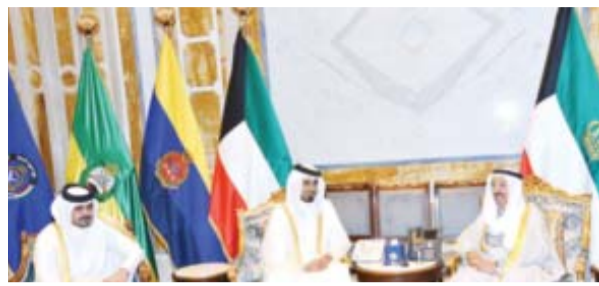


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# Cheers, celebrations as Mugabe resigns after 37 years in power

Jubilant Zimbabweans pour onto streets • 'Crocodile' seen as likely successor

**HARARE:** Robert Mugabe resigned as Zimbabwe's president yesterday, swept from power as his 37-year reign of autocratic control and brutality crumbled within days of a military takeover. The move looks set to bring an end to Zimbabwe's worst-ever political crisis since the country won independence from Britain in 1980. The bombshell announcement was made by the speaker at a special joint session of parliament which had convened to impeach the 93-year-old who has dominated every aspect of Zimbabwean public life for decades.

On the streets, the news sparked an explosion of wild celebration, with car horns honking and people erupting into ecstatic cheers and frenzied dancing. "I Robert Gabriel Mugabe in terms of section 96 of the constitution of Zimbabwe hereby formally tender my resignation... with immediate effect," said the letter which was read out by parliamentary speaker Jacob Mudenda. "My decision to resign is voluntary on my part. It arises from my concern for the welfare of the people of Zimbabwe and my desire to ensure a smooth, peaceful and non-violent transfer of power that underpins national security, peace and stability."

It capped an unprecedented week in which the military seized control and tens of thousands of ordinary Zimbabweans took to the streets in an extraordinary show of defiance to demand that he leave. "We are just

so happy that things are finally going to change," Togo Ndhlalambi, a 32-year-old hairdresser, told AFP. Men were breakdancing, women were singing and children were in tears, all brandishing national flags and praising General Constantino Chiwenga who led the army takeover as the news began to sink in. "It's shocking, that guy is powerful, very powerful," said Barber Wright Chirombe who was also taking part in the euphoric celebrations.

Mugabe had ruled Zimbabwe almost unopposed since independence in 1980 but efforts to position his wife Grace as his successor triggered fury in the military that had underpinned his regime. His grip on power was shattered last week when armored military vehicles took to the streets, blockaded parliament and placed the president under house arrest in an operation that had all the hallmarks of a coup.

But the generals stressed they were simply "arresting" criminals around Mugabe - a reference to Grace's supporters - and they even allowed the onetime liberation hero to appear at a public function and deliver a televised speech. As the crisis grew, the ruling ZANU-PF party, an instrument of Mugabe's ruthless decades-long rule, removed him as party leader and began parliamentary proceedings to have him impeached.

Continued on Page 11



**HARARE:** People celebrate in the streets after the resignation of Zimbabwe's president Robert Mugabe yesterday. —AFP

## News in brief

### Iraq to resume damage payments

**GENEVA:** The United Nations said yesterday it had accepted a proposal from Iraq to pay 0.5 percent of its 2018 oil proceeds towards compensation for \$4.6 billion owed to Kuwait for destruction of its oil facilities during the 1990-91 Gulf War occupation. Payments from the fund, which were suspended since Oct 2014 due to security and budgetary challenges faced by Iraq, will escalate annually until the end of 2021, the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) said in a statement, adding that Kuwait had accepted the proposal. "Based on oil price and export projections, this would result in payment in full of the outstanding claim award," it said, referring to the claim by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, the largest approved by the Geneva-based UNCC.

### Cyber attack targets Saudi Arabia

**RIYADH:** Saudi authorities said yesterday they had detected an "advanced" cyber attack targeting the kingdom, in a fresh attempt by hackers to disrupt government computers. The government's National Cyber Security Centre said the attack involved the use of "Powershell" malware, but it did not comment on the source of the attack or which government bodies were targeted. "The NCSC has detected a new Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) that is targeting Saudi Arabia," the agency said in a statement, adding the attack sought to infiltrate computers using email phishing techniques.

### Saudi floods shut schools

**RIYADH:** Saudi authorities have closed schools and universities after flooding in the kingdom's second-largest city, Jeddah, and the country's Red Sea coastal regions. Videos shared on Twitter and other social media sites yesterday show people stranded in tunnels and on roads with cars engulfed by floodwater. Schools have also been closed in the areas of Makkah and Taif. Saudi Civil Defense warned that heavy rainfall is expected to last until at least today morning. Flooding happens almost every year in Jeddah and other western cities in Saudi Arabia.

### Nelly's Saudi gig sparks stir

**RIYADH:** Rapper Nelly is to perform in Saudi Arabia next month, but his planned concert in the ultraconservative kingdom is not being welcomed by everyone. Some Saudis on social media are pointing to the American rapper's 2015 guilty plea for possession of marijuana. Smuggling drugs is punishable by death in Saudi Arabia and possession of drugs is also a crime. Others say it's disgraceful that Saudi Arabia's new Entertainment Authority is officially sponsoring the male-only concert on Dec 14 in light of a rape accusation against the rapper.

## On surprise trip, Assad, Putin talk post-war Syria

**SOCHI, Russia:** President Vladimir Putin said the Russian army had "saved Syria as a state" after an unexpected meeting with its leader Bashar Al-Assad in Russia, as Syrian regime forces take an upper hand over rebels and the Islamic State group. The talks came during a surprise visit by Assad to the Black Sea resort of Sochi Monday, ahead of a summit between Putin and the leaders of Turkey and Iran today aimed at rebooting the Syrian peace process.

Billed as a "working visit" it was the first meeting between the Russian and Syrian leaders in two years, after Assad travelled to Moscow in 2015 to thank Putin for his decision to intervene militarily in Syria. "As for our joint work in the fight against terrorism in Syria, this military operation is coming to an end,"

Putin said in comments released by the Kremlin yesterday. The Russian leader praised Assad and predicted terrorism would suffer an "inevitable" defeat in the country. "Thanks to the Russian army, Syria has been saved as a state. Much has been done to stabilize the situation in Syria," Putin said.

Assad for his part thanked Putin for his support and added that Syria wanted to advance negotiations. "We don't want to look back and we are ready for dialogue with all those who want to come up with a political settlement," Assad said in translated comments. Putin said he would discuss Syria with global and regional players, including with US President Donald Trump.

Yesterday, Putin told visiting Czech President Milos Zeman that Assad's troops controlled more than 98 percent of territory. "You won in Syria," Zeman told Putin. Russia's army chief of general staff, Valery Gerasimov, was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying that "despite the fact that there remains a raft of unresolved problems" the military stage "is coming to its logical conclusion".



**SOCHI:** Russia's President Vladimir Putin (right) shakes hands with his Syrian counterpart Bashar Al-Assad during a meeting on Monday. —AFP

Putin will today host Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iran's leader Hassan Rouhani for a key summit on the peace process, ahead of parallel UN-led talks in Geneva set for November 28. The meeting - the first such three-way

summit - comes as Ankara, Moscow and Tehran cooperate with increasing intensity on ending the six-year civil war in Syria that has claimed some 330,000 lives and made millions homeless.

Continued on Page 11

## Teenage suicide bomber kills 50 in Nigeria mosque

**KANO, Nigeria:** At least 50 people were killed yesterday when a teenage suicide bomber blew himself up in a mosque in northeast Nigeria, police said, in an attack blamed on Boko Haram militants. The blast happened during early morning prayers at the Madina mosque in the Unguwar Shuwa area of Mubi, some 200 km by road from

the Adamawa state capital Yola. It was the biggest attack in Adamawa since Dec 2016, when two female suicide bombers killed 45 people at a crowded market in the town of Madagali.

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari, who announced nearly two years ago that Boko Haram was "technically defeated", described the blast as "very cruel and dastardly". Security analysts said it again underlined the threat posed by the Islamic State group affiliate, despite an overall decline in deaths from attacks by the group last year. Military and civilian militia sources in the northeast said the attack was likely to have been in response to recent increased ground and air operations against Boko Haram.

Adamawa state police spokesman Othman Abubakar told AFP that "at least 50" people were killed in the Mubi attack, which saw the bomber detonate his explosives among worshippers. "The bomber was about 17 years old," he added later. Asked who was responsible, Abubakar said: "We all know the trend. We don't suspect anyone specifically but we know those behind such kind of attacks."

The attack bore all the hallmarks of Boko Haram, the Islamist militants whose insurgency has left at least 20,000 people dead and more than 2.6 million others homeless since 2009. Abubakar Sule, who lives near the mosque, said he was present during the rescue operation and that 40 people died on the spot while several others were taken

Continued on Page 11

## Hariri meets Sisi in Cairo ahead of return home

**CAIRO:** Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri stopped in Egypt for talks yesterday on his way back from France to his country, which is reeling from his surprise resignation amid an escalating regional crisis. Minutes after Hariri landed in Cairo, small groups of supporters took to the streets of central Beirut in noisy convoys, honking, cheering and waving flags with the colors of the premier's Future Movement.

Hariri's visit to Cairo follows two weeks of deep uncertainty after he announced his resignation on Nov 4 in a speech from Saudi Arabia. He has said he will return to Lebanon by today. Hariri arrived at Cairo International Airport, where he was received by Egypt's health minister,

Lebanese ambassador to Cairo and Egypt's ambassador to Beirut, his press office said. Hariri went immediately to the presidential palace to meet Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. A message on Hariri's Twitter account said the meeting would be followed by a dinner in his honor.

Sisi has sought to defuse the tensions between Hariri's sponsors in Saudi Arabia and the powerful Lebanese Hezbollah and its Iranian patrons. Sisi's office said he received a phone call from Lebanese President Michel Aoun in which they discussed "the importance of preserving Lebanon's stability and elevating Lebanon's national interests". Hariri's failure to return to Lebanon since his resignation sparked rumors he was being held in Riyadh against his will, which both he and Saudi officials have denied.

A dual Saudi-Lebanese national with vast business interests in the kingdom, Hariri was due to fly to Lebanon after his talks with Sisi to attend today's Independence Day celebrations.

Continued on Page 11



**CAIRO:** Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri (right) is greeted by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi yesterday. —AFP

## Local

## Iraq won't be springboard for military action against regional countries: President Masum

'Any confrontation would have impacts on the region in general'

**KUWAIT:** Iraqi President Fuad Masum emphasized that his country would not be a launch pad for any military action in the region. Iraq would not be a part or even a place for any confrontation in the region, the Iraqi president said in a press conference during his one-day visit to Kuwait on Monday. He laid it bare that Iraq would not take the side of Iran against any Arab country or vice versa.

Iraq has its peculiarity and it is important to maintain it, he stressed. On the prospects of the eruption of any confrontation following the rapid developments in the region, Masum warned that "such a confrontation will not be easy." If the regional confrontations intensified, the region would be open for foreign interferences, he cautioned. He asserted that regional countries would be affected by the repercussions of such confrontations. Any confrontation would have impacts on the region in general and Iraq in particular, he said.

## Bilateral relations

On bilateral relations, the Iraqi president lauded the 'good' Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations. He pointed out that these relations were crowned

by the historic visit of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Iraq to partake in the Arab summit there in 2012.

During his short visit to Kuwait, the Iraqi president said that he met and held talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. He noted that these meetings uncovered Kuwait's great interest in developing relations with Iraq.

He, however, said that there are still some pending issues between the two Arab countries. These issues need to be solved, he said, adding that he had felt flexibility and understanding from the Kuwaiti leaderships and officials to agree on compromises on these issues.

Among these pending issues, are the remaining compensation for damage caused by Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait, and Abdullah estuary and the maritime borders, he said, adding that "I received positive responses from the Kuwaiti side for resolving these issues."

## Int'l conference

On the date of the international conference for rebuilding the Iraqi areas liberated from the so-called Islamic State (IS) group, the Iraqi president said the conference would be held in Kuwait next February or March under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and with a wide participation from international donors and relevant agencies. On the security situation in his country, he stressed that the Iraqi government should pay due attention to the dossier to help enhance investments. He also called for legislative reforms to attract more investments to the war-torn country.

On securing the money required for Iraq reconstruction, estimated at \$100 billion, President Masum admitted that such a sum could not be secured without the help of regional and international donors. In this regard, he stated that Kuwait had provided huge aid to Iraqis displaced by the 'terrorist' aggression of Al-Qaeda and IS groups.

Asked about a security agreement between the Iraqi and Syrian governments after the Syrian regime retaking of the strategic border city of Al-Bukamal in Deir Al-Zour from IS, he responded that "Iraq's security is linked to Syria's security and vice versa."

He argued that the liberation of the Iraqi cities from the IS group and the defeating it in Syria, necessitates efforts from the Syrian regime and opposition as well as the guarantee states to consider and agree on Syria's future. He suggested a limited period for governing in Syria to be followed by a transitional period during which free and democratic elections are held under international supervision.

## Need for dialogue

On Iraq's reservations to the Arab League condemnation of Iran's interferences in Arab countries, President Masum asserted that his country did not want to take sides in the ongoing escalation. He underlined the need for dialogue to iron out differences, warning that if escalation persisted in the region, the situation could go out of control. The president reiterated Iraq's support to the unity and stability of Gulf countries. "This region has undergone many experiences that taught us the importance of maintaining good relations among its states," he



KUWAIT: Iraqi President Fuad Masum speaks during a press conference in Kuwait on Monday. —KUNA

said. He stated that, "differences among sisterly Gulf states, are not in the interest of Iraq."

"We believe that dialogue is better than any confrontation," he noted. On Iraq's reservations to the Arab League condemnation of Hezbollah's policies in Lebanon, the Iraqi president argued that, "Iraq cannot support or oppose a resolution that targets a coalition government (in Lebanon)."

"We cannot put Iraq in the line of fire and allow this confrontation to extend to its territories," he said. He advised the Lebanese government to adopt to dialogue for iron out differences with other Arab countries with regards to their concerns about Hezbollah activities. He warned that the dispute could escalate into a full-blown military confrontation. "Iraq won't be part of any fighting or even be a crossing point for Iran to any Arab country or vice versa," he made it clear.

On Iraq's relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he described it as 'good.' "My first visit to a foreign country after election was to the Kingdom Saudi Arabia," he said, underlining that religious and sectarian factors should not play a role in creation of relations between countries.

## Great sacrifices

On his stance of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), the president stated that PMF has made great

sacrifices for Iraq, notably their support to the Iraqi army in the fight against the so-called Islamic State group. He ruled out the possibility of dissolving the PMF, but noted that "there is a need to reconsider their affiliations and apply relevant laws on them as well as follow up closely their behavior." Asked if Iraqi Kurds undergo a state of shock after the Iraqi Federal Court's ruling annulling the independence referendum and declaring it unconstitutional, Masum, a Kurd himself, said that Iraqi Kurds are not in a state of shock or feel broken and have accepted the court ruling. He argued that some Kurdish parties had made wrong calculations about the referendum and independence.

"Their estimations were based on history not geography," he suggested. He pointed out that the Iraqi constitution had been written at a very delicate time and had guaranteed the protection of different social segments, enmities, and sects. The constitution has been successful in many aspects, particularly in the protection of freedoms and political rights, but it needs some amendments, he said.

On the negotiations between Baghdad and Irbil, the Iraqi president unveiled that a delegation from Kurdistan government visit Baghdad and hold talks with the Iraqi government next week over a number of important issues, at the forefront of which the province's budget. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah officially opens the new building of the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA). —KUNA



Children perform during the opening ceremony of the new building of Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA).

## New minors' authority building launched

**KUWAIT:** The opening ceremony of launching the new building of Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) was held yesterday under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The event was attended by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Faleh Abdullah Al-Azeb who gave a speech on this occasion. His Highness the Prime Minister, on the sidelines of the event, praised the humanitarian role PAMA has played in protecting the minors' finances. His Highness the Premier also lauded the social services PAMA offers in various parts of the country. The ceremony was attended by a number of ministers, governors, and senior state officials. —KUNA



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



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is seen during the inauguration of the new building of the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA)

## Cabinet welcomes Crown Prince's return home

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet welcomed return of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who came back home from the US where he had undergone medical tests, wishing him wellbeing. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the ministers on the outcomes of the recent visit to Kuwait by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, which witnessed the signing of three agreements on cooperation in the fields of investment, sports, and scientific and

technological research. His Highness the Prime Minister also kept them posted on the results of the recent visits to Kuwait by Iraqi President Fuad Masum, who held talks with His Highness the Amir on ways of promoting and developing bilateral relations and the latest regional developments.

Then, the ministers listened to a briefing from First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the outcomes of the recent visits to Kuwait by the foreign ministers of Bulgaria and Niger. The cabinet was also apprised of the results of the latest emergency Arab ministerial meeting held in Cairo, which condemned Iran's interference in the internal affairs of Arab countries, in addition to Yemeni Houthi militias' ballistic missile attack on Riyadh. On the other hand, the cabinet discussed a number of economic and educational reports, along with the latest Arab and international developments. —KUNA



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

Local

# Iranian Embassy told to abide by local donation laws: Deputy FM

## Kuwait honors pledges to rebuilding Gaza: Jarallah

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Foreign Ministry asked Iranian Embassy to abide by local laws regarding collection of donation, which should happen via the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, a senior diplomat said Monday. The Iranian embassy responded in a positive way and explained that it "was not aware of these measures, and affirmed respect to Kuwaiti laws and said they will abide by them," Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said. He was speaking to reporters on sidelines of a reception held by the Palestinian Embassy to mark the independence declaration. The Iranian embassy sent invitations to some media outlets for a fund-raising campaign via a local bank to help victims of the recent devastating earthquake that hit Iran killing more than 600 people.



### Kuwait, Iraq in consensus over important files

**In consensus**  
Meanwhile, Jarallah reiterated that Iraqi President Fuad Masum and Kuwaiti leaders were in consensus regarding a host of important files. Kuwait succeeded in settling outstanding files with Iraq, and few issues remain to be addressed, "and Kuwait and Iraq are capable of overcoming and settle them," Al-Jarallah told reporters.

countries. He said the Arab world was suffering from attempts undermining its security and stability.

#### Rebuilding Gaza

The State of Kuwait is the only Arab country that has fulfilled its commitments to the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, Jarallah indicated, adding that the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has been taking part in financing the reconstruction of

the Gaza Strip. He expressed his hope that the war-torn Strip would return to its previous state. He indicated that the history of the Kuwaiti-Palestinian relations is full of honorable stances, reiterating Kuwait's continued support for the Palestinian people's rights. Jarallah voiced his hope for the resumption of the peace process in order to find a comprehensive solution based on the Arab peace initiative and relevant international resolutions. He emphasized the international community should push forward this process, warning that the stalemate in the process will contribute to further tensions in the Middle East region. On the US decision not to renew license of the Palestine Liberation Authority's (PLO) office in Washington over claims that it does not find seriousness on Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations, Al-Jarallah said the decision has a negative development on the march of the Palestinian cause and peace. He stated that the Arab ministerial meeting held in Cairo on Sunday emphasized its keenness on the peace process and called on the United States to reconsider the decision. In case of shutting down the PLO's office, communication with the US administration would be difficult, he made clear.— Agencies

### Amir receives message from Qatari leader



**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the Qatari emir's personal representative Sheikh Jassem bin Hamad Al-Thani at Bayan Palace yesterday. The Qatari official conveyed to HH the Amir a verbal message from Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani regarding bilateral relations and current developments in the region. — KUNA

## Kuwaiti FM meets Niger counterpart

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the visiting Foreign Minister of Niger Ibrahim Yacoubou at Bayan Palace yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed friendly relations between Kuwait and Niger in all issues of mutual interest, and exchanged views on regional and international matters. A memo of understanding was signed during the meeting regarding bilateral consultations. The memo was signed by the foreign ministers of both countries.

also tackled issues of common interest and the deep-rooted ties between both nations. The Kuwaiti Minister stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation in the security domain, the Ministry's General Department of Public Relations and Security Media said. Meanwhile, Yacoubou expressed his country's aspiration to boost productive coordination between both sides, expressing thanks and appreciation to Kuwait for the care offered to Niger's community in Kuwait, it added. The meeting was attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to Niger Faisal Al-Mesaileem, and Niger's Ambassador to Kuwait Abdo Abu Baker. Later yesterday, Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah held a luncheon banquet in honor of the visiting minister. The banquet was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar, Mesaileem, and Niger's ambassador to Kuwait. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the visiting Foreign Minister of Niger Ibrahim Yacoubou. — KUNA



**Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with the visiting Foreign Minister of Niger Ibrahim Yacoubou.**

## Kuwait, Serbia discuss cooperation

**BELGRADE:** Kuwait's Ambassador to Serbia Yousef Abdulsamad met yesterday in Belgrade with Serbian Minister of Youth and Sport Vanja Udovicic,

discussing with him means to develop bilateral ties. Ambassador Abdulsamad said that both sides agreed to seek all possible ventures that would lead to the bolstering of ties within the sport domains. The two sides also discussed boosting relations in other sectors, said the Ambassador. Meanwhile, Ambassador Abdulsamad said that Kuwait and Serbia would be holding a meeting in mid-November to focus on bolstering relations within the economic domain. —KUNA

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## Local

## Photo of the Day

## Rainy season underway



KUWAIT: Kuwait witnessed rain showers yesterday, which are expected to continue today according to weather forecasts. Meanwhile, a sharp drop in temperatures is predicted for as early as tomorrow night. —KUNA photos

# Workshops train teachers on helping students self-regulate

## Hosted by Dasman Bilingual School

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Dasman Bilingual School is holding a three-day training workshop till Nov 23, 2017, where 60 teachers including those from other private schools are participating. The workshop is presented by Richard M Cash, an award-winning educator, author and consultant/coach, who has worked with schools throughout the United States and internationally. His 30 years of educational experience ranges from classroom teaching, building and program administration and curriculum and professional development.

"Dasman Bilingual School is the only inclusive school in the Middle East and Gulf region. We are happy to have such an educator give us more input on what we need to improve in the school. This is the first time that I encountered an author who has written a book on self-regulation. This is an excellent step to help students regulate their own behavior instead of always blaming the teachers for not being able to manage the class," said superintendent Samar Dizmen during a press conference.

Cash has authored *Advancing Differentiation: Thinking and Learning for the 21st Century* (2017); *Self-Regulation in the Classroom: Helping Students Learn How to Learn* (2016); and *Differentiation for Gifted Learners: Going Beyond the Basics* (Co-Author, 2014).

### Management

"Many students do not know how to manage themselves in today's classroom due to technology and the advances of social media. They want everything right now and they are not used to working and struggling for information. My book 'Helping Students



KUWAIT: Educator Richard Cash (right) speaks during a press conference with Dasman Bilingual School's superintendent Samar Dizmen.

Learn How to Learn' teaches teachers to help students in the classroom. This and the other two books are the topics of the three workshops that I will present here at the school," said Cash.

"We have just started a new program for gifted students. I think that our cooperation with Cash will show the teachers how we should push our gifted and talented students. The participating teachers have many questions to ask," noted Dizmen.

Cash also spoke about differentiation. "The teacher should know enough about every

child to be able to adjust and modify the curriculum and instructional practices that children need and move them to success. We will talk about the way we can differentiate the content what the students will learn, the process how they learn it, and how they show what they learn through different avenues, such as interest and readiness to what we will be teaching," noted Cash.

"Not only will we be teaching them in their preferred way of learning, but we're also going to stretch them in ways that they don't prefer, as life is not always about doing things



Teachers in attendance.

in the way we like to do them. That's the idea behind differentiation. Also, teachers have to know clearly what it is that they want their students to learn, understand, do and know," he pointed out.

### Extended description

"Differentiation - it is a commonplace term in schools today, but it's anything but a commonplace idea. Differentiating your instruction is about so much more than simply tailoring materials and activities to different students. It's about deeply engaging every learn-

er. Challenging students to move beyond the curriculum, think critically and generate new ideas," explained Dizmen.

