voided by the Supreme Court, and in unrest surrounding the re-run of the presidential vote last month. Stephanie Moraa, an 8-year-old girl in the Nairobi slum of Mathare, died after being hit by a stray bullet as police fired to disperse protesters on Aug. 12, the day after election results were announced. And the parents of six-month-old Samantha Pendo said she was teargassed and clubbed by police who invaded their home in Kisumu looking for protesters.

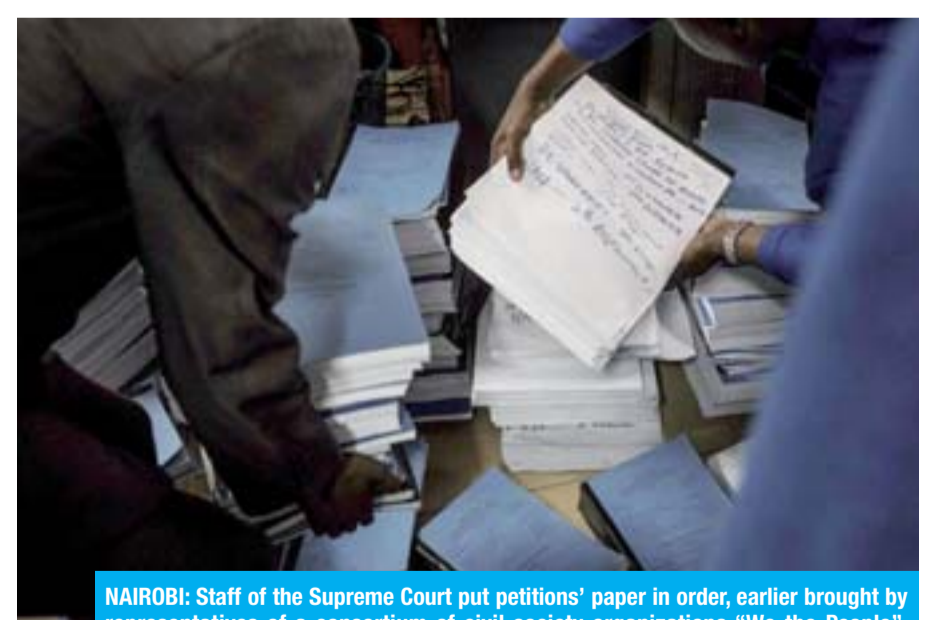
Yesterday, the government-funded but civilian-run Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA) said it had forwarded its findings and recommendations to the direc-

tor of public prosecutions "for review and direction". Asked yesterday what IPOA had recommended to the prosecutor's office regarding the two deaths, spokesman Dennis Oketch said: "It's a matter which will most likely end up in court. We don't want to give any information that can become prejudicial. We will wait for the [prosecutor's] review." IPOA's statement did not specify if it had identified suspects in the two deaths. It did not mention any other investigations into election-related violence.

### Police beatings at university

It has however, completed another investigation into alleged police beatings at a demonstration in September at Kenya's oldest university that sparked opposition anger at what they see as a pattern of police brutality. IPOA said it had recommended to a police service commission that it take "stern disciplinary action against the responsible Commander". It had also forwarded the investigation file to the prosecutor's office, the statement read.

Shortly after the August election, IPOA said it was fast-tracking investigations of all deaths and injuries for which the police were alleged by rights groups to be responsible. Kenyan police dispute those accounts. The National Police Service described a report last month by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International on 33 deaths in Nairobi during the crackdown as "totally misleading and based on falsehoods". Despite its history of police brutality, Kenya is an economic and transport hub in East



NAIROBI: Staff of the Supreme Court put petitions' paper in order, earlier brought by representatives of a consortium of civil society organizations "We-the-People", seeking to overturn the result of last month's Kenyan presidential election. —AFP

Africa and important Western ally against militant Islam that receives substantial financial support for its security services from international donors, including the United States and Britain.

The IPOA was set up in 2011 after the killings of around 1,200 people in violence following the disputed 2007 election. It has received more than 9,000 complaints of police brutality and corruption since then. Last year, it secured

its first conviction, of two police officers sentenced for the death of a 14-year-old girl shot dead during a house raid in 2014. A survey last year by the non-profit International Police Science Association ranked Kenya's police force as the 125th worst-performing out of 127 national police forces studied. Only forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria did worse, measured on factors such as "process" and "legitimacy." —Reuters



International

# Trump hails 'relationship' with self-proclaimed killer Duterte

## Duterte sings love song 'on orders' from Trump

**MANILA:** US President Donald Trump declared yesterday that he had a "great relationship" with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, a self-proclaimed killer who is waging a drugs war that rights groups say involves mass murder, as the leaders joked with each other in Manila. The US president is in the Philippines with leaders of 18 other nations for two days of summits, the final leg of a headline-grabbing Asian tour dominated by the North Korean nuclear crisis. Allegations of Russian meddling in last year's US presidential elections have dogged the second half of his 12-day trip, which has taken him from Japan to South Korea, China and Vietnam.

Rights groups had called on Trump to end his Asian journey with a strong statement against Duterte's drugs war, which has seen police and suspected vigilantes kill thousands of people. But in a series of encounters over Sunday and Monday, Trump and Duterte appeared to enjoy each others' company, leading to warm praise from the US president during official talks at lunchtime. "We've had a great relationship. This has been very successful," Trump told Duterte in brief opening remarks at their meeting.

Trump praised Duterte for his organization of the summits, saying he handled them "beautifully". "I've really enjoyed being here," he said. As the reporters were being escorted out of the room, one asked if Trump would raise the issue of human rights, to which Duterte jokingly called the media "spies". Both laughed but neither answered. Duterte's spokesman later said repeatedly that Trump did not bring up any human rights concerns in the meeting, which lasted about 40 minutes. He said the US leader nodded as he listened to Duterte speaking about his drugs war.

However Trump spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said human rights were raised, although "briefly". Duterte won elections last year after promising to eradicate illegal drugs with an unprecedented campaign that would see up to 100,000 people killed. Since he took office, police have

reported killing 3,967 people in the crackdown. Another 2,290 people have been murdered in drug-related crimes, while thousands of other deaths remain unsolved, according to government data.

### 'I already killed someone'

Many Filipinos back Duterte, believing he is taking necessary measures to fight crime, but rights groups warn he may be orchestrating a crime against humanity. Amnesty International accuses police of shooting dead defenseless people and paying assassins to murder addicts. When pressured over allegations of extra-judicial killings carried out by police, Duterte insists he has never told them to break the law. But rights groups say police are following Duterte's incitements to kill, including comments made last year when he said he would be "happy to slaughter" three million addicts.

He has also repeatedly boasted about killing people himself, most recently last week while in Vietnam for the Asia-Pacific economic summit. "At the age of 16, I already killed someone. A real person, a rumble, a stabbing. I was just 16 years old. It was just over a look," Duterte said. Former US president Barack Obama was one of many prominent critics of Duterte's handling of the drugs war. The Philippine leader responded last year by calling him a "son of a whore".

Ties between the Philippines and the United States, long-time allies bound by a mutual defense treaty, deteriorated sharply as Duterte turned towards China and Russia. Duterte last year declared the Philippines' "separation" from the United States. But Trump told Duterte in a telephone call in April that he was doing a "great job", which helped to begin a diplomatic thaw. "We are your ally. We are an important ally," Duterte said yesterday, appearing to confirm relations were back on track, although he has also continued to court China and Russia. Some Filipinos were not happy though, with hundreds of people staging an anti-Trump rally near the confer-



**MANILA:** Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc (left), US President Donald Trump (center) and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte join hands for the family photo during the 31st Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Manila yesterday. — AFP

ence venue which led riot police to use water cannon.

### Champagne, love song

Duterte and Trump sat next to each other at a pre-summit banquet on Sunday, during which they smiled, chatted and clinked champagne glasses. Duterte, 72, also sang a Filipino love song, saying light-heartedly that he did so on the orders of the US president. Duterte is hosting the world leaders because the Philippines holds the rotating chair of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc.

The events yesterday and today in Manila are two separate ASEAN-hosted summits, which also include China, Japan, Russia, South Korea, India, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The rising threat of the Islamic State group across Southeast Asia, and further efforts to pressure North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un to abandon his nuclear ambitions, were top agenda items in Manila. "Terrorism and violent extremism endanger the peace, stability and security of our region because these threats know no boundaries," Duterte said in

## Traffic chaos as protesters besiege Pakistan's capital

**ISLAMABAD:** Protesters from a hardline religious group blocked the main highway into Islamabad for the sixth day running yesterday, virtually locking down the Pakistani capital and causing commuter fury as authorities hesitated to act. The roughly 2,000 protesters are demanding the resignation of the federal law minister over a hastily-abandoned amendment to the country's controversial blasphemy laws. They have camped for nearly a week on a flyover connecting Islamabad with the neighboring garrison city of Rawalpindi, along which thousands of people commute every day to work in the capital. Young men armed with clubs are searching anyone approaching the protest site and refusing to let vehicles pass, pelting those who come near with stones.

"I have been stuck up on the road for (the) last one and a half hours because of this mess," said Adnan Iqbal, an employee of a pharmaceutical firm who spoke to AFP from the traffic jam where he was late for work. The protesters, members of the Tehreek-i-Labaik Yah Rasool Allah Pakistan religious group, acted after the government introduced an amendment which changed some wording in the blasphemy law. The change—from "I believe" to "I solemnly swear"—did not alter the law, which carries the death penalty. The government has said the change was made inadvertently and quickly reversed it through another amendment.

But the rightwing group insisted it was an attempt to



**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistani activists of the Tehreek-i-Labaik Yah Rasool Allah Pakistan (TLRAP) religious group search a motorcyclist along a blocked highway during a week long protest in Islamabad yesterday. — AFP

water down the hugely sensitive legislation. "The protesters have baseless demands. Authorities should deal (with) them with force and move them away from the road," said Fayyaz Hussain, another commuter who had been struggling to reach his office for two hours yesterday. Authorities were shying away from employing force despite the palpable anger of commuters and days of traffic delays. "Use of force is no option at the moment," senior Islamabad official Shoaib Ali told AFP, adding that the priority was negotiations.

Protesters, meanwhile, vowed to stay put. "Either the minister resigns or we are killed or arrested; we will not leave this place," Pir Muhammad Afzal Qadri, one of the group's leaders, told AFP at the protest site. Blasphemy is a highly contentious issue in deeply Muslim Pakistan, where even unproven allegations have prompted mob lynchings and other murders. The legislation has drawn criticism from human rights groups, who say it fuels Islamist extremism and is used to settle petty rows based on paltry evidence.— AFP

## Fashion designer exposes domestic servitude in India 'sunshine state'

**CHENNAI:** When celebrated Indian fashion designer Wendell Rodricks sat down to write his third book, haute couture was not on his mind. He was thinking about his neighbor Rosa - an elderly woman who had lived her life as a poskem - adopted as a child by a wealthy family in the western Indian state of Goa, given their family name but condemned to a lifetime of domestic servitude. Rodricks' new novel - Poskem: Goans In The Shadows - is a fictional tale of four people caught up in a Goan tradition that finally appears to be dying out in the 21st century.

Rodricks writes of an unspoken world of the last generation of people who fell victim to the poskem tradition, preserving their story for posterity, the publisher's notes state. The author, a Goan himself, describes it as "the sunshine state's dark secret". "The worst part of being a poskem ... was that the entire village knew of these people and did not treat them with respect," Rodricks told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Alda, the protagonist of the book inspired by the real-life Rosa, discovers she is different from the other children in the house when she is 10.

While her six "siblings" went to school, she did household chores, and while they ate from porcelain plates, she ate in the kitchen with the servants. "Poskem has so many emotions - incest, sodomy, rape, seduction, love, hate, murder. But all this happened in reality," Rodricks said at the book's launch in India's southern city of Chennai. India's 2011 census recorded more than 4 million laborers aged from five to 14 years old. In Goa, one of India's top tourist destinations, poskem were normally from poor families or illegitimate children, Rodricks said.—Reuters

## Australian book pulled over fears of China backlash

**SYDNEY:** An Australian publisher has shelved plans to release a book detailing alleged Chinese interference in the country over fears of legal attacks by Beijing, the author said yesterday. Academic Clive Hamilton said his book "Silent Invasion" was pulled by publisher Allen & Unwin last week just as it was about to go to press. He told AFP that Allen & Unwin had cited "serious... threats" of possible legal action from Beijing should the company release the work. The book, which was to be his ninth with the publishing house, included the names of individuals and organizations trying to influence Australian society and politics in China's interests, Hamilton said.

He described it as "very factual, very deeply researched". In an email exchange with Allen & Unwin which Hamilton shared with AFP, the publisher said there was a "very high chance" the company could be sued for defamation if the book was published.

"If pursued with malice, this kind of vexatious legal action... could result in the book being withdrawn from sale, and both you and Allen & Unwin being tied up in expensive legal action for months on end or longer," it said. Hamilton, a prominent author and professor of ethics and Charles Sturt University, called the decision "a watershed moment in Australia, when Beijing can suppress free speech".

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday that he was not aware of the situation involving the pulled publication. "China has been developing exchanges and cooperation in various areas with Australia based on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit," spokesman Geng Shuang said during a regu-

lar press briefing. "We hope relevant parties can put this in perspective and do more things that are conducive to the sound and steady development of China-Australia relations." The incident came amid heightened anxieties in Australia over the extent of Beijing's soft power.

Canberra in June ordered an inquiry into espionage laws and foreign government activities following a media investigation into large political donations by two Chinese billionaires with reported links to China's Communist Party. The probe, by the ABC and Fairfax Media, said intelligence agencies had major concerns that Beijing was interfering in Australian institutions and using the political donations system to gain access. Last month Foreign Minister Julie Bishop warned Chinese students in Australia they should abide by the nation's values of "openness and upholding freedom of speech".

Hamilton said Allen & Unwin had suggested delaying his book's publication until court cases brought by Beijing against other Australian media were settled. But he rejected letting his manuscript "sit on a shelf gathering dust for a year or more" and insisted he would find another publisher for the work. Other Western publishers have reported being pressured by Chinese authorities over content inside China. In August, another foreign publisher, Britain's Cambridge University Press, temporarily removed 300 academic articles covering sensitive Chinese political issues from a journal's website in China at the request of an import agency, only to revive the texts in response to public outcry.

That same month, US-based Association for Asian Studies said it had received a similar request from China's publications administration, but it did not comply. In a statement to several media outlets, global publisher Springer Nature said this month that it has blocked access within mainland China to "a small percentage of our content (less than one percent) in compliance with local distribution laws". The censored articles, covering topics such as Tibet and the Tiananmen Square protests, are still viewable outside mainland China.— AFP

### News in brief

#### 33 die as train derails

**LUBUMBASHI:** Thirty-three people riding on a fuel train in southeastern Democratic Republic of Congo were killed and 26 were injured when the train plunged down a ravine and caught fire, officials said. The UN's radio Okapi said there had been 33 fatalities in the accident on Sunday. It occurred in the mining region of Katana, close to the border with Zambia and Angola, in the DRC province of Lualaba. "Thirty-three" people were killed, Richard Muyeje Mangez Mans, the governor of Lualaba province, told AFP, confirming Okapi's toll. "Twenty-six people who were seriously injured have been admitted to hospital. Doctors have been sent from Kolwezi to help those who are lightly injured." "Work is continuing to search for any survivors in the wreckage," he said. Access to the site is difficult because of the poor state of the roads during the rainy season, he said. The Red Cross said it was unable to give a toll.

#### N Korean soldier shot

**SEOUL:** A North Korean soldier defected to the South yesterday after being shot and wounded by the North Korean military, South Korea said. The soldier was found on the south side of the border village of Panmunjom, about 50 meters south of the Military Demarcation Line, wounded in his shoulder and elbow, according to a South Korean defense ministry official. He defected from a North Korean guard post nearby and was being treated in hospital. "The defector was urgently transferred to hospital in a helicopter of the United Nations Command, and there was no exchange of fire with our side," the ministry official said. "Since it was an area exposed to the North, we had to crawl toward there to get him out," the official added. There was no immediate comment on the incident from North Korea.

#### 13 drown as boat capsizes

**HYDERABAD:** At least 13 people drowned and others were missing after a crowded ferry capsized in the Krishna River in India, a government official said yesterday. Another 20 people swam to safety or were rescued by villagers in the Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh state Home Minister N Chinnarajappa said. Police said the ferry riders were not wearing life jackets. The Press Trust of India news agency reported. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the tragedy was "anguishing." "My thoughts are with the families of those who lost their lives," he said. Thirty-eight people were on board when the ferry capsized while turning toward the river bank, officials said. Police and workers from the National Disaster Relief Force searched for those who were missing. The state government ordered an inquiry into the accident, which occurred about 275 kilometers southeast of Hyderabad, the state capital.

#### Breakaway Somaliland votes

**MOGADISHU:** Residents of the self-proclaimed state of Somaliland voted yesterday in its third presidential poll, hoping to prove its democratic credentials and strengthen the case for independence from troubled Somalia. The northern territory, which is more tribally homogenous and stable than the rest of Somalia, broke away in 1991 and has been striving to attain international recognition ever since. Three candidates are running for the state's top office, seasoned politicians Muse Bihi of the ruling Kulmiye party and opposition candidates Abdirahman Iro and Faysal Ali Warabe, who was defeated in previous elections in 2010. "The procedure started peacefully this morning and we are confident that this election is going to be a milestone for the entire region," said Iro as he voted.

## Analysis

Kuwait Times  
Established 1961  
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT  
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
ESTABLISHED 1961Founder and Publisher  
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYANEditor-in-Chief  
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ACCOUNTS : 24835619  
COMMERCIAL : 24835618P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.netBrazil is back  
on track

Michel Temer

Just over 18 months ago, I took office as the President of Brazil with the task of facing up to the most severe economic crisis in the history of Brazil along with its deep social impacts on our people. Faced with this kind of challenge, I have put forward a transformation agenda without recourse to populist measures. The agenda comprises the broadest set of structuring reforms for the past 30 years based upon the pillars of fiscal balance, social responsibility and increase in productivity.

The results are already visible. The economic recession in Brazil has been reversed and the Brazilian economy has grown for the last two consecutive quarters. Some analysts have forecast a 1 percent growth in GDP in 2017. Inflation, which was about 10 percent in May 2016, stands below the inflation target, recorded at 2.54 percent in September. Purchasing power got better with a real increase of more than 6 percent in wages. The basic interest rate for May was 14.25 percent, and has been dropping in a sustainable manner. The SELIC rate is currently 7.5 percent, the lowest in four years, and bank spread has dropped substantially. The responsible decrease in the interest rates alone has ensured an additional 80 billion reais to the public coffers. Our trade balance has been breaking records: Brazil reached a trade surplus of US\$58.477 billion between January and October 2017 (an increase of 51.8 percent in relation to the same period of 2016). Industrial output increased by 1.6 percent over the same period (in May 2016, it was in free fall of 9.8 percent).

Vehicle exports grew by 55.7 percent in relation to 2016 and have already reached the 560 thousand units produced in 2017 aggregate. Sales of new vehicles in the domestic market grew by 9.28 percent this year in comparison with 2016. Grains crops in Brazil should reach the historic record of 242 million tons in 2017, an increase of 30 percent in comparison to the last year. As a reflection of the acceleration of the Brazilian economy, port usage has grown by 5.7 percent in 2017 and the domestic aviation market also increased by 6.6 percent in comparison to September 2016. This virtuous cycle lies at the root of the recovery of trust in the Brazilian economy. The Business Confidence Index (Getulio Vargas Foundation-FGV) peaked at 90.3 points in October, the highest level since July 2014. The Brazil Risk (Emerging Market Bond Index- EMBI) has dropped 544 basis points (Jan 2016) to 239 basis points (Oct 2017), a reduction of 56.1 percent in the sovereign spread. Also the five-year Credit Default Swap which was at 328 basis points has come down to 173.5 at the present date. The IBOVESPA index has surpassed 76,000 points in September 2017, recovering from 38 thousand points at which it stood in January 2016.