"Helping students managing their emotions and behaviors, direct their own learning, connect concepts across content areas and ultimately make sense of their world - these are the skills that will prepare our students for the future workforce. These are the skills detailed in this workshop - learning how to create rigorous, concept-based lessons and units for students at every grade level," she added.

## NBK strategic partner of Center 21 for young adults with special needs

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is the strategic partner of Center 21 art gallery exhibition for young adults with special needs over the age of 21 that was held recently in Ahmad Al Adwani art gallery, under the patronage of the Ministry of Social Affairs. This partnership comes as part of NBK's support to the center for the second year in a row as part of its commitment toward corporate social responsibility.

"NBK's partnership is part of its ongoing drive to fulfill its corporate social responsibilities", said Joanne Al-Abduljaleel, NBK Public Relations officer. "NBK endeavors to shoulder its social responsibilities and share with

the various private and public sector institutions the burdens and responsibilities of broader national efforts towards social advancement".

Abduljaleel added "NBK's support to Center 21 comes in line with the bank's customary and ongoing spirit of corporate citizenship as well as the vital role it plays in supporting all social and educational developmental issues." Center 21 is the first of a kind in Kuwait dedicated to serve and support young adults with special needs over the age of 21. The exhibition aimed at showcasing the work of the participants to make them feel part of the society.

Center 21 is the first facility of its kind in Kuwait to provide complete and sophisticated services for young adults above 21 years old. The center's activities varies from entertainment, field trips, development courses, rehabilitation sessions in addition to development services as physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy focus skills, nutritional counseling and encouraging self-reliance and independence.

NBK has a long tradition supporting social and community oriented activities. NBK's corporate social responsibility programs cover a range of education, environment, health, philanthropic, social and sports-related initiatives.



Local

# Cassation Court not authorized to look into naturalization requests

## 47 Wafra farm licenses revoked to make way for railway project

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The court of cassation stressed that it is out of its jurisdiction to hear cases filed against the citizenship department to mandate it to grant Kuwaiti nationality to children whose parents have resorted to court to prove their lineage or parentage. In its verdict, the court also emphasized that Kuwaiti citizenship is, by power of the law, the right of every child of a Kuwaiti father without the need for any related administrative decisions.

### Farm licenses revoked

The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) cancelled the licenses of 47 farming plots in Wafra because they are in the path of the proposed railway route, informed sources say. The farms must also be removed to make way for regional highway projects which are planned to link Kuwait City, Kuwait International Airport, and seaports, in addition to linking Kuwait with other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.



## KD 20 million mulled to fund small businesses

trucks, especially those providing catering services.

### KD 20 million

The board of directors of the national fund for small and medium enterprises' development is currently considering allocating KD 20 million to face the growing

### Tasks transfer

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) invited Kuwait Municipality to a meeting to discuss transferring the tasks of licensing and supervising ads and street vendors from the municipality to MoCI. Notably, MoCI wishes to do so as soon as possible so that it can proceed with licensing mobile



**KUWAIT:** The Palace of Justice in Kuwait City.

number of applications and feasibility studies already reviewed and approved with the ultimate goal of nationalizing various projects and utilizing youth potentials and powers. Informed sources explained that the new budget will be used to fund youth projects. The sources also

noted that the current board of directors is conducting various studies and setting plans to enhance the fund's role in achieving sustainable economic development. Further, the sources highlighted that the fund had so far succeeded in financing over 20 projects.

## Union demands better support for local produce

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of the Kuwait Farmers Union Barrak Fahd Al-Sabeeh said the recent onion shortage was staged by some influential people and urged the consumer protection department to investigate the matter and identify those who created the crisis and hid onion supplies on purpose to increase its prices. "People's health cannot be manipulated by those to allow in products not fit for human consumption," he said.

Sabeeh rejected blaming Kuwaiti farmers and the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) for the problem, noting that they both exert endless efforts to provide food security. He added that Kuwaiti farmers usually refrain from planting onions because it takes six months to be harvested, while the government does not subsidize them to cover their losses. "This is why most farmers tend to plant crops that can be quickly harvested to pay off their loans," he underlined, noting that loan installments have to be paid biannually to avoid paying an extra 5.2 percent in interest.

Sabeeh added that many farmers are planning to sell their farms, while the others have to work hard to get their crops sold on local markets at the cheapest prices. He also called for protecting Kuwaiti farmers by limiting the amount of imported products instead of flooding the market with them, which according to him results in situations where the local produce is sold for as low as 10 fils a carton, although an empty carton costs 40-45 fils. "We should at least coordinate imports with local products and only import when a crop is not locally available," he suggested.

Sabeeh stressed that Kuwaiti farmers are capable of producing all kinds of vegetables for the local market if water and power supplies are constantly provided. He also noted that suitable silos were needed to store locally planted pesticide-free onions, garlic, potato and beetroot.

## Policeman discharged over social media posts



**KUWAIT:** This photo released by the Interior Ministry shows vehicles targeted in robberies committed by serial thieves who were arrested yesterday.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The directorate general of supervision and inspection at the Interior Ministry summoned a first lieutenant who violated general discipline and damaged the reputation of ministry members through video clips he posted on social media. He was discharged from service.

### Prostitutes arrested

Residency affairs detectives busted a prostitution network in Salmiya, whose members promoted their services through social media. Detectives learned about an apartment in Salmiya where residency law violators were living and practicing prostitution, and posted indecent pictures on social media to lure customers. Detectives carried out investigations, resulting in the arrest of 12 Asian and African women. They confessed to the charges and were sent to concerned authorities.

### Car thieves caught

Criminal detectives arrested a citizen and a Gulf national who were described in a statement released by the Interior Ministry yesterday as 'auto theft

experts.' Detectives noticed that many theft reports were filed by people who complained that thieves broke into their vehicles and stole belongings they had left inside. The thieves reported targeted vehicles parked in school parking lots, and all of them had their side windows smashed. Detectives monitored various spots for 10 days, until the suspects were seen. The first suspect headed to a car, while the other kept watch. Police then moved in, but the suspects violently resisted arrest, injuring a policeman in the process. The two had tools for the thefts, and they confessed to committing 18 thefts, adding that they used the second suspect's house to store the stolen items. Both were sent to concerned authorities.

### Crackdown

Head of the emergency team at Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipality branch Nasser Al-Hajiri said a campaign resulted in issuing six citations that varied between operating a place for purposes other than what it was licensed for and having a sign that does not meet conditions mentioned in its license, while 115 signboards of various sizes were removed.

## CRIMES

## Dealer, client caught with 13 bags of shabu

**KUWAIT:** Jahra police arrested two people for possession of drugs and paraphernalia. The two Arab men were caught by police inside a vehicle that they approached after finding it parked suspiciously in a dark area near Jahra Industrial. Police found 13 bags containing shabu (methamphetamine) with the suspects, and further investigations later revealed that one of them was selling the drugs to the other at the time of their arrest. The two were sent to the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD). Separately, a man and a woman were arrested for possession of psychoactive drugs in Abu Halaifa, and were sent to DCGD.

## Bootleggers arrested

Three people were arrested and charged with selling alcoholic drinks. The Asian trio were caught in possession of 108 bottles of homebrewed and imported liquor. Their arrest came after police chased them on foot when they tried to escape after being spotted standing in an open area in Mangaf with several plastic bags around them. They said during questioning that their job was to deliver the bottles as per customers' orders. They were sent to concerned authorities for further action.

## No visa

A man faces multiple charges following his arrest as police found drugs on him, and also discovered that he had an expired visa. The man had ran away as soon as he saw the police, prompting a long chase that ended with his arrest. The man admitted during questioning that he tried to escape because his visa had expired a month before, and then an inspection revealed some drugs he was concealing in his pockets. He was taken to the proper authorities for further action.

## Fugitive caught

A citizen sentenced in criminal cases was arrested in Adan after showing strong resistance, during which he attempted to physically assault police officers. He was sent to the criminal implementation department. —Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

## Pharmaceutical legislation regulates market: Minister



**KUWAIT:** A group photo of participants at a conference held in Kuwait over pharmaceutical legislation in Kuwait and the Middle East. —KUNA

**KUWAIT:** An ongoing conference over pharmaceutical legislation in Kuwait and the Middle East will be instrumental in bringing order to the drug market in the region, Kuwait's Minister of Health said yesterday. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Health's Deputy Undersecretary Dr Mohammad Al-Khashti made the remarks on behalf of Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi to open the conference, where representatives

of 21 nations are in attendance. He pointed out that the biannual conference will promulgate the most significant global pharmaceutical legislations, in addition to breakthrough research conducted in that field.

Khashti added that the side effects of certain drugs will be among key issues discussed, as well as measures taken to ensure that patients get access to

safe medications through effective drug regulation. Meanwhile, Dr Hajid bin Mohammed, the deputy director general of the Gulf Health Council, said that the conference allows pharmacists the chance to share their knowledge with each other. He also spoke of how pharmaceuticals in the Gulf undergo stringent regulation in a "region where the drug market is worth an annual \$5.2 billion." —KUNA

## Human resource base for Kuwait 2035 vision: Minister

**KUWAIT:** Basing Kuwait's 2035 vision on the development of human resources will ensure the success of the plan, said Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday. Speaking at an event held in Kuwait University's (KU) Faculty of Social Sciences, Sheikh Nasser said that no development vision would have any chance for success without the involvement of the youth. The youth are the main ingredient for human resources, and developing this sector would lead to the realization of Kuwait's future ambitions, affirmed the minister.

Meanwhile, KU President Professor Hussein Al-Ansari said that the university is very keen to play its part in the nation's development vision. KU is willing to focus on the youth, making sure that they are provided with the necessary assets to enable them to contribute to Kuwait 2035 vision, said Al-Ansari. —KUNA



Iran leader declares 'end of Islamic State'

## Sexual abuse pervasive in Pakistan Islamic schools

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This undated photo released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) yesterday shows North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un at the Sungri Motor Complex in South Pyongan Province. —AFP

## US declares N Korea 'sponsor of terror'

### Washington ramps up pressure on the reclusive regime

SEOUL: South Korea and Japan yesterday welcomed US President Donald Trump's move to put North Korea back on a list of state sponsors of terrorism, saying it will ramp up pressure on the reclusive regime to get rid of its nuclear weapons. The designation, announced on Monday, allows the United States to impose more sanctions on North Korea, which is pursuing nuclear weapons and missile programs in defiance of UN Security Council sanctions. "I welcome and support (the designation) as it raises the pressure on North Korea," Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters.

South Korea said it expected the listing to contribute to peaceful denuclearization, the foreign ministry said in a text message. North Korea has vowed never to give up its nuclear weapons program, which it defends as a necessary defense against US plans to invade. The United States, which has 28,500 troops in South Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean war, denies any such plans.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said China had noted the reports on the US decision.

"Currently, the situation on the Korean peninsula

is complicated and sensitive," Lu told a daily news briefing. "We still hope all relevant parties can do more to alleviate the situation and do more that is conducive to all relevant parties returning to the correct path of negotiation, dialogue and consultation to resolve the peninsula nuclear issue." The move will further weigh on the "precarious situation" on the peninsula, China's official Xinhua news agency said in an English-language editorial.

"The prospect of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula has been pushed farther away by one after another irresponsible action or blaring rhetoric," it said. This year's rapid escalation of tension was largely down to a "game of chicken" between Washington and Pyongyang, it added. Trump's re-listing of North Korea as a sponsor of terrorism

comes a week after he returned from a 12-day trip to Asia in which containing North Korea's nuclear ambitions was a centerpiece of his discussions.

"In addition to threatening the world by nuclear devastation, North Korea has repeatedly supported acts of international terrorism, including assassinations on foreign soil," Trump told reporters at the White House. "This designation will impose further sanctions and penalties on North Korea and related persons and supports our maximum pressure campaign to isolate the murderous regime." Australian Prime Minister Malcolm

Turnbull also backed Trump's decision. "Kim Jong Un runs a global criminal operation from North Korea and peddling arms, peddling drugs, engaged in cyber-crime and of course threatening the stability of region

with his nuclear weapons," Turnbull told reporters in Sydney, referring to the North Korean leader.

Trump, who has often criticized his predecessors' policies towards North Korea as being too soft, said the designation should have been made "a long time ago". North Korea was put on the US terrorism sponsor list for the 1987 bombing of a Korean Air flight that killed all 115 people aboard. But the administration of former President George W. Bush, a Republican, removed it in 2008 in exchange for progress in denuclearization talks.

Experts say the designation will be largely symbolic as North Korea is already heavily sanctioned by the United States. On Monday, South Korean President Moon Jae-in's special security adviser, Moon Chung-in, told reporters any such designation would be "more symbolic than substance". The United States has designated only three other countries Iran, Sudan and Syria - as state sponsors of terrorism. North Korea has said it plans to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of hitting the US mainland. It has fired two missiles over Japan and on Sept. 3 conducted its sixth and largest nuclear test. —Reuters



### US allies hail move; more sanctions eyed

Turnbull also backed Trump's decision. "Kim Jong Un runs a global criminal operation from North Korea and peddling arms, peddling drugs, engaged in cyber-crime and of course threatening the stability of region

## Berlusconi the 'Comeback Kid'

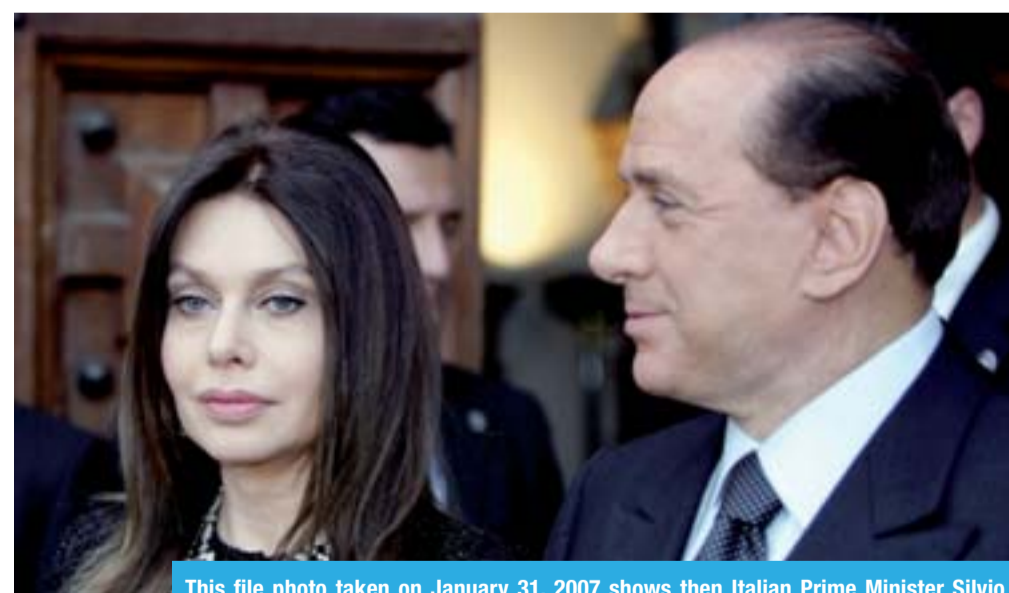
ROME: They used to call him the Comeback Kid, but even Silvio Berlusconi's most ardent supporters may have underestimated the scandal-hit former leader's abilities to claw his way back to the political summit once more. Italy's four-time prime minister, 81, is hoping the European Court of Human Rights will lift a public office ban he was slapped with following a conviction for tax fraud, freeing him to run in the general elections in spring. The court meets to discuss his case today, though its ruling may not come before the vote early next year.

"I will be on the pitch, as captain or coach", he said last week, using the sort of popular football jargon that won him so many fans during his "self-made man" rise to power in 1994. Even if Berlusconi "The Immortal"-as he is dubbed by political ally Roberto Maroni-cannot run, he aspires to play kingmaker for the right, boosted by a recent win in Sicily and hungry for a return to national power. The man famed for his 'Bunga Bunga' sex parties and serial off-color gaffes has been written off as a political force time and again, the death knell sounding particularly loudly after a series of scandals and open heart surgery last year.

And yet once again, at the helm of his centre-right Forza Italia party, he is one of the key figures going into the election, which is expected to take place before May. "There is a part of the Italian electorate that likes Berlusconi, and they represent seven to eight percent of the vote", political scientist Giovanni Orsina told the foreign press in Italy recently.

#### 'Moderate and extremist'

"And then there are moderate voters, who do not want to vote for the (anti-immigrant) Northern



This file photo taken on January 31, 2007 shows then Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (R) and his wife Veronica Lario in Rome. —AFP

League, the radical left or the (anti-establishment) Five Star Movement. So who does that leave? Berlusconi or Renzi," he said. But former centre-left prime minister Matteo Renzi, who was forced to step down after losing a constitutional reform last year, has lost popularity and is accused of adopting a divisive stance which has split the left. Political unity is no picnic for Berlusconi on the right either, with the League campaigning on an anti-euro front and its leader Matteo Salvini, 44, pushing hard to be the man to lead up their coalition come ballot box time.

There is a lot at stake: while the ruling centre-left Democratic Party (PD) and the Five Star Movement (M5S) are pretty much head-to-head in the latest polls, a united right is expected to beat them with 35 percent on voter intentions. While it might win, it would not necessarily take home

enough to govern-for that it would need to take over 40 percent. But it's not a challenge to spook eternal optimist Berlusconi, who has rebranded himself as a wise moderate. Not only are his political fortunes looking rosy, but a court ruled last week that his ex-wife Veronica Lario does not deserve her 1.4 million euro (\$1.6 million) a month alimony, and will have to pay him back some 60 million euros.

Everything that has been thrown at him-community service in an old people's home, the loss of his football club AC Milan to a Chinese buyer, attacks on his Mediaset media empire-appears to have simply bounced off. "He incarnates, as ever, both the system and 'anti-system', the moderate and extremist wings, and manages to hold it all together," said Marco Damilano, the editor in chief of the L'Espresso magazine. —AFP

## Six Syrians arrested for 'planning terror attack' in Germany

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: German police yesterday arrested six Syrian refugees suspected of preparing a terror attack in the name of the Islamic State jihadist group, with media reports saying their target was a Christmas market. The suspects, aged 20 to 28, were detained in dawn raids that saw some 500 police officers swoop on residences in the cities of Kassel, Essen, Hanover and Leipzig.

The men are accused of belonging to "the foreign terrorist group that calls itself the Islamic State", Christian Hartwig, a spokesman for the Frankfurt prosecutor's office, said in a statement. "The accused are also suspected of preparing an attack on a public target in Germany using weapons or explosives," Hartwig said. The investigators believe the men had not yet finalized their attack plan, he added. But the local Hessischer Rundfunk radio station, citing sources close to the probe, said the accused "had planned an attack on the Christmas market in Essen", a city in western Germany.

Such an attack would have revived painful memories of last December's truck rampage in Berlin when a failed Tunisian asylum seeker smashed into a crowded Christmas market, killing 12 people. Police and prosecutors declined to comment on reports citing Essen's Christmas market as the target, which also appeared in Germany's best-selling Bild newspaper. The six detained Syrians all arrived in Germany as asylum seekers between December 2014 and September 2015, at the height of Europe's migrant crisis.

Prosecutors gave no further details about the case, saying the inquiry was still ongoing. German daily Die Welt said it was fellow refugees who tipped off the police about the suspects. German security forces have been on high alert following a spate of Islamist attacks, of which the Berlin rampage was the deadliest. Last month, police arrested a 19-year-old Syrian suspected of preparing an Islamist terror attack in the country using "powerful explosives". Domestic security services estimate there are some 10,300 radical Islamists in Germany. About 700 of them are considered dangerous and capable of a violent attack. —AFP

## International

# State Dept revolt: Tillerson accused of violating US law on child soldiers

## Tillerson accused of disregarding internal recommendations

WASHINGTON: A group of about a dozen US State Department officials have taken the unusual step of formally accusing Secretary of State Rex Tillerson of violating a federal law designed to stop foreign militaries from enlisting child soldiers, according to internal government documents reviewed by Reuters. A confidential State Department "dissent" memo not previously reported said Tillerson breached the Child Soldiers Prevention Act when he decided in June to exclude Iraq, Myanmar, and Afghanistan from a US list of offenders in the use of child soldiers.

This was despite the department publicly acknowledging that children were being conscripted in those countries. Keeping the countries off the annual list makes it easier to provide them with US military assistance. Iraq and Afghanistan are close allies in the fight against Islamist militants, while Myanmar is

an emerging ally to offset China's influence in Southeast Asia. Documents reviewed by Reuters also show Tillerson's decision was at odds with a unanimous recommendation by the heads of the State Department's regional bureaus overseeing embassies in the Middle East and Asia, the US envoy on Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the department's human rights office and its own in-house lawyers.

"Beyond contravening US law, this decision risks marring the credibility of a broad range of State Department reports and analyses and has weakened one of the US government's primary diplomatic tools to deter governmental armed forces and government-supported armed groups from recruiting and using children in combat and support roles around the world," said the July 28 memo.

Reuters reported in June that Tillerson had disregarded internal recommendations on Iraq, Myanmar and Afghanistan. The new documents reveal the scale of the opposition in the State Department, including the rare use of what is known as the "dissent channel," which allows

officials to object to policies without fear of reprisals.

The views expressed by the US officials illustrate ongoing tensions between career diplomats and the former chief of Exxon Mobil Corp appointed by President Donald Trump to pursue an "America First" approach to diplomacy.

### Interpreting the law

The child soldiers law passed in 2008 states that the US government must be satisfied that no children under the age of 18 "are recruited, conscripted or otherwise compelled to serve as child soldiers" for a country to be removed from the list. It currently includes the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Mali, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. "The Secretary thoroughly reviewed all of the information presented to him and made a determination about whether the facts presented justified a listing pursuant to the law," a State Department spokesperson said when asked about the officials' allegation that he had violated the law.

In a written response to the dissent memo on Sept. 1, Tillerson adviser Brian Hook acknowledged that the three countries did use child soldiers. He said, however, it was necessary to distinguish between governments "making little or no effort to correct their child soldier violations ... and those which are making sincere - if as yet incomplete - efforts." Hook made clear that America's top diplomat used what he sees as his discretion to interpret the law.

### 'A powerful message'

Foreign militaries on the list are prohibited from receiving aid, training and weapons from Washington unless the White House issues a waiver based on US "national interest." In 2016, under the Obama administration, both Iraq and Myanmar, as well as others such as Nigeria and Somalia, received waivers. At times, the human rights community chided President Barack Obama for being too will-



WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson speaks about the designation of North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism during the daily press briefing at the White House in Washington. —AFP

ing to issue waivers and exemptions, especially for governments that had security ties with Washington, instead of sanctioning more of those countries. "Human Rights Watch frequently criticized President Barack Obama for giving too many countries waivers, but the law has made a real difference," Jo Becker, advocacy director for the children's rights division of Human Rights Watch, wrote in June in a critique of Tillerson's decision.

The dissenting US officials stressed that Tillerson's decision to exclude Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar

went a step further than the Obama administration's waiver policy by contravening the law and effectively easing pressure on the countries to eradicate the use of child soldiers.

The officials acknowledged in the documents reviewed by Reuters that those three countries had made progress. But in their reading of the law, they said that was not enough to be kept off a list that has been used to shame governments into completely eradicating the use of child soldiers. —Reuters



## New documents reveal the scale of opposition in the State Department

## Iran's president declares 'the end of Islamic State'

BEIRUT: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani declared the end of Islamic State yesterday while a senior military commander thanked the "thousands of martyrs" killed in operations organized by Iran to defeat the militant group in Syria and Iraq. "Today with God's guidance and the resistance of people in the region we can say that this evil has either been lifted from the head of the people or has been reduced," Rouhani said in an address broadcast live on state TV.

"Of course the remnants will continue but the foundation and roots have been destroyed." Major General Qassem Soleimani, a senior commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards, also said Islamic State had been defeated, in a message sent yesterday to Iran's supreme leader which was published on the Guards' news site, Sepah News. Iranian media have often carried video and pictures of Soleimani, who commands the Quds Force, the branch of the Guards responsible for operations outside Iran, at frontline positions in battles against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

The Revolutionary Guards, a powerful military force which also oversees an economic empire worth billions of dollars, has been fighting in support of Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad and the central government in Baghdad for several years.

More than a thousand members of the Guards, including senior commanders, have been killed in Syria and Iraq. The Syrian conflict has entered a new phase with the capture at the weekend by government forces and their allies of Abu Kamal, the last significant town in Syria held by Islamic State, where Soleimani was pictured by Iranian media last week.

Iraqi forces captured the border town of Rawa, the last remaining town there under Islamic State control, on Friday, signaling the collapse of the so-called caliphate it proclaimed in 2014 across vast swathes of Iraqi and Syrian territory. Most of the forces battling Islamic State in Syria and Iraq have said they expect it to go underground and turn to a guerrilla insurgency using sleeper cells and bombings. In his address yesterday, Rouhani accused the United States and Israel of supporting Islamic State. He also criticized Arab powers in the region and asked why they had not spoken out about civilian deaths in Yemen's conflict.

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and other Arab states criticized Iran and its Lebanese Shiite ally Hezbollah at an emergency meeting in Cairo on Sunday, calling for a united front to counter Iranian interference. Soleimani acknowledged the multinational force Iran has helped organize in the fight against Islamic State and thanked the "thousands of martyrs and wounded Iranian, Iraqi, Syrian, Afghan and Pakistani defenders of the shrine".

He pointed to the "decisive role" played by Hezbollah and the group's leader Seyed Hassan Nasrallah and highlighted the thousands of Iraqi Shiite volunteers, known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, who have



SOCHI: Russia's President Vladimir Putin (left) embraces his Syrian counterpart Bashar Al-Assad during a meeting in Sochi yesterday. —AFP

fought Islamic State in Iraq. On websites linked to the Guards, members of the organization killed in Syria and Iraq are praised as protectors of Shiite holy sites and labeled "defenders of the shrine". Rouhani is scheduled to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish leader Tayyip Erdogan in Russia today to discuss the Syria conflict.

The Revolutionary Guards initially kept quiet about their military role in both Syria and Iraq but have become more

outspoken about it as casualties have mounted. They frame their engagement as an existential struggle against the Sunni Muslim fighters of Islamic State, who see Shiites, the majority of Iran's population, as apostates. Last month, US President Donald Trump gave the US Treasury Department authority to impose economic sanctions on Guards members in response to what Washington calls its efforts to destabilize and undermine its opponents in the Middle East. — Reuters

## Germany struggles to emerge from political crisis

BERLIN: Germany's president was to start a difficult round of talks with party leaders yesterday in a last-ditch attempt to save the EU's top economy from the political turmoil sparked by the collapse of Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition talks. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who takes centre stage because he can call snap elections, is expected to use his diplomatic skills as a two-time former foreign minister to persuade reluctant party chiefs to return to the negotiating table.

The head of state, who spoke with Merkel Monday, planned to meet with the left-leaning Greens at his Berlin Bellevue Castle and then, at 1500 GMT, with the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP), the party which pulled the pin on month-long coalition talks Monday. Its shock decision to withdraw from a potential three-way alliance has thrown the government of caretaker chancellor Angela Merkel into chaos, leaving her with only bad choices: wooing reluctant coalition partners back to the table, running a minority government, or facing new elections. "Germans are not natural fans of instability, minority governments or immediate repeat elections, to put it mildly," said Berenberg Bank chief economist Holger Schmieding on the unprecedented situation in German post-war politics.

New parliament speaker Wolfgang Schaueble, the former finance minister, opened the legislature by reminding all parties of their promise to voters to deliver a stable government, but also conceded that no-one could be

forced to join a government they don't want. As Germany's usually staid and consensus-driven politics enter uncharted territory, Schaueble, aged 75 and its longest-serving MP, stressed that it faces "a trial, not a crisis of state". He underlined that its EU neighbors "need a Germany that is capable of action". In Brussels, the European Commission made clear that "Europe will not pause during this period".

### New protest party?

Sitting in the glass-domed lower house of the German Bundestag for the first time were lawmakers of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AFD), the anti-immigration, anti-Islam and anti-Merkel protest party that is at the heart of the crisis. Its entry into parliament in September 24 elections with almost 13 percent of the vote cost Merkel's conservatives and other mainstream parties dearly, further fragmented the party political landscape and made it harder to gain a parliamentary majority.

Merkel's headache was compounded when her former junior coalition partners, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), scored a dismal election result and vowed to go into opposition, a decision they have so far refused to budge from. A subsequent four-week negotiating marathon to forge a new governing alliance dubbed "Jamaica", after the parties' colors black, yellow and green, collapsed when the FDP pulled out. The FDP's leader Christian Lindner, 38, insisted the party had acted on principle, but most political commentators saw it as a gambit to position itself as a slightly more moderate protest party and snatch away AfD votes in fresh elections. Lindner is turning the FDP into "a bourgeois protest party that opposes a supposed left-liberal mainstream, and especially Merkel," judged Spiegel Online. "His unspoken aim is: Merkel must go," the commentary added, using a common AfD slogan.

### Lame-duck government

Germany now faces weeks, if not months, of paralysis with a lame-duck government that is unlikely to take bold



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and interim Finance Minister Peter Altmaier (left) talk during a session at the Bundestag lower house of Parliament yesterday. —AFP

policy action at home or on the European stage, as the EU faces issues from Brexit to ambitious French reforms plans for the bloc. "The politics of Europe's most powerful economy—and until recently its main anchor of stability—has just entered a period of deep uncertainty," said Eurasia Group, a political risk consultancy.

To mediate in the crisis, Steinmeier was Wednesday due to meet his SPD party colleague Martin Schulz to sound out whether he would reconsider and once more team up with Merkel's bloc, a proposition the labour party chief has strongly rejected so far. His party's former labor minister Andrea Nahles has suggested the SPD would tolerate a Merkel-led minority government, but this is an unstable option Merkel has dismissed. Merkel in turn stressed Monday that if it came to fresh elections, likely not before February, she would be willing to run again, dismissing speculation that her 12-year reign is entering its twilight. —AFP

## News in brief

### 'Endemic wage theft'

SYDNEY: International students and backpackers working in Australia are subjected to "systemic wage theft", with about one-third paid half the minimum wage and those from Asia the worst-hit, a study found yesterday. There are more than 900,000 temporary migrants such as foreign students in Australia, making up about 11 percent of the labor market. Yet 30 percent of the 4,322 temporary migrants surveyed said they were paid about half the legal minimum wage for casual workers of Aus\$22.13 an hour (US\$16.70) at the time of the survey in late 2016. Almost half earned Aus\$15 per hour or less, the "Wage Theft in Australia" report—covering 107 nationalities and conducted online in 13 languages—found. "One of the really striking findings was that 86 percent of international students and backpackers... perceive that everybody on their visa is being underpaid," the study's co-author Bassina Farbenblum of the University of New South Wales said.

### Babies in buckets

TOKYO: A mother who dumped four of her babies in buckets filled with concrete that she then kept in her apartment for two decades was arrested in Japan yesterday. Mayumi Saito, 53, told investigators she had given birth to the infants between 1992 and 1997, a police spokesman said. Saito handed herself in at an Osaka police station on Monday and confessed, saying she did not think her desperate financial predicament made it possible for her to look after the children, local media reported. Detectives who searched her home found four concrete-filled buckets in a closet. Scans indicate that each one contains what appears to be the remains of an infant, the Asahi Shimbun reported. Police are still interviewing the woman, who lives with her son, and trying to determine whether she killed the babies or whether they were stillborn, the report said.

### Indonesian odd name

PASURUAN: An Indonesian can thank his parents after his unusual name not only spared him a traffic ticket but also landed him a job with the police who stopped him. Cops were shocked when they pulled over the 22-year-old for driving without a licence and discovered his name was Polisi, which means police in Indonesian. The man, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, told authorities in the city of Pasuruan on the main island of Java that he was a poor construction worker who was his family's sole breadwinner. Video of the incident went viral and big-hearted officers sympathetic to Polisi's plight not only spared him the ticket but offered him a job at the local police station. He started Monday. His position? Helping the force conduct driving licence tests. "I'm nervous since I never worked in an office environment before," he said this week.

### N Korea flights suspended

BEIJING: State-owned airline Air China suspended flights yesterday between Beijing and North Korea due to a lack of demand, deepening the North's isolation amid mounting UN sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs. The move followed US President Donald Trump's decision to add Pyongyang to a list of governments that support terrorism but there was no indication that prompted Air China's decision. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said he had no information. The suspension left North Korea's Air Koryo as the only airline with regularly scheduled service to the North. Its website lists flights to Beijing, Shanghai, Shenyang and Dandong in China and Vladivostok in Russia.

## International

## Reverse migration? Pollution in Indian cities draws residents back to rural life

## Toxic smog envelopes Delhi and northern parts of India

**MUMBAI:** Namita Singh's young daughter suffered from bronchitis when the family lived in the northern Indian city of Lucknow, where fumes from clogged traffic and a smoky haze every winter outweighed the charms of its Mughal architecture and famed cuisine. When her husband was transferred to the town of Dehradun, in the foothills of the Himalayas, her daughter recovered in the clean mountain air. So when her husband's job took him to Delhi a couple of years later, the choice was clear: Singh and her daughter remained in Dehradun, while he moved to the capital.

As a toxic smog enveloped Delhi and northern parts of India, forcing emergency measures, Singh said she was relieved not to be living there. "I cannot think of living in Delhi, with the pollution so bad," said Singh, whose husband visits every two weeks. "My daughter is so much better here in the cleaner air. We cannot think of moving back to that pollution," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Pollution levels climbed to 12 times above the recommended limit this week in New Delhi. Officials said they knew what was needed to control the haze, but nothing would be done, at least this year.

City pollution has triggered a reverse migration trend in India - from the city to the countryside. While it is a mere trickle compared to the inexorable rural to urban flow, some high-profile moves have made the news in recent years, such as the departure of Costa Rica's ambassador to southern India because Delhi's air had made her sick. At least 2.5 million people in India died early because of pollution in 2015, more than any other country in the world, according to a study by the Lancet Commission on

Pollution and Health. In New Delhi - now the most polluted city in the world, according to the Brookings Institute - illegal crop burning in areas near the capital, as well as vehicle exhaust and construction dust are blamed for the smog that descends in cooler weather every year. The city, home to more than 20 million people, has become a "gas chamber", Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said.

## 'Hardship' posting

As sales of face masks rose and chatter about air purifiers filled internet chat rooms, others took more concrete action: they moved to smaller cities on the coast or the mountains. The pollution did not even spare Delhi's elite diplomatic corps. In a blog post gone viral, Mariela Cruz Alvarez, the Costa Rican ambassador, said she had developed a serious respiratory infection, and had moved to Karnataka in the south to recover.

"India has become a threat to my health and the health of my friends and colleagues," Alvarez wrote. Local newspapers

said several embassies have cut down on non-essential staff in Delhi, and moved some positions to neighboring countries like Singapore. Delhi may soon be considered a "hardship" posting because of the high levels of pollution, some missions said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Smart Cities Mission aims to modernize 100 cities by 2020 with high-speed internet, uninterrupted power and water supply, efficient public transport and living standards comparable to Europe. But such efforts must include a long-term plan to control pollution, said Anumita Roy Chowdhury, executive director at research and advocacy group, Centre



**NEW DELHI:** Dust billows as a worker grinds the concrete divider of an under-construction flyover as vehicles drive through a smog covered New Delhi yesterday. Delhi is now the world's most polluted capital according to the WHO, with pollution levels that regularly exceed those of Beijing. —AFP

for Science and Environment. "Air pollution is a huge issue, but it is a myth that only big cities are polluted; pollution levels are rising in smaller cities, too. So where can you run away to?" she said. "Our template for urbanization needs changing." Tens of thousands of people living in rural areas migrate to the cities every day, seeking better economic opportunities. Many end up in slums and informal settle-

ments, and are particularly vulnerable to the pollution. Some of those who can are heading in the opposite direction. A popular anchor on a leading financial television network stepped down four years ago, and said he was moving to the mountain state of Uttarakhand for a cleaner, quieter life. Even those who have recently moved to the cities are taking stock of their decisions. —Reuters



## Pollution levels climb 12 times above the limit

## News in brief

## Turkish editor jailed

**ISTANBUL:** A Turkish court sentenced the online editor of Turkey's main opposition daily to three years and one month in jail on terror charges, reports said yesterday. Oguz Guven, editor of the online version of the secular Cumhuriyet ("Republic") daily, was found guilty by an Istanbul court of disseminating "terror" propaganda for outlawed groups, the state-run Anadolu news agency said. These included the group of US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen who Ankara accuses of being behind last year's failed coup bid and leading the so-called Fethullah Terror Group (FETO). Gulen denies the charges. Meanwhile, Dogan news agency said the second charge referred to his alleged support of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is blacklisted as a terror group by Turkey and its Western allies. Guven was given one year 10 months and 15 days for the first charge and one year two months and 17 days for the second charge, the agency reported.

## Returning IS fighters

**OTTAWA:** Canada is concerned about the national security threat posed by citizens who joined the Islamic State group, returning to this country, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said yesterday. In parliament, Trudeau pledged to prosecute those who broke Canada's anti-terrorism laws by joining the IS group, but also said his government would try to reintegrate them into society. "We recognize the return of even one individual (who joined the IS group) may have serious national security implications," Trudeau said. "We are going to monitor them. We are also there to help them to let go of that terrorist ideology," he added. Nearly 180 Canadians are known to have travelled overseas to join the IS group. About 60 have returned to Canada, according to government figures released in 2016. Only two returnees have been prosecuted under Canada's anti-terrorism act, so far.

## Spike in radioactivity

**MOSCOW:** Russian authorities yesterday confirmed reports of a spike in radioactivity in the air over the Ural Mountains while the suspected culprit, a nuclear fuel processing plant, denied it was the source of contamination. The Russian Meteorological Service said in a statement yesterday that it recorded the release of Ruthenium-106 in the southern Urals in late September and classified it as "extremely high contamination." France's nuclear safety agency earlier this month said that it recorded radioactivity in the area between the Volga River and the Ural Mountains from a suspected accident involving nuclear fuel or the production of radioactive material. It said the release of the isotope Ruthenium-106 posed no health or environmental risks to European countries. At the time, Russia's state-controlled Rosatom corporation said in a statement that there had been no radiation leak from its facilities. The Russian meteorological office's report, however, noted high levels of radiation in residential areas adjacent to Rosatom's Mayak plant for spent nuclear fuel.

## Myanmar's 'apartheid'

**YANGON:** Myanmar's suffocating control of its Rohingya population amounts to "apartheid", Amnesty International said yesterday in a probe into the root causes of a crisis that has sent 620,000 refugees fleeing to Bangladesh. Distressing scenes of dispossessed Rohingyas in Bangladeshi camps have provoked outrage around the world, as people who have escaped Rakhine state since August recount tales of murder, rape and arson at the hands of Myanmar troops. Myanmar and Bangladesh have agreed in principle to repatriate some Rohingyas but disagree over the details, with Myanmar's army chief saying last week that it was "not possible" to accept the number of refugees proposed by Dhaka. The Amnesty report, published Tuesday, details how years of persecution have curbed the current crisis.

## Elderly Japanese go to afterlife 'quietly'

**TOKYO:** After he was diagnosed with leukaemia in July, Katsuo Saito decided not to treat it and opted for palliative care. He had a hard time finding a bed at a hospice or hospital, so he spent most of his remaining weeks at home. "There are about 20 people on the waiting lists," Saito, 89, told Reuters from his fifth-floor apartment in Tokyo where he lived alone. Many Japanese are reluctant to die at home because they feel hospitals are safer and they don't want to burden family members with caring for them. But dying at home may prove an acceptable option as hospital beds become ever scarcer in an ageing society where one in four are

over 65 and health officials predict a shortfall of more than 470,000 hospital beds by 2030.

"I think it's good to have a doctor supporting people who choose to spend their final days, and naturally face death, in a place they spent their days living," said physician Yuu Yasui. Yasui, who works at the Yamato Clinic, which has overseen more than 500 home deaths since 2013, hopes to offer hospice care at home for more of the terminally ill. Mitsuru Niinuma, 69, chose to stay at home in order to spend more time with his grandson and his beloved dachshund, Rin. "Home care allows people to use their abilities to their fullest for as long as possible," he said. "That's not so easy in a hospital. This aspect is really nice."

## Rising costs

Rising health care costs as the population ages have fuelled apprehension that Japan will eventually cap the number of hospital beds, although a health ministry official who declined to be identified called that scenario unlikely. The bed shortage stems part-

ly from long hospital stays, which ran 16.5 days on average in 2015, versus six days in Britain, a study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) showed. More than 80 percent of Japanese prefer to die in hospital, the highest figure among 35 nations surveyed by the OECD. Leukaemia patient Saito finally found a hospice spot in September. Two days after he moved in, he died.

National insurance provides individual hospital rooms only in exceptional circumstances, so they are out of reach for those like pensioner Yasuhiro Sato, 75, a victim of terminal lung cancer. "Somebody rich, like a politician or a singer, they solve everything through money. They can stay in private rooms," Sato said in an interview at his Tokyo apartment in July. With no close family or friends, he lived a solitary life, except for caregivers' visits. When Sato died on Sept 13, the only other people in his apartment were doctors, aides and undertakers. "It's okay. I'm not a burden to anybody," he said. "I will go to the afterlife quietly. Alone." —Reuters

## Just like Zimbabwe, 'South Africa needs leadership change'

**JOHANNESBURG:** South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) should get President Jacob Zuma to stand down as head of state after a party conference next month because like Zimbabwe the country urgently needs a change of leader, a senior ANC official said. The ANC has been dogged by infighting for much of this year as a series of corruption scandals have tarnished its image ahead of the December conference at which it will elect Zuma's successor.

The party is split between factions backing Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, a former minister and ex-wife of Zuma, and Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa for the ANC's top job. ANC chief whip Jackson Mthembu told Reuters that whoever the party chooses next month, the incoming leadership should tell Zuma to go to allow the ANC to clean up its act. "You can't keep him there," he said. Mthembu said the ANC could learn from what was happening in Zimbabwe, where the ruling ZANU-PF party is pushing for President Robert Mugabe to leave his post. "In Zimbabwe they call that bloodless corrections ... We need to make the corrections immediately after the conference. —Reuters

## Sexual abuse pervasive in Islamic schools

**KEHRORE PAKKA:** Kausar Parveen struggles through tears as she remembers the blood-soaked pants of her 9-year-old son, raped by a religious cleric. Each time she begins to speak, she stops, swallows hard, wipes her tears and begins again. The boy fidgets with his scarf and looks over at his mother. "Did he touch you?" He nods. "Did he hurt you when he touched you?" "Yes," he whispers. "Did he rape you?" He buries his face in his scarf and nods yes. Sexual abuse is a pervasive and longstanding problem at madrassas in Pakistan, an Associated Press investigation has found. But in a culture where clerics are powerful, it is seldom discussed or even acknowledged in public.

It is even more seldom prosecuted, according to the investigation, based on police documents and dozens of interviews with victims, families, officials and aid groups. Police are often paid off not to pursue justice against clerics, victims' families say. And cases rarely make it past the courts, because Pakistan's legal system allows the victim's family to "forgive" the offender and accept what is often referred to as "blood money."

A tally of cases reported in newspapers over the past 10 years of sexual abuse by maulvis or clerics and other religious officials came to 359. That represents "barely the tip of the iceberg," says Muniaze Bano, executive director of Sahil, the organization that scours the newspapers. In 2004, a Pakistani official disclosed more than 500 complaints of sexual assaults against young boys in madrassas. He has since refused to talk. Two officials familiar with the madrassas said sexual abuse there happens all the time. They asked to remain anonymous for fear of retribution from militant groups. One compared the situation to the abuse of children by priests in the Catholic Church.

"There are thousands of incidences of sexual abuse in the madrassas," he says. "This thing is very common...I am not sure what it will take to expose the extent of it. It's very dangerous to even try." Religious Affairs Minister Sardar Muhammad Yousaf dismisses the suggestion that sexual abuse is widespread, saying such talk is an attempt to malign the religion, seminaries and clerics. He acknowledges that it could occur occasionally "because there are criminals everywhere." The Interior Ministry, which oversees madrassas, refused repeated written and telephone requests for an interview. More than 22,000 registered madrassas or Islamic schools in Pakistan teach at least 2 million students, often among the country's poorest, who receive food and an education for free. Thousands more madrassas are unregistered and



**VEHARI:** A Pakistani boy who was allegedly raped by a mullah or religious cleric, sits before villagers in Vehari, Pakistan. An AP investigation has found that sexual abuse is a pervasive problem at madrassas, or Islamic schools, in Pakistan. —AP

operate without scrutiny, like the one attended by Parveen's son. Unlike the Catholic Church, which has a clear hierarchy, there is no central religious authority that governs madrassas. When offending mullahs pay police off, they refuse to even register a case, according to the victims' families. The families involved are often poor and powerless.

"We are being pressured to compromise," says a man from Punjab who would only give his name as Maqsood. His younger brother says he was sexually assaulted at a madrassa by a cleric who threatened to kill his family if he told. The AP is not naming the children because they are victims of sexual abuse. The top police officer in the district center of Multan, Deputy Inspector General Police Sultan Azam Temuri, denies that pressure from clerics or powerful politicians prompts police to go easy in such cases. He says cases are investigated when allegations are made.

Temuri says his department is trying to tackle child abuse in general with the introduction of gender and child protection services. Victims and their families can also choose to "forgive" an assailant because Pakistan's legal system is a mix of British Common Law and Islamic Shariah law. A similar legal provision was changed last year to prevent forgiveness of "honor" killings, where victims are murdered because they are thought to have brought shame on their families. Honor killings now carry a mandatory sentence of life in prison, but

clerics in sexual abuse cases can still be forgiven. Victims and their families often come under intense pressure to "forgive" the crime, or essentially settle for money. Many do, partly because they don't believe they have the power to do anything else.

Sahil offers families legal aid to pursue such cases. Last year, Sahil found 56 cases of sexual assault involving religious clerics. Yet none of the families accepted Sahil's offer of legal assistance. The story of Parveen's son, who says he was raped by his teacher in Kehrore Pakka, shows how difficult it is to get justice in cases of sexual abuse at madrassas. At the courthouse in Kehrore Pakka, the former cleric waited his turn to go before a judge. A half dozen members of the radical Sunni militant organization Sipah-e-Sahabah were there to support the teacher. They scowled and moved closer when an AP reporter sat next to the teacher, who was shackled to a half dozen other prisoners. The whispers grew louder and more insistent. "It's too dangerous here," said one person, looking over at the militants nearby. "Leave. Leave the courthouse, they can do anything here." The teacher had already confessed, according to police, and the police report said he was found with the boy. Yet he swore his innocence in court. "I am married, why would I do this?" he said. In the end, the mother, Parveen, "forgave" the cleric and accepted \$300, according to police. The cleric was set free. —AP



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## Analysis

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## Prescient messages about Indian firms circulate in private WhatsApp groups

Three days before Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd announced quarterly results this summer, a message circulated on a private WhatsApp group saying the Indian drugmaker would not post good numbers. Dr Reddy's was going to report a loss, according to the message on the "Market Chatter" group, which was posted on July 24 from a mobile phone number that Reuters traced back to Nishant Vass, an auto analyst at ICICI Securities, a leading Indian brokerage. The WhatsApp group had 45 members, mostly traders.

The loss would have been a surprise to many analysts, as consensus forecasts compiled by Thomson Reuters at the time showed expectations of a profit of 3 billion rupees. The message proved prescient: On July 27, Dr. Reddy's reported a loss of 587 million rupees (\$9.05 million) under Indian accounting standards. The chief executive of Dr Reddy's said quarterly results were "below expectations", sending shares down as much as 4.4 percent.

After the Reuters story was published on Nov 16, Dr Reddy's said that it had posted a net profit of 591 million rupees for that first quarter of the fiscal year ending in March 2018 under the global IFRS accounting standard. The message further reiterated that they "have adequate processes and controls in place in terms of confidentiality and security of information". The post that circulated in the WhatsApp group three days earlier had predicted a loss of more than 500 million rupees. A person who identified himself as Vass returned a call from Reuters using the telephone number from which the Dr Reddy's numbers had been posted on the WhatsApp group. He denied writing or sharing posts in the group, adding later in a separate WhatsApp message from the same number that it was "totally baseless" that he had done so.