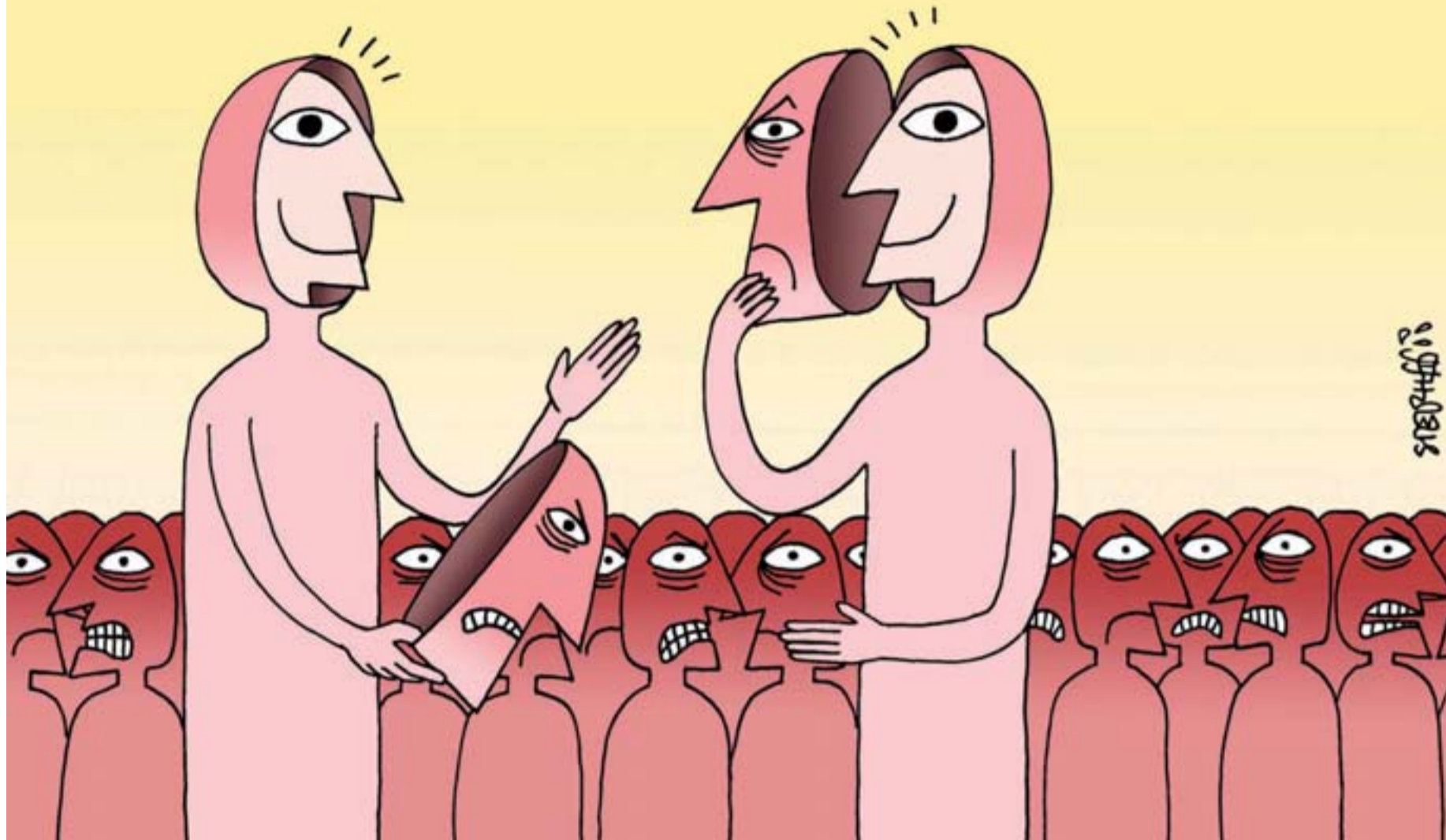
The aggregate FDI data for the first semester of 2017 was US\$40.3 billion (US\$78.9 in 2016). The energy auctions, which were held under the new regulatory model, including those of pre-salt, raised 22 billion reais. Only in the energy sector, investments of 444 billion reais are expected over the next few years, creating up to 500,000 new jobs. Economic rationality and predictability measures have improved the business environment by means of initiatives such as de-bureaucratization in the agricultural, services, retail and foreign trade sectors. The State Enterprise Responsibility Law has enabled a professionalization of state enterprises. Discredited in the past, the state enterprises have now been regaining value. With losses of 32 billion reais in 2015, they generated profits of 4.6 billion reais in 2016 and 17.3 billion reais in the first half of 2017. Aiming at raising productivity, an employment reform has been passed. Without removing rights, the law was modernized and brought workers from the shadow economy into formal employment. The success of this agenda has already been reflected in employment recovery, with an increase in the employment rate indexes. The accumulated surplus for 2017, measured by the General Register of Employed and Unemployed Persons of the Ministry of Employment (CAGED-MTE), is of 163,000 jobs created, in comparison to the loss of 448,000 jobs between January and May 2016.

According to measurements of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), in the third quarter of 2017 alone more than 1,061 million jobs were created in Brazil, and from those more than 524,000 people have left the unemployed ranks. Employee real aggregate income rose 3.9 percent in the third quarter of 2017 in comparison to the same period of 2016. The reinstatement of fiscal responsibility along with the economic growth has enabled an increase in the resources allocated to social welfare. Social welfare programs, which had been previously put at risk on account of fiscal collapse, have been recovered in tandem with the ceilings established under the Constitution and thanks to efficiency in public spending.

The 'Balsa Família' benefit has been increased by 12.5 percent (after more than two years without any adjustment) and waiting lists have been extinguished. The government has gone further and launched the 'Progridir' (Getting ahead) program, which helps families on benefit to obtain employment and credit, and as such, to achieve autonomy. Boldly, I have released the dormant FGTS accounts and advanced the PIS-PASEP withdrawals, which has benefited millions of Brazilians and injected R\$ 60 billion into the economy. The health and education budgets have increased. The rationalization of health care management has brought more resources to essential services: R\$4 billion have been redirected for equipment purchase, opening of new health care units and hiring new staff. The 'Farmacia Popular' (low cost Pharmacy) program had been spending 80 percent of its budget on administrative costs. A new allocation system has increased the resources for the purchase of essential medicines by R\$100 million/year. In the field of education, the high-school/secondary reform has updated the curriculum for the students taking into account individual skills and the realities of the employment market. The Student Financing Fund (FIES) has been reassessed offering 75,000 new study places, and has now become sustainable. Over R\$700 million were allocated to this fund, by the same token, avoiding delays in resource transfers. With the launch of the Geostationary Satellite, a decisive step has been taken towards the universalization of access to broadband Internet in Brazil.

NOTE: Michel Temer is the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

## Cartoon for the Soul



## Despite Trump, coal future remains bleak

A year after Donald Trump was elected president on a promise to revive the ailing US coal industry, the sector's long-term prospects for growth and hiring remain as bleak as ever. A Reuters review of mining data shows an industry that has seen only modest gains in jobs and production this year - much of it from a temporary uptick in foreign demand for US coal rather than presidential policy changes. US utilities are shutting coal-fired power plants at a rapid pace and shifting to cheap natural gas, along with wind and solar power. And domestic demand makes up about 90 percent of the market for US coal.

"We're not planning to build any additional coal facilities," said Melissa McHenry, a spokeswoman for American Electric Power, one of the largest US utilities. "The future for coal is dictated by economics - and you can't make those kinds of investments based on one administration's politics." Coal plants now make up 47 percent of AEP's capacity for power generation, a figure it plans to shrink to 33 percent by 2030.

The situation highlights the limitations of presidential policy on major industries and global economic trends. As some energy experts have said all along, the forces that will make or break mining are well beyond the powers of the Oval Office. A White House official did not respond to a request for comment. Trump has likely done all he can do to help the industry, said Luke Popovich, a spokesman for the National Mining Association, which represents major US coal companies. "The government is no longer against us," he said. "We now only have market forces to contend with."

Trump has taken action on many promises he made to coal interests in states that helped him win the election. The president started the process of killing former President Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan, meant to reduce carbon emissions from power plants; ended an Obama-era moratorium on coal leasing on federal lands; ditched limits on dumping coal waste into streams; and started withdrawing the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement.

Now Trump's Energy Secretary, Rick Perry, is attempting to push a rule through the independent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that would subsidize power plants that store at least a 90-day supply of coal on site. The goal is to extend the life of some coal burning power plants, a move Perry says will make the electric grid more reliable. While the full impact of

Trump's coal policy could take years to understand, the changes so far are unlikely to boost domestic demand, energy analysts and utility officials said.

## 'Back 100 percent'

Trump has cast the coal industry as a victim of burdensome regulation. The industry has lost more than 40 percent of its workforce in less than a decade and seen production drop to its lowest levels since 1978. Its share of the power market has fallen to less than a third from about half in 2003. "We're going to bring the coal industry back 100 percent," Trump said at a rally in Virginia in August of 2016.

Coal companies  
believe they  
can survive

So far, progress has been limited. US coal production is on track to rise more than 8 percent in 2017 over the previous year, to 790 million tons, according to the Energy Information Administration. But 2018 output is expected to decline. The number of coal miners has also risen slightly to 51,900 in October, up about 2,200 since Nov 2016 - but down about 70 percent from a 1985 peak, according to the Labor Department.

On Nov 1, Trump cited the modest production increases in a Tweet, saying, "It is finally happening for our great clean coal miners!" But these increases are largely attributable to demand for US coal from Asian steel mills after temporary outages from their usual suppliers in Australia, according to James Stevenson, a coal analyst at IHS Markit. During the first six months of 2017, Asian countries took in 7.5 million short tons of US coal, up 97

percent over the same period in 2016, according to the EIA. That demand will soon fade, Stevenson said. "We are not going to get a repeat of 2017," he said of the spike in exports.

## 'Obsolete'

Forecasts from utilities and the US government reveal little reason for hope of a sustained coal rebound. Utilities are expected to shut down more than 13,600 megawatts of coal plant capacity in 2018. That follows a loss of nearly 8,000 MW this year and 13,000 MW in 2016, according to EIA and Thomson Reuters data. By 2025, coal-fired power plant capacity will dip to 226,380 MW, down about 30 percent from 2011, according to EIA.

Three Texas coal plants owned by Vistra Energy Corp subsidiary Luminant are among the latest to close, bringing the number of plants that shut, or plan to, to 265 since 2010 - a figure higher than the 258 plants that remain, according to the Sierra Club, which has campaigned against coal. Vistra said the closures were forced by lower prices for natural gas and renewable power - and not by environmental regulations. Duke Energy, one of the country's largest utilities, has shut down more than 5,400 MW of coal capacity since 2011 and plans to shed another 2,000 MW by 2024.

Over the next decade, Duke plans to invest \$11 billion in new natural gas and renewable power - and nothing in new coal-fired generation, said spokesman Rick Rhodes. A Nov. 2 report by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis - which has two of the largest coal producers in its district, Peabody Energy Corp and Arch Coal Inc - said coal-fired power plants "may eventually become obsolete."

Coal companies believe they can survive despite the troubling market outlook. Peabody expects a "modest number" of coal power plant retirements in the coming years, with some of that lost capacity shifting to remaining plants that will increase output, spokesman Vic Svecc said. Arch spokeswoman Logan Bonacorsi offered a similar forecast. Robert Murray, the chief executive of privately-held Murray Energy Corp - one of America's biggest underground miners - said Trump could do more for the industry. The administration, Murray said, should end tax breaks for wind and solar power and reverse an EPA finding that carbon emissions endanger human health. —Reuters

Chinese facial  
recognition firms  
appeal to funds

Buoyed by China's plans to build a ubiquitous CCTV surveillance network, Chinese and some foreign investors are pouring money into start-up technology firms that specialize in facial recognition software. At stake for firms such as SenseTime Group, Face++ and DeepGlint, is a multi-billion dollar global public and private market for facial recognition technology that can quickly identify individuals by measuring major elements of their faces, such as the distance between the eyes and the curve of the cheekbones.

With the use of artificial intelligence (AI) the technology can recognize and track those wanted by the authorities by seeking a match from a database of photographs. In the commercial world it can be used for security at homes, workplaces and ATM machines, and as a part of payments systems at stores and restaurants. According to estimates from IHS Markit Ltd, video surveillance - including the equipment and video management software - was a \$6.4 billion market in China in 2016, with 176 million surveillance cameras already installed by the authorities or private companies.

That market, the largest in the world, is set for a compound annual growth rate of 12.4 percent through 2021, according to IHS. By comparison, the US market was estimated to be worth only \$2.9 billion and growing at just 0.7 percent a year. In China, though, the supercharged growth has added to concerns about controls on dissidents or activists by the government of President Xi Jinping, especially when combined with the potential for the Chinese authorities to track phones being increasingly used for electronic payments and their stepped up monitoring of Internet traffic.

That hasn't appeared to deter investors, who include leading US venture capital firms such as the China arm of Sequoia Capital, which is one of the best-known Silicon

Valley venture capital firms. Hong Kong-based SenseTime Group, which produces deep-learning based software for facial recognition, autonomous driving and video analyzing, said earlier this month it had "attracted lots of interest" in its latest financing round without elaborating. People familiar with its plans said the firm intends to raise about \$500 million.

At the same time, SenseTime, which lists various police departments across China as major clients, has joined forces with its backer China's CDH Investments to raise about \$450 million to invest in other firms working on artificial intelligence technologies, said two sources with knowledge of the matter. And China's biggest facial recognition firm Megvii, more commonly known as Face ++, earlier this month announced it has raised \$460 million in its latest capital raising, including pulling in money from China's national venture capital fund.

With the funding, Face++ plans to expand its business from software to hardware by developing more products with built-in AI, such as smart surveillance cameras that can capture faces better and faster, said Xie Yanan, Face++'s marketing and public relations director. "We want to enhance these 'eyes of the city' and make them intelligent," Xie told Reuters. "So that 'footage of the city' become 'data about the city'," he said.

Xie said that Face++, whose technology is behind Chinese company Alipay's "scan-your-face-to-pay" function, has already helped the police catch more than 3,000 fugitives. "It's just like in the films. The police no longer need to manually look for someone from thousands in the camera. The video network automatically detects and alerts them to situations so that greatly enhances their efficiency," Xie said.

## Singapore proposal

Face++, which was founded in 2011, does not release specific revenue figures but Xie said it has been growing at about 400 percent annually and the company is expected to break even this year. It's also targeting an initial public offering, although it has no time frame, he said. SenseTime said its video surveillance technology is used by 40 local government clients. Its photography enhancement technology is also used by almost all of China's major



smartphone manufacturers including Huawei Technologies, Oppo, Vivo and Xiaomi.

SenseTime is seeking to expand overseas. It's considering setting up an ASEAN headquarters in Singapore, after Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien-loong recently visited the company in Beijing, Shang told Reuters. "We are confident of recording \$100 million in revenue this year," he said, adding that would make it No.1 in China. He said the company expects its overseas revenue to grow to \$150 to \$200 million in three to five years.

SenseTime and Face++ are far from alone. Smaller rival Yitu Technology, which lists more than a dozen provincial or municipal police departments across China as major clients, raised \$380 million from investors in May, including Sequoia China. DeepGlint, another Sequoia-backed AI company that has developed an intelligent surveillance camera that can capture faces as far away as 50 m, told Reuters it derives almost all of its revenue from government contracts. Sequoia did not respond to Reuters' requests for comment on whether it has any concern that technology it is investing in may infringe individual privacy. Both Shang and Xie shrugged off criticism that their companies' technology may be used to infringe on individuals' privacy. "We are only technology providers, we are neutral," Xie said. "If you go back to the time before there is mobile, before there is the Internet, then of course you had better privacy. But times have to advance with technology," he said. —Reuters



Iranians mourn over the body of a victim in Sarpol-e-Zahab yesterday. — AFP



Survivors sit in front of buildings damaged by the earthquake in Sarpol-e-Zahab yesterday. — AP

## Hunt for survivors after quake...

Continued from Page 1

Officials said 22,000 tents, 52,000 blankets and tons of food and water had been distributed. The official IRNA news agency said 30 Red Crescent teams had been sent to the quake zone. After initially pinning the quake's epicenter inside Iraq, the USGS then placed it across the border in Iran yesterday morning. Iran's Sarpol-e-Zahab, home to some 85,000 people close to the border, was the worst hit with at least 236 dead. At dawn, buildings in the town stood disfigured, their former facades now rubble on crumpled vehicles.

In an open space away from wrecked housing blocks, men and women, some wrapped in blankets, huddled around a campfire. Iranian media reported that a woman and her baby were pulled alive from the rubble. The towns of Eslamabad and Qasr-e-Shirin were also affected, while the tremor shook several western Iranian cities including Tabriz. Some 259,000 people live in the region, according to the most recent census.

State television showed tents, blankets and food being distributed in areas struck by the temblor. In neighboring Dalahoo county, several villages were totally destroyed, an official told Tasnim agency. In Iraq, the health ministry said the quake had killed seven people in the northern province of Sulaimaniyah and one in Diyala province to its south. More than 500 people were injured in both provinces and the nearby province of Kirkuk.

Footage posted on Twitter showed panicked people fleeing a building in Sulaimaniyah as windows shattered at the moment the quake struck. Images from the nearby town of Darbandikhan showed walls and concrete structures that had collapsed. Nizar Abdullah spent the night with neighbors sifting through the ruins of a two-storey home next door after it crumbled into concrete debris. "There were eight people inside," the 34-year-old Iraqi Kurd said. Some family members managed to escape, but "neighbors and rescue workers pulled out the mother and one of the children dead from the rubble".

The quake, which struck at a relatively shallow depth of 23 km, was felt for about 20 seconds in Baghdad, and for longer in other provinces of Iraq, AFP journalists said. Iraqi health authorities said they treated dozens of people in the aftermath, mostly for shock. It was also felt in southeastern Turkey, an AFP correspondent said. In the town of Diyarbakir, residents were reported to have fled their homes. Britain, France, Germany, Russia and Syria offered their condolences, while Pope Francis called the quake a "tragedy" and expressed his "prayerful solidarity" with victims. The quake struck along a 1,500-km fault line between the Arabian and Eurasian tectonic plates, which extends through western Iran and north-eastern Iraq. The area sees frequent seismic activity.

In 1990, a 7.4-magnitude quake in northern Iran killed 40,000 people, injured 300,000 and left half a million homeless, reducing dozens of towns and nearly 2,000 villages to rubble in just seconds. Thirteen years later, a catastrophic quake flattened swathes of the ancient southeastern Iranian city of Bam, killing at least 31,000. Iran has experienced at least two major quake disasters since, one in 2005 that killed more than 600 and another in 2012 that left some 300 dead. — Agencies

## Hezbollah crown jewel of Iran's...

Continued from Page 1

Hezbollah has trained Iraq's powerful Hashed Al-Shaabi paramilitary forces, Khashan said, and even has "operatives" in Yemen's war to back Shiite Houthi rebels targeted by Riyadh. Closer to home, Hezbollah has fought ferociously in Syria to defend the government of President Bashar Al-Assad, also an ally of Iran.

The group's intervention in Syria's six-year conflict was a major turning point that helped Assad's troops retake swathes of territory. It also helped hone Hezbollah's own combat experience, transforming it from a guerrilla movement to a powerful fighting force with offensive capabilities. Combining its military expertise and political savvy, Hezbollah has matured into Iran's "crown jewel" in the Middle East, said Joseph Bahout at the Carnegie Foundation think tank. It now serves as a "model" for all Iran-allied groups in the region, from Syria's pro-regime militias to Iraq's Hashed Al-Shaabi and the Iran-backed Houthi fighters, Bahout said.

These military ventures formed the crux of Hariri's criticism of Hezbollah during his landmark interview on Sunday from Riyadh. Breaking his silence more than a week after his resignation, Hariri called on Hezbollah to commit to Lebanon's policy to "disassociate" from regional conflicts. "I tell Hezbollah: it is in your interest,

if we want to protect Lebanon... to leave some of the areas that you have entered," Hariri said. He zoned in on Yemen, saying Hezbollah's involvement in the protracted conflict there had drawn Saudi's rage: "Did the kingdom have any position towards Hezbollah before the war in Yemen?"

Hariri, 47, accused Iran and Hezbollah of taking over his country and destabilizing the broader region when he stepped down on Nov 4. That announcement sparked worries that Lebanon would be sent careening back into political and economic turmoil as Riyadh and Tehran vie for influence. There were even fears of a new war with Israel, after Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah accused Saudi Arabia last week of asking Tel Aviv to bomb Lebanon.

Israel and Hezbollah have clashed several times, including in a month-long war in 2006 that killed 1,200 Lebanese - mostly civilians - and 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers. But any new conflict between Lebanon and its southern neighbor risked spilling over into the broader region, experts have said. "This time," said Bahout, "because of the extension in Syria and Iraq, it won't be a war on Hezbollah only. It will very quickly flare up."

Nasrallah's forces could respond to Israeli pressure by striking elsewhere, including the United Arab Emirates or even Saudi Arabia. For Bitar, a convergence of factors, including "an impulsive Saudi Arabia, backed by an equally, extremely impulsive American president, and rising rhetoric in Israel", could indicate a war was near. "But at this stage, we are still in a system where there is mutual deterrence, a balance of terror," he said. "The two parties know that an eventual war would be devastating for both sides." — AFP

## Geldof returns Dublin honor...

Continued from Page 1

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Micheal Mac Donncha, said the city council had discussed taking away the honor and the matter was still under review. Last month she was stripped of a similar honor by the British university city of Oxford, where she was an undergraduate. But Mac Donncha, a councillor for the Irish nationalist Sinn Fein party, also criticized Geldof's gesture, saying it was ironic as Geldof held a British knighthood despite "the shameful record of British imperialism across the globe".