Reuters has documented at least 12 cases of prescient messages about major Indian companies, including Dr Reddy's, being posted in private WhatsApp groups. Two of the messages appeared in the transcripts of six groups reviewed by Reuters, including the "Market Chatter" group where the Dr Reddy's numbers appeared. The others were shared on condition of anonymity by two other members of other WhatsApp groups. The posts with prescient numbers in the WhatsApp groups were circulated hours or days before official company statements.

The messages shared could involve lucky guesses or astute forecasts based on publicly available information, and not all metrics shared among the 12 cases were exactly the same as reported. Reuters could not determine where the numbers posted on the WhatsApp groups originated or whether any of the market participants who received the messages had traded on the basis of the numbers they had seen.

### Insider information

According to two lawyers who were formerly senior officials at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the country's capital markets regulator, if any numbers being posted on WhatsApp groups were determined by regulators to be "unpublished price-sensitive information", the people circulating them would be breaking the law. "The mere sharing of information that could be unpublished insider information is outlawed, even if you don't misuse the information to trade on it," said Sandeep Parekh, a lawyer with Finsec Law Advisors who used to head SEBI's enforcement division. SEBI did not respond to requests for comment. After Reuters published this article, the regulator said that it would investigate the matter.

India significantly toughened insider trading rules in early 2015, expanding what constitutes "unpublished price-sensitive information" to include "any information" that is not "generally available" and that could have a market impact. The law also expanded the scope of who constitutes an "insider" to include "anyone in possession of or having access to unpublished price-sensitive information" regardless of how they came "in possession of or had access to such information".

"You don't need to have gotten inside information from a company. You could get it from anywhere," said Vaneesa Agrawal, a partner with Suvan Law Advisors who formerly worked in SEBI's legal department. "As soon as you have information that could be insider information you are an insider, and you are not supposed to either pass it on or trade on it." Circulating "unpublished price-sensitive information" can result in penalties of up to 250 million rupees and a jail term of up to 10 years. The monetary amount can be higher if it can be proven that an individual traded on such information.

ICICI Securities said in a statement that it had "zero tolerance towards any dissemination of unpublished price sensitive information and has an appropriate framework to safeguard confidentiality of information." Dr Reddy's said it was "not aware of any information related to its financial results being circulated externally ahead of statutory disclosures that are made officially by the company." The messages about the 12 companies with prescient information obtained by Reuters involved mostly what were characterized as being upcoming quarterly results, including specific metrics such as net profits, revenues and operating margins. They also included messages about upcoming bonus share issues or revenue guidance. —Reuters



## Germany's trademark stability tarnished

The political crisis in Berlin challenges the idea of "German exceptionalism" as an anchor of democratic stability and a bulwark against a wave of populism, analysts said yesterday. In the words of Chancellor Angela Merkel's chief of staff Peter Altmaier, a "stable and reliable government ... is our trademark, like 'Made in Germany'".

But the collapse of coalition talks between Merkel's conservative CDU-CSU alliance, the pro-business FDP and left-leaning ecologist Greens flung German politics into uncharted territory. Overnight, Europe's economic and political heavyweight was left without a viable coalition for weeks, if not months, to come.

Instead, it has a lame-duck government unlikely to take bold policy action at a time when the European Union needs a strong hand as it negotiates Britain's exit, and while Paris seeks Berlin's support for bold reform plans. "The bitter truth is that Germany has been waiting for years for a French partner willing to meet it head-on as an equal power - only to now find itself as the problem, as France emerges once again as the instigator of fresh economic and political purpose in the EU," said the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung daily.

### Europe's latest problem

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who now holds the cards due to his constitutional power to call snap polls, underlined the seriousness of the situation. "We have before us an unprecedented situation in the history of the

Federal Republic of Germany, that is, in the last 70 years," he said, urging political leaders to reconsider their positions and return to the negotiating table. With the Social Democratic Party stubbornly refusing to renew an alliance with Merkel after their humiliating defeat in September's polls, the veteran chancellor has little room to maneuver.

She could seek a minority government - an option she

is not ruling out. "No matter what Merkel does next, Germany has become Europe's latest problem," said Judy Dempsey, analyst from political think-tank Carnegie. "The expectation that the country, under Merkel's helm, would be predictable and stable is no longer a given."

### 'Paralyzed nation'

The fact that Merkel was forced to ask parties of very different stripes to form a coalition government was in itself due to the reality that Germany is not immune to the wave of populism sweeping the West. The Sept 24 election saw the rise of the anti-immigration protest party the AfD with 13 percent of the vote, a shock in a nation where no far-right party had entered parliament in large numbers in the post-World War II era.

The entry of dozens of lawmakers of the protest party fractured the political landscape further, making it harder to build a majority. Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff of the German Marshall Fund noted that "for the first time since 1949, there is no majority grouping willing to form a government". "The stable colossus in the middle of Europe is suddenly instable."

This will have severe consequences. "Some of the ripple effects are unknowable at this point, but even the likely consequences are remarkable," he said, adding that "all we know is that this process will need time to sort itself out - time during which Germany will be a paralyzed nation." —AFP

“ Germany has become Europe's latest problem ”

shuns because of its inherent instability - or face new elections, likely not before February. But fresh polls carry a high risk, as Merkel could lose still more voters to the AfD, a party that has harnessed anger over her liberal refugee policy that brought 1.2 million asylum seekers since 2015. In addition, her Bavarian allies the CSU are engulfed in intense infighting which would spell a major distraction in

## US terror list more symbolism than substance

As North Korea marches toward nuclear mastery, US President Donald Trump slaps the country back on an American blacklist of state sponsors of terrorism. But is it anything more than bluster? After all, former President George W Bush removed North Korea from that same list nearly a decade ago, also in an attempt to halt its march toward nuclear mastery. Aside from a pretty good illustration of just how hopeless the decades-long effort to get North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions can seem, the contrasting approaches also show that the list has always been more about symbolism than substance.

The top US diplomat, Rex Tillerson, acknowledged as much - and undercut Trump's declaration that it was part of a "maximum pressure campaign" to isolate North Korea - when he called the decision a "very symbolic move" with limited practical effects. After months of nuclear and missile tests that put North Korea ever closer to completing a viable long-range nuclear arsenal that can hit the US mainland, the designation has the ring of a counterpunch that's more impressive to look at than painful to feel.

And since North Korea will see it as a yet another in a long list of provocations - even if symbolic - it likely pushes a negotiated end to the dangerous standoff on the Korean Peninsula further away. There will be angry words from Pyongyang, maybe more weapons tests, and then more angry words from Washington, and maybe more sanctions. The listing will raise animosity and speed up North Korea's nuclear development, said Hong Min, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

North Korea will also see the move as proof that the Trump administration has no genuine interest in diplomacy, considering the shame and global stigma the designation still brings, Hong said. One problem for Trump is that while North Korea cared very much about the terror list a decade ago, it may not worry as much about it

now. When North Korea was taken off the list in 2008 - part of a pledge Bush made in a 2007 nuclear disarmament deal that blew up within a year - North Korea chafed at what it saw as an impediment to doing international business and pursuing large multilateral financial loans, analysts at the time said.

But 2017's North Korea is very different from the nation that did a deal with Bush. The dictator now in charge - the young Kim Jong Un, who took over after his father, Kim Jong Il, died in 2011 - has so far seen little benefit to the interminable diplomatic wrangling his father dove into between so-called provocations. Kim Jong Un, instead, has pursued with breakneck speed the building of an arsenal of nuclear-tipped missiles. Granted, the messages from Washington - where Trump has swung between threats of "fire and fury" and offers to talk - have been mixed, but when there has been US outreach, North Korea has seemed uninterested.

### 'Hostile intentions'

The move by Trump will also fit neatly, from North Korea's perspective, into its long-running claim that Washington harbors "hostile intentions" that make the nuclear program a crucial part of national defense. How you see the respective moves by Bush and Trump may depend on how you define terrorism. Those who thought North Korea shouldn't be on the list a decade ago argued that it had not been tied directly to terrorism since its agents planted a bomb on a South Korean commercial jetliner in 1987. The other side saw North Korea's abduction of Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s, and its alleged assassinations of North Koreans who fled to South Korea, as clear evidence of terrorism.

Trump, in announcing the listing this week, mentioned an American student imprisoned in North Korea who died of injuries suffered there, and also "assassinations on foreign soil," a reference to the killing of Kim Jong Un's half brother with nerve agent at the Kuala Lumpur airport in February. Some in South Korea believe that, regardless of Washington's actions, North Korea has no intention of negotiating over its weapons until it successfully builds a working long-range nuclear arsenal, something that may happen in the next couple of years. —AP

## Once inside Kim's inner circle, top aide's star fades

When Kim Jong Un sat down in September to order the sixth and largest of North Korea's nuclear tests, Hwang Pyong So sat by his side, his khaki military uniform conspicuous among the suits at the table, photos released by state media at the time showed. Now Hwang, once one of Kim's most-trusted advisers, is facing unspecified punishment on the orders of another man who also sat at that exclusive table in September, Choe Ryong Hae, South Korean intelligence officials believe.

Information on North Korea is often difficult to obtain, and with few hard details and no official confirmation from Pyongyang, analysts said it was too soon to draw any firm conclusions from the unspecified punishments. But the moves, which appear to involve two of Kim's top four advisers, are being closely watched for indications of fractures within his secretive inner circle, and come as North Korea faces increasing international pressure over its nuclear weapons program.

Having his advisers compete with each other suits Kim just fine, said Christopher Green, an analyst with the Crisis Group. "It is hardwired into autocracy to have underlings in competition," he said. Hwang, a shy, bespectacled general in his mid-60s, is a close confidant of Kim Jong Un and has had an unprecedented rise to the top rungs of North Korea's leadership in the space of a few years. In 2014, he became one of the most powerful people outside the ruling Kim family when he was named chief of the General Political Bureau of the army, a powerful position that mobilizes the military for the leader. His apparent punishment takes on additional meaning as it was orchestrated by Choe who has competed with Hwang in the past and stands to gain from any demotion, according to South Korea's spy agency.

### Tea with the enemy

The two men were last seen in public together early last month as they watched a gymnastics gala, according to state media.

Hwang has since faded from public view, whereas Choe was the ranking official who met with a senior envoy from China in Pyongyang last week. Kim has not shied away from removing or punishing even favored leaders who could become powerful enough to threaten his grip on power, said Michael Madden, an expert on the North Korean leadership at 38 North, a project of the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced Studies in Washington. "Vice Marshal Hwang Pyong So could not have continued in the capacity that he was operating in, without it coming back to bite him," he said.

Both Hwang and Choe came to South Korea during the Asian Games in 2014 - the highest such visit by North Korean officials to the rival South. Dressed in a drab, olive army uniform and his large officer's cap, Hwang, who had been promoted to the No.2 spot behind Kim just one week earlier, had tea and lunch with Choe and South Korean officials and waved to crowds at the games' closing ceremony.

The trip had been announced just one day in advance and took many South Korean observers by surprise. Some suggested there may have been a power struggle between the two men, neither wanting to yield the high-profile visit to the other. Choe, who was subjected to political "reeducation" himself in the past, now appears to be gaining more influence since he was promoted in October to the party's powerful Central Military Commission, according to South Korean officials. The National Intelligence Service indicated Choe now heads the Organization and Guidance Department (OGD), the secretive body which oversees appointments within North Korea's leadership.

### 'Clipping wings'

The punishment represents the first time Hwang has faced any major blow to his standing, said Lee Sang-keun, a North Korea leadership expert at Ewha Woman's University's Institute of Unification Studies. Hwang had a reputation of playing a respectful and careful role around the notoriously unpredictable Kim. Photos released by state media often showed him covering his mouth as he politely laughed with the supreme leader. The punishment may not reflect any specific mistakes on Hwang's part but could be part of a wider effort by Kim to ensure that the ruling party retains its control over the military, Lee said. —Reuters

News

## Hariri meets Sisi in Cairo ahead...

Continued from Page 1

The celebrations are traditionally attended by the president, the prime minister and also parliament speaker - three pillars of Lebanon's political system, with the president traditionally a Maronite Christian, the speaker a Shiite and the prime minister a Sunni.

In Lebanon, the army chief called on troops to stand firm against any attempt to incite strife in the country amid the crisis triggered by Hariri's resignation. Gen Joseph Aoun's comments came in a memorandum to the soldiers on the eve of Independence Day. The military, he said, "should firmly confront any attempt to take advantage of the current circumstances with the aim of inciting strife." He also called on troops to be on high alert along the border with Israel, to face any "threats or violations by the Israeli enemy".

Media reports and analysts say Sisi and French President Emmanuel Macron have been trying to convince Hariri to negotiate with other Lebanese leaders a way out of the crisis, thus preventing the country's delicate political balance from unraveling and plunging it into a prolonged crisis that would fuel tension in the region. News of the joint Egypt-French effort to persuade Hariri to stay in office was first reported by Al-Akhbar, an authoritative Beirut daily that takes an anti-Saudi stand. It said in its yesterday's edition that French

and Egyptian officials discussed Lebanon's future in the Cypriot capital Nicosia on the sidelines of Sisi's visit to the EU member Mediterranean island nation.

The Saudi-owned, pan-Arab daily Asharq Al-Awsat alluded to French and Egyptian efforts in a front-page report yesterday. "Hariri may be looking for comforting words and inspiration from Sisi," said Hilal Khashan, political science professor at the American University of Beirut, who pointed out Egypt's historical role as the patron of Lebanon's Sunnis before Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's holiest shrines, succeeded it in that role.

After its 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran emerged as patron of Lebanon's Shiites, embracing Hezbollah and nurturing it until it became the single strongest political and military group in today's Lebanon. "What the Egyptians and French need to do is to convince Mohammed bin Salman" to spare Lebanon a political crisis, he said, alluding to widespread suspicions that the Saudi crown prince, King Salman's son, was behind Hariri's resignation as part of the kingdom's conflict with Shiite and non-Arab Iran.

Egypt under Sisi, a general-turned-president who took office in 2014, has forged close ties with the Saudis, who are his country's main Arab financial backer. He has, however, managed to pursue regional policies different from those of Riyadh, particularly in Syria and Yemen, without inflicting serious damage on relations with Riyadh. Responding to Riyadh's escalation against Iran and Hezbollah, Sisi earlier this month said the region already was so fraught with tension and instability that it did not need a new crisis. But he also renewed his pledge to come to the rescue of Gulf Arab allies and beneficiaries if their security was directly threatened. — Agencies

## Germany, citing own history, urges work to bridge Gulf divisions

BERLIN: German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel offered his Qatari counterpart a small piece of the Berlin Wall yesterday, saying Germany's post-war history was proof it was possible to overcome deep divisions such as those now plaguing the Gulf region. Gabriel said Germany had a keen interest in maintaining good relations with all the Gulf countries and working for peace in the region, even if those countries were sometimes in conflict.

"Especially in politically troubled times in which dialogue has sometimes slipped into the background, it is all the more important to build bridges, to emphasize the things that unite us and to help remove walls," Gabriel said at the opening of a new Qatar-funded Arabic cultural center in Berlin. Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said he hoped the new center, erected in a neo-classical villa in the southern part of Berlin, could showcase Arab culture and help battle stereotypes of Arabs in Europe.

Sheikh Mohammed last week blamed what he called

"reckless leadership" in the Gulf for a rift with Qatar and the current crisis in Lebanon, taking apparent aim at Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt this summer cut diplomatic, transport and trade ties with Qatar, accusing it of financing terrorism. Doha denies the charges.

Gabriel did not refer to the Gulf dispute directly, but lauded Germany's World War Two enemies for building bridges and welcoming Germany back into the world community despite the devastation and horrors of the Nazi regime. "After 70 years, we saw that it's possible, even after a world war, to be partners in a first step and friends in a second," he said. "Tearing down walls is exhausting but worth it."

Gabriel said a full segment of the Wall that once divided East and West Germany would be delivered to a museum in Doha, fulfilling a promise he had made to the sister of Qatar's ruler. "Because as a politician, particularly in these days in Germany, we ought to fulfill our promises," he said. "That is a hot topic in my country at the moment."

Gabriel, a former leader of the Social Democrats (SPD), declined to comment further on Chancellor Angela Merkel's failure to forge a new coalition government with the pro-business Free Democrats and environmental Greens. Merkel is pressing the SPD to reconsider its refusal to join another "grand coalition" with the conservatives - a move that would stave off new elections that now loom. — Reuters



BERLIN: Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Thani welcomes his counterpart from Germany Sigmar Gabriel for the opening of the Arabic Cultural House (The Dhwani) yesterday. — AP

## Teenage suicide bomber kills 50...

Continued from Page 1

to hospital with severe and life-threatening injuries. "The roof was blown off. People near the mosque said the prayer was mid-way when the bomber, who was obviously in the congregation, detonated his explosives. This is obviously the work of Boko Haram."

Yan St-Pierre, a counter-terrorism specialist at the Modern Security Consulting Group in Berlin, said the bombing was part of a pattern of increasingly lethal strikes in the last four weeks. The latest Global Terrorism Index, published last week, said that deaths attributed to Boko Haram in 2016 fell by 80 percent. But St-Pierre said despite this "Boko Haram remains an extremely potent and dangerous organization" which was far from being "on the back foot", as the military and government has claimed.

A civilian militia source embedded with the military told AFP the attack was likely to have been to "shore up morale" after a series of recent losses in the remote region. On Nov 19, Boko Haram bases in the Njimiya, Parisa and Gulumba areas near the Sambisa Forest of Borno state were hit by air strikes, leading to "heavy losses", he claimed. This could also explain two videos put out on social media by Boko Haram in the last week, purporting to show its fighters in combat and dead Nigerian soldiers, he added.

A military source in the Borno state capital, Maiduguri, said there had been more aerial offensives in the Marte, Kukawa, Monguno and Abadam areas of northern Borno. "They are feeling the heat. They have lost a staggering number of fighters, so they are now fighting back in their usual dastardly way, attacking civilians," he said.

Boko Haram briefly overran Mubi in late 2014 as its fighters rampaged across northeastern Nigeria, seizing towns and villages in its quest to establish a headline Islamic state. The town's name was changed temporarily to Madinatul Islam, or "City of Islam" in Arabic, during the brief Boko Haram occupation. But it has been peaceful since the military and the civilian militia ousted them from the town, which is a commercial hub and home to the Adamawa State University.

In recent months, Boko Haram activity has been concentrated around Madagali, in the far north of Adamawa near the border with Borno. There have been repeated raids and suicide bombings, blamed on Boko Haram remnants pushed out of their camps in the Sambisa Forest. Boko Haram fighters are also said to be hiding in the Mandara mountains, which forms the border of Adamawa and Nigeria with neighboring Cameroon, where there has also been more attacks.

Ryan Cummings, from security analysts Signal Risk, said the attack suggests Boko Haram "has an active operational presence in Adamawa" and retained the capacity to hit hard. "It appears that despite open calls for Boko Haram to desist in such acts of mass violence against Muslim civilian interests, that these have not been heeded," he added. — AFP

## On surprise trip, Assad, Putin talk..

Continued from Page 1

The trio are cooperating despite Turkey still officially being on an opposite side in the Syrian conflict from Russia and Iran, which are key Assad backers. "Assad's visit... shows that there was a need to relay the Syrian leadership's position on a future settlement to the Kremlin, and that (Assad) was interested in the forthcoming summit with the presidents of Iran and Turkey," said Russian political analyst Azhdar Kurtov. "It is unlikely this was just another demonstration of the Kremlin's political loyalty to Assad," he told AFP. "The open-war phase in the Syria conflict will soon be over and the question of a political solution will become more pressing than before."

Russia, Iran and Turkey have backed negotiations in the Kazakh capital Astana that have brought together the representatives of the opposition and the regime seven times this year. The talks led to the creation of four so-called "de-escalation zones" that produced a drop in violence, but sporadic fighting and bombardment has continued. Moscow is now seeking to steer the process in a political direction. The Sochi summit will help to "relaunch direct negotiations between the Syrian government and the range of the opposition", said Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Moscow's military intervention in Syria in 2015 is widely seen as tipping the balance in the conflict. Since then the Syrian army has reclaimed the ancient city of Palmyra from the Islamic State and driven rebels out of their northern bastion

Leppo. This week regime forces ousted IS from its last urban stronghold in the country, Abu Kamal.

Previous attempts to end the war have stalled over the question of Assad's fate. But Turkey is showing greater flexibility, even if it remains unlikely that it will officially accept the prospect of the Syrian president remaining in power, said Timur Akhmetov, a Turkey expert at the Russian International Affairs Council. "For now, to keep a say in the future political negotiations is more important for Turkey than to have Assad departed from power," he told AFP. Different factions of the Syrian opposition will meet from today in Riyadh in talks hosted by Saudi Arabia. The aim of the Saudi-backed High Negotiations Committee is to reach consensus on a strategy for UN-backed talks in Geneva, which will focus on a new constitution for Syria and fresh elections.

Footage and photographs released by the Kremlin press office showed Putin giving Assad a warm embrace upon his arrival at Putin's residence in Sochi. The meeting was unannounced and the Kremlin did not make it public until yesterday morning. Russian television showed footage of Putin and Assad entering a meeting with the top brass of Russia's defense ministry and the general staff. "I asked the Syrian president to stop by," Putin told the Russian generals. He then referred to Assad and said: "I would like to introduce you to people who played a key role in saving Syria."

Assad's office quoted him as thanking Russia and its military, which he said "gave martyrs and made efforts in Syria." He added: "I was very happy to know that you are here since you are the officers who directly took part in the battle in Syria." Assad said the Russian air force helped Syrian troops in the fight against insurgents, helping many Syrians to return to their homes. "In the name of the Syrian people, I greet you and thank you all, every Russian officer, fighter and pilot that took part in this war," Assad said. — AFP

## Cheers, celebrations as Mugabe resigns...

Continued from Page 1

His likely successor is former vice president Emmerson Mnangagwa, whose dismissal on Nov 6 triggered the crisis. A former close ally of Mugabe, Mnangagwa had been Grace Mugabe's chief rival to succeed him. A former security chief known as The Crocodile, he was a chief lieutenant to Mugabe for decades and stands accused of participating in repression against Zimbabweans who challenged the leader.

Grace has not been seen since the start of the crisis. However, under Zimbabwe's constitution, it is second Vice President Phelekezela Mphoko who would ordinarily take over as head of state. Veterans of the independence war - who were also formerly key Mugabe allies - had also turned against him, demanding he stand down immediately and organizing last weekend's mass protests.

"I am very happy with what has happened," said Maria Sabawu, a supporter of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), outside the hotel where the impeachment process was happening. "I have suffered a lot at the hands of Mugabe's government," she said, showing her hand with a missing finger that she said she lost in violence during a presidential run-off election between Mugabe and opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai in 2008.

On Saturday, in scenes of public euphoria not seen since independence, huge crowds marched and sang their way through Harare and other cities in peaceful celebrations to mark Mugabe's fading power. The demonstrations drew citizens of all ages and races, jubilant that Mugabe's fate had been sealed. In central Harare, a group of young men tore down a green metal street sign bearing Mugabe's name and smashed it repeatedly on the road. Such open dissent would have been routinely crushed by security forces before this week's shock events. The majority of Zimbabweans had only known life under Mugabe's rule, which was defined by violent suppression, economic collapse and international isolation. — Agencies

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

## Sports

# Chevrolet Alghanim sponsors Gulf Bank 642 Marathon for the second time

## Marathon highlights importance of health and fitness



**KUWAIT:** As part of its commitment to engaging and supporting in social programs that benefit the community at large, Chevrolet Alghanim sponsored the annual Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, giving runners the chance to win 100-day test drive experience of the all-new 2018 Equinox and discounts on its best ever lineup.

The Company's support to the Marathon comes as part of its philanthropic mandate to help those in need and add value to the society it serves. Sponsoring the Marathon falls under the company's efforts in raising awareness about leading healthy lifestyles by moving more often and contributing to the wellbeing of individuals. The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' highlights the importance of health and fitness. With four different distance categories (5km, 10km, 21km, and 42km) and more than 6,000 participants this year, the Marathon is attended by individuals, families, teams



**'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' has partnered with UNHCR**

of walkers and runners from various backgrounds and organizations. It is the only marathon in Kuwait to have the 21km and 42 km distance categories internationally accredited, meaning those races appear in the international calendar of races. Each year the Marathon partners with a leading group to raise awareness on an important issue. For the second consecutive year, the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' has partnered with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, to support its #Voices4Refugees campaign. The awareness campaign aims to make stories of refugees heard around the world and encourages people to add their voices to the campaign.

The marathon started and ended at Souq Sharq following a route that took participants past some of Kuwait's most recognizable landmarks including Souk Al Mubarakiya, the Gulf Bank head office, the Grand



Mosque, Seif Palace, the National Assembly, the Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Center, and Kuwait Towers. Chevrolet Alghanim branded two of the five main water stations across the route with a team of volunteers encouraging and cheering for participants and provided them with water and recovery drinks to enable them

to finish the race.

As a platinum sponsor, the 21km winners were awarded on stage by Abdullah Mouazzen, the General Manager of Chevrolet Alghanim, and received an appreciation trophy as well for their participation from Gulf Bank 642 Marathon organizers.

## Argentina coach says no panic despite poor results

**DUBLIN:** Argentina's form this year suggests they have tumbled a long way from the dizzy heights of the World Cup semi-finals in 2015 but assistant coach Pablo Bouza is unfazed. The Pumas ended a dispiriting run of seven successive defeats with a 31-15 victory over Six Nations whipping boys Italy on Saturday-only their second win this year after victory against second-tier Georgia in June. But Bouza told AFP that playing New Zealand, Australia and South Africa on a regular basis in the Rugby Championship could only help the team, despite regular beatings handed out by the southern hemisphere powerhouses. Bouza was speaking ahead of the Pumas' final Test of the year this weekend against in-form Ireland, who were beaten emphatically by Argentina in the 2015 World Cup quarter-finals in Cardiff.

"We are on a learning curve," said Bouza. "The players who have been playing in Super Rugby (for the Jaguares in the southern hemisphere elite club competition) are in better shape for that experience. "The results at the moment don't perhaps reflect that but we have improved in some areas."

### 'MOMENTUM'

Bouza, a renowned lock in his playing days, said Argentina had to learn to keep up their intensity for the whole 80 minutes of matches. "We have played well and been competitive in a lot of matches for 60 minutes," he said. "However, we haven't tailed off because of a lack of fitness. It has been down to poor decision-making and unfortunate errors."

While the Pumas have not been able to select players playing abroad, Bouza said their eye-catching performance at the last World Cup had boosted the sport in Argentina, a country more traditionally associated with its football obsession.

The hope is that new talent will mature sufficiently by the time the 2019 World Cup in Japan comes along as several of the 2015 vintage have either retired or are ageing—the likes of captain and hooker Agustin Creevy is 32 and No. 8 Juan Manuel Leguizamón is 34.

"The 2015 World Cup was very important for the sport in the country," said Bouza, who himself left Argentina to play out his later years in England for Harlequins and then Leeds Carnegie, since renamed Yorkshire Carnegie. "A lot of young kids have taken up rugby and it is crucial we keep up that momentum in bringing new blood into the game. Also with the players now playing Super Rugby the sport is now professional at national level." Bouza said that by playing the top sides annually—they have played in the Rugby Championship since 2012 — the Pumas learn not only from their opponents on the pitch but also off it as well and refine their training techniques and routines.

"When we were playing the likes of the All Blacks and South Africa once every three to four years it was hard for the quality of the team to improve," said Bouza.

"But now playing them every year, what is important is we learn about how to train and prepare better for such matches, when to rest players, and we now go on the pitch knowing how to play each one of them as we have got used to their style of play." "It is also good experience for young players and they can only improve by playing such opposition."

Bouza, though, acknowledges from next year the Pumas must show that they have learnt from the tough times in 2017 and begin to show they are coming together for the World Cup. "This year has been a learning curve but we have to transform from that and we have just two years and 21 or 22 matches to gel before the World Cup." — AFP

## Gulf Bank concludes sponsorship of KIJJJO 2017



**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank successfully concluded its sponsorship of the Kuwait International Jiu-Jitsu Open (KIJJJO) in its second edition. The event took place from 16-18 November at the Ice Skating Rink, Kuwait City, welcoming Jiu-Jitsu talent and players of all belt lev-

els who showcased their skills and athleticism on the mat.

KIJJO 2017 surpassed expectations, bringing three action-packed days of world class Jiu Jitsu to Kuwait.

Gulf Bank's support of the KIJJJO in its

second year comes in line with the bank's commitment to supporting youth initiatives and its campaign of promoting health and fitness activities. For a full list of Kuwait International Jiu Jitsu Open winners please visit [www.kijjopen.com](http://www.kijjopen.com)

## Sharapova named in India luxury housing fraud probe

**NEW DELHI:** Five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova is under investigation in India for cheating and criminal conspiracy after the collapse of a luxury housing project that she endorsed, police and a lawyer said yesterday.

The firm behind the development is alleged to have taken millions of dollars from homebuyers before the project folded. "We have registered a case of cheating on directions from the court," local police officer Arvind Sharma told AFP.

He said Sharapova and the firm behind the development, Homestead Infrastructure Development, were named in the case. The 30-year-old tennis star travelled to India in 2012 to launch the luxury high-rise apartment complex—later named Ballet by Sharapova—which prospective buyers were told would house a tennis academy, a clubhouse and a helipad.

The website of the project quotes Sharapova as saying her goal was to "make the owners feel like they own something special and different". "Any celebrity who

endorses any product technically becomes an agent for that company. No one would have invested in the project if Sharapova's name was not there," said Piyush Singh, a lawyer representing the complainant. The project in Gurgaon—a satellite city of the capital New Delhi—was supposed to be ready in 2016 but, Singh said, construction work was abandoned after builders collected millions from homebuyers. Calls to the developers went unanswered. Sharapova has not yet commented on the case.

Sharapova, a former world number one, made almost \$30 million in 2015, according to Forbes, with \$23 million of that coming from endorsements. She has had a stop-start season since her controversial return to the game in April, following a 15-month doping ban. — AFP





## Sports

# Irving scores 47, Celtics beat Mavs for 16th straight win

## Nuggets beat Kings without coach and two starters

**DALLAS:** Kyrie Irving scored 10 of his season-high 47 points in overtime as the Boston Celtics rallied once again from a double-digit deficit to beat the Dallas Mavericks 110-102 on Monday night and extend their winning streak to 16 games. The Mavericks led by as many as 13 points in the fourth quarter, but as they have several times during their winning streak, the Celtics stormed back. The winning streak ties the fourth-longest in Celtics history. Boston tied the game at 96 when Irving stole the ball from Dirk Nowitzki and fed Jayson Tatum for an alley-oop layup that hung on the rim for a full second before dropping through. Irving scored his team's first six points of overtime. Then after Jaylen Brown gave Boston a 104-102 lead with a jumper with 1:39 to play, Irving went to work on Yogi Ferrell, backing him down and drawing contact on a lay-up with 48.5 seconds to play. Though Irving missed the free throw to keep the score 106-102, Dallas never got closer.



### Top players had plenty of time to rest

Philadelphia beat cold-shooting Utah. Embiid skipped the morning shootaround because of pain his surgically-repaired left knee. But he posted his seventh double-double and got under Utah's skin in the fourth quarter. After swatting away rookie Donovan Mitchell's layup, Embiid turned and said something to the fallen Mitchell, who got up and shoved Embiid to the floor. Mitchell drew a technical foul. Embiid got up and motioned to the fans, who started to chant "MVP" and "Trust the Process," the team's mantra during a lengthy rebuild. Embiid got a standing ovation as he exited with 1:50 left in Philadelphia's second win in five games. Mitchell scored 17 points on 6 of 19 shooting. Rodney Hood added 13 while making 5 of 17 shots, and the Jazz shot 35.3 percent from the field in losing for the eighth time in 10 games.

**WIZARDS 99, BUCKS 88**  
Bradley Beal scored 23 points to lead Washington over Milwaukee. Beal helped the Wizards separate from the Bucks with a personal 7-0 run late in the third quarter. Washington then outscored Milwaukee 13-4 to start the fourth, building an 86-70 advantage. The win snapped a two-game skid for the Wizards, who were playing on back-to-back days for the first time this season. Milwaukee has lost two consecutive games to fall back to .500 at 8-8 after rattling off a four-game winning streak following the trade for Eric Bledsoe. Kelly Oubre Jr. added 18 points off the bench for the Wizards, and John Wall scored 15 after missing a game with knee pain. Otto Porter Jr. had 12 points and 11 rebounds, and Marcin Gortat finished with 10 points with 15 rebounds. Giannis Antetokounmpo led the Bucks with 23 points but was 8 for 21 from the field.

### CAVALIERS 116, PISTONS 88

LeBron James scored 16 of his 18 points in the first quarter, and Cleveland made 11 3-pointers in the first half in its rout of Detroit. Cleveland led 73-46 at halftime thanks to an overwhelming shooting performance, an indication that Detroit's stay atop the Central Division might not last much longer. The Pistons still lead the Cavs by a game, but Cleveland has won five straight and scored at least 110 points in eight of its last nine. The Cavaliers led 27-22 when James went to the bench late in the first quarter. By the time he came back in, it was 50-30. Cleveland's reserves ended up outscoring Detroit's 26-8 in the first half. The Cavs shot 62 percent from the field in the first two quarters and 11 of 17 from 3-point range. They finished the game 16 of 33 from beyond the arc. Cleveland led 101-62 after three, and the top players for both teams had plenty of time to rest in the final period.

### PELICANS 114, THUNDER 107

Anthony Davis had 36 points and 15 rebounds, and New Orleans rallied after DeMarcus Cousins' ejection to beat Oklahoma City. Cousins had 18 points and nine rebounds before he was called for a flagrant foul on Russell Westbrook with five minutes remaining in the third quarter. Cousins raised his elbows near Westbrook's face after grabbing a rebound, and the Thunder guard dropped to the floor holding his head. Westbrook remained in the game and finished with 22 points, 16 rebounds, 12 assists and three steals. However, Westbrook also missed 13 of 19 shots. New Orleans trailed 76-72 when Cousins was ejected but surged ahead soon after with an 11-3 run during which Jameer Nelson, E'Twaun Moore and Darius Miller each hit 3s, with Nelson's banking in from near half-court as the shot clock expired. Jrue Holiday scored 18 points for New Orleans, which snapped a two-game skid.

### SPURS 96, HAWKS 85

LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and San Antonio held off Atlanta. Atlanta lost its 20th straight game in San Antonio, a skid spanning 20 years. Manu Ginobili had 16 points and Danny Green had 14 for the Spurs, who have won four of five. Kyle Anderson added 13 points, 10 assists and six rebounds in his 17th start in place of injured All-Star Kawhi Leonard. Aldridge powered the Spurs past the pesky Hawks, scoring 12 points with six rebounds in the fourth quarter. Aldridge saved the ball from going out of bounds after blocking Kent Bazemore's shot and then raced downcourt for a driving, one-handed dunk that gave San Antonio a 78-71 lead with nine minutes remaining. Green hit consecutive 3-pointers to stretch the lead to 90-79 with 3 minutes remaining.

### 76ERS 107, JAZZ 86

Ben Simmons scored 27 points, a fired-up Joel Embiid added 15 points and 10 rebounds despite a sore knee, and

**KNICKS 107, CLIPPERS 85**  
Kristaps Porzingis scored 25 points and New York extended Los Angeles' losing streak to nine games. Porzingis outplayed a frustrated Blake Griffin and helped the Knicks snap a 10-game skid in the series with their first victory over the Clippers in five years. Doug McDermott added 16 points for the Knicks, including a 3-pointer that swung the momentum for good midway through the third quarter. Griffin scored 21 points but shot just 6 for 17, picked up a technical foul and fouled out with 4:46 remaining. The Clippers (5-11) still haven't won since Nov. 1 at Dallas, when they improved to 5-2. Patrick Beverley returned after missing five games with a sore right knee and had nine points and six rebounds. But the Clippers are still without fellow guard Milos Teodosic and the rest of their backcourt play was mostly dismal.

### NUGGETS 114, KINGS 98

Will Barton and Trey Lyles made two 3-pointers apiece during a big run in the third quarter, and short-handed Denver pulled away to beat Sacramento. Barton finished with 25 points, six rebounds and five assists in his third start this season for Denver, which played without suspended coach Mike Malone and injured starters Paul Millsap and Wilson Chandler. Nikola Jokic added 16 points and 14 rebounds and Gary Harris scored 20 for the Nuggets, who bounced back after losing by 21 to the Los Angeles Lakers a night earlier. Denver couldn't shake Sacramento until a 19-7 run late in the third quarter sparked by the long-distance shooting of Barton and Lyles. The Nuggets shot 15 of 32 beyond the arc and led by as many as 22 in the final period. Wes Unseld Jr. coached the Nuggets while Malone served a one-game NBA suspension for making contact with a referee in Sunday's loss.

### PACERS 105, MAGIC 97

Victor Oladipo had 29 points, nine rebounds and seven steals to lead Indiana past Orlando, the Pacers' fourth straight win. Oladipo, who played his first three NBA seasons in Orlando, and Bojan Bogdanovic combined for 40



DALLAS: Harrison Barnes #40 of the Dallas Mavericks shoots the ball against Jayson Tatum #0 of the Boston Celtics in the fourth quarter at American Airlines Center. — AFP

## NBA results/standings

Denver 114, Sacramento 98; Boston 110, Dallas 102 (OT); San Antonio 96, Atlanta 85; Portland 100, Memphis 92; Washington 99, Milwaukee 88; New Orleans 114, Oklahoma City 107; NY Knicks 107, LA Clippers 85; Charlotte 118, Minnesota 102; Cleveland 116, Detroit 88; Indiana 105, Orlando 97; Philadelphia 107, Utah 86.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference					
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division					
W	L	PCT	GB						
Boston	16	2	.889	-	Portland	10	7	.588	-
Toronto	11	5	.688	4	Minnesota	10	7	.588	-
NY Knicks	9	7	.563	6	Denver	10	7	.588	-
Philadelphia	9	7	.563	6	Oklahoma City	7	9	.438	2.5
Brooklyn	6	10	.375	9	Utah	7	11	.389	3.5
Central Division				Pacific Division					
Detroit	11	6	.647	-	Golden State	13	4	.765	-
Cleveland	10	7	.588	1	LA Lakers	7	10	.412	6
Indiana	10	8	.556	1.5	Phoenix	7	11	.389	6.5
Milwaukee	8	8	.500	2.5	LA Clippers	5	11	.313	7.5
Chicago	3	11	.214	6.5	Sacramento	4	13	.235	9
Southeast Division				Southwest Division					
Washington	10	7	.588	-	Houston	13	4	.765	-
Orlando	8	9	.471	2	San Antonio	11	6	.647	2
Charlotte	7	9	.438	2.5	New Orleans	9	8	.529	4
Miami	7	9	.438	2.5	Memphis	7	9	.438	5.5
Atlanta	3	14	.176	7	Dallas	3	15	.167	10.5

points in the second half, 14 of them during a 16-3 third-quarter run that put the Pacers in command. Bogdanovic scored 24 of his 26 points in the second half. Nikola Vucevic had 25 points and 13 rebounds for the Magic, who lost their fifth straight. Aaron Gordon had 13 points and 12 rebounds. The Magic finished with 22 turnovers and shot 33 percent in the second half to fall below .500 for the first time this season.

### HORNETS 118, TIMBERWOLVES 102

Dwight Howard had 25 points and 20 rebounds, and Charlotte beat Minnesota. Howard, acquired in an offseason trade from Atlanta, was 8 for 10 from the field and 9 of 14 at the foul line, where he has struggled all season. He outplayed Timberwolves big man Karl-Anthony Towns, who had 18 points and 12 rebounds as Minnesota lost on back-to-back nights. Howard, the NBA's active leader in 20-20 games with 49, became the first Hornets player to accomplish the feat since Al Jefferson in 2013. Frank Kaminsky provided a huge spark off the bench, scoring nine of his 24 points in the fourth quarter. He shot 9 of 15

overall, including 4 of 5 from beyond the arc. In an effort to come back from a double-digit deficit in the fourth quarter, the Timberwolves repeatedly sent Howard to the foul line. He responded by shooting 6 of 10 to help seal the win.

### TRAIL BLAZERS 100, GRIZZLIES 92

C. J. McCollum scored 24 points and Damian Lillard added 21 points as Portland sent Memphis to its fifth straight loss. Shabazz Napier added 16 points, while Noah Vonleh finished with 11 points and 18 rebounds for Portland, which won its second straight and fourth in the last five. Mario Chalmers led Memphis with 21 points, while Tyreke Evans finished with 20. Marc Gasol had 19 points and 12 rebounds, but was 7 of 20 from the floor, part of the Grizzlies shooting 38 percent for the game, and 27 percent from outside the arc. The teams were tied at 80 with 6:47 left after Gasol split a pair of free throws. But Jusuf Nurkic, who had 10 points, converted a 3-point play and put the Trail Blazers ahead for good. Portland controlled the boards 60-35, including 15 on the offensive glass. — AFP

## Udinese sack coach Del Neri

**ROME:** Luigi Del Neri was fired as Udinese coach yesterday with the club 14th in Serie A just three points above the drop zone. The former Juventus and Roma coach is 67 and looks set to be replaced by Massimo Oddo, 41, who was part of Italy's 2006 World Cup winning squad and who was recently coach of his hometown club Pescara. "Udinese Calcio can confirm that first-team head coach Luigi Del Neri and assistant Giuseppe Ferrazzoli have been relieved of their duties," the club said on Twitter.



Luigi Del Neri

"The club would like to thank Del Neri and Ferrazzoli for their dedication over the last 13 months and wishes them all the best for the future." Del Neri joined Udinese in October 2016 and led them to 13th place, but with four wins and eight defeats so far he was fired with another relegation battle looming.

Whoever takes over will receive a baptism of fire as Udinese entertains league leaders Napoli on Sunday. — AFP

## ABK concludes its 6th annual football Tournament

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced the conclusion of the 6th annual football tournament, which was held at "The Corner" Soccer Field in Kuwait City, next to Kuwait Towers. The exciting day-long event took place on Nov 7. A total of 8 academies for children between the ages of 9 and 10 years old participated in the tournament: Kuwait Brazouka, Al-Jahra Stars, Barcelona, Messi, Al-Azory, Al-Ahli, The Pharaohs and Galasso. The ABK football tournament is part of ABK's annual Social Responsibility Program which aims to engage with the public by encouraging sport and a healthy lifestyle. The tournament, which was launched in 2011 has grown substantially in popularity year on year and attracts a wide range of teams and supporters.

Fawzy Al Thunayan, General Manager, Board Affairs at ABK alongside Ali Al Baghli, Senior Manager Corporate Communications, attended the event to present the prizes to the winning teams. The first place was won by "Brazouka" consisting of players: Ahmed Al-Beloushi, Omar Shajaea, Haitham Al-Mahameed, Ayham Nassar, Fares Jallad, Hamad Al-Jalahma, Abdullah Al-Mahameed, Hussein Murad and Hamza Al-Khateeb, with each team member received KD 60. The second place was taken by "Al-Jahra Stars" Academy consisting of players: Basel Al-Rashidi, Mohamed Mesfer, Abdullah Atiyya, Aziz Saleh, Hussein Ali, Zaid Khalifa, Aziz Fahed, Yousef Ahmed, Abdul-Rahman Bander, and Abdullah Al-Azimi, with each team member received KD 40.

Hady Ahmed, the team player of the Pharaohs Academy received the "Best Player Prize". Saleh Mousa, the team player of Al-Ahli Academy received the tournament top scorer's prize. The best goal keeper prize was taken by Basel Al-Rashidi, from Al-Jahra Stars Academy.



Fawzy Al Thunayan & Ali Al Baghli with the winning teams.



Fawzy Al Thunayan presenting the prize to the winning team.

Sports

# Brighton recover twice to salvage 2-2 draw with Stoke

Promoted Brighton in ninth place, Stoke are 15th

**BRIGHTON:** Promoted Brighton's promising Premier League campaign continued as they twice came from behind to earn a 2-2 draw at home to Stoke City on Monday. The visitors went ahead through Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting but Pascal Gross equalised just before the break only for Kurt Zouma to head Stoke back in front moments later. Jose Izquierdo then levelled for Brighton on the hour to earn a deserved point. A third straight home draw frustrated some supporters but Brighton manager Chris Hughton put the point into perspective. "When you have been behind twice you have to show character and we did. We were not at our best today. Stoke are a very manly team, we had to stand up to that. "We have to be realistic. We are playing against better teams and better players and if you can't win games then try to make sure you don't lose them," he said. The draw leaves Brighton in ninth place on 16 points from 12 games while Stoke are 15th on 13 points.

“Stoke are a very manly team, we had to stand up”

turned away after Glenn Murray fell under a Ryan Shawcross challenge and after the game the Stoke defender conceded he had brought down the veteran striker.

"I think I clipped him. The referee didn't have the best angle. It probably was a penalty," said Shawcross. The booing had barely quietened before Brighton levelled in the 44th as Gross turned the ball home after a powerful, diagonal, solo run past four Stoke defenders from Dutch midfielder Davy Propper.

Moments later Stoke restored their advantage when Brighton defender Bruno turned his back on a corner and the ball bounced off him to on-loan Chelsea defender Zouma who headed home from close range. However, Brighton deserved

at least a point and got their just reward on the hour when Colombian winger Izquierdo fired home at the second attempt after a clever Murray pass.

"It's an away point and you have to be happy with that. Brighton didn't create too much of note so we are disappointed with the goals we conceded," said Stoke boss Mark Hughes. "Overall we were very much in control of the game. I suppose we have to be happy with the result," he added. — Reuters



**BRIGHTON:** Brighton & Hove Albion's Lewis Dunk, left, and Stoke City's Kurt Zouma in action during their English Premier League soccer match at the AMEX Stadium in Brighton, England. — AP

## What's gone wrong at Atletico Madrid?

**MADRID:** Twice Champions League finalists in the past four seasons, Atletico Madrid are staring an embarrassing and financially damaging Champions League exit in the face unless they beat an in-form Roma today. Even victory over the Group C leaders and away to Chelsea in two weeks may not be enough to save Atletico unless Azerbaijani Champions League debutants Qarabag can also do them a favour by taking points off one of Chelsea or Roma in their final two games. In Diego Simeone's glorious reign as boss, only Real Madrid have previously been capable of eliminating Atletico from the Champions League. They have twice dumped out Barcelona and beat Pep Guardiola's Bayern Munich en route to the 2016 final.

Here, AFP Sports looks at what has gone wrong for Simeone's troops this season: Goal-shy Griezmann Simeone remains steadfast in his words of support for star forward Antoine Griezmann more than in his actions after substituting the French international in each of Atletico's last two games.

Griezmann has angered some Atletico fans by publicly flirting with a move away before agreeing to stay and signing an improved contract when the club's appeal against a transfer ban was rejected in June. However, a run of no goals in his last eight games and just three all season has meant there has been little reconciliation with a set of supporters that demand commitment above all else.

Simeone insisted he was with Griezmann "to the death" as long as he "remains in his family" after another blank in Saturday's 0-0 draw at home to bitter rivals Real. Yet a divorce between player and club at the end of the season now seems inevitable, particularly with Atletico needing to balance the books should they crash out early in the Champions League.

### NOT SO MAGIC WANDA

Atletico's European success was built at the fortress Vicente Calderon where they won 18, drew four and lost only one of 23 Champions League games under Simeone. They are yet to experience the winning feeling in the Champions League at their new 68,000-capacity Wanda Metropolitano after two attempts: a



**MADRID:** Atletico's Diego Godin, second right, stretches with teammates during a training session in Madrid, Spain, yesterday. Atletico will play Roma today in a Group C Champions League match. — AP

late defeat to Chelsea and an even more damaging draw when Qarabag visited three weeks ago. Indeed, after opening the 310 million-euro (\$366 million) stadium with victories over Malaga and Sevilla, Atletico are winless in their last five at the Wanda Metropolitano as players and fans alike struggle to adapt to their remote new home, nearly 20 kilometres northeast of the Calderon.