The former Boomtown Rats singer was given an honorary knighthood in 1986 in recognition of his charity work, including organizing the 1985 Live Aid concert to help

those suffering from starvation and disease in Ethiopia. Other foreign recipients of the Freedom of Dublin include John F. Kennedy, Nelson Mandela and Mikhail Gorbachev. "Dublin shouldn't have any link with this woman. We've been duped, she's a murderer," Geldof said, explaining that although the council lacked the constitutional means to rescind the award, he had a plan. "Give me a felt tip pen and I can do it." He also demanded that the leader hand back her Nobel Prize "and perhaps she should appear at the Hague tribunals".

Irish rockers U2, who had campaigned for Suu Kyi's release while she was a political prisoner, also voiced disappointment and said her silence was "starting to look a lot like assent". "Who could have predicted that if more than 600,000 people were fleeing from a brutal army for fear of their lives, the woman who many of us believed would have the clearest and loudest voice on the crisis would go quiet," the band said in a statement. "For these atrocities against the Rohingya people to be happening on her watch blows our minds and breaks our hearts." — Agencies

## Oil producers to extend cuts to...

Continued from Page 1

Mazrouei, whose government is OPEC's fourth largest oil producer, said he was not happy with the sharp fluctuations in prices, saying they need to be more stable. OPEC ministers are scheduled to hold a crucial meeting in Vienna at the end of November to discuss extending the cuts deal as well as imposing the quota system on countries that have so far been exempted, namely Libya, Iran and Nigeria. Cartel kingpin Saudi Arabia and the world's top producer Russia have voiced support for a rollover to the deal, the duration of which remains up for debate.

OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo said the producers deal had yielded solid results as a "valid response to the worst oil price down cycle in history". "There are clear indications that the market is rebalancing at an accelerating pace," he said at the conference. Barkindo said the oil market was on track to stabilize because of a drop in crude stocks and a rise in global demand.

The OPEC chief also called on new oil producers, including US shale crude producers, to join a broader



Secretary General of OPEC, Nigerian Mohammed Barkindo, speaks during the ADIPEC event. — AFP

agreement to secure the future of energy. Barkindo said talks were under way to "institutionalize" the cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC members to regulate the market. "Now, we are not talking about OPEC 14 but about the global platform 24," he said, referring to the number of oil-producing members that signed the production cut accord. — AFP



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Sports

**Cristiano Ronaldo becomes father for fourth time**

**MADRID:** Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo announced on Sunday that he had become a father for the fourth time after girlfriend Georgina Rodriguez gave birth to a baby girl, Alana Martina. "Alana Martina has just been born! Both Geo and Alana are doing great. We are all very happy," the beaming 32-year-old footballer wrote on Twitter, posting a photo of himself, Rodriguez, his seven-year-old son Cristiano Junior and the new arrival. Ronaldo is also the father of twins, Eva and Mateo, who were born in June. At the end of October, the Portuguese star had revealed in a video on social media the name of the child as well as the proposed due date of the baby, initially fixed at November 21. Ronaldo was on hand for the birth of Alana Martina after being rested by Portugal coach Fernando Santos for friendly matches against Saudi Arabia and the United States during the ongoing international break. — AFP

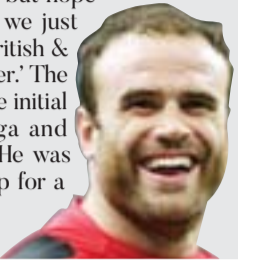


**Southgate considers penalty shootout at friendly game**

**LONDON:** England coach Gareth Southgate appreciates the penalty-shootout woes of his national team as well as anyone, and he's trying to do something about it before next year's World Cup. Southgate has raised the prospect of putting England's players through a mock shootout at one of the team's friendlies ahead of next year's tournament in Russia. "It's something that we are considering, how we prepare best for penalty shootouts," Southgate said. "Whether that's something on the training ground, whether that's in sessions we do away from the training ground or something we do in some sort of match scenario, we've not finalized things like that yet. But clearly that (match situation) is an option." England has lost six of seven penalty shootouts since 1990 at either a World Cup or a European Championship. Southgate's failure from the spot eliminated England at the semifinal stage of Euro 1996. After the match against Brazil on Tuesday, England has friendlies lined up against Italy and the Netherlands in March. The team is set to play two more friendlies before the World Cup. — AP

**Roberts recalled as Wales sweat over Davies injury**

**CARDIFF:** Wales centre Jamie Roberts has been recalled to the squad after Jonathan Davies suffered an ankle injury in Saturday's 29-21 defeat by Australia. Davies had to be helped from the field after he picked up an injury in the final seconds of the match, but requires further assessment before a decision is made on his availability. "We're still waiting on him," Wales assistant coach Neil Jenkins told reporters yesterday. "Everyone saw it, it doesn't look great. He's going to struggle for the rest of this autumn but hopefully it's not too serious. I'm not saying he's out but we just need to see where he's at. He was outstanding for the (British & Irish) Lions and last year for us. He's a world class player." The 31-year-old Roberts, who has 93 caps, was left out of the initial squad after captaining Wales to victories over Tonga and Samoa on this year's tour. He's an outstanding player. He was unlucky to miss out initially. He's been part of the set-up for a very long time and he'll just fit in. — Reuters



# Canadian ice hockey team defeat Kuwait in first friendly match

## Moreau congratulates Kuwait for winning first place in Bangkok



By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The Canadian community hockey team defeated its Kuwaiti counterpart by the score of 5-3 during the friendly match that was held on Sunday evening at TEC skating rink in the presence of the Canadian Ambassador Martine Moreau and Chairman of Kuwait Winter Games club Fuhaid Al-Ajmi and his deputy Khalid Al-Mutairi with a large number of fans in the stands.

Martine Moreau said Canada and Kuwait enjoys over half a century of strong bilateral relations, adding that I realized, during my stay in Kuwait, my deep appreciation for the many shared values between our countries, and this is reflected not only in our friendly relations, but also in the sincere wish to boost cooperation and bilateral trade and joint experi-

ences in various fields, as well as increase and develop ties between people. Moreau said "2017 is a special year for Canadians because we are celebrating the 150 anniversary of the federation and we would like to celebrate it with our friends in Kuwait through relations between people and sports.

She said this is the first friendly match between Kuwait and Canada, and we hope for more in the future.

The Canadian ambassador Martine Moreau congratulated Kuwait hockey team for winning first place in Bangkok open tournament. Meanwhile, Chairman of the Winter Games Club Fuhaid Al-Ajmi said the

match is held in cooperation with the Canadian embassy to celebrate the 150 anniversary of the federation, and the club received the invitation from the Canadian side.

“ We hope for more games in the future ”



## US beat Canada 5-1 to win 3rd straight Four Nations Cup

**TAMPA:** Hannah Brandt scored twice in the second period and the United States women beat Canada 5-1 on Sunday to win their third straight Four Nations Cup championship. Hilary Knight and Amanda Kessel each added a goal and an assist. Kendall Coyne had a goal, and Dani Cameranesi added four assists.

Maddie Rooney made 18 saves and improved to 3-0 in the Americans' four games at this tournament. The goalie now is 4-0-0 this fall with three of her victories against Canada. The United States won the event for the eighth time overall. Better yet, the Americans now have beaten their biggest rivals for the third time in four games over the past month as they tune up for the Pyeongchang Games in February. The two women's hockey powers will meet again as part of their pre-Olympic exhibition tour on Dec. 3 in St Paul, Minnesota.

"We are progressing toward February," US coach Robb Stauber said. "That is our main objective: to be the best that we can be before February, and this is a stepping stone." Since Canada won the gold medal in 2014 at Sochi with a 3-2 overtime win, the United States now has won six of seven titles and 10 of 13 games overall against the only other country to win Olympic gold in women's hockey.

Canadian captain Marie-Philip Poulin said every loss is frustrating. "That's not the result we wanted, but we will go back to Calgary and work hard as a team," Poulin said. "It's a long year, and we will keep working to get better so we can get there." — AP

## Brown's first goal gives Lightning 2-1 win over Ducks

**ANAHEIM:** J.T. Brown scored the decisive goal and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 28 saves as the Tampa Bay Lightning defeated the Anaheim Ducks 2-1 on Sunday night at Honda Center. The Lightning (14-2-2) tallied once on the power play to complete their California sweep with their fourth win in a row while extending their road win streak to six games. Tampa Bay avenged a 4-3 loss to the Ducks at home on Oct 28. The Ducks (7-7-3) got spectacular goaltending from John Gibson in the 35-save loss. Anaheim has won only one of its last six games, with two overtime losses. Tampa Bay went ahead 2-1 at 7:18 of the third on Brown's first goal of the season. Ryan Callahan poked a puck free of the Anaheim defense behind the Ducks net. Chris Kunitz passed it to Brown in the left slot. He fired a wrist shot into the top corner past Gibson's catching glove.

### CAPITALS 2, OILERS 1 (SO)

T.J. Oshie scored the only goal during the shootout to give Washington the win over Edmonton. Oshie went first during the shootout and beat Edmonton goalie Laurent Brossoit through the five-hole. Washington's Braden Holtby shut down the Oilers during the shootout period to give the Capitals their fifth win in six games. The Oilers broke the scoreless tie 92 seconds into the third period when, during a scrum in front of Holtby, Capitals forward Alex Chiasson deflected the puck into his own net. Jujhar Khaira got credit for the tally for Edmonton. Defenseman Dmitry Orlov beat Brossoit glove-side to even the score at 1-1.

### DEVILS 7, BLACKHAWKS 5

Miles Wood had a hat trick and New Jersey erased a three-goal deficit to beat Chicago. The 22-year-old winger scored a pair of first-period goals and finished off his four-point night with his third goal early in the third period. A four-goal second period allowed the Devils to build a 6-4 lead. Taylor Hall's goal with 7:45 remaining in the period gave New Jersey its first lead of the night after the Devils entered the second trailing 4-2. Brian Gibbons extended the lead to two goals with 2:55 remaining in the second. Chicago got within 6-5 when Patrick Kane scored on the power play with just 2.7 seconds remaining in the period.

### SHARKS 2, KINGS 1

Joel Ward scored the decisive third-period goal and Martin Jones made 26 saves as San Jose defeated Los Angeles. San Jose won its second straight game and six out of its last seven contests. Melker Karlsson registered the other Sharks goal. San Jose evened the season series at one game apiece. Los Angeles lost its second consecutive home game and has lost consecutive games for the first time this season. Dustin Brown scored the Kings' lone goal. Jonathan Quick made 31 saves. It was the first regulation loss for Los Angeles when leading after two periods. — Reuters



Capitals forward Alex Chiasson.

## Sports

# Prove yourselves, German stars told for French test

## Loew will again field an experimental line-up

**BERLIN:** Joachim Loew has told his Germany side to prove themselves in today's friendly against France as the defending champions' sharpen their preparations for next year's World Cup. Security will be tight in Cologne as the friendly takes place almost two years to the day since the Paris terror attacks of November 13 2015, when 130 people were killed and over 400 were injured.

On that night, three suicide bombers set off devices at the Stade de France during a France v Germany friendly and the shocked German players had to spend the night at the stadium during a security crackdown.

"Memories of that night still come back, it was a dramatic experience and one you would not want to experience again," said Loew on Monday. "Over time, you can block it out. I don't feel unsafe and I have confidence in the security."

However, the pre-match focus in Cologne was on the football. Loew is set to field first-choice midfielders Sami Khedira and Toni Kroos, who missed Friday's goalless draw against England at Wembley with a gastrointestinal infection. "I want to see if certain players can prove themselves against the best," said Loew.

"The most important thing won't be the most important thing. Mistakes could be made, which will be learnt from. I want to try things out and make changes during the game."

"We wanted two games in November against teams on the same level as us. We want to test a few things, but it will be a different game to the one against England. The French have players who always go for-

ward, I think they will be more dangerous than England and we want to be better in that regards." Loew treated his squad to a speedboat ride down the Thames after holding England at Wembley, but the players were all business in a high-tempo training session in Cologne on Sunday.

Loew will again field an experimental line-up with Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper Kevin Trapp set to start. The Germans came through their World Cup qualifying campaign with a perfect record of ten wins. To ensure they face stiff tests before the World Cup kicks off in Moscow next June, the Germans will also face Spain and Brazil in friendlies next March after their final match of 2017 against the French.

The friendly is unlikely to be a sell-out with just over 30,000 of the 45,000 available tickets sold. "Friendly matches are not that important any more, so you have to understand the public reaction," said Loew.

"It is not the first time the stadium hasn't sold out." France are missing Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud, who picked up a thigh strain in Friday's 2-0 win over Wales, while Barcelona winger Ousmane Dembele and Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba are also sidelined.

Germany are without Bayern Munich defender Jerome Boateng, who also sat out the draw against England with a muscle injury. The Germans are unbeaten in their last 19 matches, dating back to their 2-0 defeat against France in the semi-finals of the 2016 European championships when Antoine Griezmann scored both goals in Marseille. —AFP

“ Memories of that night still come back ”



CLAIREFONTAINE-EN-YVELINES: France's forward Kylian Mbappe takes part in a training session in Clairefontaine-en-Yvelines, as part of the team's preparation for the friendly football match against Germany. — AFP

## FIFA bribery trial to kick off in NY

**NEW YORK:** The FIFA corruption trial is to get underway with opening statements in New York, two and a half years after US prosecutors unveiled the largest graft scandal in the history of world soccer.

Forty-two officials and marketing executives, and three companies were indicted in an exhaustive 236-page complaint detailing 92 separate crimes and 15 corruption schemes to the tune of \$200 million. Yet only three of them are going on trial—three fabulously wealthy and once-powerful soccer officials from South America, charged with racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering conspiracies.

Their fate will be decided by an anonymous jury, chosen after documented attempts at intimidation. The 12-member panel with six alternates was selected after four days of screening last week. Opening statements are scheduled to begin Monday at the US federal court in Brooklyn. The most high-profile defendant is Jose Maria Marin, 85, former president of Brazil's Football Confederation—the sport's organizing body in one of the premier

soccer-playing nations in the world.

Since extradition after his 2015 arrest by Swiss police in a five-star hotel, he has been out on bail, living in luxury at Trump Tower, the Fifth Avenue skyscraper best known for housing the penthouse and company headquarters of the US president.

Also in the dock is former FIFA vice president Juan Angel Napout, 59, and Manuel Burga, who led soccer in Peru until 2014 and once served as a FIFA development committee member.

All three plead not guilty. The trial due to last five to six weeks, prosecutors are expected to present 350,000 pages of evidence and dozens of witnesses. If convicted, they will be sentenced by Judge Pamela Chen. The most serious counts each carry a maximum sentence of 20 years. US prosecutors first announced the indictments on May 27, 2015, lifting the lid on a quarter of a century of endemic corruption in the heart of FIFA, soccer's governing body.

Twenty-four defendants have already pleaded guilty, and two of them were last month sentenced to jail. While the US investigation did not indict ex-FIFA president Sepp Blatter, he was thrown out of the sport in 2015 after FIFA's ethics committee found him guilty of accepting an improper two million Swiss franc (\$2.1 million) payment from then-UEFA chief Michel Platini. Blatter was banned from soccer for six years, and Platini, his former heir apparent, for four years. —AFP

## Croatia qualify for World Cup with Greece draw

**PIRAEUS:** Croatia qualified for the 2018 World Cup on Sunday by holding Greece to a 0-0 draw in the second leg of their play-off in Piraeus for a 4-1 win on aggregate. Zlatko Dalic's men will be playing in their fifth World Cup in Russia next year, having only once failed to qualify in 2010.

A strong defensive performance, especially in the second half, was enough for Croatia to leave the Karaisiakis Stadium with a comfortable victory over the two legs after winning 4-1 on Thursday.

Greece coach Michael Skibbe dropped half of his players from the disastrous first-leg showing in Zagreb, and the return of Roma defender Kostas Manolas kept Croatia striker Nikola Kalinic in check.

For the first 30 minutes Greece were in control, but despite two good shots from Borussia Dortmund defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos and AEK Athens forward Anastasios Bakasetas, the home team failed to get the much-needed early goal.

Greece came close to scoring four minutes before half-time when a cross from Kostas Mitroglou found midfielder Zeca, who headed the ball in front of the Croatian goalmouth, only for goalkeeper Danijel Subasic to tip the ball away with Panagiotis Retsos ready to head in.

But the visitors nearly put the tie to bed when a left-footed blast by Inter Milan



PIRAEUS: Greece's Yannīs Gianniotas, left, challenges for the ball with Croatia's Ivan Strinic during the World Cup qualifying play-off second leg soccer match between Greece and Croatia. — AP

winger Ivan Perisic hit the post in the 43rd minute, after Barcelona midfielder Ivan Rakitic had earlier curled a free-kick over the crossbar.

Greece continued to enjoy more of the ball in the second period but when it came to finishing off an attack, either a pass would go astray or a defender would step in. A shot on the turn by Mitroglou from just outside the

penalty area just missed the post with an outstretched Subasic unable to reach it. Greece did put the ball in the net in the 79th minute, but substitute Dimitris Pelkas was correctly called offside.

Bologna defender Vasilis Torosidis' shot was blocked by Subasic with just three minutes left, denying Greece even a consolation strike. — AFP

## NBA results/standings

Oklahoma City 112, Dallas 99; Houston 118, Indiana 95; Detroit 112, Miami 103; Boston 95, Toronto 94.

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	12	2	.857	-
Toronto	7	5	.583	4
NY Knicks	7	5	.583	4
Philadelphia	6	6	.500	5
Brooklyn	5	8	.385	6.5
Central Division				
Detroit	10	3	.769	-
Milwaukee	6	6	.500	3.5
Cleveland	6	7	.462	4
Indiana	6	8	.429	4.5
Chicago	2	9	.182	7
Southeast Division				
Orlando	8	5	.615	-
Washington	7	5	.583	0.5
Miami	6	7	.462	2
Charlotte	5	7	.417	2.5
Atlanta	2	11	.154	6
Western Conference				
Northwest Division				
Denver	8	5	.615	-
Minnesota	7	5	.583	0.5
Portland	6	6	.500	1.5
Utah	6	7	.462	2
Oklahoma City	6	7	.462	2
Pacific Division				
Golden State	10	3	.769	-
LA Clippers	5	7	.417	4.5
LA Lakers	5	8	.385	5
Phoenix	5	9	.357	5.5
Sacramento	3	9	.250	6.5
Southwest Division				
Houston	11	3	.786	-
San Antonio	8	5	.615	2.5
Memphis	7	5	.583	3
New Orleans	7	6	.538	3.5
Dallas	2	12	.143	9

## Celtics beat Raptors for 12th straight victory

**BOSTON:** The Boston Celtics, playing without Kyrie Irving, hung on for their 12th straight victory on Sunday, beating the Toronto Raptors. And it came right down to the final second. DeMar DeRozan missed two shots in the closing seconds as the Celtics downed the Toronto Raptors 95-94. After DeRozan missed a jumper, rookie Jayson Tatum grabbed the rebound, turned and hit Fred VanVleet with an elbow for an offensive foul with 13.4 seconds remaining. The play was reviewed, the call stood and Toronto kept the ball. Al Horford, returning from a two-game absence from a concussion, scored 21 points to lead five Boston players in double figures. Brown added 18 points, Terry Rozier scored 16, Marcus Smart 14 and Tatum had 13 points and seven rebounds. DeRozan led the Raptors with 24 points (but was just 8 of 22 from the floor), his seventh straight 20-point game at TD Garden.

### PISTONS 112, HEAT 103

Tobias Harris led five players in double figures with 25 points to help Detroit beat Miami and finish unbeaten on the five-game homestand. Avery Bradley scored 24 points, Reggie Jackson had 17 points, rookie Luke Kennard scored a career-high 14 points, backup point guard Ish Smith scored 11 points and Andre Drummond added 17 rebounds for the Pistons. Hassan Whiteside had 20 points and 12 rebounds, Goran Dragic scored 18 points, Dion Waiters had 16 points and Josh Richardson



BOSTON: Boston Celtics' Al Horford hangs from the rim after dunking as Toronto Raptors' Fred VanVleet (23) and Serge Ibaka (9) look on during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston. — AP

added 15 points to lead the Heat, who went 13 of 37 from 3-point range. Ferrell added 18, and Dennis Smith Jr. scored 15 points.

### THUNDER 112, MAVERICKS 99

Even without two starters, Oklahoma City made quick work of Dallas. Russell Westbrook on his birthday had 27 points, six rebounds and five assists, and forward Paul George followed his best scoring performance of the season with 37 points in the absence of center Steven Adams and forward Carmelo Anthony. Harrison Barnes led the Mavericks with 22 points, Yogi

### ROCKETS 118, PACERS 95

James Harden, averaging 37.8 points in the previous five games, scored 26 points and had a season-high 15 assists in Houston's romp over Indiana. Harden hit 9 of 21 shots from the field and all five free throws. Eric Gordon chipped in with 21 points, and center Clint Capela contributed 20 points and a team-high 17 rebounds. Guard Victor Oladipo led the Pacers with 28 points on 11-of-17 shooting from the field. — Reuters

# Meet the Kuwaiti Drifters Aiming to win at the Red Bull Car Park Drift Series Final 2017 in Kuwait



With less than a month remaining until the Red Bull Car Park Drift Series Final, Kuwait is gearing up to find out who will be crowned the 2017 King of Drift. Not only will this year be characterized as the first time that Kuwait is hosting, but it is also the first time that three Kuwaiti drifters, rather than one, will be going head to head against each other and against the remaining competitors.

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

the home field advantage on their side, they are optimistic of keeping the coveted crown in Kuwait.

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

### Meet the Kuwaiti Drifters

Ali Makhseed topped the podium in the Red Bull Car Park Drift Kuwait qualifier, held on May 5 of this year, with Fahad Aljadei as his runner up and Abdullah Aljadi coming in as third place.

Ali expressed his excitement and pride in Kuwait hosting the Series Final "I am incredibly happy and proud to represent my country in

the Red Bull Car Park Drift Series Final that will be held in Kuwait, for the first time". He continued, "I am ready to face the challenge with my new car and I feel extremely confident in my ability to rise up to the challenge." Fahad is aiming high and is hoping to win the crown. He explained that he expects an intense competition and qualified competitors "that will be the best in the Middle East." By their side is Abdullah who shares his fellow drifters' enthusiasm "to represent Kuwait on a regional level". Abdullah continued, "All the drifters will be aiming to be the winner but I hope that the podium is topped by Kuwaitis with myself as the winner."

A Kuwaiti podium may not be so far-fetched. In fact, at the 2016 Series Final held in Oman, the podium was topped by Omani finalists with Haitham Al Hadidi crowned the 2016 King of Drift. Will history repeat itself in 2017 with Kuwaiti finalists on the podium? Find out on December 8 at SIRBB Circuit.



**13** Brown's first goal gives Lightning 2-1 win over Ducks



**14** Prove yourselves, German stars told for French test



**14** Celtics beat Raptors for 12th straight victory



DENVER: Denver Broncos tight end A.J. Derby (83) is tripped up by New England Patriots cornerback Jonathan Jones (31) during the first half of an NFL football game, in Denver. — AP

## Patriots rout Broncos for 12th win

### Patriots had a special teams takeaway

**DENVER:** Tom Brady threw three touchdown passes and the New England Patriots matched their own AFC record with their 12th consecutive road victory, pummeling the Denver Broncos 41-16 on Sunday night. These teams have represented the AFC in the last four Super Bowls, and the Broncos (3-6) were hoping a visit from their rivals would help shake them from their funk. Instead, the Broncos fizzled. They saw their losing streak reach five games, their longest skid in seven seasons, and they lost back-to-back games to the Patriots (7-2) in Denver for the first time since 1966. Avoiding Von Miller all night and throwing for 266 yards on 25-of-34 passing, Brady improved to 8-9 against the Broncos, the only team he has a losing record against, and won for just the fourth time in 11 trips to Denver. His 86th regular-season road win broke a tie with Peyton Manning for most all-time. The Patriots also won a dozen consecutive road games from 2006-08. The NFL record is 18 set by the Joe Montana-led San Francisco 49ers from 1988-90. For the first time since 1979, the Patriots had a special teams takeaway, a blocked punt and a kickoff return for a touchdown, a trifecta that fueled a comfortable 27-9 halftime lead.

#### 49ERS 31, GIANTS 21

C.J. Beathard threw for 288 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a third score to lead San Francisco past New York for its first victory over the season. Beathard connected on an 83-yard TD to Marquise Goodwin and a 47-yarder to Garrett Celek in the second quarter as the 49ers (1-9) took advantage of another listless effort by the Giants (1-8) to win for the first time under coach Kyle Shanahan. Beathard's time as starting quarterback in San Francisco figures to be numbered after the team acquired Jimmy Garoppolo two weeks ago in trade from New England. Garoppolo has been learning the offense and could take over when the team returns from the bye in two weeks. While the Niners could be making a quarterback change soon, this performance will only heighten the questions about whether the Giants will need to change coaches. Ben McAdoo has been under fire after a report this past week from ESPN that quoted an anonymous player as saying the players have given up on the season and don't view McAdoo as a leader.

#### FALCONS 27, COWBOYS 7

Adrian Clayborn set an Atlanta record with six sacks, Matt Ryan threw a pair of short touchdown passes and the Falcons romped to victory over Dallas. The Cowboys looked anemic offensively in their first game without suspended running back Ezekiel Elliott. Ryan hooked up with Justin Hardy on a 3-yard pass for Atlanta's first offensive touchdown in the third quarter this season. Early in the fourth,

Ryan put the game away for the Falcons (5-4) by tossing one to Austin Hooper for a 1-yard score. While the Cowboys (5-4) sure missed Elliott, who finally began serving a six-game suspension for allegations of domestic abuse after three legal reprieves, they really noticed the absence of left tackle Tyron Smith. He sat out the game with back and groin injuries, leaving third-year player Chaz Green to protect Dak Prescott's blind side.

#### RAMS 33, TEXANS 7

Robert Woods caught two of Jared Goff's three touchdown passes during a dominant third quarter, and surging Los Angeles returned after a month away from home for their fourth straight victory, 33-7 over depleted Houston. After struggling to a 9-7 lead during a quiet first half for the NFL's highest-scoring team, the Rams (7-2) ran away with a series of big throws by Goff, who passed for a career-high 355 yards. Woods caught a 94-yard TD pass to break it open before Sammy Watkins and Woods made TD catches 19 seconds apart late in the third quarter. The Rams defense shut out Houston in the second half and won at the Coliseum for just the third time in 11 games since returning to Los Angeles last season. Woods finished with eight catches for 171 yards, making the longest catch of his NFL career before following it up with a 12-yard TD.

#### BILLS 47, SAINTS 10

Mark Ingram scored a career-best three touchdowns and New Orleans won its seventh straight game by plowing through a porous Buffalo defense. Alvin Kamara also had a 3-yard touchdown rushing as the Saints blew the game open by scoring five times on their first six possessions, not including a one-play series to close the first half. Ingram finished with 131 yards rushing. He scored twice from 3 yards and again on a 1-yard plunge. The Saints finished with 298 yards rushing and 32 first downs. Their defense was just as dominating in limiting Buffalo to 198 yards and 10 first downs. And five of those first downs came on Buffalo's meaningless final drive that ended with backup quarterback Nathan Peterman hitting Nick O'Leary on a 7-yard touchdown pass.

#### STEELERS 20, COLTS 17

Ben Roethlisberger's 32-yard completion to Antonio Brown with 35 seconds set up a 33-yard field goal from Chris Boswell as time expired. The Steelers (7-2) have won four straight overall and five in a row in the series. But it sure wasn't easy as the Colts (3-7) held Roethlisberger, Brown and Le'Veon Bell in check. Pittsburgh needed two second-half TD passes from Roethlisberger to fight its way out of a 17-3 third-quarter deficit. And Roethlisberger reverted to his

traditional form on the Steelers' final possession. The two-time Super Bowl champion methodically marched the Steelers 70 yards in the final 3 minutes, 10 seconds to give Pittsburgh its only lead.

#### VIKINGS 38, REDSKINS 30

Case Keenum threw touchdowns to four different receivers to build a big lead, and the NFC North-leading Vikings won their fifth in a row. With Teddy Bridgewater active for the first time since January 2016 after a devastating knee injury, Keenum was 21 of 29 for 304 yards and TD passes to Stefon Diggs, Adam Thielen, David Morgan and Jarius Wright. He was picked off on consecutive throws by D.J. Swearingin. Thielen had eight catches for a season-high 166 yards. Latavius Murray also ran for a score as five players got into the end zone for Minnesota (7-2), which was 8 of 12 on third downs. The Vikings won their first game out of the bye week for the second time in eight seasons as they try to avoid a repeat of the swoon that cost them a playoff spot last season.

#### PACKERS 23, BEARS 16

Brett Hundley threw for 212 yards and a touchdown, Nick Perry had three sacks and the Packers snapped a three-game losing streak. Hundley, starting his third game for an injured Aaron Rodgers, threw a 17-yard touchdown to Davante Adams to make it 23-13 with 5:29 to play, and the Packers (5-4) hung on to beat the Bears (3-6) for the eighth time in nine games. It was the first victory for a Packers QB not named Rodgers or Brett Favre since 1989. Chicago's Mitchell Trubisky threw for a career-high 297 yards. The rookie hit Josh Bellamy for a 46-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter, but the Bears dropped their second in a row after winning back-to-back games.

#### TITANS 24, BENGALS 20

Marcus Mariota tossed a 7-yard touchdown pass to DeMarco Murray with 36 seconds left, and the Titans rallied for their fourth consecutive victory. It's the longest winning streak for the Titans (6-3) since taking five straight in 2009, and it's their best start to a season since 2008 when the Titans last reached the playoffs as the AFC's No. 1 seed. Murray ran for two touchdowns, and Mariota finished with 264 yards passing. The Bengals (3-6) lost for the third time in four games despite sacking Mariota four times. They started with three defensive starters scratched and lost a fourth when linebacker Vontaze Burfict was ejected in the second quarter after pushing the arm of an official. Cincinnati took its only lead at 20-17 on a 70-yard TD pass from Andy Dalton to A.J. Green with 5:03 left, but the Bengals couldn't stop the Titans, who drove 73 yards for the winning TD.

#### JAGUARS 20, CHARGERS 17, OT

Josh Lambo kicked a 30-yard field goal with 3:12 remaining in overtime, lifting the Jaguars in a wild game. Lambo's kick got tipped at the line of scrimmage and still cleared the crossbar. The former soccer player and one-time Charger ran the other way and slid on both knees near midfield before getting mobbed by teammates. It gave Jacksonville its first three-game winning streak since 2013. The game ended up in overtime after a wacky final two minutes of regulation that included a fumble, two interceptions, a taunting penalty and a costly flag for roughing the passer. At times, it looked as if neither team wanted to win. After all the chaos, Lambo drilled a 34-yard field goal to send it to the extra period.

#### LIONS 38, BROWNS 24

Matthew Stafford lofted a 29-yard, tiebreaking touchdown to Eric Ebron early in the fourth quarter and the Lions went on to beat the winless Browns. The Lions (5-4) rallied from first- and second-half deficits to earn consecutive victories for the first time since winning the first two games this season. The Browns, who fell to 0-9 on the season, led 10-0 early in the game for their first double-digit lead of the season, and were up 24-17 in the third after Deshaun Kizer led two consecutive touchdown drives. Detroit is the only franchise to have a 0-16 season in 2008. Cleveland's chances to finally win this season were hurt when Kizer took a shot to the ribs by blitzing defensive back Quandre Diggs late in the third period. The rookie quarterback, who came back to play late in the fourth, had perhaps his best game. He completed 21 of 37 passes for 232 yards with a 19-yard touchdown pass to Kenny Britt in the first quarter. Kizer ran seven times for 57 yards, including a go-ahead, 1-yard sneak with 6:01 left in the third.

#### BUCCANEERS 15, JETS 10

Ryan Fitzpatrick led two long scoring drives and Tampa Bay limited the Jets to less than 200 yards of offense until late in the fourth quarter to snap a five-game losing streak. With Fitzpatrick filling in for injured quarterback Jameis Winston, the Buccaneers (3-6) used three field goals to build a 9-3 lead. Charles Sims put the game out of reach with a 6-yard touchdown reception with just over six minutes remaining. Fitzpatrick, facing the team he played for the past two seasons, completed 17 of 34 passes for 187 yards and was intercepted once. The 34-year-old Fitzpatrick, one of just four players in NFL history to throw TD passes for seven different teams, led a seven-minute drive that produced a field goal in the first quarter. He finished a 15-play, 81-yard march, also lasting more than seven minutes, with his TD pass to Sims to make it 15-3. — AP



## Business

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

**18** Nissan Al-Babtain launches new Nissan X-TRAIL 2018**19** Qualcomm rejects Broadcom's \$103-billion takeover bid**22** Huawei holds Global Energy Summit 2017 in Abu Dhabi

DUBAI: Emirati visitors pass US Air Force planes during the Dubai Air Show yesterday. — AP

# Emirates dashes Airbus's hopes for A380 order

## Dubai demand key for world's biggest jetliner

**DUBAI:** Dubai wants a guarantee that Airbus will keep production of the A380 superjumbo open for at least 10 years before state-owned Emirates places a new order for the world's largest jetliner, the airline's president said yesterday.

Speaking to Reuters at the Dubai Airshow, Tim Clark also said the largest Middle East carrier would probably stick with the Boeing 787 for its mid-sized fleet needs after ordering 40 of the jets on Sunday, and could order more in future. Airbus's hopes of a new order from top customer Emirates for the slow-selling A380 were thwarted on Sunday when the airline unveiled a surprise order for 40 Boeing 787-10 jets worth \$15.1 billion at list prices, but no European contract.

Delegates said Airbus may be willing to meet Dubai's conditions to steady A380 output, but hopes of an announcement during the rest of the Nov 12-16 air show all but evaporated on Monday as Airbus Chief Executive Tom Enders left empty-handed.

"We continue to have a dialogue with them," Clark said. "If that comes to some kind of fruition during the course of the week, or the next few months, is very

much down to them." Delegates said an air show order was not impossible but now looked unlikely. Airbus has been scaling back production plans for the A380, which was launched as the solution to ever-rising air travel between major international hubs but has been outflanked by improvements in the efficiency of smaller jets. With 100 A380s already in Emirates' fleet, Clark made plain the concerns about Airbus' commitment to the project were being felt as high as the Dubai government, which owns the airline.

"I think the ownership here are concerned about continuation (of the A380). They need some copper-bottom guarantees that if we do buy some more, then the line will be continued for a minimum period of years and that they are

fully aware of the consequences of cancellation and leaving us high and dry."

"Those assurances I am sure will come. Quite when, I don't quite know." Asked what would be a reasonable commitment to unblock a deal, he said: "A minimum 10 years. These are vast capital investments for us and we can't afford to have anything less than 10 years; hopefully it would be 15. But it is their call". Airbus declined to comment.

### Guarantees

Emirates is by far the biggest customer for the A380, which entered service in 2007 during the financial crisis and never generated as many sales from other carriers as Airbus had hoped. Emirates has ordered 142 of the jets, worth \$436 million each at list prices, and last week took

delivery of its 100th. Scrapping production would raise concerns about future support and the value of jets in Emirates' portfolio. Dubai's demand for industrial guarantees raises the stakes in negotiations and would be a matter for the Airbus board.

"There has to be a fleshing out of the undertakings. My own view is that Airbus are ready to make those, but whether it is today or tomorrow or next week or in the next few months, I don't know," Clark said. Airbus has been driving down A380 costs in an effort to ensure the line can stay open and break even, even if Emirates remains the only significant buyer of new jets, something that would help it to give the carrier assurances over its future. Emirates' tough negotiating position also reflects growing concerns about management uncertainty at Airbus, whose veteran sales chief John Leahy is about to retire.

"We know management is likely to be structured slightly differently. On the basis of that we wish to know that irrespective of what the management does, that once that commitment is made and signed for ... that they will honor it and nobody will change it," Clark said. —Reuters



### Airline would probably stick with Boeing 787

## ALAFCO seals \$2.2bn deal for 20 Boeing aircraft

**DUBAI:** Kuwait's Aviation Lease and Finance Company (ALAFCO) has completed the purchase of 20 Boeing 737 Max aircraft worth \$2.2 billion. On the sidelines of the ongoing Dubai Airshow 2017 expo, ALAFCO's deputy CEO Adel Al-Banwan and the executive vice president of Boeing Kevin McAllister put their names on the dotted line to finalize the deal.

Addressing reporters, Al-Banwan pointed out that Boeing 737 Max aircraft are among the least fuel-consuming fleet of airplanes that will help propel the Kuwaiti aircraft-leasing company to new growth.

He underlined the company's positive experiences with the Boeing 737 fleet of aircraft, which he said were highly efficient and reliable. Meanwhile, McAllister touted the 737 Max fleet of aircrafts as the "fastest-selling in the history of Boeing," saying these airplanes are fully equipped with cutting-edge technology to ensure maximal convenience for passengers. Established in 2000, ALAFCO joined Kuwait's stock exchange six years later and offers services that include aircraft leasing and investment in aviation.

Separately, Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) endorsed a memorandum of understanding for sharing experience yesterday. The memorandum's endorsement was attended by DGCA's President Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah and DCAA's Chairman Saif Al-Suwaidi, on the sidelines of Dubai Airshow Exhibition 2017, held until November 16.

In a statement to KUNA, Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah said the memorandum involves developing cooperation in aviation and boosting performance. He hoped for further cooperation with the Emirati side in the future in strategic planning and executing projects in the field. — KUNA



DUBAI: DGCA's President Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah and DCAA's Chairman Saif Al-Suwaidi. — KUNA



DUBAI: ALAFCO's Deputy CEO Adel Al-Banwan and the executive vice president of Boeing Kevin McAllister

## Eurozone bond markets brace for auction tests

**LONDON:** Eurozone bond yields fell yesterday, pulling back from recent highs ahead of a series of government bond sales this week likely to test investor appetite after last week's sudden sell-off.

Italy holds a bond sale yesterday but technical reasons prompted a delay in the cut-off time to submit bids. Further auction tests from the Netherlands, Germany, France and Spain follow later in the week. Eurozone bond yields were lower 2-3 basis points across the board, somewhat reversing a sharp sell-off towards the end of last week.

Government bond yields had risen on Thursday and Friday, triggered by a large seller of Bund futures on Thursday. That curbed a rally that

began after the European Central Bank's October policy meeting, when it extended its bond-buying scheme until at least September 2018.

Yesterday, yields edged lower across the board but were within touching distance of recent highs, with more than 30 billion euros of new bonds set to enter the market this week.

"Bonds could be somewhat weak during these auctions," said DZ Bank analyst Sebastian Fellechner. However, he believes that in the long term southern European bonds will outperform their better-rated counterparts because of the benign environment.

"Overall, it's a 'Goldilocks' environment for peripheral spreads," he said, pointing to fading political concerns and the European Central Bank decision to keep up its stimulus. The yield on Germany's 10-year bond, the benchmark for the bloc, fell 2 bps to 0.39 percent and Italian 10-year borrowing costs slipped 3 bps to 1.81 percent. Both German and Italian yields are still 8-9 bps off last week's lows. Yields rose last week after a mystery seller sold a large chunk of German government bond futures on Thursday, sources said. — Reuters

Business

# Nissan Al-Babtain launches new Nissan X-TRAIL 2018

Enhancements focus on fresh exterior design, greater cabin refinement



**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait, is delighted to announce the launch of the 2018 Nissan X-TRAIL model which is newly upgraded to reinforce X-TRAIL's position as the perfect car for family adventures in Kuwait. The redesigned crossover comes with a distinctive and robust exterior appearance, several new high-quality interior provisions, and innovative technologies to make life on the road more enjoyable and safer.

Nissan has sold over 835,000 units in FY16, making X-TRAIL the highest-selling SUV worldwide and a customer favorite. New upgrades to the 2018 model give young families and adventure-seekers more premium style options such as the choice between the five or seven-seat version as well as five new vibrant exterior vehicle shades, unrivalled space and comfort.

Al-Babtain Chief Operating Officer Mohammad Shalaby commented on the launch, "Crossovers are a popular choice in Kuwait and having been a successful model in the past years, we are certain the reinvigorated additions such as the latest technologies, upgraded design, accommodation, and its overall versatility will match the changing needs of Nissan Al-Babtain's segment. This makes it even more exciting for us at Al-Babtain, to bring Nissan's flagship crossover to Kuwait as it reflects our commitment to meet growing demands in the market and position the 2018 X-Trail as a leader that plays on the benefits of a customer-centric SUV carrier while maintaining the traditional advantages of a crossover."

Nissan Intelligent Mobility represents the brand's strategy which make its cars more desirable by redefining how they are driven, powered and integrated into society. Powered by a range of Nissan's Intelligent Mobility technologies, the new X-TRAIL is equipped with three new driver-friendly innovative features for the first time - Intelligent Rear View Mirror, Intelligent Emergency Brakes, and Intelligent



Cruise Control. The goal is to make Nissan drivers feel more confident, excited and connected, while also enhancing road and passenger safety.