### DIEGO COSTA CLOUD LINGERS

Griezmann's lack of form has been exacerbated by a dearth of other goalscoring options as Atletico have scored just 12 times in their last 15 games and failed to score more than once in a game for two months. A club record fee was splashed out in September to bring Diego Costa back to Atletico from Chelsea, but he can't feature until January when the ban on registering new players is lifted.

In the meantime, Angel Correa, Kevin Gameiro and Fernando Torres have failed to justify a continued run in the team as Griezmann's strike partner.

tional capital markets, and can give fans another way of supporting teams.

But it comes with risks for investors. The Stevenage and Frosinone bonds cannot be traded and their holders would only be repaid after senior creditors such as banks in the event of a default.

There are also perils associated if the team performs poorly on the pitch. In Stevenage's case, if the club is relegated in the last year of the bond the repayment is delayed by one year. If a club sees its revenue slump due to poor performance, it may not be able to repay bondholders. "The risk is high for fans investing in their clubs ... that they will lose all their money or that they are not compensated for the risks they bear," said Luca Enriques, a law professor at Oxford University who has researched crowdfunding, where businesses raise cash directly from small investors online.

### GOOD RETURN?

Stevenage bondholders can choose to either get a 4 percent gross annual interest in cash or 8 percent in credit that they can spend on the club's products, such as merchandise, food and drink. Frosinone's bond comes with a 5 percent cash coupon plus 3 percent in credit. Proceeds will be used to build a restaurant, a health centre and some shops around the club's new stadium.

At a time when a five-year UK or Italian government bond yields less than 1 percent, this may look like a good return. But, by comparison, investors can get a 6 percent yield by buying the debt of Premier Foods, the owner of brands including Mr Kipling cakes and Oxo stock cubes, with an equivalent maturity.

Unlike Stevenage or Frosinone, listed companies such as Premier Foods are obliged to publish their accounts regularly. Their debt is rated by independent agencies

and can be traded on the market.

Fimbarr O'Connell of accountancy firm Smith & Williamson, who helped now dissolved Formula 1 team Caterham raise donations in 2014, said selling subordinated debt to fans took crowdfunding too far. "These people are fans and put their money in but their liability may be somewhere in the balance sheet where they have little or no hope they'll ever receive it," he said.

### 'SUPPORTING THE CLUB'

The risks associated with the Stevenage bonds are clearly laid out in the documentation and investors are also asked to self-certify as experienced or wealthy before applying to buy the bonds online.

Carole Le Grand, a 65-year old Stevenage fan who invested 1,000 pounds after a small lottery win, said she could not remember her answers to the questionnaire but would not fall into either category.

"It was about supporting the club," said Le Grand, who runs the Stevenage branch of a befriending service for the mentally disabled. She added another reason for investing was the prospect of influencing the design of the North Stand to make it more accessible for the disabled, although it was unclear whether this would happen.

Fausto Zanetton, the former banker at Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley who co-founded Tifoso, said clubs are vetted carefully. "We've said no to many clubs because we were not comfortable," he told Reuters.

Stevenage has been owned for nearly 20 years by Phil Wallace, a British businessman who is CEO of food-trading company Lamex Food Group. Frosinone's Chairman Maurizio Stirpe, who has been in charge since 2003, told Reuters the club could have borrowed more cheaply from a bank but opted for crowdfunding instead. "Our main objective is to foster fan loyalty," he said. — Reuters

## Russia fears games in freezing east will hurt stars

**MOSCOW:** Loud calls grew in Russia yesterday to cancel table-topping Lokomotiv Moscow's upcoming away match in the country's freezing Far East to protect the health of national squad players. Lokomotiv are due to cross eight timezones to play last-place SKA Khabarovsk in their 15,200-seat Lenin Stadium on Monday. Khabarovsk's first promotion to top flight Russian football has given an unexpected headache to the bigger clubs just as the nation prepares to host the World Cup on June 14-July 15.

The Russian squad is made up almost entirely of domestic players and at least four are expected to come from Lokomotiv. Parliament's deputy speaker Igor Lebedev—a sport fanatic who sits on the Russian Football Union's executive committee—said forcing teams to travel to the other side of the world's largest country and play in Arctic weather was "a travesty".

"The upcoming SKA Khabarovsk match against Lokomotiv will be a travesty for all of Russian football," Lebedev told the Chempional.com sports news site. "It abuses players and fans to an even greater extent." His comments came after CSKA Moscow—last season's Russian Premier League runners-up—played in Khabarovsk on Saturday in temperatures hovering around -15 Celsius (5 Fahrenheit).

"We have to remember that Lokomotiv and CSKA Moscow represent our country in European cups, and they comprise a large part of our national squad," said Lebedev. "You cannot come out on the pitch in such weather." The Premier League said it was monitoring weather conditions but not expecting temperatures to be any colder than they were at the CSKA Moscow match. The European football governing body UEFA allows referees to call off matches if temperatures drop to below -15 Celsius at kickoff. SKA Khabarovsk's Argentine hallback Alejandro Barbaro said playing in the Russian winter was a somewhat shocking experience. "It was not easy—not in the least bit," he told Russia's main football channel.

"In the last 10 minutes of the match, I could not feel my arms or legs," Barbaro admitted. Lokomotiv's coach Yuri Syomin also did not sound particularly enthusiastic about risking his players' health. "After CSKA played their match in that horrendous weather, two of their players got injured," Syomin told Russian media. "We have to create conditions in which football players can be at their best and not damage their health." "As a (former) player myself, I find this unacceptable." Russian national team doctor Eduard Bezuglov said players who were forced out on the pitch in such conditions risked coming down with bronchitis and "choking spells". —AFP

## Soccer ace targets fans' hearts and wallets

**FRANKFURT:** A minnow of English soccer, Stevenage FC, is an unlikely candidate to be at the forefront of financial innovation in the game. Yet it has become the first soccer club in the world to sell bonds directly to its fans online via crowdfunding, according to the organisers of the deal. Stevenage, in England's fourth division, raised 600,000 pounds (\$796,000) in September via a five-year bond to rebuild a stand in its stadium. It is set to be followed by Frosinone Calcio of Italy's Serie B second division which unveiled a bond worth up to 1.5 million euros (\$2.60 million) on Monday.

Tifoso, the crowdfunding platform behind the deals, was founded by former Italy, Juventus and Chelsea striker Gianluca Vialli, along with a former Goldman Sachs banker and two other investors. The company's name is a play on the Italian word 'tifoso' meaning fans.

The figures at stake may be small so far but Vialli said he and his partners were aiming higher. "We're close to finalising something with a big club in Serie A and an (English) Premiership club as well," he told Reuters in an interview. "We're also talking to many other clubs in football, rugby and cricket."

He added Tifoso takes a 4-6 percent cut of all funds raised. Such fundraising offers a new source of income to smaller sports clubs who don't have the access to interna-

Live		Matches on TV (Local Timings)
<b>UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE</b>		
Moscow v Benfica	beIN SPORTS HD 5	20:00
Qarabag Agdam v Chelsea	beIN SPORTS HD 4	20:00
Basel 1893 v Manchester United	beIN SPORTS HD 4	22:45
Anderlecht v Bayern Munich	beIN SPORTS HD 5	22:45
Paris Saint v Celtic	beIN SPORTS HD 2	22:45
Atletico de Madrid v Roma	beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:45
Juventus v Barcelona	beIN SPORTS HD 1	22:45
Sporting v Olympiacos	beIN SPORTS HD 6	22:45

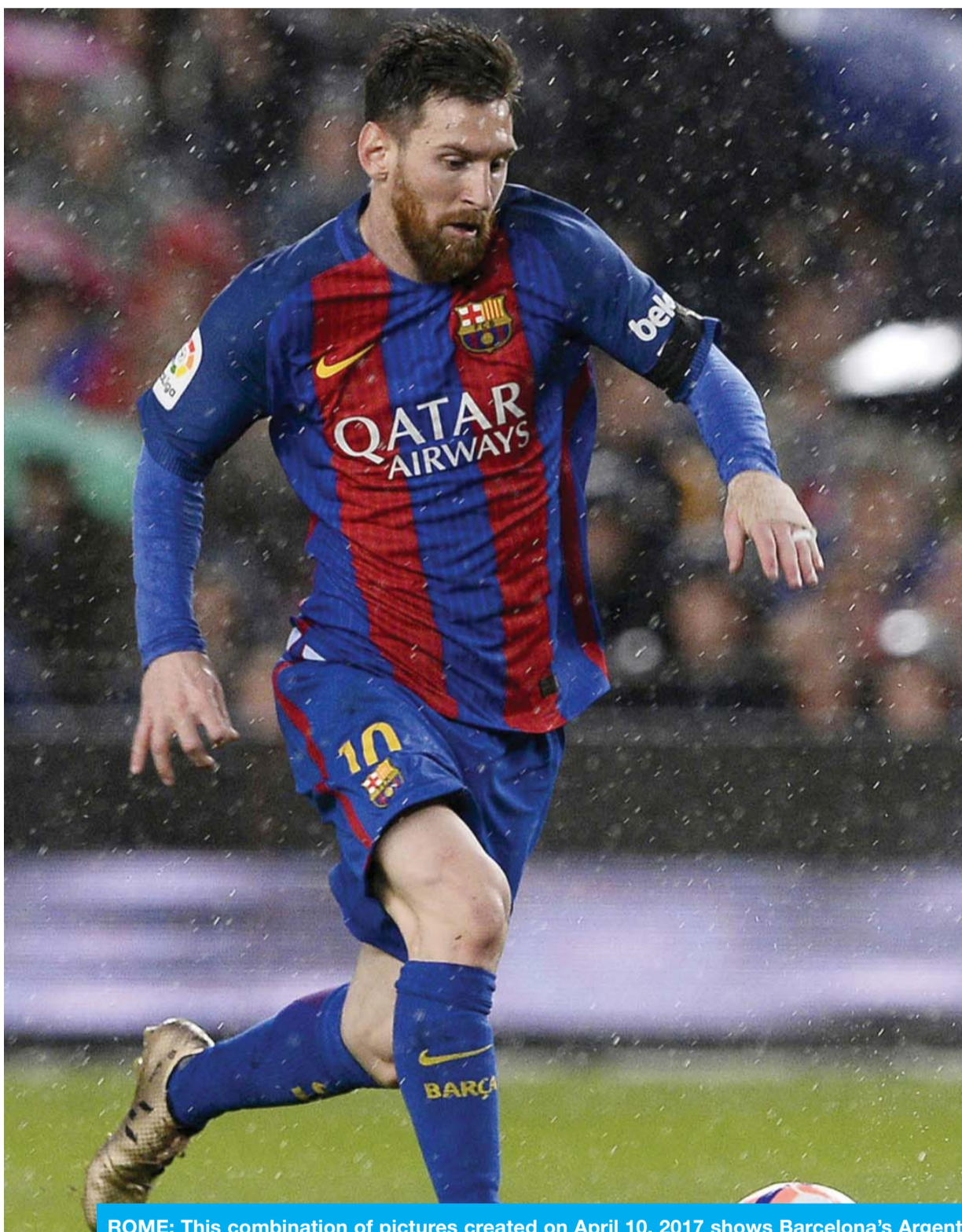
**13** Pekka Rinne makes 32 saves as Predators stop Jets' streak



**14** Irving scores 47, Celtics beat Mavs for 16th straight win



**15** Brighton recover twice to salvage 2-2 draw with Stoke



ROME: This combination of pictures created on April 10, 2017 shows Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (L) and Juventus' forward from Argentina Paulo Dybala during the Italian Serie A football match. — AFP

## Dybala, Messi renew rivalry in Turin

Barcelona lead Group D by 3 points with two rounds to go

**TURIN:** Juventus star Paulo Dybala has rediscovered his scoring form just in time as he renews his rivalry with fellow Argentinian Lionel Messi in today's Champions League clash with Barcelona. The 30-year-old Messi scored two goals to help Barcelona to a comfortable 3-0 win over Juventus, last season's finalists, at the Nou Camp in September.

Messi then scored a hat-trick in Ecuador to carry Argentina through to the 2018 World Cup. Dybala was on the substitute's bench in Quito but the 24-year-old will be on the field in Turin where a win will ensure Juventus reaches the knockout rounds.

Barcelona lead Group D by three points with two

rounds to go, and Ernesto Valverde's side need only a draw to advance as group winners. Dybala made a record-setting start to the Serie A season with 10 goals in six games before suffering a dip in form.

He got back on the scoresheet in the final seconds of Sunday's 3-2 loss at Sampdoria, to bring his tally to 12 goals in 13 games. Since arriving in Turin from Palermo in 2015, the player dubbed "The Jewel" has scored 56 goals in 112 games. But he has yet to open his tally in Europe this term. Messi has hit three in the Champions League this season to join Ronaldo in the exclusive club of players who have scored 100 goals in European competition.

### 'MESSI LIKE MARADONA'

Diminutive, dynamic and with a deadly left foot like his idol, Dybala names Messi as a source of inspiration, although he has also spoken about how difficult it is to play alongside the superstar in the Argentine national team. Dybala said he had been misinterpreted, adding that Messi had laughed off the comments when he tried to explain, "Leo is like Maradona for those of our generation," Dybala told France Football. "For me it's an honour to play with him in the national team."

"He dragged us to the World Cup with the hat-trick in Ecuador. He is a born leader," Dybala has said that he would like one day play alongside Messi's former

Barcelona team-mate Neymar Jr. The pair have long been tipped as heirs to Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, who have dominated world soccer's annual awards in recent years.

"I have to work to improve and win trophies. Once, in front of a bonfire with friends we all made a wish - my own was to win the Ballon d'Or." As for his future at six-time defending Serie A champions, he added: "In football you never know, but I'm not thinking of going away." Barca are in top form having won 11 and drawn one of 12 domestic matches this season to sit four points ahead of Valencia in La Liga. Juventus, after their setback at Sampdoria, are third in Serie A. — AFP

## FIFA bans 3 soccer officials for life for taking bribes

**GENEVA:** Three soccer officials who pleaded guilty in American courts to accepting bribes were banned for life by the FIFA ethics committee yesterday. They include former FIFA audit committee member Richard Lai of Guam, who testified in federal court. "His guilty plea related, amongst others, to schemes in which he received bribes in exchange for his support in relation to the FIFA presidential elections and to gain control and influence within the AFC (Asian Football Confederation) and FIFA," the soccer body said of Lai in a statement.

Two more former soccer federation presidents, Rafael Esquivel of Venezuela and Julio Rocha of Nicaragua, were also banned for life yesterday. They were arrested in Zurich in May 2015 in early morning raids on luxury hotels and later extradited to the United States. Though the life bans were announced during the trial in Brooklyn of three other FIFA-connected officials from South America, the ethics panel investigations were separate and did not use new evidence being aired daily in court.

FIFA said its ethics judges imposed "appropriate fines in relation to the amounts of the bribes that they have admitted having taken". Esquivel was fined 1 million Swiss francs (\$1 million), Lai was fined 870,000 Swiss francs (\$870,000), and Rocha was fined 500,000 Swiss francs (\$500,000). It is unclear if FIFA can enforce fines on people who have left the sport.

Lai, who is an American citizen, previously agreed to pay "more than \$1.1 million in forfeiture and penalties," the US Department of Justice said in April. In court, Lai pleaded guilty to wire fraud

conspiracy charges related to taking about \$1 million in bribes. Esquivel agreed to forfeit \$16 million a year ago when he pleaded guilty to charges of racketeering conspiracy, wire fraud conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy. His offenses were linked to the awarding of contracts for media and marketing rights to South American soccer competitions.

However, Esquivel's name was cited Monday in Brooklyn during testimony in the ongoing trial of former soccer executives from Brazil, Paraguay and Peru, who deny corruption charges. One witness who formerly worked for a marketing agency in Argentina said he kept a ledger of payments to officials. FIFA has repeatedly declined to comment on allegations and evidence detailed in the current federal court case. Rocha was a FIFA staffer working for its development department when he was arrested in 2015. He agreed to forfeit nearly \$300,000 after admitting to racketeering conspiracy and wire fraud conspiracy charges last December. All three banned officials are awaiting sentencing in Brooklyn. — AP



Julio Rocha



Rafael Esquivel



# Business

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017

**19** Al-Sayer and Lexus unveil all-new flagship Lexus LS



**21** CFA Society Kuwait awards 21 New Charter holders at award ceremony



**22** Epic antitrust fight looms for AT&T's \$85bn Time Warner deal



This file photo shows people ride bikes on the Brooklyn Bridge from downtown Manhattan in New York. — AFP

## Free wheelin': The Big Apple bike boom

### New York is making great strides in encouraging pedal power

**NEW YORK:** Expanding bike lanes, handing out free helmets and making lessons free: New York is making great strides in encouraging pedal power at the expense of exhaust fumes, even if some cyclists are still nervous about navigating bottleneck traffic.

For years, the city of 8.5 million—which has the most extensive public transport network in the United States—stood and watched the bike boom take off in European capitals.

In 2013, then billionaire mayor Michael Bloomberg launched the Citi Bike sharing scheme and since then, New York has seen the fastest growth rate in cycle use of any big US city. "The city has come a long way in terms of having a much stronger commitment to promoting bicycling," says Rich Conroy, education director for Bike New York, a non-profit organization that encourages safe cycling. "People realize we can't grow as a city by building more streets and adding more cars," explained Conroy.

"A lot of it is accommodating a growing city in a way that is economically and environmentally sustainable, making the city more attractive to a younger workforce." The city's department of transportation says 778,000 New Yorkers — 12 percent of the adult population—have biked regularly in 2017, more than triple the 250,000 of five years ago.

Citi Bike mirrors that progress: its annual membership has risen steadily, reaching 245,000 in the year ending September, compared to 200,000 a year earlier.

In the last five years, the city's department of transportation has expanded and enhanced the on-street bike network by nearly 300 miles (480 kilometers). Around 86,000 New Yorkers — 2.5 percent of the population—now use a bike to get to work or school. 5,000 injuries, 18 deaths a year.

One of them is Soe Thi Ha, 29, who rides 12 miles a day between Manhattan and his Brooklyn apartment. "All my friends were doing it. I saw all the bike lanes. I said if they can do it, I can too," says the Burmese New Yorker, who works in marketing psychology.

"It changed my life," he says. "Now I want to go around the world with my bicycle!" Yet however enthusiastic riders may be and however much an increasingly dilapidated

and unreliable subway encourages people to pedal, cyclists worry about safety. Cycling in parts of Manhattan is not for the faint-hearted. Eighteen cyclists were killed and nearly 5,000 injured in 2016. Bridges, tunnels and avenues are packed with buses, trucks, SUVs—and potholes. "I've been riding all my life, I have never had a car but I'm very frightened on New York City streets," says Ilene Richman, 53, who works in health care.

"Everyone I know who rides a lot has had an accident. It's frightening." When eight cyclists were killed in a Halloween truck attack carried out by an apparent Islamic State sympathizer in TriBeCa, it was a reminder of other fatal accidents on the same Hudson River bike path easily accessible by cars from the road.

Electric bike controversy To conquer her fear, Richman signed up for free lessons



**Citi Bike mirrors progress**

### Westinghouse discussing group bid for Saudi N-tender

**RIYADH/PARIS:** Toshiba-owned Westinghouse is in talks with other U.S.-based companies to form a consortium to bid in a multi-billion-dollar tender for two nuclear power reactors in Saudi Arabia, three industry sources said. Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer, sent a request for information (RFI) to reactor builders worldwide last month in a first step towards opening a formal tender. Reuters has reported. A nuclear newcomer, it wants to use atomic power to generate electricity at home so it can export more crude.

Taking part in the tender would be a major step for reactor builder Westinghouse after it went into chapter 11 bankruptcy this

year. US utilities also abandoned two half-finished Westinghouse AP1000 reactors at VC Summer in the United States. Toshiba, which is looking for a buyer for Westinghouse, also dropped plans to build Westinghouse reactors in Britain and India.

If other companies join US-based Westinghouse in a consortium it would show that they still believe the AP1000 is a viable competitor to French, Russian, South Korean and Chinese reactor models. Russian and South Korean companies have already said they plan to bid in a deal seen as one of the most promising prospects for the global nuclear industry, which is struggling to find contracts following Japan's Fukushima disaster in 2011.

A bid would also show that the United States remains a player in the small club of nuclear reactor builders in an industry which has important geopolitical and security implications.

One industry source familiar with discussions said Westinghouse and US utility holding company Exelon were discussing forming a consortium that could also include other US companies such as industrial contractor Bechtel Corp. — Reuters

### Turkish lira hits record low against dollar

**ANKARA:** The Turkish lira hit record lows in value against the US dollar yesterday as investors took flight over an impending trial in the United States and changes to banking regulations.

The lira was down over one percent to 3.97 to the dollar at 0652 GMT before rallying slightly to 3.96 at 0800 GMT. The drop followed the delay on Monday of a scheduled trial of Turkish-Iranian gold trader Reza Zarrab and Mehmet Hakan Atilla, the deputy chief executive of Turkish lender Halkbank, accused of defying US sanctions on Iran.

The trial has caused anger in Ankara, with the Turkish government on Monday calling the case "political" and a plot against Turkey. The government spokesman and Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdogan claimed the suspects

were being held like hostages.

Judge Richard Berman announced that jury selection, which had been set to begin Monday, was delayed until November 27. Opening statements are now scheduled for December 4. There are concerns over the impact of the case on US-Turkey relations and the possibility of fines against Halkbank in the event of a guilty verdict.

The NATO allies' ties have already been strained over Washington's support for a Syrian Kurdish militia that Turkey views as a "terror" group as well as the failure to extradite a Pennsylvania-based Muslim cleric blamed for last year's failed coup. Turkish authorities also announced new regulations in the "merger, division, transfer of assets and exchange of bank shares" in the Official Gazette on November 16, state-run news agency Anadolu reported. But Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek on Monday denied claims that Halkbank would be absorbed into another bank: "There is no such thing," he said, quoted by Anadolu.

As the lira weakened, the Turkish central bank announced that banks would not be able to borrow funds overnight in the interbank money market from Wednesday.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan lashed out at the central bank last week over its refusal to

cut interest rates which he said was causing high inflation. Erdogan has repeatedly verbally attacked the bank over its unwillingness to cut rates. The central bank's last change in rates was in January while inflation was at 11.9 percent last month, the highest in 2017 so far. Conventional economic wisdom suggests inflation should, however, go down as interest rates are raised as this softens demand and weakens money supply growth in an economy. —AFP

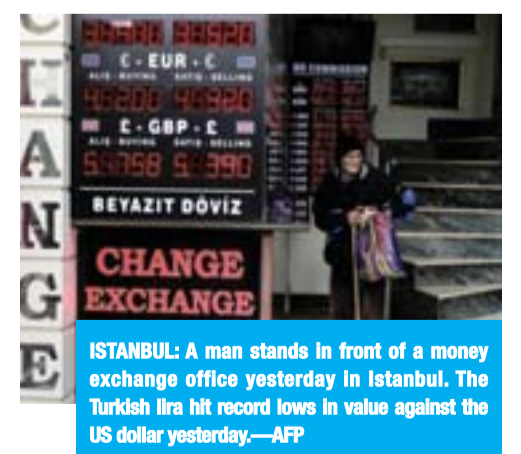
from Bike New York, given to 17,000 people last year. Supported by the city, the organization teaches safety—ring your bell, observe traffic lights or even yell "yo" to signal your presence to drivers and pedestrians.

But in a country that runs on the car, Conroy says it's drivers who need better training.

There's also another drawback: electric bikes are illegal in New York. If that's surprising in a city that considers itself at the forefront of progress, many fear the danger posed by delivery persons—ubiquitous in a city where preparing dinner often means dialing for take-out—on electric bikes.

The city has put the brakes on legalizing electric bikes, says Morgan Lommele from the association "People For Bikes," who is also an e-bikes campaigns manager. Fining e-riders is also a lucrative source of income for the police department—a \$500 fine or confiscation of the bike are risks disproportionately borne by delivery men, often recent immigrants on poor salaries.

With controversy growing, Lommele hopes Mayor Bill de Blasio will make good on his commitment to the bike and eventually change his mind. "Fining all e-bike riders will not make e-bikes go away, especially in an industry where e-bike sales are growing by more than 80 percent year over year," she says. —AFP



ISTANBUL: A man stands in front of a money exchange office yesterday in Istanbul. The Turkish lira hit record lows in value against the US dollar yesterday. —AFP

Business

# McCarthy's workshop to address challenges for business leaders

## Workshop on 'Leading Winning Teams' on Dec 17

**KUWAIT:** LAUNCH Strategic Marketing and Business Consulting offers business leaders in Kuwait the unique opportunity to attend Tom McCarthy's 'Winning Teams Workshop' on December 17th and 18th, 2017. Tom McCarthy, a leading global expert in training executives will be taking leaders through a dynamic experiential learning model on building consistently successful teams.

Khalid Al-Zanki, Founder & CEO of LAUNCH said: "Why are so many leaders struggling? What are the challenges? Why don't some organizations reach their goals? It really comes down to the leader, and sometimes as a leader, you have people in your team that are not feeling inspired or motivated, they are disengaged."

Khalid Al-Zanki also, added: "Gallup's Leadership Research shows that in each typical team, every second person is engaged versus one person that is disengaged. As a leader, you have to act like their CEO; chief emotional officer, chief energy officer, and chief engagement officer. We are excited about Tom coming to Kuwait as he will help leaders understand and work

on that during the workshop. If they take what they get from this program and apply it, they are going to have teams that everybody envy."

As a complete, integrated training and implementation program, the two-day workshop will focus on three phases by immersing attendees into simulated situations and equipping them with the skills to take their leadership model to new levels.

McCarthy's highly successful model, built upon learnings from global business leaders, stresses on continuous improvement. The interactive session promises an incredible learning journey to both, executives from widely known multi-national companies and leaders from entrepreneurial start-ups.

Tom McCarthy said: "In the first phase, I will guide executives in formulating a culture of success and developing a winning team. In the second phase, the workshop will concentrate on how to accelerate the pace of the winning team's success. Finally, I will introduce leaders to the concept of 'messing with success,' encouraging them to adopt an attitude of disruption and innovation so as to constantly operate at peak performance. Also, I will highlight a winning strategy of dedicating teams to innovate around company offerings, prioritizing innovations based on impact and importance and creating actionable implementation plans for enhancing products and services."

Learning outcomes of the workshop include: how to create a one-page leadership plan; establish a powerful team identity; shift team to preferred culture; live the core values; formulate energizing goals & objectives; master the top-grading system; hire "a" players at every position; develop "a" players at every position; re-deploy "c" and "d" players; guide team through stages of team building; increase team cohesiveness; master your emotional intelligence; influence your team's emotional intelligence; increase team member engagement; implement effective meeting structure and cadence; use powerful communication strategies; apply effective coaching strategies; delegate effectively; create a culture of transformation and improvement; increase organizational and individual effectiveness; implement the prune and focus strategy; focus on constant innovation; and much more.



“ Why are so many leaders struggling? ”

## LuLu Hypermarket launches 'Extraordinary Italian Taste' campaign

**KUWAIT:** LuLu Hypermarket, the leading retailer and hypermarket chain in the region, introduced shoppers to the exotic food flavors of Italy with the launch of the Extraordinary Italian Taste campaign.

The festival was inaugurated by Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Giuseppe Scognamiglio on Monday at the Al-Qurain outlet of LuLu Hypermarket, in the presence of the hypermarket's top management and a large gathering of excited shoppers.

The festival is being held to coincide with the 'Week of Italian Cuisine in the World' - from 20 to 26 November - which is a worldwide event dedicated to promoting Italian culinary and food tradition.

The campaign is designed to improve awareness and penetration of high-quality food brands of Italy, by showcasing the wide range of Italian products available at LuLu outlets, as well as several new products directly sourced from various companies in Italy.

Among the products being offered at special prices during the promotion period are products from leading brands such as Crispo, Dececco, Fiorentini, Forno Bonomi, Gechele, La Mole, Midi, Pozzi and Rema.

The week-long campaign that will run till 26 November also features several in-store promotions, live cooking demonstration and dedicated media and social network communication drives. During the campaign customers will have the opportunity to taste and buy freshly made pizzas, pastas, lasagna, tiramisu and many other popular Italian delicacies

As part of the festival several large cut-outs, showcasing various touristic attractions in Italy are also on display, and they provide an appealing and informative setting for shoppers.

The exciting Italian Food Fest once again underscores the hypermarket's impressive range of high-quality products that are always available at competitive prices. The festival also highlights the brand's ongoing commitment to interacting with their customers at every retail touch-point.



## China widens foreign access to its giant financial sector

**BEIJING:** China will raise foreign ownership limits in financial firms in a step granting access to a tantalizing multi-trillion dollar financial services market, as the world's second-biggest economy seeks to position itself as a major global finance hub.

The move, announced on Friday by vice finance minister Zhu Guangyao, comes a day after US President Donald Trump reiterated calls for better access to Chinese markets in meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Xi is driving broad economic reforms by opening up China's capital markets, internationalising the yuan currency, and seeking technical know-how through the pursuit of massive inbound and outbound investments.

The latest changes include raising the limit on foreign ownership in joint-venture firms involved in the futures, securities and funds markets to 51 percent from the current 49 percent. They will take effect immediately following the drafting of specific related rules, Zhu told a news conference, adding China is "formulating a timetable and roadmap for financial sector reform and opening up". The foreign business community gave a cautious welcome to the news.

"Financial services further opening definitely has been high on our list," said Ken Jarrett, President of American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai.

"It's a step in the right direction. We'll have to see the detailed rules. In China you always have to pay attention to the fine print to see how quickly it moves, but to finally ease up on the cap is something that is welcome." The plan to ease ownership restrictions comes as Beijing faces mounting pressure from Western governments and business lobbies to remove investment barriers and onerous regulations that restrict overseas companies' operations in its markets. During his trip to Beijing this week, Trump said that trade between the two nations was unfair, and called for greater market access for US companies. "We really have to look at access, forced technology transfer, and the theft of intellectual property, which just, by and of itself, is costing the United States and its companies at least \$300 billion a year," Trump said. — Reuters

### EXCHANGE RATES

#### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

##### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.691
Indian Rupees	4.660
Pakistani Rupees	2.887
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.968
Nepali Rupees	2.914
Singapore Dollar	224.220
Hongkong Dollar	38.748
Bangladesh Taka	3.637
Philippine Peso	5.958
Thai Baht	9.251

##### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.774
Qatari Riyal	83.194
Omani Riyal	786.642
Bahraini Dinar	804.300
UAE Dirham	82.468

##### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.700
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.123
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	122.300
Jordanian Dinar	427.120
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.583

##### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.700
Euro	357.490
Sterling Pound	402.890

Canadian dollar	237.600
Turkish lira	77.520
Swiss Franc	306.840
Australian Dollar	230.510
US Dollar Buying	301.500

##### GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

#### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
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
Japanese Yen	3.665
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.913

Malaysian Ringgit	72.220
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.005
Thai Bhat	10.145
Turkish Lira	78.895

#### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.395502	0.403002
Czech Korune	0.005895	0.017895
Danish Krone	0.043679	0.048679
Euro	0.349870	0.357370
Georgian Lari	0.111140	0.111140
Norwegian Krone	0.032451	0.037651
Romanian Leu	0.059488	0.076338
Russian ruble	0.005087	0.005087
Slovakia	0.009034	0.019034
Swedish Krona	0.031612	0.036612
Swiss Franc	0.298446	0.309446

Australasia	BUY	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.219995	0.231995
New Zealand Dollar	0.199685	0.209185

America	BUY	SELL
Canadian Dollar	0.231080	0.240080
US Dollars	0.298900	0.303320
US Dollars Mint	0.299400	0.303320

Asia	BUY	SELL
Bangladesh Taka	0.003301	0.003885

Chinese Yuan	0.044165	0.047665
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036694	0.039444
Indian Rupee	0.004112	0.004753
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002605	0.002785
Korean Won	0.000266	0.000281
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068931	0.074931
Nepalese Rupee	0.003023	0.003193
Pakistan Rupee	0.002649	0.002939
Philippine Peso	0.005801	0.006101
Singapore Dollar	0.217886	0.227886
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001703	0.002283
Taiwan	0.009965	0.010145
Thai Baht	0.008888	0.009438

##### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796719	0.805219
Egyptian Pound	0.014525	0.020243
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000186	0.000246
Jordanian Dinar	0.422755	0.431755
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.023565	0.047585
Omani Riyal	0.780695	0.786375
Qatar Riyal	0.078937	0.083877
Saudi Riyal	0.079713	0.081013
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.117389	0.125389
Turkish Lira	0.072112	0.082412
UAE Dirhams	0.081071	0.082771
Yemeni Riyal	0.000985	0.001065

# Al-Sayer and Lexus unveil all-new flagship Lexus LS

## Innovative styling, emotional driving and advanced technologies



**KUWAIT:** Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons (MNSS) one of the Al-Sayer Holding Companies and Lexus have unveiled the all new LS, the most innovative and advanced new generation Lexus flagship.

The launch event held at AL-SAYER Ballroom at Ardiya was attended by Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO Al-Sayer Holding, Mahmoud Abou Zahr Business Director MNSS with Shinji Kishida LS Deputy Chief Engineer Lexus International, Toshiyuki Nakahara Project General Manager and accompanying delegates from Toyota Motor Corporation along with distinguished members from the press and media.

Speaking on the occasion, Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer said, "I express our sincere gratitude to our customers for continuously preferring Lexus in the luxury auto industry, we always value their exceptional support. The event celebrates remarkable evolution of a trademark brand that has changed the landscape of world-class luxury during the past few decades. I personally remember when we were first introduced to Lexus concept, the decision was to introduce the best ever made vehicles. I still remember the first introduction of LS 400, it was magnificent and eventually took the world by surprise, and from thereon Lexus has been thriving to break new records in technologies. Few years ago Lexus went into major transformation introducing new vehicles with great style."

Setting yet another benchmark in driving dynamics, customer experience, and comfort, Lexus today repeated history by announcing the launch of the all-new, fifth-generation LS flagship sedan for 2018 in the Middle East. Equipped with several world-firsts and Lexus' first performance, design, and safety features, the new premium passenger car is set to not only win the hearts of the region's luxury enthusiasts, but also redefine luxury driving in a more stylish manner. Combining painstaking craftsmanship with Lexus' expertise and attention to detail, the flagship sedan embodies Lexus' evolution as a luxury lifestyle brand committed to surprising and delighting its customers.

Inside and out, the new LS reflects a strong, uniquely Japanese identity and approach to luxury, and offers innovative technology with a human touch. The all-new LS was designed to be the brand's latest global citizen, available in over 90 countries.

"Not only will the LS symbolize the Lexus brand, but it will also become the definitive new-generation luxury car embodying Japanese tradition and culture. Developing such a flagship model required a massive paradigm shift. Rather than being bound by the conventions that had defined luxury cars in the past, we aimed to create a car with an innovative, emotional, and sensual appeal that would draw customers' eyes away from other luxury cars and provide entirely new values," said LS Chief Engineer Toshio Asahi.

According to Mahmoud Abou Zahr, "Since its inception the LS marked a major development in the luxury auto industry becoming an unparalleled icon. After decades of success and recognition - Lexus is doing it all over again. The flame of luxury is reignited as we launch all new LS - Lexus flagship that truly embodies the best of Lexus super technology and luxury. Incredible attention to detail and the most innovative and advanced technology makes LS a great new generation luxury car. LS is superior in every sense and a symbol of



Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, CEO Al-Sayer holding, Executive board member

everything Lexus stands for."

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said: "Considered to be in a new league of its own, the all-new LS sedan builds on the flagship vehicle's enduring DNA for smooth and powerful performance, which in combination with its remarkable quietness and exceptional comfort, symbolizes the true essence of the LS. In addition to its styling that delivers a bold coupe silhouette while offering a spacious interior, the fifth-generation LS offers an emotional driving experience and is equipped with a host of cutting-edge technologies. In many ways, this LS flagship sedan exemplifies our new approach to create amazing experiences for our customers, and ignite their emotions through innovation that promises a truly engaging driving experience."

"We express our deepest gratitude to our customers in the region for extending their constant support in the form of their utmost appreciation for Lexus models, which has encouraged us to push the boundaries of automobile design and engineering. We are confident that the LS flagship sedan will resonate strongly with luxury automotive enthusiasts in the region for whom driving is an emotionally enriching

experience," added Yoshitsugu.

"Al-Sayer Board Members continue to focus on strategies for better customer service and satisfaction. Zero complaints from customers is our Lexus mission. To accomplish this mission we have put in place several facilities like - increase "Musada Service" for roadside assistance, increase number of replacement cars, maintain the best facility standards and improving customer service. We are also firm on our strategy of expansion to get closer to our customers to enhance their convenience. Our third Lexus showroom in Abu Futeira, after Shuwaikh and Ahmadi is getting ready to start operations soon. AL-SAYER Lexus team is constantly working to push the commitment for service. Despite the expenses involved we assure to bring World's best technicians, services and facilities for our customers," added Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer.

The LS is built on the new Lexus Global Architecture Luxury (GA-L) platform, which ensures a low center of gravity and optimum weight distribution, contributing to the car's essential stability and handling agility, which in turn, deliver increased driver rewards. The high rigidity of the chassis allows the new multilink suspension to be tuned to achieve an excellent handling performance and the supreme comfort for which the LS is renowned.

The 2018 LS Hybrid takes an entirely different approach than the previous LS Hybrid model. The new state-of-the-art Multi Stage Hybrid System combines a naturally aspirated Atkinson-cycle 3.5-liter V6 gasoline engine with two electric motor/generators and uses a compact, lightweight lithium-ion battery. The combined system output of the internal combustion engine with the electric traction system is 354 hp.

The new system is based on the electronically controlled Continuously Variable Planetary (CVP) transmission of Lexus Hybrid Synergy Drive, coupled with an all-new four-speed automatic gearset at the output stage. The two systems work together to expand the overall range of gearing and increase operation of the V6 engine across a wider speed range than previous hybrids. The result is impressive fuel economy, low emissions, and excellent on-road performance that will satisfy even the most demanding driving enthusiast.

The new LS will be available also with two engine options: a 3.5-liter V6 engine naturally aspirated Atkinson-cycle producing 311 hp and 380 Nm of torque, and a newly developed 3.5-liter twin-turbo V6 engine producing 416 hp and 600 Nm of torque, and both mated to the first-ever 10-speed automatic transmission for a premium passenger car.

A common thread across all the LS models is Omotenashi; the concept of Japanese hospitality, and the all-new LS flagship sedan is no exception. In terms of a luxury automobile, it translates into adopting a human-focused approach to the vehicle, taking care of the driver and passengers, anticipating their needs, and attending to their comfort in every way possible. Some of the features through which the new LS achieves this are front and rear seats with multiple power adjustments, heating, cooling, and massage functions, rear seat arrangement that includes an extending leg ottoman and the most generous legroom of any LS generation, and a rear seat entertainment system with 11.6-inch screens auto-tilts to the optimum viewing angle.

As a flagship vehicle, pioneering a new age and aiming for the best safety performance in the world, the new LS unstintingly employs the latest safety technologies including the brand's innovative Lexus Safety System+, in addition to a comprehensive array of safety features to protect its occupants, such as 14-SRS airbags, Blind Spot Monitor (BSM), Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Panoramic View Monitor (PVM), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD), and Brake Assist (BA), among many others.

Furthermore, the 2018 LS debuts two new 19-inch wheel designs and feature run-flat tires designed to elevate vehicle and ride comfort, a brilliant appearance created using an electroplating technique known as sputtering. All the new wheel designs feature a hollow rim structure that helps reduce resonant sounds generated by the tires.

The LS will be available in 13 distinctive exterior colors, including two new developed colors: Manganese Luster and Sonic Agate, which represent boldness, luminosity, and sophistication, to let customers express their individuality. On the other hand, the interior comes in a sophisticated color schemes with choices of interior trim.

“

The flame of luxury is reignited

”



Business

World stocks steady despite German worries

LONDON: World stocks rose yesterday, recovering losses after the collapse of German coalition talks...

The MSCI World index was up 0.2 percent at 12:30 GMT and similar rises for S&P 500 and Dow Jones futures indicated US equities were set to open higher.

The pan-European Stoxx 600 index was up 0.5 percent after opening 0.3 percent lower, while the euro was broadly flat after falling 0.52 percent against the dollar on Monday...

fresh elections to ruling with a minority government after coalition talks ended between her conservative bloc, the liberal pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) and environmentalist Greens.

With Brexit talks also in focus, the euro hit an eight-day low against sterling, before recovering some losses to trade down 0.2 percent.

Little delight in Turkey

The Turkish lira hit an all-time low of 3.9780 per dollar as investors worried about government pressure on the central bank and tensions with the United States over a gold trader accused of violating sanc-

tions on Iran. It has now lost 17 percent since September. The central bank responded with measures to shore up the lira although they had little immediate impact.

"There is pressure on the lira from rising NATO tension, criticism of the central bank from the president and government, and uncertainty regarding the US court case," said Reel Kapital Securities' deputy research manager Enver Erkan.

high against a basket of currencies as the German political deadlock continued to pressure the euro.

The dollar index, which tracks the greenback against a basket of six major rival currencies, was broadly flat at 94.08, but still within sight of its overnight peak of 94.104, its highest since Nov. 14.

Poor corporate earnings in Europe were also in focus, with British power provider Aggreko and manufacturer Melrose both down as much as 10 percent on worries over profits.

In government bonds, the gap between French and German borrowing costs narrowed yesterday to its tightest level since before the euro zone debt crisis of 2010-2012.

Oil prices rose on expectations of an extended OPEC-led production cut, although rising output in the United States capped gains. Brent crude futures were up 0.4 percent to \$62.46. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Table with columns for Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, Volume, Value (KWD), Number of Trades, and a detailed list of stocks with their respective prices and changes.

Italian banks face long, uphill road to modernization

MILAN: Bailed-out Monte dei Paschi, the world's oldest bank and a bastion of tradition dating back to 1472, has entered the realms of virtual reality.

After surviving the worst of a bad loans crisis, Italian banks face another daunting mission: modernizing centuries-old businesses and finding new ways to make money.

Monte dei Paschi's online arm last week launched virtual reality (VR) branches, accessed via phone app and VR headset, and said 3,500 customers had signed up in the first few hours.

Mediobanca has meanwhile acquired a "robo-advisory" service, an algorithm that proposes investments to customers of its digital arm who can access it directly.

But modernization will not be easy for an industry that has focused on lending to Italy's myriad small businesses for centuries.

Varying rates of progress among Italy's 600 lenders are likely to further widen the gap between large players and their smaller peers, which are still grappling with the loans crisis and lack the scale for the necessary investments.

Executives say mergers are inevitable in coming years. "Innovation and digitalization have become a priority for all large lenders which are dedicating people and money to them."

Heavyweight Intesa Sanpaolo, which has led the shift towards fee-earning businesses and has 230 of its 4,800 branches dedicated solely to advisory services, is launching a pilot project which will see some staff having two contracts.

Pastry and piazza

Changes are necessary for an industry which has shrinking revenues and is not repaying its cost of capital - meaning companies could struggle to raise cash from investors if they run into trouble.

Italian banks' return on equity - a key measure of profitability - was 2.3 percent in the first half of 2017 excluding one-off transactions, less than half the European average and a fraction of their 12.8 percent cost of equity,

according to calculations for Reuters by consultancy Oliver Wyman.

There is a long road ahead for lenders in Italy, where only about 30 percent of bank customers use online services, against 45 percent in Spain and more than 80 percent in Nordic countries.

But thousands of jobs are yet to be axed in a sector that has already shed 40,000 since 2008. Banks will need to cut 25-30 percent of their 29,000 branches over the next five years.

Those branches that survive are being redesigned to appeal to a new generation, and type, of clientele. Under a 500-million-euro renovation push aimed at turning its branches into modern-day piazzas, Intesa is partnering with a pastry chef to host his patisseries from next year.

"As bank branches dwindle the skills of people left in them must change to provide consulting and customer services," said Alberto Antonietti, head of financial services at Accenture Strategy in Milan.

"This is no small cultural revolution for people used to waiting for clients behind a counter who must now go hunting for them. The digital catch-up will happen, transforming people will be the real challenge."

No cushy jobs

There has been progress: excluding bailed-out Monte dei Paschi, fees have accounted for 40 percent of revenues at the top four banks this year, up from 31 percent five years ago.

But the changes are proving painful for employees. Unions have complained against pressures on staff to sell financial products and have set up a joint committee with Italy's banking association to monitor the issue.

In a survey of bank staff in a Tuscan province, 84 percent of respondents felt uneasy recommending a product to a client in order to hit goals.

"I was deeply struck by how unprepared most employees were to adapt quickly to changes happening in the industry," said Professor Giuseppe La Torre, one of the study authors.

Former bank clerk Giuliano Leone, 60, who recently retired from a small bank, said learning the ins and outs of financial products did not necessarily teach people how to sell them.

"During training they told us that signing somebody up to an insurance contract took only a few minutes," he added. "Well, it doesn't. It takes hours."

"The cuts discourage those who are after a secure job and those who want a dynamic work environment much prefer a start-up or a big tech company," he said.

"Nobody dreams of working for a bank anymore." — Reuters

Business

# CFA Society Kuwait awards 21 New Charter holders at award ceremony

## Al-Bahar calls on Kuwaiti women to join financial industry



**KUWAIT:** Last night CFA Society Kuwait, the local association of CFA Institute investment professionals, hosted its 10th Annual Charter Award Ceremony at Salva Al-Sabah Hall, Marina Hotel in Kuwait. At the event, Mijbel Al-Qattan, CFA, President of CFA Society Kuwait welcomed Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO, National Bank of Kuwait, as the chief guest and recognize 21 new charter holders.

At the event, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer of National Bank of Kuwait commented: "At NBK Group, we are all so proud of the significant and important accomplishments of CFA-Kuwait and its esteemed charter holders. It is astonishing how it has rapidly grown, and we applaud the positive contribution it's been making to the professionalization of Kuwait's investment sector since its inception in 2008. As we mark the 10 years anniversary of the establishment of the local CFA-Kuwait chapter, it is only fitting to reflect back on the first Charter Award ceremony, which saw 7 charter holders being recognized. This year we proudly have 21 professionals who have completed all the requirements for the charter, bringing the local members up from only 50 - including the founding team - to 136 members.

Working with a CFA charter holder means that you are partnering with a trusted and highly ethical professional. I personally have first-hand experience of the high caliber they uphold, as NBK is the single largest employer of CFA charter holders in Kuwait, home to over 15 percent of CFA charter holders in the country. This stems from our respect and believe that CFA-Kuwait members include some of the highest caliber financial professionals in the market. They represent our best and our brightest, as passing the three CFA exams is a difficult feat that

requires extensive study. They have dedicated years to earning this Charter. They have sat through 3 lengthy, exhaustive exams. Many have studied as much as 300 hours per level. They have also completed 4 years of relevant work experience. They are the cream of the finance profession. As such, they deserve the recognition of the leading financial institutions around the world, including NBK Group.

Since the CFA Program curriculum provides a comprehensive framework of knowledge for investment decision making and is firmly grounded in the knowledge and skills used every day in the investment profession, CFA charter holders play a key role in the financial services field at an important moment in Kuwait's history. We must position ourselves to compete in a global financial market that is

- increasingly diverse,
- transparent
- and under intense scrutiny by investors from across the globe.

Already, Kuwait is working toward a new, stronger and more advanced marketplace, and achieved several milestones including:

- the establishment of the Capital Markets Authority,
  - the reformation of the bourse
  - and the adoption of T+3 settlement
  - as well as the soon-to-be introduced market makers.
- Therefore, we will rely on CFA young graduates, to

help us leverage this success to advance the world-class standards, integrity and solid reputation of Kuwait's investment sector, as Kuwait needs to work its way towards gaining the trust and confidence of investors - both local and international, and who is best in leading the way other than the highly ethical CFA charter holders, the champions for the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct.

Last but definitely not the least, we also need to promote inclusion, as building a strong, stable and lucrative investment climate for Kuwait will also require diversity. The CFA's initiative promoting Women in Investment Management can serve Kuwait well, encouraging diversity in the investment profession and building on the most enduring principle of sound investing. It is a proven fact that companies with the most women board directors outperform those with the least women on measures like return on invested capital" by as much as 26 percent.