The crossover is responsive and brilliantly adapts to changing conditions. Sand-covered pavement or tight turns, the system automatically sends power to the wheels that need it most. The Nissan X-Trail is equipped with an efficient 4-cylinder 169 HP engine with 233Nm of torque to help ensure exceptional highway fuel economy.

For enhanced practicality, the new Nissan X-TRAIL is a spacious five or seven-seat crossover aimed at adventure-loving families. Delivering best-in-class front head room

supreme comfort of fatigue-reducing Zero Gravity front seats. There's a 2nd row that slides and reclines, providing Easy Flex Seating, so you can adjust for maximum leg room, more cargo space, or anywhere

## New Nissan Intelligent Mobility features

Object Detection, Intelligent Around View Monitor, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, and Blind Spot Warning technology. These advanced technologies amplify

in between. And with available tasteful touches like Power Panoramic Moonroof, and leather-appointed seats, this is one natural, relaxed, and decidedly upscale environment.

The new Nissan X-TRAIL continues to offer countless confidence-inspiring innovative safety technologies, including Moving



Nissan's Intelligent Mobility philosophy and provide Intelligent Power, Intelligent Driving and Intelligent Integration to increase a driver's confidence and trust in their new Nissan X-TRAIL.

Nissan Al-Babtain invites customers to visit its showrooms located in Al-Rai and Ahmadi to explore the 2018 Nissan X-Trail and its new possibilities on the road.

## Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah daily draws for week

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 12 November 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 5 November - 9 November 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

**The winners are:**  
(Sunday 5/11): Obaid Mohammed Rathwan Al-Thafiri, Karim Nabil Al-Sonji  
(Monday 6 /11): Sahar Kazem Hejazi, Sara Qasem Al-Shuwaiker  
(Tuesday 7/11): Mohsen Guloum Malek Hussain, Abdulla Abdulwahab Abdulaziz Al-Asfour  
(Wednesday 8/11): Hani Mohammed Sharef Taqi, Fuad Jawad Yaqoub Abulhasan  
(Thursday 9/11): Abdulla Soud Abdulaziz Al-Basri, Hamad Mohammed Obeid Al-Ajmi  
Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al-Danah's final draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah mil-

lionaire will be announced. Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking.

- Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the Best:
- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million and the largest international bank prize according to Guinness World Records
  - 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD 500,000
  - 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
  - 4) The most chances to win
  - 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year



## EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b>	
Japanese Yen	2.674
Indian Rupees	4.630
Pakistani Rupees	2.875
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.972
Nepali Rupees	2.936
Singapore Dollar	223.710
Hongkong Dollar	38.878
Bangladesh Taka	3.662
Philippine Peso	5.924
Thai Baht	9.187
<b>GCC COUNTRIES</b>	
Saudi Riyal	80.947
Qatari Riyal	83.372
Omani Riyal	788.981
Bahraini Dinar	806.700
UAE Dirham	82.714
<b>ARAB COUNTRIES</b>	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.700
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.170
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.218
Tunisian Dinar	123.060
Jordanian Dinar	428.040
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.022
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.409
<b>EUROPEAN &amp; AMERICAN COUNTRIES</b>	
US Dollar Transfer	303.350

Euro	354.920
Sterling Pound	398.910
Canadian dollar	239.990
Turkish lira	788.900
Swiss Franc	306.100
Australian Dollar	233.880
US Dollar Buying	302.150
<b>GOLD</b>	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570
<b>Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd</b>	
<b>Rate for Transfer</b>	<b>Selling Rate</b>
US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	239.540
Sterling Pound	399.145
Euro	354.630
Swiss Frank	303.680
Bahrain Dinar	804.185
UAE Dirhams	82.885
Qatari Riyals	83.710
Saudi Riyals	81.660
Jordanian Dinar	428.645
Egyptian Pound	17.208
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.973
Indian Rupees	4.642
Pakistani Rupees	2.873
Bangladesh Taka	3.704
Philippines Peso	5.906
Cyprus pound	18.030

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.392455	0.399955
Czech Korune	0.005816	0.017815
Danish Krone	0.043406	0.048406
Euro	0.347829	0.355329
Georgian Lari	0.113373	0.113373
Norwegian Krone	0.033198	0.038398
Romanian Leu	0.064947	0.081797
Russian ruble	0.005109	0.005109
Slovakia	0.009051	0.019051
Swedish Krona	0.032189	0.037189
Swiss Franc	0.297713	0.308713
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.223951	0.235951
New Zealand Dollar	0.203903	0.213403
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.233692	0.242692
US Dollars	0.299250	0.303670
US Dollars Mint	0.299750	0.303670

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003313 0.003897
Chinese Yuan	0.044149 0.047649
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036789 0.039539
Indian Rupee	0.004124 0.004765
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018 0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002585 0.002776
Korean Won	0.000260 0.000275
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068404 0.074404
Nepalese Rupee	0.003027 0.003197
Pakistan Rupee	0.002660 0.002950
Philippine Peso	0.005777 0.006070
Singapore Dollar	0.217414 0.227414
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001646 0.002228
Taiwan	0.009926 0.010108
Thai Baht	0.008816 0.009366
<b>Arab</b>	
Bahraini Dinar	0.797647 0.806147
Egyptian Pound	0.014546 0.020264
Iranian Riyal	0.000084 0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000207 0.000267
Jordanian Dinar	0.423250 0.432250
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000 1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151 0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022787 0.046787
Omani Riyal	0.781604 0.787284
Qatar Riyal	0.079033 0.083973
Saudi Riyal	0.079807 0.081107
Syrian Pound	0.001286 0.001508
Tunisian Dinar	0.117283 0.125283
Turkish Lira	0.073428 0.083728
UAE Dirhams	0.081166 0.082866
Yemeni Riyal	0.000986 0.001066

Business

# Chip maker Qualcomm rejects \$130bn Broadcom merger bid

## Biggest-ever takeover in tech industry in jeopardy

WASHINGTON: Semiconductor giant Qualcomm yesterday said it rejected the \$130 billion unsolicited merger bid from fellow chip maker Broadcom which could represent the biggest-ever takeover in the tech sector. Singapore-based Broadcom made the offer last week in what would have consolidated two major players in the booming sector fueled by growth in smartphones and other connected devices. Qualcomm said yesterday that it's in a unique position to grow on its own.

The proposal "significantly undervalues Qualcomm relative to the company's leadership position in mobile technology and our future growth prospects," said Paul Jacobs, Qualcomm's executive chairman, in a statement.

Steve Mollenkopf, Qualcomm's chief executive, said the California company remains confident about its future. "No company is better positioned in mobile, IoT (internet of things), automotive, edge computing and networking within the semiconductor industry," he said.

"We are confident in our ability to create significant additional value for

our stockholders as we continue our growth in these attractive segments and lead the transition to 5G," he said, referring to the fifth generation wireless networks in the works.

But any deal would need to pass muster with Qualcomm shareholders and could face regulatory scrutiny in the United States and other markets.

Qualcomm has been facing a series of investigations around the world linked to its dominance in the smartphone chip segment. Broadcom's proposal came days after its CEO Hock Tan appeared at the White House with President Donald Trump to announce plans to move the tech company back to the United States from Singapore.

It comes as Qualcomm seeks a \$47 billion acquisition of Dutch rival NXP, a deal that is the subject of an European Union anti-trust probe.

A merger with Broadcom would create a behemoth with some \$51 billion in revenues, including those from NXP. Broadcom, meanwhile, is seeking to buy US rival Brocade Communications in a deal being reviewed by Washington. —AFP



WASHINGTON: In this Nov 2, 2017, file photo, Broadcom CEO Hock Tan speaks as President Donald Trump listens during an event to announce that the company is moving its global headquarters to the United States, in Washington. —AP

## Venezuela will never default on debt: Maduro

CARACAS: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro insisted yesterday that his cash-strapped country would "never" default, as he prepared to meet with creditors in Caracas to discuss rescheduling part of the country's massive \$150 billion debt. "Never, default will never reach Venezuela," he declared on his weekly television show. "Our strategy is to renegotiate and refinance all the debt."

Maduro pointed to ongoing negotiations with his allies China and Russia, to which Venezuela owes, respectively, \$28 billion and \$8 billion. He said talks with China were

"moving along perfectly" and noted that agreement had been reached this week with Moscow to restructure roughly \$3 billion in loans. That was seen to give Caracas at least a few weeks' breathing room to make other upcoming payments. But sanctions imposed by the United States in August—the White House cited the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, the creation of "an illegitimate Constituent Assembly" and "rampant public corruption"—have made it hard for the country to raise money from international investors.

Venezuela's huge levels of debt have left it in a desperate state, unable to import badly needed food, medicine and other goods. Maduro accused the financial rating agencies, which this week lowered Venezuela's debt rating, of being part of a "financial war" waged by the United States, a favorite target of his. The downgrading of Venezuela's ratings by Standard and Poor's and Fitch was seen as increasing the likelihood of a default. —AFP



CARACAS: In this Oct 17, 2017 photo, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro speaks during a press conference at the Miraflores presidential palace. —AP

## ABK enables contactless payments with KNET

KUWAIT: In an effort to make life simpler for its customers through a series of ongoing enhancements, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced the launch of the Tap 'n' Go service with KNET. This technology uses Visa payWave to enable Prestige, Elite and VIP Debit cardholders to transact with the POS devices by tapping or waving the card on the NFC-enabled POS machine without the need to insert or swipe the card. This enhancement will enable frictionless payments for low value transactions in a secure, more convenient and faster way.

In addition, ABK provides this service without the requirement of PIN or signature verification for point-of-sale transactions below KD10 up to a cumulative total of KD 25, making the experience even simpler.

## For Rent

In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at Abou Halifa Region Facing the National Park and the Sea



Duplex & Triplex Villas  
3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms  
+Big Salon + Separate pool  
All Master Bathrooms is Marble

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby  
Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas



6 9 9 9 6 9 9 2  
6 6 8 0 4 2 2 2



بيت التمويل الكويتي  
Kuwait Finance House



**Kuwait Finance House Group welcomes**  
The Guest of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait  
**Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**  
The Turkish President  
**Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**  
and his accompanying delegation



# The New Arteon is now available

## in Volkswagen Kuwait, Behbehani Motors Company



- The new fastback model impresses with its emotional design and highly functional spatial concept
- Several state-of-the-art driver assistance systems make their debut on the Arteon
- Three powerful engines are available at launch

The Volkswagen brand model line-up expands with the new Arteon revealed at the official vehicle launch media event, which took place at the Volkswagen Al Rai showroom. The notably dynamic fastback model was launched last week and is now available in Volkswagen Kuwait's showroom.

Available now at Al Rai Showroom. The new Arteon combines sporty charisma, great flexibility and excellent spaciousness in an emotional fastback design. The Arteon scores with attributes such as its excellent rear legroom and luggage compartment volume of 563 to 1,557 litres. The new Volkswagen also offers available front and all-wheel drive

as well as digitalized instruments and controls. Further features include an Active Info Display (fully digital and programmable instruments), a head-up display and the new Discover Pro infotainment system with a 9.2-inch glass screen and gesture control.

In addition, new state-of-the-art driver assistance systems make their debut on the Arteon: these include the next-generation adaptive cruise control (ACC), which now takes into account speed limits as well as route information and automatically adjusts vehicle speed accordingly within system limits. Using the navigation system's GPS data, the new dynamic cornering lights with predictive beam control anticipate

when a bend is approaching and illuminate it before the driver actively turns into the bend. Another new feature on the new fastback is the second generation of Emergency Assist: if the driver becomes incapacitated by ill health, the system not only (within its system limits) slows the Arteon down, but now also activates the hazard warning lights and steers it onto the nearside lane, traffic behind permitting.

Along with the sophisticated base version, the new gran turismo is available in two exclusive equipment lines: the 'Elegance' and 'R-Line'. The standard configuration of the Arteon Elegance is focused heavily on a cultivated look. The Arteon R-Line, meanwhile,

puts sportiness even more at the heart of the vehicle's configuration. On the basis of these three trim styles, it is possible for the fastback model to be extensively personalised. The range of optional equipment includes features such as a panoramic tilt/slide sunroof, three-zone automatic air conditioning (Air Care Climatronic including air quality sensor and allergen filter), massage seats in front, heated steering wheel and two-tone Nappa leather interior.

To find out more information about the available Arteon range, please visit the Volkswagen Kuwait showroom in Al Rai area or [www.volkswagen.com/kw](http://www.volkswagen.com/kw)



Mr. Ali Morad Behbehani, H.E the German Ambassador to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner, Mr. Hussein Morad Behbehani, Mr. Abdullatif Ali Morad Behbehani, Mr. Abdulmohsen Ali Morad Behbehani



Mr. Ali Morad Behbehani and H.E the German Ambassador to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner seated inside the all-new 2018 Arteon



Mr. Hussein Morad Behbehani and Mr. Abdulmohsen Ali Morad Behbehani seated inside the all-new 2018 Arteon



Mr. Ali Morad Behbehani and Mr. Hussein Morad Behbehani in a group photo with the management team at Behbehani Motors Company

## Technology

# Huawei holds Global Energy Summit 2017 in Abu Dhabi

## Meeting demonstrates safe and efficient oil and gas ICT solutions

KUWAIT: Huawei, the leading global ICT solutions provider held its Global Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi on November 12. With the theme of 'Leading New ICT for Higher Safety and Efficiency in the Oil and Gas Industry', this summit attracted more than 200 customers, partners, and senior experts from the oil and gas industry, who gathered to discuss how to reduce costs, ensure safe operations, achieve sustainable development, and boost the oil and gas industry's transition to smart operations. At the 20th Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC), Huawei, with industry partners, such as Schlumberger, Honeywell, SAP, and Richfit, demonstrated a series of innovative ICT solutions that cover the entire industry chain from exploration, production, storage, and transportation to distribution.

With the growth of global energy demands, the oil and gas industry faces fierce competition and severe challenges. Oil and gas companies and investors are in urgent need to utilize the latest ICT technologies and management processes to reduce costs and ensure safe operations. Against this backdrop, innovative ICT plays an important role in digital transformation of the oil and gas industry.

Jerry Ji, President of the Energy Sector of Huawei Enterprise BG, gave a keynote speech at the summit. Mr. Jerry Ji said, "It is an honor for Huawei to see all guests at the summit. Today's oil and gas industry is facing tremendous challenges. For example, the average oil recovery rate in the entire industry is only about 37 percent; over 70 percent oilfield assets are not effectively monitored and managed; more than 90 percent incidents arise from man-made improper operations. In addition, oilfield operations are still labor-intensive. Many workers are heavily tasked with routine check and maintenance. All these lead to high costs, low efficiency, and unsatisfactory yields for oil companies. To help oil companies confidently address these challenges, continuous digital construction and digital transformation are among the most feasible ways. Based on its ever-deepened understanding of oil and gas industry services, Huawei cooperates with more and more industry partners to launch innovative ICT solutions in terms of High Performance Computing (HPC), oil and gas IoT, digital pipeline, and enterprise operations management. These solutions help the oil and gas industry to implement and accelerate digital transformation, continuously lower costs and improve efficiency, and enhance safe production and operations management."



tion and operations management." Huawei's oil and gas solutions have been applied in 45 countries and regions around the world, serving 70 percent of global top 20 oil and gas companies. An example is Huawei's cooperation with Santos, the largest onshore oil and gas producer in Australia. In this cooperation, Santos' original narrow-band production network for gas fields is replaced with a 4G LTE IoT network that Huawei helps build. These deployments help Santos collect and analyze data in real time, accurately detect services. Santos' overall work efficiency is improved by 40 percent. Besides, this year, Huawei won the bid of the communications system reconstruction project for the Tazama crude oil pipeline. This pipeline is 1710 km long and extends from Kigamboni, Tanzania to Ndola, Zambia. In this project, Huawei provided a digital pipeline solution.

### Oil and gas industry faces fierce challenges



The solutions Huawei demonstrated in ADIPEC cover exploration and reservoir HPC, seismic data storage, exploration and production cloud, digital oilfield production, digital oil and gas pipeline, digital refinery, and cloud data center. For example, Huawei's innovative converged HPC solution helps oil and gas companies accelerate seismic data processing, numerical reservoir simulation, and 3D visualization for more efficient and accurate optimization and forecasting of oil and gas areas, thereby helping oil and gas companies improve productivity.



tion and forecasting of oil and gas areas, thereby helping oil and gas companies improve productivity.

#### Oil and gas IoT development

At the summit, Dr Hatem Nasr, the senior advisor of digital oilfields, and industry experts from McKinsey, Asia Gas Pipeline (AGP), and Qamar Energy gave speeches on topics such as "Digital transformation drives revolutionary changes in the oil and gas industry".

In the upstream production sector, Dr. Ali Ahmed Jama, Schlumberger Global Production Business Development Manager, gave a speech at the summit discussing a new approach to the digital oilfield through a production operations advisory solution. The solution leverages Schlumberger's extensive digital oilfield experience, and research and development expertise to create a unique user experience, bringing a combination of petroleum engineering domain science and digital technologies to take on the challenges that exist in the core processes of

E&P companies." Regarding oil and gas storage and transportation, the biggest challenge facing oil and gas pipeline operations is pipeline safety. Oil and gas companies are looking for new ways to implement remote control and efficient operations of long-distance pipelines.

Guo Xiaoliang, Deputy Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Branch of China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Corporation (CPPE), pointed out, "By leveraging key technologies such as the IoT, cloud computing, Big Data, and AI, we can have in-depth and comprehensive detection and control on pipeline reliability and security, and improve the pipelines' operating efficiency to the greatest extent. With the support of new ICT technologies and combine the professional capability, we can advance the development of new-generation digital pipelines characterized by an unprecedented level of 'Smartness'."

To date, 197 companies in Fortune's Global 500, 45 of which are in the top 100, have selected Huawei as their partner for digital transformation.

### Panasonic's new marketing campaign to foster stronger customer value for the brand

KUWAIT: Panasonic Marketing Middle East & Africa (PMMMAF) has launched its one of the biggest consumer marketing campaign in the Middle East - 'Makers of Quality. Mastered in Japan', to emphasize on stronger customer value for the brand.

With this new campaign, Panasonic aims to continue delivering on its century old heritage of Japanese craftsmanship and quality innovations laying emphasis on 'Japan Quality'. The brand is looking to further empower its regional customers, by offering products that not only provide comfort, ease, and convenience on a daily basis, but match their premier lifestyle as well.

"Panasonic with its 100-year heritage prides itself in being a brand that genuinely understands quality," commented Keisuke Nakagawa - Director, Consumer Marketing, Panasonic Marketing Middle East & Africa. "We offer excellence that is deeply rooted within our Japanese culture. Our uncompromising craftsmanship and continued innovations helps to offer premium range of products, that cater to every lifestyle need, be it at home or at work. Our discerning customers are among those who enjoy quality over everything else, and we will continue to offer the widest range of the right products for them," he added.

Wael Deeb, General Manager of the Electronics department at Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Co. elaborated, "Panasonic is a globally recognized brand, and it is hugely popular in Kuwait. This new campaign will further help us strengthen the affinity with our customers who value premium 'Japan Quality' products."

The campaign features three key segments of the brand's consumer product line up which are Garment care, Kitchen Appliances & Beauty/Grooming care for the targeted audiences. Consumers will learn about the durability, efficiency and quality moments that these products bring to their lives. Each product shown in the campaign boasts of Panasonic's unbeatable expertise such as Prime Fresh Freezing (Refrigerator), Abaya Wash Feature (Washing Machine), 360° Sole Plate (Iron), Japanese Blade Technology (i-Shaper Beard Styler) and NanoTMTechology (Hair Dryer).

Intended to allow consumers to connect with Panasonic on a personal level, the company's brand messaging can be seen across print, online, and broadcast. Dedicated social media campaigns targeting consumers along with outdoor advertising is set to bolster brand equity and market share. Panasonic products are available at Best Al-Yousifi Electronics showrooms across Kuwait.

### Ithmaar Holding reports third quarter results

KUWAIT: Ithmaar Holding BSC (formerly Ithmaar Bank BSC) (Ithmaar) reported yesterday a net loss of \$16.3 million for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2017, compared to a net profit of \$16.7 million for the same period last year.

Net loss attributable to equity holders for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2017 was \$27million, compared to a net profit of \$6.5 million reported for the same period last year. This included a net loss of \$14.7 million for the three-month period ended 30 September 2017, compared to a net profit of \$4.8 million for the same period last year. Net loss attributable to equity holders for the three-month period ended 30 September 2017 was \$17.8 million, compared to a net profit of \$2.1 million reported for the same period last year.

The announcement, by Ithmaar Chairman Prince Amr Al-Faisal, follows the review and approval, by the Board of Directors, of Ithmaar's consolidated financial results for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2017.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that Ithmaar's financial results for 2017 show that the core business continued to grow throughout the period," said Prince Amr. "Overall income from our core business grew significantly during the year, as evident

### VIVA announces expansion plan for new branches

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced expansion plan to open new branches in different areas in Kuwait. This new plan aims to serve more customers and offer them ease and convenience.

VIVA has inaugurated recently three new branches in the areas Mabboula, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Jaber Al-Ahmad. These new branches joined VIVA's new branch network in Kuwait to cover all residential areas. Commenting in this occasion, Saud Al-Motairan, Sales Director at VIVA said: "VIVA aims through these new branches in the areas of Mabboula, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Jaber Al-Ahmad which will serve a large segment of customers, to provide convenience to its customers and to satisfy their needs and requirements. This move will bring VIVA and its customers closer and keep them posted regularly with the latest products and plans."

He added: "The increase in customer base requires the strengthening of our branch network, to provide the best services and products according to the latest and best standards in the world of communications to our customers. In addition to our branch services, VIVA's customer care line at 102 is ready round the clock and up to public holidays, to provide outstanding service to our valued customers through team of specialists."



Saud Al-Motairan

from the higher share on income from unrestricted investment accounts as a Mudarib, which grew 49.8 percent to \$51.9 million for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2017, compared to \$34.7 million for the same period last year, as well as the increase in income from murabaha and other financing, which grew by 9.3 percent to \$108.4 million for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2017, compared to \$99.2 million for the same period last year," he said.

"During the nine-month period ended 30 September 2017, Ithmaar Group initiated an active program to locate a buyer for a specific asset within the Group. Accordingly, this asset was consequently presented as an asset classified as held for sale in the consolidated statement of financial position," said Prince Amr. "At 30 September 2017, this asset was classified as held for sale and the resultant impairment loss was recorded in the consolidated statement of income during the period," he said.

"Although net income, before provision for impairment and overseas taxation, dropped to \$32.8 million for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2017, from \$51.1 million for the same period last year, this loss was mainly due to unrealized foreign exchange losses of \$17.2 million," said Prince Amr. Ithmaar Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, said the results reflect a clear, unwavering focus on growing the core retail banking business.

"I am pleased to report that the balance sheet is stable and continues to grow," said Abdul Rahim. "Total assets stood at \$8.6billion as at 30 September 2017, a 3.5 percent increase compared to \$8.3 billion as at 31 December 2016, and a 9 percent increase compared to \$7.9billion as at 30 September 2016," he said. "Murabaha and other financings also increased to \$3.6



Ahmed Abdul Rahim



Prince Amr Al-Faisal

billion as at 30 September 2017, a 4 percent increase compared to \$3.4 billion as at 31 December 2016, and a 9.7 percent increase compared to \$3.3 billion as at 30 September 2016," said Abdul Rahim. "Sukuk and other investment securities mainly representing investment in government securities also increased to \$2.1 billion as at 30 September 2017, a 9.2 percent increase compared to \$1.9 billion as at 31 December 2016, and a 32 percent increase compared to \$1.6 billion as at 30 September 2016," he said.

"Customer current accounts also increased to \$1.7 billion as at 30 September 2017, a 7.2 percent increase compared to \$1.6 billion as at 31 December 2016, and a 13.8 percent increase compared to \$1.5 billion as at 30 September 2016," said Abdul Rahim. "The equity of unrestricted investment account holders, at \$2.83 billion as at 30 September 2017, increased by 2.1 percent compared to \$2.77 billion as at 31 December 2016, and by 4.7 percent compared to \$2.7 billion as 30 September 2016," he said.

### Kuwait Insurance hires actuarial expertise to strengthen its technical performance

KUWAIT: Kuwait Insurance Company, announced its financial results for the first nine months ending 30.09.2017. The results reported a net profit of KD7.2million for the first nine months of 2017 compared to a loss of (KD737,000) for the same period last year which shows an increase of 1,081 percent, with Earning Per Share (EPS) at 39.15fil, compared to a loss of (3.99fil) for the same period last year.

Sami Sharif, FSA, MAAA, CEO of Kuwait Insurance Company said in a press release: The Company continues to maintain growth in operational performance during the first nine months of this year. This is due to the implementation of the Business Plan, which includes smart objectives to achieve precise results and the outcomes in accordance to specific timelines. Shareholders' equity reached KD70.8million this year compared to KD56.8million in the same period of last year, which shows a growth of 24.6 percent. This indicates the Company's ability to protect its assets and shareholders' interests.

Sami Sharif added that the Gross Written Premium reached KD30.2million in the first nine months for this year compared to KD27.6 million recorded for the same period of last year which shows an increase of KD2.6 million i.e. 9.6 percent. Total assets reached KD172.2million this year compared to KD146.8 million for the same period of last year, showing an increase of KD25.4million i.e. 17.3 percent. Sami Sharif stressed that the Company's Net



The actuarial team Sami Sharif, Mohamed Alsayed, Mohamed Ibrahim and Soha Fouad

Profit showed growth despite the increase in Net Technical Reserves to reach KD 83.7 million for the current period, compared to KD 72.9 million for the same period of last year. An increase of 14.8 percent was recorded which supports the Company's ability to meet its obligations.

He stated that the Company has always presented its willingness to maintain credibility and to show transparency by complying to the rules and regulations of Corporate Governance issued by the Capital Markets Authority, which strengthens the Company's position and manage the risks, and its ability to adapt to the unstable economic environment.

Sami Sharif said that as part of 2017 business plan and the Board of Directors' instructions to acquire the best technical expertise to strengthen the performance of the company and despite the scarcity of specialists in actuarial science worldwide (insurance mathematics science), the company managed to hire three Associates of the Society of Actuaries that report directly to Sami Sharif who is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries.

Health

# Weed-killer prompts angry divide among US farmers

## Young US farmers struggling to make ends meet

**LITTLE ROCK:** When it comes to the herbicide dicamba, farmers in the southern state of Arkansas are not lacking for strong opinions. "Farmers need it desperately," said Perry Galloway. "If I get dicamba on (my products), I can't sell anything," responded Shawn Peebles. The two men know each other well, living just miles apart in the towns of Gregory and Augusta, in a corner of the state where cotton and soybean fields reach to the horizon and homes are often miles from the nearest neighbor. But they disagree profoundly on the use of dicamba.

Last year the agro-chemical giant Monsanto began selling soy and cotton seeds genetically modified to tolerate the herbicide. The chemical product has been used to great effect against a weed that plagues the region, Palmer amaranth, or pigweed-especially since it became resistant to another herbicide, glyphosate, which has become highly controversial in Europe over its effects on human health. The problem with dicamba is that it vaporizes easily and is carried by the wind, often spreading to nearby farm fields-with varying effects.

Facing a surge in complaints, authorities in Arkansas early this summer imposed an urgent ban on the product's sale. The state is now poised to ban its use between April 16 and October 31, covering the period after plants have emerged from the soil and when climatic conditions favor dicamba's dispersal.

### A bitter dispute

"Dicamba has affected my whole family," said Kerin Hawkins, her voice trembling. Her brother, Mike Wallace, died last year during an altercation with a worker from a neighboring farm whom he had met to

discuss his concerns over the herbicide. A jury is set to rule on whether Wallace's fatal shooting constituted homicide or self-defense. This year, the family says, drifting dicamba has affected some 75 acres of peanuts and 10 acres of new varieties of vegetables planted on their farm, sharply reducing profits.

To protect themselves against the product's impact, the family has decided to plant cotton seeds genetically modified to resist dicamba. "This is not just a dicamba issue, this is not just a Monsanto issue, this is about how we as human beings treat other people," Kerin Hawkins said. She was testifying tomorrow at a public hearing in Little Rock, the state capitol, organized by the agency that regulates pesticide and herbicide use in Arkansas.

Immediately afterward the agency called for curbs on the use of dicamba, a decision subject to legislative approval. So large was the turnout for the hearing that the agency had to move it from its own offices to a meeting room in a hotel. In all, 37 people stepped up to the microphone to explain-often in voices shaking with emotion-why they favored or strongly opposed the product.

### Dealing with diversity

"I'm here to tell you we used dicamba and we had a wonderful year," said Harry Stephens, who with his son grows soybeans in Phillips County. At a time when some younger farmers are struggling to make ends meet, he said, banning dicamba could "put them out of business." Richard Coy, who raises bees, said dicamba has had a devastating impact on hives located near farm fields where dicamba is in use.

"I lost \$500,000 in honey production and



Workers sort sweet potatoes at Peebles Organics in Augusta, Arkansas, on November 7, 2017. The use of the herbicide Dicamba has pitted farmers against each other, as Arkansas debates whether to uphold the annual April 16 to October 31 ban on its use.—AFP

\$200,000 worth of pollination contracts to California farms due to the poor health of my beehives," he said. On the edge of his farm field, Perry Galloway points out some of the weeds dead but still standing, many of them head-high-that ruined several of his past crops. He has since sprayed dicamba twice over an area of 4,000 acres, and says that "we had the cleanest fields we had in a long time."

He favors a compromise, allowing the herbicide to be applied only once, after plants have sprouted.

But Shawn Peebles, who grows organic vegetables, was able to deal with pigweed by hiring workers to pull them up by hand. "It is known for a fact dicamba will move," he said. If he gets any in his fields-which has not happened this year-"I have to destroy the crop." "Diversity is what made agriculture what it is today," he said. "It is not just dicamba (and) soybeans; there is organic farms such as myself, there is vineyards in Arkansas, and we all need to work together." —AFP

## Solomon Islands churches preach climate action

**HONIARA:** In the Solomon Islands - as in many island nations of the Pacific - churches wield huge influence in people's lives, both as community leaders and providers of key public services. Now the government and climate experts are looking to them to take on an additional role: as influential partners in the battle to combat climate change.

"The churches are taking (climate change) on; they are accepting it. They encourage people to look after the environment. We hear it in our sermons and in church retreats," said Helen Zazu Novak, a resident of Taro, a town in remote northern Choiseul Province that is being hit by coastal erosion and flooding. "They are saying that we should care for life and this means we should not only care about people, but also the environment," she said.

Missionaries arrived in this part of the world more than a century ago and today at least 90 percent of people in the Solomon Islands are

active members of a Christian church. In rural areas, where more than 80 percent of the population resides, churches and faith-based organizations are important providers of education and health services.

Hudson Kaubiona, acting director of climate change with the Ministry of Environment, said the government sees churches as a crucial - but so far under-used - partner in efforts to build resilience to climate change, which is threatening water supplies, farming and lives on low-lying islands through worsening storms and sea level rise. "We are still not really working closely with the churches and other civil society organizations as we should. In communities, they are one of the best groups to do (activities) on behalf of the government. That is an area which still needs to be strengthened," Kaubiona said.

### Speaking to the faithful

A recent study of attitudes to faith and the environment among more than 1,200 students at University of the South Pacific campuses across a range of islands found that 80 percent attended church services at least once a week and 90 percent claimed a close personal affinity with the natural world.

The authors, from universities in Australia and the Pacific, noted that climate change mes-

sages - even those aimed at an educated elite - "if communicated within familiar and respected religious contexts are likely to be more successful than secular ones". Already, faith leaders have been far from silent about the issue.

Thirteen years ago, the Pacific Council of Churches issued a public statement, the 'Otin Tai' Declaration, pointing out that climate change "is not an act of God" but instead "a result of human economic and consumer activities that pollute the atmosphere". The declaration included pledges by church leaders to engage their churches in education and action on climate change, carry out work on emergency response, adaptation to climate change and other issues, and encourage companies producing or using fossil fuels to support a transition to less carbon-heavy economy.

Under the declaration, local clergy, for instance, were encouraged to use part of their annual budgets to carry out climate change education with congregations. In the Solomon Islands, the capacity of churches to pass on climate change messages is immense. On Sundays, when the streets of the capital, Honiara, are deserted, places of worship such as Holy Cross Cathedral are bulging with families dressed in their best. Church services are often the biggest social occasion of the week. —Reuters

## Bill Gates makes \$100m investment to fight Alzheimer's

**LONDON:** Billionaire Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is to invest \$50 million in the Dementia Discovery Fund, a venture capital fund that brings together industry and government to seek treatments for the brain-wasting disease. The investment - a personal one and not part of Gates' philanthropic Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - will be followed by another \$50 million in start-up ventures working in Alzheimer's research, Gates said. With rapidly rising numbers of people suffering from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, the disease is taking a growing emotional and financial toll as people live longer, Gates told Reuters in an interview. "It's a huge problem, a growing problem, and the scale of the tragedy - even for the people who stay alive - is very high," he said. Despite decades of scientific research, there is no treatment that can slow the progression of Alzheimer's.

Current drugs can do no more than ease some of the symptoms, Gates said, however, that with focused and well-funded innovation, he's "optimistic" treatments can be found, even if they might be more than a decade away. "It'll take probably 10 years before new theories are tried enough times to give them a high chance of success. So it's very hard to hazard a guess (when an effective drug might be developed). "I hope that in the next 10 years that we have some powerful drugs, but it's possible that won't be achieved." Dementia, of which Alzheimer's is the most common form, affects close to 50 million people worldwide and is expected to affect more than 131 million by 2050, according to the non-profit campaign group Alzheimer's Disease International. —Reuters

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## What's On

# Limak's 'Kuwait's Engineer Girls Program' welcomes Turkish President

## Ahead of Erdogan's visit to Kuwait



Limak's 'Kuwait's Engineer Girls' pictured after the session.



On the sidelines of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his honorable delegation's visit to Kuwait this week, the 'Kuwait's Engineer Girls Program' held one of their last training sessions with a two-day course taught on-site at Limak Insaat Kuwait. With one more module left in the semester the project-based learning program will mark its first year of success this December.

'Kuwait's Engineer Girls Program' is a joint project implemented through a part-

nership between Kuwait University, Turkey's Bogazici University and Limak Insaat Kuwait. The Program aims to equip young female engineers with the tools necessary to compete and succeed in the future workplace and help them envision their future careers in engineering.

The Kuwait Program, modeled after a successful program launched in 2015 by Limak in Turkey, kicked off in September 2017 with 35 undergraduate female engineers covering 12 courses over 200 training hours. Upon completion of the

Program the graduates will receive a Business Technology Education Council (BTEC) Management and Leadership certificate recognized in over 100 countries worldwide and three Semester Credit Hours from Kuwait University.

Hosted November 11-12, the two-day course on Quality Engineering and Management taught by Turkish Professor Dr Ali Riza Kaylan, stemmed directly from his lectures delivered on a semester basis at Bogazici University. During the session the 35 female engineers covered the fun-

damental methods of quality engineering with a major emphasis on the statistical tools of quality engineering systems.

Taught on a weekly basis by a different Bogazici University Professor or permanent Limak staff member, other topics covered during the course of the semester include: Finance, Investment and Finance Models for Engineers; New Trends in World Economics - International Trade and Marketing; Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED); Project Planning and

Change Management; and more.

Limak's support for female engineers in Kuwait is part of the company's greater regional efforts to add permanent value to Kuwait's society by supporting education and learning opportunities in the fields of construction, engineering, architecture, and project management. The 'Kuwait's Engineer Girls Program' stems from Limak and Kuwait University's General Cooperation agreement signed on May 8, 2017. The second year of the Program will begin in 2018.

## NEMR performing back in Kuwait



NEMR is coming back to Kuwait. The Lebanese American standup comedian who is credited with establishing and pioneering the standup comedy scene throughout the Middle East where he performs in English will be performing again in Kuwait at the Convention Center and Royal Suites Hotel Shuwaikh Free Trade Zone (in front of Movenpick Free Trade Zone) on November 17, 2017.

## RCCG holds 'Choose to Praise'



It was an atmosphere of praise at the Redeemed Christian Church of God (Mount Zion Parish) as Christians from different denominations gather to worship God in style. The program themed 'Choose to Praise,' featured choirs from various Christian denominations across Kuwait. In his message to the faithful, the host pastor Samuel Kasali urged Christians to live a life worthy of emulation. He thanked Kuwait leaders for promoting peace and tolerance in the region.



## ICSK Senior enthralls with mega arts fest 'Paradigm 2017'

Paradigm 2017, the mega arts fest of the Indian Community School Kuwait, Senior Branch was conducted with great verve and vigor on the 1st and 2nd November 2017, at the Senior School campus. The mega arts festival, unique to ICSK Senior was inaugurated by great luminaries on the 1st of November 2017. Paradigm provides a rostrum for the budding talents of the school with 81 onstage items and 37 off-stage items.

This year's event witnessed tremendous participation with over 1,500 contestants in various events. The titles of Kalathilak and Kalapratibha, which is the highest honor in the arts fest was bestowed on the students with the maximum number of points for onstage and offstage items. In Category 3 Master Sanskar Mishra of class 7-B was conferred the title Kalapratibha and Christina Susan Viji of class 7-E secured the title Kalathilak. In Category 4, Master Rudra Vipul Patel of class 10-B was awarded the title Kalapratibha and Miss Hiba Hameed of class 9-A claimed the title KALATHILAK. Master Moses Kurien Mathew of class 11-I was conferred the title Kalapratibha in Category 5 and Rhea Rebecca Philip of class



12-C was presented with the title of Kalathilak. House points were awarded based on the overall score and 'Santosh' house was declared to be in the first position followed by 'Shanti' house.

The event began with a grand inaugural ceremony, featuring chief guest, Horst Blasinger, Head of Cultural Section, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. S N Raju, treasurer to the ICSK Board of Trustees was also present to grace the occasion. Dr V Binumon, the Principal of ICSK Senior branch, delivered the welcome address. The chief guest extended his pleasure at the opportunity to witness an 'omnium gatherum' of art forms. He also imparted a positive reaction regarding the bilateral ties between India and Germany, and wished good fortune on the grand event. Dr Sam T Kuruvilla, the Vice-Principal of ICSK Senior proposed the vote of thanks to the esteemed guests.

The Inaugural ceremony raised the curtain for an electrifying atmosphere that accompanied the two-day long arts fest. Both days were characterized by a vibrancy radiating from the colors, music, and dance, which reinvigorated the students to undertake the contests with a positive zeal. ICSK Senior has facilitated this arts fest to laud the overt artistry of the students. Off-stage and onstage programs were organized as part of Paradigm 2017, with the off-stage events held well in advance. Students from classes VI to XII partook in this Mega Arts Fest. Competitions were held in three categories- Category III - (Classes 6, 7 and 8), IV (Classes 9 and 10) and V (Classes 11 and 12) on 3 stages.

The event culminated with the Valedictory Ceremony held at the ICSK Senior school auditorium on Thursday 02nd of November, 2017 in the presence of a large audience



including the parents, students and eminent dignitaries. Certificates and trophies were given away to the winners in both the individual and group items. The Chief Guest, Tatang Budie Utama Razak, Ambassador of Indonesia to Kuwait congratulated the winners and spoke on the intangible relation between aesthetics and the intellect. The

Chairman Shaikh Abdul Rahman, Secretary A Amer Mohammed and the Joint Secretary Agnelo A S Fernandes were present on the occasion. The coordination of the mega event was carried out by the Joint Conveners for the event Sreekumar S and Saritha P Nair and assistant joint convener Jayabala Jayram. Sreekumar S delivered the vote of thanks.





TV



01:00 Avengers Grimm
02:35 Savage Dog
04:15 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation



00:50 Lone Star Law
01:45 Trechouse Masters
02:40 Biggest And Baddest



00:30 Rillington Place
01:25 Rillington Place
02:25 In Plain Sight



00:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
01:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
02:00 It Takes A Killer



00:05 Problematic With Moshe Kasher
00:30 Lip Sync Battle UK
00:55 Josh Widdicombe - And Another Thing

21:30 Idiotsitter
22:00 Inside Amy Schumer
22:25 Inside Amy Schumer



00:30 Wild Family Rescue
01:20 Tethered
02:10 Kings Of The Wild



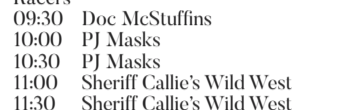
00:50 Six Degrees Of Murder
01:45 Grave Secrets
02:40 Obsession: Dark Desires



00:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

00:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
00:25 Unbungalievable
00:35 Loopdidoo

01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Loopdidoo



00:20 Street Outlaws
01:05 Gold Rush
01:50 Gold Divers



00:20 Street Outlaws
01:05 Gold Rush
01:50 Gold Divers

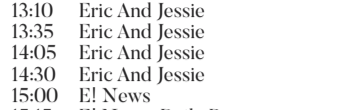


06:00 Disney II
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man



00:05 Famously Single
01:00 Revenge Body With Khloe
Kardashian

Kardashian
12:00 E! News
12:15 Revenge Body With Khloe



00:15 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
00:45 Chasing The Sun



00:00 Restaurant Stakeout
01:00 Mystery Diners
01:30 Mystery Diners



00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street



00:00 How 2 Win
01:00 Ultimate Guide To The...
02:00 History's Greatest Blunders

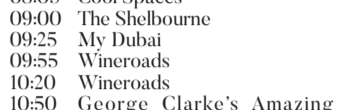


01:10 WW2 Treasure Hunters
02:00 Mountain Men
02:50 Counting Cars

22:15 Milwaukee Blacksmith
22:40 Time Team
23:30 Alone: Lost And Found



00:15 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
00:45 Chasing The Sun



00:10 Facing...
01:00 Live Free Or Die
02:00 Nazi Megastructures



00:10 Facing...
01:00 Live Free Or Die
02:00 Nazi Megastructures

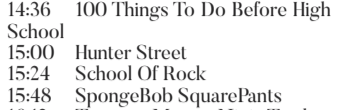


00:20 Snake Underworld
01:10 Wild Indonesia
02:00 Game Of Lions

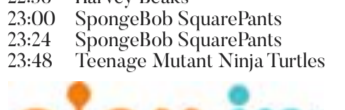


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Sanjay And Craig

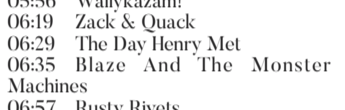
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn



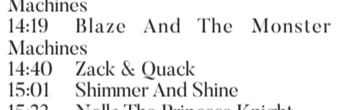
00:16 Shimmer And Shine
00:39 Shimmer And Shine
01:02 Max & Ruby



00:16 Shimmer And Shine
00:39 Shimmer And Shine
01:02 Max & Ruby



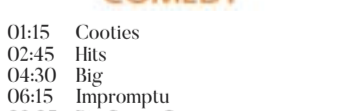
00:40 Myzbusters
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory



00:00 King Arthur
02:00 The Mothman Prophecies
04:00 The Pledge

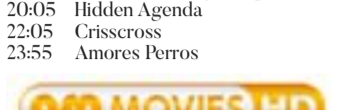


01:10 The Adventures Of Pepper And Paula
02:50 The Secret Life Of Pets

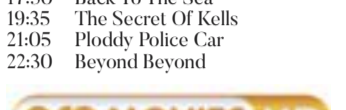


01:15 Cooties
02:45 Hits
04:30 Big

12:55 Infinitely Polar Bear
14:30 127 Hours
16:10 It Boy



00:30 Last Wizard
01:50 Tom And Jerry: Back To Oz



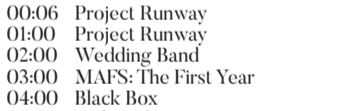
00:05 Sex And The City The Movie
02:30 Jurassic World
04:35 The BoxTrolls



00:40 Myzbusters
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory



00:00 King Arthur
02:00 The Mothman Prophecies
04:00 The Pledge



00:06 Project Runway
01:00 Project Runway
02:00 Wedding Band



00:20 7 Little Johnstons
01:05 Baby Changes Everything
01:50 Return To Amish





## Lifestyle | Gossip

## Kylie boasts an extensive collection of Hermes Birkin bags

The 20-year-old fashion icon has taken her social media followers into her closet to flaunt her vast array of the signature Hermes handbag, as well as her other designer pieces she has amassed over the years. In a short video, which has been shared on her Snapchat account, the 'Life of Kylie' star pans around a room neatly arranged with designer accessories. Speaking in the clip, she said: "Some of you may recognise this craziness. This is going to be a lot of work." The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' beauty showcased two shelves filled with Birkin bags, including her latest purchase, which is the classic style with a spot print, a burnt orange suede design, as well as a pink, maroon, and various shades of brown bags. She captioned the close-up image of her new buy: "Welcome (sic)." The reality star continued to flaunt her collection of Louis Vuitton items, including brightly coloured mini bags, as well as Chanel quilted backpacks, Gucci must haves and many more. However, the Kylie Cosmetics entrepreneur is not the only star who is a fan of Hermes designs, as Drake has recently admitted he too has been collecting the brands iconic Birkin bags for years because he wants to pass on his possessions to "the woman that [he] ends up with one day". Speaking previously about his favourite items, the 'Hotline Bling' hitmaker - who launched his own clothing line October's Very Own (OVO) in 2011 - said: "People would be surprised to know that I am a fan of Birkins. My mom's best friend collects them and when I was young, I sort of started to understand the value in them. And there's very few things in this world, tangible things anyway, that hold their value and sort of appreciate as the years go on."



## Jared Leto was mistaken for Jay Leno at the EMAs

The 'Suicide Squad' star looked less than impressed when MC Grindah joked it was nice to meet the 67-year-old TV presenter, before Rita Ora - who hosted the ceremony - corrected him. Rita and Grindah were chatting off stage when she noticed Jared Leto from coming across, come on in, come and join the party." Grindah then grabbed Rita's microphone and said: "I love Jay Leno, man, he's sick." Rita then revealed his name is Jared and the 'Some People Just Do Nothing' star fist bumped the 'Dallas Buyers Club' actor, who asked: "What's your name?" The comedian replied: "Grindah." Jared then said: "Ah, OK, I'll get to know him." Following the awkward encounter, the Hollywood star praised host Rita. He told the crowd: "By the way, I just have to say, Rita Ora is doing an incredible job on the show tonight. You are amazing, thank you." It was a successful night for Jared, whose band 30 Seconds To Mars triumphed in the Best Alternative category, and he thanked Europe for changing the group's lives in his acceptance speech, branding America "a land of immigrants". He said: "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Europe, you have changed our lives. This is for you, this is about you and we stand here proudly on this stage tonight in celebration of you so thank you. "We are Americans, a land of immigrants. We just want to say that we welcome you with open arms and with open hearts. We love you. God bless you. We hope to see you on tour. In March and April, we will be coming to the UK on tour." It was a busy night for Jared as he also presented U2 with the Global Icon Award at the spectacle, and thanked the Irish rockers for changing his life.



## Olivia Culpo considers herself an 'overdresser'



The 25-year-old model has admitted she much prefers to go over the top with outfits than to be "underdressed", because she "loves clothes" and "feels strange" if she is at a bash and looks "too casual". Speaking about her wardrobe choices to InStyle.com, the brunette beauty said: "I personally tend to be an overdresser rather than an underdresser in general. But that's mainly because I love clothes and I love putting together an interesting look. At a party, it can also feel strange when you're too casual. If you're really stuck, ask the host what they're wearing and follow that lead." And the style icon particularly enjoys making an effort with her appearance over the festive season. She explained "I love to get all dressed up and throw parties around the holidays. I grew up in a big Italian family, and we were always having people come over to celebrate. So now it just comes natural to me." Olivia - who is currently dating Danny Amendola - has revealed she has been buying a lot of red lately, but she also loves a simple yet classy "monochromatic look". She said: "I've been buying a ton of red lately. And I love a monochromatic look during the holidays because it's so pulled together, yet still playful. Layer a black turtleneck bodysuit under your jackets and dresses. It also looks chic with a pair of trousers. "A pair of high-waisted leather leggings. You can put it with an oversize sweater or a sleek blazer, and it can take you somewhere casual or dressy." And to top off her showstopping outfits Olivia likes to wear a sweep of rouge lipstick and a slick of black eyeliner to make the perfect "cat eye".



## Usher has put mansion up for sale for \$1.8m

Should the main part of the 39-year-old singer's plush seven-bedroom property not tempt a potential seller to splash out nearly \$2 million then a quick tour of the wooded spectacle, which also features a slide, could well do. According to The Blast, the 'My Boo' hitmaker has slashed his original asking price of the house - which he bought from music manager L.A. Reid in 1998 for \$1.2 million - from \$2.48 million to \$1.8 million. If the treehouse doesn't do it for a possible purchaser then all is not lost as the eight-and-a-half bathroom mansion, which is located in Alpharetta, Georgia, is packed full of features, including a gourmet kitchen fit for forging a feast. After cooking up some delicacies, new buyers might want to head to the master bathroom for a relaxing session as it comes complete with a sauna, soaking spa and rain shower. What's more, those into their fitness could find the plush pad ideal as the home features its own yoga studio and ice bath - ideal for working off those beverages consumed in the covered terrace bar. But anyone who wants to practice their dance moves before a tour or even a night out might like to head to the guest house because it comes complete with a private dance studio. Usher previously put the abode on the market in 2008 for \$1.95 million, but de-listed it two months later.

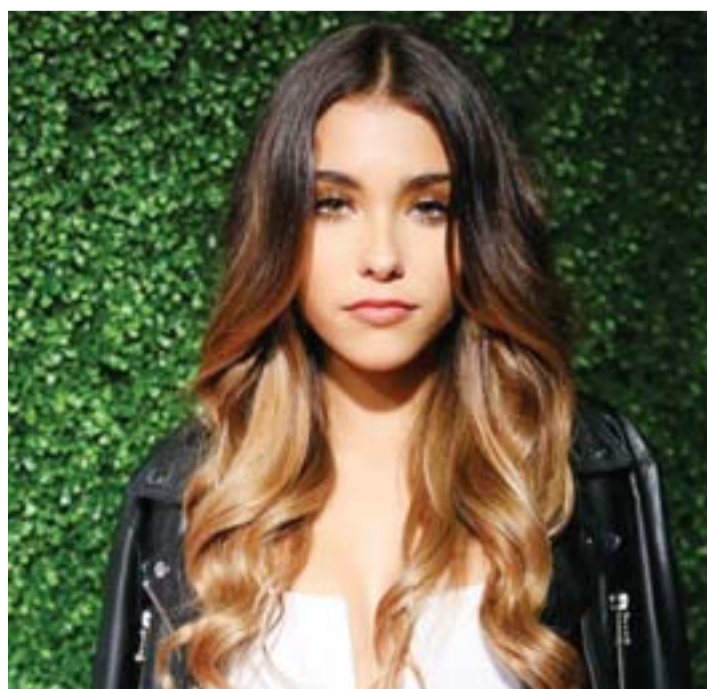
## Chrissy Teigen's dog has heart failure



The 31-year-old model had to rush her bulldog Puddy to the emergency vets last night after her pet pooch was struck down with a mystery illness. She tweeted: "At the emergency vet with my old man bulldog puddy. Please send him happy doggy thoughts :( my first born baby (sic)" Chrissy later told her fans of Puddy's condition and admitted she was going to have a sleepless night worrying about her canine companion. She wrote: "Heart failure but he is stable at the moment, not sleeping tonight that's for sure. Thank you (sic)" One of Chrissy's fans admitted they were going through a similar experience with their dog Grumble and having to say goodbye to the pooch. She replied: "I'm so sorry. Sending love to Grumble :( (sic)" Puddy's illness comes two and a half years after he married Chrissy and John's other bulldog Pippa. John and Chrissy - who have 18-month-old daughter Luna - sprinkled rose petals down the aisle for the happy canine couple and even fed them their first piece of wedding cake on their big day. The pets were appropriately dressed for the occasion in suit and bow tie and a bridal gown, and they found time to take some snaps with their owner-turned-wedding singer in a photobooth at their mult marriage. John even officiated the wedding for the pooch pair who looked to be thoroughly enjoying their canine ceremony. The 'All Of Me' hitmaker put on the dogs' big day to help promote an initiative for his charity, The Show Me Campaign, which aims to give impoverished kids a great education.

## Madison Beer has confirmed she kissed Brooklyn Beckham

The 18-year-old singer insists she is good pals with the photography student - the son of David and Victoria Beckham - and while the pair weren't ever likely to be in a relationship because of their friendship, she "adores" him. She said: "We were just good friends that kissed one time and got photographed "Everyone thought we were married. People forget that we're teenagers, we're both 18 year olds, we're not at that point. "He was never my boyfriend, he's just a friend of mine who I adore." Madison also insisted Brooklyn - who has recently rekindled his relationship with Chloe Grace Moretz - is not the subject of her new song 'Say It To My Face'. Speaking at the MTV EMAs, she added to the Metro newspaper: "It's not about a boy, I get a lot of hate on the internet and I say to myself all the time, 'They'll never say it to my face.' "They've said the meanest things you can imagine but I'm used to it ... it used to affect me a lot more than it does now." Brooklyn confirmed he had got back together with Chloe - who he dated between 2014 and 2015, and then again for five months last summer - in September by describing her as "my girl" in a caption on a picture of himself lovingly cradling her leg.



## Nick Jonas says Sophie Turner is the love of his brother's life



The DNCE singer and the 'Game of Thrones' star announced their engagement last month and Nick is delighted his sibling has found someone he can spend the rest of his life with, admitting they have a "beautiful" relationship. He said: "I can tell you that he found his partner and love of his life. "That's all that matters. It's a beautiful thing." The pair's engagement news comes just in time for the forthcoming Thanksgiving celebrations, and Nick admitted Sophie has already had a taste of the "Jonas experience". Speaking to 'Entertainment Tonight', he added: "It's all love. She was with us last year as well, so she already had her first sort of Jonas experience." But Nick, 25, isn't holding out much hope of being Joe's best man at his wedding because he would feel sorry for their other siblings, Kevin, 30, and Frankie, 17. When asked if he thinks he might land the role on the big day, Nick told 'Extra': "I don't know; it's up to him to decide. He's got three brothers, so it's kinda rude to pick one. "I'm so happy for them. She's so lovely and a beautiful addition to our family." Joe, 28, and Sophie, 21, announced their engagement back in October by posting photos of her ring on Instagram, and Nick later posted the pic on his Instagram complete with words of praise for the pair. He wrote: "Ahh! Congratulations to my brother... and sister in law to be on your engagement. I love you both so much.(sic)" Sophie previously admitted she and Joe are trying to keep their romance "private". She said: "I'm in a relationship, but it's a very private relationship. I'm happier than I've been in a very long time. "I very much isolated myself for a while and forgot what was fun."

Lifestyle | Gossip

## Zayn Malik and Gigi celebrate two year anniversary



The 22-year-old model looked in love as she kissed her boyfriend to mark two years since they started dating whilst she held a glass of champagne topped with a strawberry. Captioning the sweet Boomerang video posted on her Instagram Story, she wrote: "2 yrs w my favorite human (sic)" The former One Direction star doesn't feel the pressure to move his relationship with Gigi to the next level as of yet though. Asked if he feels a pressure to settle down, Zayn shared previously: "I don't think things like that should be decided based on feeling pressure. When it's the right time and place, hopefully that will happen. Who knows when that will be." And the 'Pillowtalk' hit-maker always "tries to do right" by Gigi. When asked how he handles dating as a celebrity, he said: "We try not to think about it too much. There are a lot of people who are too busy in oth-

er people's lives. I just concentrate on my relationship and try to do right by my girlfriend and she does by me, and we hope for the best, as we all do!" It comes after Gigi revealed she feels "inspired" by Zayn to take risks with her own fashion choices. She shared: "[Zayn] has amazing style on his own and we do the normal. 'Does this look good?' or 'Do you like this?' But he's really inspired me to wear what makes me happy and be really true to my own style because he does that every day. So, it's fun to watch him and from there have fun with my own style." And Zayn and Gigi have also been swapping tips in the kitchen too. She added: "Zayn has helped me a lot with my British food love and Indian food love and his mum's an amazing cook. I'm trying to learn everything as I go and make a little cookbook, writing it all down instead of annoying his mum by texting her every week."



## Kelly Clarkson hates women fighting each other

The 'Second Hand Heart' hitmaker finds it frustrating that there are so many "dumb feuds" between women in the music business and has urged all singers to unite together and not "fuel that fire" anymore. She said: "People always try to gear us - especially women in the industry - against each other. I'm just not about that. I like to be sarcastic about all these dumb 'feuds' between women in the industry. It's like, 'Please do not fuel that fire anymore.' They already try to do it to us enough ... The only reason I feel like anybody would be that into an argument [with a fellow singer] is because they feel like they need it to survive in longevity in this industry. That's sad." And the 35-year-old singer hates being praised by it

means criticising other artists. Speaking on the Party Foul Radio with Pollo & Pearl, she added: "People will be like, 'Please don't be like this artist, because they're naked all the time' or 'Please don't be like this artist; just focus on your music.' You know what? I don't want you to compliment me while derailing someone else's career, because that person is comfortable, doing what they like to do. If they love showing skin, they love that. That's how they feel sexy; that's who they are." Meanwhile, Kelly previously admitted she isn't bothered by criticism. She explained: "[Criticism] does not bother me. I'm very fulfilled in my life ... I'm a mother and I care what is said to my kids and I want them to build an armor to wear, an armor of confidence."

## Khloe Kardashian has never been happier

The 33-year-old reality star - who is rumored to be expecting her first child - feels very "lucky" to have found love with her "incredible" boyfriend, Tristan Thompson and was blown away by the fact he surprised her with a surprise party for her birthday in June. Speaking on 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' in an episode which aired on Sunday, Khloe - who was previously married to Lamar Odom - said: "I've never had a surprise party ever. We were at dinner and Tristan was so calm. He was as cool as a cucumber. He's good at surprise parties because I had no clue... "Tristan is just incredible. I've never been this happy. I am so lucky to be with someone that is so thoughtful and so sweet." The NBA star is keen to be seen as a "part of the family" by Khloe's loved ones,

and she was delighted that he wanted to spend the summer in Los Angeles to get to know them better. Khloe told her sisters: "I love that Tristan was like, 'I want to be there this summer.' "We're always in Cleveland. He literally can't [wait to] come here and hang out with you guys. He's like, 'I want to be a part of your family and do stuff as a group.' "He was like, 'I want to be with your family more,' and he really wants to hang out with all of us more. We're going to be here, but we also want a house in the city." The 'Revenge Body' star wanted to find a rental property in Los Angeles for the summer so the 26-year-old Cleveland Cavaliers player could be closer to his training facilities at UCLA, but ultimately decided it was better for him to move into her own "beautiful home".



## Sarah Hyland is 'happy' with Wells Adam

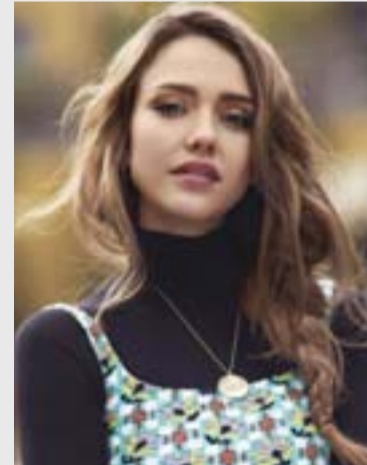


The 'Modern Family' star recently went public with the 'Bachelorette' alum and she couldn't be happier, according to her co-star Julie Bowen. Julie told Entertainment Tonight: "I have not met him. I can only say I was in on the ground floor of the flirting. He seems lovely, he seems like a really nice guy and he treats her really well. She's happy as can be. That's all you can want for your daughters, fake or real." Sarah appeared to confirm her romance with Wells the other day when she shared a black and white picture of the pair in which she is cuddling up to him, while sticking her tongue out for the camera. She wrote: "He puts up with me." Whilst alongside the same picture on his own account, Wells added: "Back lit AF

(sic)" And Wells' 'Bachelor in Paradise' co-star Danielle Maltby - who he was romantically linked to after getting close on the show - was all in favour for the pair, confirming they are a "genuine couple". She wrote: "Are you kidding me? I ship this couple SO hard! I've never seen Wells so giddy and happy! Try spreading some love instead of knocking down one of the cutest and most genuine couplings I've seen in a long time. (sic)" Sarah was previously dating Dominic Sherwood for two years and she confirmed the pair had split in a Twitter post earlier this year. She wrote on Twitter: "The problem with being single isn't the fact that you're alone. It's that you can't puppy dog eye a guy into getting you Starbucks in bed."

## Jessica Alba feels like 'Humpty Dumpty' when pregnant

The 'Sin City: A Dame To Kill For' star - who is expecting her third child, a baby boy, with her husband Cash Warren - really enjoyed the glamorous outfit she wore to the Baby2Baby Gala in Culver City as she usually doesn't feel this pretty when she's expecting. Speaking to reporters at the event, she said: "I like that I actually feel glamorous. I don't feel glamorous at all when I'm pregnant, so it's nice to kind of dress up and feel beautiful. I usually feel sort of like Humpty Dumpty, slothing around and hormonal, and nothing fits the same. But in this dress, I actually feel kind of pretty." Meanwhile, the 36-year-old actress previously revealed her youngest daughter Haven, six, can't wait to have a baby brother. She shared: "My six year old, she was worried about being a middle child, but she gets to be a big sister and a little sister. So, she's stoked about that - and she doesn't have to compete with another girl ... "For me, the girls love their dad. I wanted someone to love me more. When he comes home, they're like, 'Daddy!' It's like a party. When I come home, they're like, 'Oh, hey Mom.' I'm



like, 'I do everything for you! I cook, I do all the things!'" And Jessica - who also has nine-year-old daughter Honor with Cash - and the whole family are thrilled about the impending arrival. She gushed on Instagram: "@cash\_warren and I couldn't be more thrilled to announce... #officiallyoutnumbered #babyboy #cantwait-tospoilhim #hugsandkissesforlife #soontobemamaofthree (sic)"

## Liam Payne says Cheryl Tweedy is 'quite critical' of his music



The 'Bedroom Floor' hitmaker relies on his girlfriend to give him advice on his music and whilst she is "quite a harsh judge", he appreciates her comments. Asked if he was nervous about showing his solo music to Cheryl ahead of his performance on Saturday night at Free Radio Live, he said: "I was a little bit. She's a judge - she still judges - she's quite critical. No, she really likes it but we have odd taste. We have different tastes in music. I just love music in general so whatever I'm

sent, I'm like, I love it, I love it. And she's like, 'No', and I have to listen at times. She's quite a harsh judge. Comes from her X Factor days." Meanwhile, Liam previously revealed he has "rap battles" with the former Girls Aloud star, with whom he shares seven-month-old son Bear. He said: "To be honest with you we have rap battles in the kitchen, we have dance battles, I learn new moves all the time. Our kitchen is a wonderful place and sometimes food gets cooked there as well." The couple have been going from strength to strength since their son was born and Liam had even claimed he has a telepathic connection with his 34-year-old girlfriend. He said recently: "[Bear] sleeps in our room now, I can feel when Cheryl wants me to look after him in the night even if she doesn't say it." But Liam is unsure if he wants to get married, as the subject seems "weird" to him. — Bangshowbiz

## Tim McGraw says music has been his 'savior'

The 'Live Like You Were Dying' hitmaker believes music has brought him "everything good that's happened in his life" including his wife Faith Hill, who he married in 1996. He said: "There are nights when you walk off the stage and you think, 'I never wanna do that again.' There are those nights. It happens, where you lay down and you think, 'Why am I doing this? Why am I continuing to do this?' "But look, it's been really good to me. Music has brought me everything good that's happened in my life. I mean, music has - anything that's ever happened good in my life has come from music. So it's a treasure to me. Whether I want to do it continually, whether I want to stop doing it, any of those things, it's my savior in a lot of ways." And the 50-year-old country music star was "hooked" on music the minute he first held a guitar. Speaking about the first time he picked up the instrument, he told CBS Sunday Morning: "That was it. I was hooked. And first, because I realized that chicks like a guy with a guitar. That was probably the main reason that I kept playing." Meanwhile, Tim previously revealed touring has strengthened their relationship with Faith. He said: "For me, it's hearing her sing every night - that's the best part about [the tour]. Because she's not out there singing much ... To see her up on stage, having a great time and just belting it out? I mean, I always say it: when I'm on stage with her, it's like NASCAR trying to keep up with an Indy car. She's just that good. So, to watch her sing and see what she does is pretty inspiring."





Canadian singer-songwriter Shawn Mendes poses with two of his three awards for best song for 'There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back', best artist and biggest fans in the winners' area during the 2017 MTV Europe Music Awards (EMA) at Wembley Arena. — AFP photos



US singer-songwriter Kesha performs.



Singer Rita Ora poses for photographers upon her arrival.

## Shawn Mendes, Eminem among winners at MTV EMAs in London

Shawn Mendes beat Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran to win the best-artist prize Sunday at the MTV EMAs, while U2 were proclaimed global icons in a show that celebrated London's diverse culture, from pubs to pirate radio. Mendes, the 19-year-old Canadian star, also won the best-song trophy for "There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back," to the delight of fans standing in a polite onstage mosh-pit at the city's SSE Arena. Fittingly, he also took the prize for best fans.

The show, formerly known as the MTV Europe Music Awards, opened with a clip of Eminem performing his new single "Walk on Water" in a London pub. He then emerged onstage in jeans and a black hoodie to perform the slow-burning number live, with Skylar Gray filling in on the duet duties Beyoncé performed on the recording. Eminem was also named best hip-hop artist, and proclaimed surprise. "I don't know how I got this because I

haven't had an album out in a few years," he said. Sunday marked the awards' return to London for the first time since 1996, and locally bred singer Rita Ora was a suitably chipper

clips with the stars of pirate-radio sitcom "People Just Do Nothing." The show featured plenty of visual dazzle, from the 50 dancers accompanying Demi Lovato on "Sorry Not Sorry" and "Tell me You Love Me" to the giant animatronic bird carrying Travis Scott onto the stage. Singer Camila Cabello, who won the best-pop prize, performed "Havana" with a troupe of dancers dressed as bathing beauties around a realistic projection of a pool. London grime artist Stormzy arrived in a police car and left in a blaze of fireworks after performing the rousing "Big For Your Boots."

Performers ranged across genres and generations, and included singer-songwriter Kesha, electronic act Clean Bandit, rapper French Montana, rockers The Killers and former One Direction heart-throb Liam Payne. Kendrick Lamar won best video for "Humble," a lavish clip laced with reli-



Performers ranged across genres and generations

host. Taking the stage clad in a bathrobe and towel, she kept things moving, changed outfits every few minutes and gamely joshed in video



Irish rock band U2, Bono (2R), The Edge (R), Adam Clayton (L) and Larry Mullen Jr (2L), accepting the global icon award.

gious and art-history imagery. Coldplay was named best rock act, while the best-alternative prize went to Thirty Seconds to Mars. Frontman Jared Leto thanked Europe, adding that the US is a land of immigrants and "we welcome you with open arms." British singer-songwriter Dua Lipa was named best new artist.

Apart from the occasional hint of marijuana smoke wafting across the arena, there were few of the unscripted-feeling moments that made past shows stick in the memory. There was no equivalent of Kanye West crashing the stage after losing in 2006 or Miley Cyrus smoking a joint in Amsterdam in 2013. U2, who played an MTV-

sponsored concert in London's Trafalgar Square on Saturday, received the Global Icon award from Leto, who said "U2 changed my life." "Their songs are prayers, their concerts a church," he said. "They challenge us, they inspire us." The Irish band dedicated the award to label boss Chris Blackwell of Island records, who signed them almost 40 years ago. And in a nod to a new generation of artists, Bono crooned an a capella version of Stormzy's "Blinded by Your Grace." The awards are held in a different European city each year, with winners selected by fans across the continent. Next year's ceremony will be held in Bilbao, Spain. — AP

### Film Review

## McDormand gives blistering turn in '3 Billboards'

Frances McDormand's face is one of the first things you see in "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," and it's impossible not to be struck by its pure decency. Perhaps it's a result of all the other roles we've seen this uniquely fearless actress play, on stage and screen, wrapped into one. But you look at her face and you think: This person has a moral compass. Her side is the right one. We will be safe there.

And that's the way it seems for a while in "Three Billboards," until suddenly it isn't quite so simple. It's a credit both to writer-director Martin McDonagh and to McDormand's revelatory performance - her best since her Oscar-winning turn in " Fargo" - that we don't see this coming nearly soon enough to steel ourselves.

McDormand plays Mildred Hayes, a mother who's suffered unimaginable loss: the rape, murder and incineration of her teen daughter. The film begins seven months later, as Hayes is driving down a little-used road near her home. She stops and stares at three dilapidated billboards. She heads to the town advertising office, and hands over a wad of cash. Soon, those billboards will be painted bright red, and emblazoned with three messages: "Raped While Dying," "And Still No Arrests?" "How Come, Chief Willoughby?"

### A veritable study in gray

A grieving mother searching for answers from a lazy police force. What could be wrong with that? Our righteous anger intensifies as a self-satisfied priest comes to her home, sips tea in her kitchen, and explains that she's out of line in going after the chief. Mildred lectures right back at the priest, telling him that he is complicit, as a member of the church, in church sex abuse. And then she tells him to get the #\$\$% out of her kitchen. She's only getting started. This, it turns out, will be Mildred's go-to stance: Fight back, and fight harder, no matter how profane or even violent she needs to get. So much for black and white. "Three Billboards" is a veritable study in gray. Willoughby (an excellent Woody Harrelson)

comes to visit Mildred, and he's a decent and caring guy. The billboards are plain unfair, he tells her - it's not easy to catch a killer. She suggests they test the DNA of every man in town - heck, in the country. He finally tells her he has terminal cancer. She says she already knew. And she adds: "They won't be as effective when you croak."

Mildred and the chief, at least, have a grudging respect for each other. The same can't be said for her relationship with Officer Dixon, a hapless, moronic, racist, dangerously temperamental and buffoonishly violent Mama's boy, played with complexity and finesse by Sam Rockwell in a constantly surprising performance. (If there's any justice, Rockwell will have an awards season as busy as McDormand's is sure to be.) Mildred's take-no-prisoners quest for justice will bring her into a fiery - and we do mean fiery - confrontation with Dixon. But there's no way you'll be able to foresee the twists and turns their relationship will take.

### Extraordinary cast

If one were looking for telltale signs that "Three Billboards" was written by a stage playwright, one might mention that the town of Ebbing seems populated by only a few characters - as in a play. In any case, the small cast is extraordinary. It includes Lucas Hedges as Mildred's pensive son; this thoughtful young actor, who made such an impression in "Manchester By the Sea," sure knows how to pick his movies. Caleb Landry Jones is a jumble of jitters as the unlucky guy who runs the billboard office, and Zeljko Ivanek does terrific work as a police deputy. Peter Dinklage and Abbie Cornish are both moving, he as the unappreciated suitor in Mildred's life, she as the wife of the dying police chief. Most of "Three Billboards" takes place in the present, but there is one brief flashback to Mildred's life before the murder. It is utterly devastating, and speaks to the idea that the most inconsequential words, that we utter at the most inconsequential times, can of course have consequences so dire, we might never recover from them.



This image released by Marvel Studios shows the Hulk, from left, Chris Hemsworth as Thor, Tessa Thompson as Valkyrie and Tom Hiddleston as Loki in a scene from, "Thor: Ragnarok." — AP photos

## 'THOR' TOPS 'DADDY'S HOME 2,' 'ORIENT EXPRESS' AT BOX OFFICE

The God of Thunder isn't ready to relinquish his box office throne yet. Studios estimated Sunday that "Thor: Ragnarok" added \$56.6 million from North American theaters in its second weekend, bringing its domestic total to \$211.6 million.

The film, from Disney and Marvel and directed by Taika Waititi, out-grossed each of its two predecessors domestically in just two weeks, not accounting for inflation. It easily beat out the comedy sequel "Daddy's Home 2" and the lavish Agatha Christie adaptation "Murder on the Orient Express," even as both posted solid openings.

Paramount scored again with "Daddy's Home 2," which adds John Lithgow and Mel Gibson to the Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg formula. The film, which cost a reported \$69 million to produce, took second place at the box office with \$30 million. The first film from 2015 grossed \$242.8 million worldwide on a similar budget. Critics were not won over by the comedy, but audiences seemed pleased, giving the film an A- on CinemaScore.

The star-studded "Murder on the Orient Express," meanwhile, screeched into third place with an estimated \$28.2 million against a \$55 million budget. Kenneth Branagh directs himself in the film, which also stars Michelle Pfeiffer, Johnny Depp, Daisy Ridley and Judi Dench. Audiences were mostly female (56 percent), and Caucasian (65 percent), but somewhat evenly split in terms of age (51 percent were over 35).

### Audience overlap

"It gives me an incredible injection of optimism for the future of our business. This is sumptuous, throwback Hollywood filmmaking,

and audiences responded to it," said Chris Aronson, president of domestic distribution for Twentieth Century Fox. The studio expects the film to play well through the Thanksgiving holiday, appealing to audiences who are not rushing out to see the latest comic book adventure. Next week, DC and Warner Bros.' superhero ensemble pic "Justice League" opens.

"I don't think our audiences will overlap a lot," Aronson added. "A Bad Moms Christmas" took fourth with \$11.5 million in its second weekend, and "Jigsaw" rounded out the top five with \$3.4 million. In smaller releases, Greta Gerwig's buzzy coming-of-age film "Lady Bird," from distributor A24, also broke into the top 10

in its expansion to 37 theaters, earning \$12 million. Another awards contender, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," starring Frances McDormand, opened to a strong limited release with \$320,000 from just four theaters.

Still, the overall box office continues to lag, down 5 percent for the year. "We're still down from the same weekend a year ago about 7 percent. Despite 'Thor' and these newcomers, a lot of these films aren't creating a lot of excitement," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "It's going to take this combination of 'Justice League' and 'The Last Jedi' and everything in between to try to dig us out of this deficit." — AP



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Johnny Depp in a scene from, "Murder on the Orient Express."

# EXPANDING OUR CULTURAL HORIZONS: A VISIT TO THE LOUVRE ABU DHABI



Louvre Abu Dhabi's exterior with Abu Dhabi's skyline.  
Photo: Mohamed Somji

Photos and story by  
Athoob Al-Shuaibi

Media from around the world described it as the greatest cultural event of 2017. The Louvre Abu Dhabi, which opened its doors last week in the Saadiyat Cultural District, is a stunning work of artistic creation. The steel dome that helms the structure is designed in a pattern inspired by the Islamic geometrical art. Its stars shine with beams of light that sometimes appear like giant beads of rain. When you enter the museum promenades, you'll think you're walking into a minimal white cubicle neighborhood, shaded by a spectacular Islamic geometrical dome floating in the sky.

When French architect Jean Nouvel saw the desert land located on the waterfront of Abu Dhabi, he knew that he would be dealing with light, space and water, and will need to create a microclimate to ensure the continued flow of visitors even in times of harsh heat.

The name Louvre is associated with the image of architectural and historical inheritance from the famous museum in Paris, which transformed into a museum over 200 years ago. On the other hand, the Louvre Abu Dhabi draws its origin from the idea of transforming Abu Dhabi into a cultural beacon that unifies the histories of the East and West. It became a part of the intergovernmental agreement between the UAE and France, notably taking shape as the seed of a giant blossoming tree in a sculpture by Giuseppe Penone called 'Leaves of Light', which is located at the very heart of the museum.

Unlike some other museums, you'll be able to closely explore the exhibits, most of which remain free of barriers. This strange freedom leaves you touched and immensely affects the experience. It is also important to note that the historical objects displayed are arranged in chronological order, in order to allow the visitor to look at the history of human civilizations comprehensively. This assortment reinforces the concept of coexistence that the UAE is proud to promote and this is reflected in the fourth gallery - 'Universal



Promotes diversity in an unbiased atmosphere

Religions'. Here you see side by side the Gothic Bible, the first part of the Torah (Pentateuch), a leaf from the "Blue Quran", and various other teachings from Judaism and Buddhism.

#### Subtle historical developments

The intellectual development of man has not receded in times of crisis and war. Therefore, the process of

artistic movements is influenced and changed according to the development of man himself, his needs, his economic ability and power. In this context, we recall how ancient works of art centered on religion in the Middle Ages, then the transfer of attention to the individual in the Renaissance, and finally the impact on art by the events of rapid industrial development.

At the Louvre Abu Dhabi, there will be a greater chance to understand these subtle historical developments due to the chronological order of works. From "Madonna and Child" by Giovanni Bellini, to the woman's portrait "La Belle Ferroniere" by Leonardo Da Vinci, passing by the enormous painting of Napoleon Bonaparte by Jacques-Louis David and a portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart, is a semblance of a visual journey through the history of art.

Under the light of modernity, a combination of timeless works of Rene Magritte, Piet Mondrian and the Japanese artist, Kazuo Shiraga are also on display. In the final stage titled 'The Global Village', artists delivered masterpieces of collective memories whipped and spun together by the dilemma of identity. The need to expand one's cultural horizons is quickly growing in popularity in the Middle East. The Louvre Abu Dhabi perfectly encapsulates this within a system of incubators designed and managed with international standards that promotes diversity in an unbiased atmosphere. Louvre Abu Dhabi is a monument that will live on and whether you're an art enthusiast or not, it is an experience of discovering and re-discovering the history of our shared cultural civilizations.



King Ramesses II - 1279 - 1213 BC.



'Leaves of Light' by Giuseppe Penone.



Jacques-Louis David's 'Napoleon Bonaparte' - France 1803.



Photos from in and around the museum.



Leaf from the 'Blue Quran' - North Africa, Spain or Sicily, c. 880-950 century AD.



# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017



A Lego construction is displayed at the 'Bricks in Florence Festival', the LEGO'S Festival exhibition taking place at the Obihall Theater in Florence, Italy. — AP

## Hundreds in Hollywood march against sexual harassment

Armed with signs, catchy phrases and a motivation to take #MeToo beyond the internet and into real life, a few hundred women, men and children gathered Sunday among the sex shops and tourist traps of Hollywood Boulevard to protest against sexual harassment. The Take Back the Workplace March and the #MeToo Survivors March joined forces in the heart of Hollywood, near the entrance to the Dolby Theater where the Academy Awards take place. They walked side by side past the tourists, costume shops, strip clubs and a man wearing a "Whiskey Made Me Do It" T-shirt to gather for a rally of rousing speeches from the likes of Harvey Weinstein accuser Lauren Sivan and Oscar-winning producer Cathy Schulman. "Not in pots, not in plants, keep your junk inside your pants," the crowd chanted for a few minutes, before shifting gears to: "Harvey Weinstein is a joke, women workers just got woke." Other chants included, "Survivors united, we'll never be divided" and "Whatever we wear, wherever we go, 'yes' means 'yes' and 'no' means 'no.'"



There were not many celebrity attendees on site

### #MeToo movement

Some came with their families, some came with friends and attendees ranged in age from 4 to over 68. Aislinn Russell, a 15-year-old Los Angeles high school student came with two peers and signs railing against terms like "friend zone" and "slut." "Seeing the #metoo movement growing and seeing all these people telling their stories, I have my own stories too," Russell said. "I want to join in with that and not be silent with everything going on."

Her sign, drawn in pink and purple block letters read: "Slut" is attacking women for their right to say yes." Her

friend's read: "Friend Zone" is attacking women for their right to say no." Another attendee, Nancy Allen, a 52-year-old woman from Los Angeles, carried a sign that read, "I was 7." "We've been silent too long," Allen said. "A lot of people have kept this inside us for years and years." Howard Kim, a 68-year-old Los Angeles resident, came out to support the march. "I'm just a little sorry there aren't more people out here," Kim said. "I was hoping there would be."

Event organizers estimated there were about 200 to 300 attendees. But they also acknowledged that it was "difficult to tell" with the normal Hollywood Boulevard crowds. The crowd walked about a mile to the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Cole, the site of CNN headquarters, where a podium was set up for the Take Back the Workplace rally. Sivan, a TV journalist who alleged sexual harassment from Weinstein and served as the "celebrity chair" of the Take Back the Workplace event, said that the time is ripe for a re-ordering of power. "We want our daughters and sons to be able to go to a

workplace and never have to take a meeting with a dude in a bathrobe," Sivan said. "They will never have to choose to put out or keep their job." Schulman, who presides over the advocacy group Women in Film, told the crowd that the sexual harassment problem can't be fixed by just weeding out sex criminals. Women, she said, have to be protected from prejudice and abuse. Schulman called for diversifying workplaces and reforming human resources departments.

### Support from afar

Although there were not many celebrity attendees on site, some supported the marches from afar. "To all my sisters and brothers out there marching today in LA Sending you love



Participants march against sexual assault and harassment at the #MeToo March in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles. — AP photos

and support from thousands of miles away!" said Patricia Arquette on Twitter Sunday. Claire Forlani, another Weinstein accuser, also tweeted: "To the women and men marching in Hollywood today #metoomarch I am there in spirit. #Solidarity" The peaceful demonstration had an air of melancholy too. While there was solidarity, fear of retaliation persisted. One woman, who did not want to give her name for fear of retaliation or lawsuit carried a homemade sign accusing a sitcom producer of grabbing her from behind and making a lewd remark and suggestive comment.

"Thank you to my agent at William Morris for telling me 'Keep your mouth shut or you'll never work again,'" read the other side of the sign. "BTW, you also represented my abuser."

Schulman said she is hopeful, however. Her organization on Thursday announced that it is setting up a sexual harassment hotline where victims can call for pro-bono legal counseling and advice. The hotline is expected to be operational by Dec 1.

"I've experienced gender bias, salary disparity. I've been yelled at, disrespected. I've had credit taken from me, I've had money stolen from me. I've been bankrupted twice and much worse. And I've seen it all. I've seen every bit of harassment and every bit of these sex crimes. However, I've produced 20 movies, I've supervised over 150 movies, I've won an Academy Award. I've even raised a 17-year-old daughter," Schulman said. "Do not let them destroy us. We can win this war. It's a game. It's a game of power that we can win." — AP