With the investment management industry experiencing significant changes due to factors such as Fintech disruption, regulatory developments, investors seeking returns in the current low-growth economic environment and new generational trends, recruiting and retaining the very best professionals is of utmost importance to firms. We would like to thank CFA Society Kuwait for its continued efforts to strengthen the professional and ethical

“NBK recognizes high caliber and professionalism”



Shaikha Al-Bahar, NBK Deputy Group CEO

foundations here, by upholding the highest standards in their certification process." Paul Smith, CFA, President and CEO of CFA Institute said: "I would like to congratulate the successful candidates in Kuwait, who have demonstrated their commitment to the investment profession through the acquisition of gold standard technical knowledge and competence built upon world class business ethics teaching. At CFA Institute, we are dedicated to raising standards within the investment management industry through developing professionals who have client-centric values, have high standards of ethics, commit to lifelong learning and work with employers, regulators and policy makers to forge an industry that truly serves the needs of the society in which they live."

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

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 19 November 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 12 November - 16 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 12/11): Bindhu Joseph Alexander, Usman Abdulqadir Ijtiba Ali Alvi

(Monday 13/11): Mohammad Gulzar Nawab Khan, Ahmad Adnan Khazma

(Tuesday 14/11): Ireneu Alex DeMello, Rawaa Hasan Ahmad Karoon (Wednesday 15/11): Mashhor Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Tadmor, Ronald Thomas Dmello

(Thursday 16/11): Mansour Saleh Al-Osaimi, Ahmad Eid Farhan Oudatallah

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD 1,000). Al-Danah's final draw for KD 1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire 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

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires. Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah deposit only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days.

## Agility, UPAC, and NREC invest \$1.2bn in Abu Dhabi's Reem Mall

**KUWAIT:** Agility, UPAC, and NREC, the consortium behind Abu Dhabi's Reem Mall, a retail, leisure and entertainment destination, announced yesterday that financing for the \$1.2 billion project is now complete, by signing the largest real estate asset based facility in the United Arab Emirates in 2017.

"The business climate in Abu Dhabi is one of the things that makes it so attractive to investors. The speed with which Abu Dhabi authorities completed the formalities to proceed with Reem Mall is a great example of efficiency in action," said Tarek Sultan, CEO, Agility. "The Agility group is making a significant investment in Abu Dhabi because we strongly believe in the Reem Mall project and in Abu Dhabi's growth prospects." Reem Mall, located on Abu Dhabi's Reem Island, will offer 2 million sq. ft. of leasable area (2.9 million sq. ft. of floor area) comprising 450 stores housing local and international brands, including 85 food and beverage outlets. It will feature education-oriented anchors and family-focused entertainment, including Snow Park Abu Dhabi, a destination attraction.

## IBS holds leadership development program with IDG

**KUWAIT:** The Institute of Banking Studies has conducted an outstanding leadership development program titled "Developing Aspiring Leaders" designed by the renowned "Inspirational Development Group (IDG)" specifically for aspiring leaders in the Banking Sector. It was held for four days 12-15 November, 2017 with the participation of twenty one leaders and managers from different banks in Kuwait.

Dr Yaqoub Al-Refaei Director General -



The project is being developed by Al-Farwaniya Property Developments, a partnership between Agility, Agility affiliate United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), and National Real Estate Company (NREC). Together, the companies bring a sound financial base, deep experience in asset management and commercial real estate development, and a track record of successful mall operations. To complete the financing, Al-Farwaniya signed an agreement for a \$457 million senior credit facility. The seven-year credit facility is provided by regional and international banks: Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB), Gulf Bank Kuwait, Noor Bank, and Standard Chartered Bank. The facility is subject to final conditions, and is expected to be completed shortly.

Faisal Sultan, Chairman of NREC, said: "Reem Mall is moving forward in an exciting way. It is one of the most significant leisure and retail developments ever undertaken in Abu Dhabi. We look forward to the day it opens its doors to its residents and visitors."

The Reem Mall site is located in the Najmat District on Reem Island, the residential and commercial master development by Reem Developers. Reem Island is expected to have a population of 200,000 residents at completion. Reem Mall is Abu Dhabi's major new retail, leisure, dining and entertainment destination. The Reem Mall project will comprise 450 stores, including 85 F&B outlets and a range of family-focused entertainment offerings including Snow Park Abu Dhabi by Majid Al-Futtaim.



IBS pointed to the important role that IBS is playing in developing the leadership capability of the high potential population in the financial sector by always inviting world class specialized professional trainers.

The aims of this program were manifold principally to help and engage managers in

developing their own personal leadership philosophy through greater knowledge, capabilities and self-reflection. The program covered the key elements of: The fundamentals of leadership practice, leaders knowing and leading themselves, leaders forming and developing high performing teams.

**Congratulations to the Al Danah daily winners Draw of KD 1,000**

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECORD HOLDER

بنك الخليج GULF BANK

## Technology

# Mercedes-AMG 43 series models: Introduction to AMG brand world

## A powerful and dynamic driving experience



**KUWAIT:** An AMG is not just a car. It is an experience. It is driving performance from over four decades of engineering art that is in the DNA of every vehicle in the Mercedes-AMG range. Perched between the top-of-the-line AMG 63 and GT models and its standard models, are the Mercedes-AMG 43s.

Introducing exciting new engines to the AMG stable, the Mercedes-AMG 43 range offers a powerful and dynamic driving experience. Available as SLC 43; E 43; C 43 Sedan, Coupé and Cabriolets; GLC 43 SUV and Coupé, as well as the GLE 43 Coupé; the unique AMG 43 motoring experience opens up a new world of driving for performance and technology enthusiasts who want an introduction into the AMG brand world.

"Lots of customers want more power than the top models from Mercedes-Benz, without having to compromise on luxury. For these customers the 43 series represent the perfect introduction to AMG brand world," said Mohammed Abdul Rahman Albisher, Director of Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company, the Authorized General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait.

Mercedes-Benz has long been synonymous with luxury and driving pleasure, and the three 'AMG' letters signify an added promise of driving performance," added Michael Ruehle, CEO of A.R. Albisher & Z Alkazemi Company.

The typical combination of two numerals gives customers clear orientation. It is a clear promise that 43 models are AMG Performance vehicles - just like 63 and 65 model series.

AMG Performance vehicles target an exclusive clientele of performance and technology enthusiasts. The 43 series model is seamlessly integrated into this portfolio. Attention to every technical detail - the special setup of

the engine, transmission and suspension and the exclusive design and equipment delight from every perspective. The character of 43 series models can be tangibly experienced as true AMG's in the areas of technology, exterior and interior.

### Engine - sporty temperament

The AMG 43's 3.0-litre V6 biturbo engine has a power output of 270 kW (367 hp) and 520 Nm thanks to its increased charge pressure. A modified engine control system and spontaneously responding turbochargers make the high-tech power plant extremely high-spirited.

### 9G-TRONIC transmission: Shorter shift times

The 9G-TRONIC with shorter shift times is the perfect partner for the V6 sports engine, with multiple downshifts for fast sprints and an emotional double-declutching function in "Sport" and "Sport Plus". The manual mode has an even sportier response - and the transmission does not automatically shift up on the rpm limiter.

### Chassis/suspension: Customized suspension setup

The AMG RIDE CONTROL sports suspension with AMG-specific axle components features continuous damping adjustment which can be set to 3 damping levels - "Comfort", "Sport" and "Sport Plus" - with a button in the centre console. This allows a huge spread between a sporty driving experience and a high level of comfort. In addition, with the AMG sports suspension based on AIR BODY CONTROL (GLC 43 Coupé 4MATIC, E 43 4MATIC), different height levels can be set.

### Exhaust system/sound: An AMG experience

The engine sound defines the AMG experience. The selected driving program (DYNAMIC SELECT), the

engine speed and the load influence the sound characteristics. In "Sport Plus" mode in particular the double-declutching has a thrilling sound and brings a motor racing spirit to everyday driving, while in "Eco" or "Comfort" cold starts are markedly quieter.

### 3-stage ESP (r): Cornering performance

Compared with the standard model, the ESP has a sportier configuration and intervenes later. For further customization of the driving dynamics, three different control strategies can be selected with the ESP button. ESP "ON" for early system intervention without impairing the sporty character. ESP "SPORT HANDLING MODE" with later system intervention for a sporty driving style. ESP "OFF" switches the system off for a sporty driving style on cordoned-off racecourses.

With its constant, very direct ratios the AMG speed-sensitive sports steering provides for agile cornering. At the same time the steering power assistance adjusts to the DYNAMIC SELECT driving programs in two characteristics ("Comfort" and "Sport").

### Drive / 4MATIC: Optimum traction

The standard all-wheel drive AMG Performance 4MATIC is characterized by the rear-biased torque distribution of 31 percent on the front axle to 69 percent on the rear axle. This design provides for enhanced driving dynamics, higher lateral acceleration on the road and improved traction when accelerating. The noticeable effect: cornering performance improves, the vehicle feels like it is driving on rails.

### Exterior: Sporty and expressive

A dominant feature of the sporty and expressive exterior design is the AMG front apron with striking air

inlets including diamond mesh and a trim element in silver chrome. Together with the diamond radiator grille in chrome and the louvres in high-gloss black, this creates a characteristic impression. High-quality, AMG 18-inch (45.7 cm) alloy wheels in a 5-spoke design painted in black and with a high-sheen finish lend the vehicle a dynamic look.

### Sporty grip

The multifunction sports steering wheel in a 3-spoke design in black nappa leather with a flattened bottom rim is a perfect match for the sporty handling. Carefully crafted details such as the embossed grip area, the steering wheel shift paddles and the steering wheel trim in silver chrome contribute to the impressive look and feel.

### Seats: Like a made-to-measure suit

The sports seats with AMG-specific seat upholstery layout and pronounced lateral support convey a passion for performance. Thanks to their high-quality design they also offer excellent comfort on long journeys. A further attractive signal for the pronounced sportiness of the 43 series models is the upholstery in imitation leather ARTICO/DINAMICA microfiber in black with red topstitching.

### Instrument cluster: Perfect overview

The instrument cluster, with its two large round dials in "Chequered Flag" design and a central color multi-function display with a 13.97 cm screen diagonal, presents all important items of information in the driver's field of vision. The speedometer also features the typical AMG style: it shows a maximum scale value of 280 km/h. The Mercedes-AMG 43 range is available at A.R. Albisher's Shuwaikh showroom.

## Cigar-shaped asteroid came from another solar system: Study

**WASHINGTON:** A rocky cigar-shaped object detected in space last month came from another solar system, astronomers said Monday as they confirmed an unprecedented observation. The discovery may provide clues as to how other solar systems formed, said the researchers, who published their study in the British journal Nature.

The asteroid, named Oumuamua by its discoverers, is one-quarter mile (400 meters) long and highly elongated-perhaps 10 times as long as it is wide. That odd shape is unprecedented among some 750,000 asteroids and comets observed in our solar system where they formed, said the researchers. They concluded that the cigar-shaped thing is from another solar system due to data on its orbit.

Asteroids like Oumuamua enter our solar system about once a year, these scientists said. But they are hard to trace and had not been detected until now, thanks to stronger telescopes. The detection suggests this object had been wandering through our galaxy, the Milky Way, unattached to any star system for hundreds of millions of years before it ran into ours. "For decades we've theorized that such interstellar objects are out there, and now-for the first time-we have direct evidence they exist," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. "This history-making discovery is opening a new window to study formation of solar systems beyond our own," he added. The asteroid was detected by a telescope in Hawaii. Oumuamua means messenger in Hawaiian. —AFP

## Epic antitrust fight looms for AT&T's \$85bn Time Warner deal

**NEW YORK:** The Justice Department is suing AT&T to stop its \$85 billion purchase of Time Warner, setting the stage for an epic legal battle with the telecom giant.

It could also create a new headache for US President Donald Trump, whose public statements have raised suspicions that he might have interfered with the department's decision, potentially undermining its legal case. DOJ's antitrust chief, Makan Delrahim, has said the president did not tell him what to do. White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday she wasn't aware of any specific action related to the case taken by the White House. In a press release, Delrahim said that a combined AT&T-Time Warner would "greatly harm American consumers" by hiking television bills and hampering innovation, particularly in online television services. The DOJ said AT&T would be able to charge rival distributors such as cable companies "hundreds of millions of dollars more per year" for Time Warner's programming - payments that would ultimately get passed down to consumers through their cable bills.

In an emailed statement on Monday, AT&T general counsel David McAtee said the lawsuit is a "radical and inexplicable departure from decades of antitrust precedent" and that the company is confident that it will prevail in court. AT&T runs the country's second largest wireless network and is the biggest provider of traditional satellite and cable TV services. Time Warner owns HBO, CNN, TBS and other networks, as well as the Warner Bros. movie studio. The government's objections to the deal surprised many on Wall Street. AT&T and Time Warner are not direct competitors, and "vertical" mergers between such companies have typically had an easier time winning government approval than deals that combine two rivals. The last time the US government won a court victory in a vertical merger antitrust case was in 1972, when the Supreme Court said Ford's takeover of a spark-plug business violated antitrust law.

Many had expected government approval of the deal because

## Indian automaker Mahindra opens US plant

**AUBURN HILLS, Mich:** Indian conglomerate Mahindra Group is opening an automotive manufacturing facility near Detroit. Mahindra says it will make an off-road vehicle at the 400,000-square-foot plant in Auburn Hills. Mumbai-based Mahindra is

India's largest SUV maker, but it doesn't yet sell cars or SUVs in the US, where it would have to find dealers and meet stricter safety standards. Mahindra currently sells tractors, scooters and off-road vehicles in the US.

It's also one of five companies in the running to build a new vehicle for the US Postal Service. And it recently signed a deal to work with Ford Motor Co on electric and connected vehicle technology.

Mahindra opened a technical center in suburban Detroit in 2012. It expects to have 250 employees in Michigan by the end of this year. —AP



**WASHINGTON:** In this file photo, AT&T Chairman and CEO Randall Stephenson (left) testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on the proposed merger between AT&T and Time Warner, as Time Warner Chairman and CEO Jeffrey Bewkes listens at right. —AP

Obama-era antitrust officials approved a similar deal - Comcast's purchase of NBCUniversal - in 2011, after imposing restrictions on Comcast's behavior that were meant to protect consumers.

As a candidate, however, Trump vowed to block the pending AT&T-Time Warner deal because it would concentrate too much "power in the hands of too few." As president, Trump has often blasted CNN for its coverage of him and his administration, disparaging it and its reporters as "fake news."

At a press conference Monday, AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson addressed speculation over whether the government's lawsuit was "all about CNN," saying, "Frankly, I don't know." But Stephenson said AT&T would not agree to anything that would result in it losing control of CNN.

A person familiar with the matter, who could not go on the record, previously told the Associated Press that DOJ wanted the combined company to sell either Turner - the parent of CNN, TBS and other networks - or DirecTV to satisfy its antitrust concerns. A DOJ official, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss a pending legal case, said Monday

that the government is still willing to work with AT&T on "structural relief," or selling off assets.

AT&T has argued that buying Time Warner would let it package and deliver video more cheaply, over the internet, rather than in expensive cable bundles. It already has a DirecTV Now streaming service, which puts popular live TV networks online, and costs \$35 a month and up, cheaper than traditional cable bundles. Consumer advocates and some Democratic politicians applauded the lawsuit as a blow against media consolidation. Consumers Union, an advocacy group that opposes the deal, said there were "legitimate reasons" to block the deal to protect consumers, but called reports of political pressure "concerning."

The consumer advocacy group Free Press likewise praised the DOJ action, but its president, Craig Aaron, objected to Trump's "saber-rattling" against CNN and other outlets that air criticism of the administration. Aaron called on the Justice Department to demonstrate its independence by reviewing TV station owner Sinclair's proposed takeover of rival Tribune. Sinclair is a conservative-leaning company.—AP



**AUBURN HILLS:** Mahindra Group Chairman Anand G Mahindra, center, speaks with employees in Auburn Hills, Michigan on Monday. —AP

Health

# Counting the costs: US hospitals feel the pain of physician burnout

## Burnout marked by emotional exhaustion

**ANN ARBOR:** Dr Brian Halloran, a vascular surgeon at St Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor, starts planning his garden long before spring arrives in southeast Michigan. His tiny plot, located in the shadow of the 537-bed teaching hospital, helps Halloran cope with burnout from long hours and the stress of surgery on gravely ill patients.

"You really have to find the balance to put it a little more in perspective," he said. Hospitals such as St Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor have been investing in programs ranging from yoga classes to personal coaches designed to help doctors become more resilient. But national burnout rates keep rising, with up to 54 percent of doctors affected. Some leading healthcare executives now say the way medicine is practiced in the United States is to blame, fueled in part by growing clerical demands that have doctors spending two hours on the computer for every one hour they spend seeing patients.

What's more, burnout is not just bad for doctors; it's bad for patients and bad for business, according to interviews with more than 20 healthcare executives, doctors and burnout experts. "This really isn't just about exercise and getting enough sleep and having a life outside the hospital," said Dr Tait Shanafelt, a former Mayo Clinic researcher who became Stanford Medicine's first chief physician wellness officer in September. "It has at least as much or more to do with the environment in which these folks are practicing," he said.

Shanafelt and other researchers have shown that burnout erodes job performance, increases medical errors and leads doctors to leave a profession they once loved. Hospitals can ill afford these added expenses in an era of tight margins, costly nursing shortages and uncertainty over the fate of the Affordable Care Act, which has put capital projects and payment reform efforts

on hold. "Burnout decreases productivity and increases errors. It's a big deal," said Cleveland Clinic Chief Executive Dr Toby Cosgrove, one of 10 US healthcare CEOs who earlier this year declared physician burnout a public health crisis.

### What to do?

Hospitals are just beginning to recognize the toll of burnout on their operations. Experts estimate, for example, that it can cost more than a \$1 million to recruit and train a replacement for a doctor who leaves because of burnout. But no broad calculation of burnout costs exists, Shanafelt said. Stanford, Harvard Business School, Mayo and the American Medical Association are working on that. They have put together a comprehensive estimate of the costs of burnout at the organizational and societal level, which has been submitted to a journal for review.

In July, the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) called on researchers to identify interventions that ease burnout. Meanwhile,

some hospitals and health insurers are already trying to lighten the load. Cleveland Clinic last year increased the number of nurse practitioners and other highly trained providers by 25 percent to 1,600 to handle more routine tasks for its 3,600 physicians. It hired eight pharmacists to help with prescription refills. Atrius Health, Massachusetts' largest independent physicians group, is diverting unnecessary email traffic away from doctors to other staffers and simplifying medical records, aiming to cut 1.5 million mouse "clicks" per year.

Insurer UnitedHealth Group, which operates physician practices for more than 20,000 doctors through its Optum subsidiary, launched a program to help doctors quickly determine whether drugs are covered by a patient's insurance plan during the patient visit. It is also running a pilot program for Medicare



**CALIFORNIA:** A doctor injects a patient with a solution he says is rich in adult stem cells, at his practice in Beverly Hills, Calif. The Food and Drug Administration has laid out a strategy for regulating cell-based medicine, amid an effort to police a burgeoning medical field that has received little oversight. —AP

plans in eight states to shrink the number of procedures that require prior authorization. Similarly, Aetna Inc this year began a behavioral health program that eliminates prior authorization requirements for admission to some high-performing hospitals.

### Doctor overload

Experts define burnout as a syndrome marked by emotional exhaustion, cynicism and decreased effectiveness. Many burned out doctors cut back their hours to cope, and a disturbing num-

ber commit suicide. A landmark 2015 Mayo Clinic study found that more than 7 percent of nearly 7,000 doctors had considered suicide within the prior 12 months, compared with 4 percent of other workers. About 400 a year go through with it.

Driving the burnout symptoms is the burden of data entry on clumsy electronic medical records systems that doctors must use to prove the quality of their care, said Dr Christine Sinsky, vice president of professional satisfaction at the American Medical Association. —Reuters

## Spain, Portugal struggling with extreme drought

**MADRID:** Spain and Portugal are grappling with a devastating drought which has left rivers nearly dry, sparked deadly wildfires and devastated crops-and experts warn that prolonged dry spells will become more frequent. Nearly all of Portugal has suffered extreme drought conditions during the last six months, which has not happened since 2005. A majority of Spain has also received considerably less rain than it normally would.

"It's a ruinous situation," said Jose Ramon Gonzalez, a small rancher in Spain's normally rainy northwestern region of Galicia. Due to the scarcity of grass, Gonzalez was forced to spend thousands of euros to buy fodder for his cattle in July, four months earlier than normal. "There are rivers, springs, which neither I, at the age of 45, nor my parents, nor my grandparents, have seen dry which have dried up," he said.

About 1.38 million hectares of grains, sunflowers and olive trees have been affected by drought or frost in Spain as of the end of October, according to Spanish farming insurance agency Agroseguero. It has dished out more than 200 million euros (\$236 million) in compensation this year. "You feel helpless like when you are sick, you can't do anything. This sickness is called drought," said Vicente

Ortiz, a farmer and rancher in Spain's central Castilla-La Mancha region, whose endless plain is depicted in "Don Quixote", the most famous work by Miguel de Cervantes.

Ortiz said his grain harvest has plunged 70 percent from last year and he expects to harvest half as many olives. "The situation is just as dire for farmers across the border in neighboring Portugal. "All crops are suffering from this lack of water in our region, from olives to grains and grapes," said Fremelinda Carvalho, the president of the association of farmers on Portalegre in central Portugal. The dry fields and forests have fuelled wildfires, which killed 109 people this year in Portugal and five in Galicia, many dying in their cars as they tried to flee the flames.

### Water conflicts

Water reservoirs are at abnormally low levels. In Portugal 28 of the country's water reservoirs in October were at less than 40 percent of their storage capacity. This weekend about a hundred fire trucks began transporting water from one dam in northern Portugal to another that is running dry and supplies water to Viseu, a city of around 100,000 residents.

In Spain the water reservoirs along the Tagus River, which empty into the Atlantic near Lisbon, were as of November 13 at less than 40 percent of their capacity. The levels were even lower in the Douro River further north and the Segura River, which is used to irrigate crops in southeastern Spain. Spain's largest power company, Iberdrola, saw its hydroelectric power production plunge 58 percent during the first nine months of the year, compared to the same time last year, due to the lack of water which has pushed up electricity prices. —AFP

## Novo Nordisk steps up focus on obesity drugs

**MALOV:** Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk is stepping up its efforts to treat obesity, seeking to tap into a potentially huge market as its established diabetes drugs come under price pressure, particularly in the United States. The world's largest maker of diabetes drugs said yesterday it would aim to develop medicines that treat obesity - a major cause of diabetes - at least as effectively as surgery. Its initial big hope is semaglutide, a once-weekly injection that is expected to be launched as a diabetes treatment next year. The new drug, in the so-called GLP-1 category, imitates an intestinal hormone that stimulates the production of insulin. In a research and strategy update, Novo said it planned to start a final phase 3 clinical trial program with once-weekly subcutaneous semaglutide in obesity in the first half of 2018. It will involve around 4,500 patients.

Worldwide obesity has nearly tripled since 1975 and the World Health Organization estimates that in 2016 more than 650 million adults were obese - with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more. However, just 2 percent are on obesity medication. Shares in Novo are down around 14 percent over the past two years after price pressures in the United States

forced it to cut its long-term operating profit growth target twice last year from 15 to 5 percent. The stock was little changed yesterday.

### Compete with surgery

Novo said it hoped to achieve a weight loss that can compete with surgery by combining semaglutide with new biological drugs. "Maybe 25 percent (weight loss) or beyond, but we start by setting the bar at 15 percent or beyond," senior vice president of global research Peter Kurtzhals told investors at the company's capital markets day near Copenhagen. Two out of the six obesity projects currently in phase 1 trials are expected to move to phase 2 next year, Novo said. The company's obesity pipeline mainly explores projects addressing weight loss by reducing appetite and thereby food intake, but is also looking at increasing energy consumption. Novo launched its first obesity drug in 2015, marketed as Saxenda. Other prescription drugs on the US market are Roche's Xenical, Vivus' Qsymia, Eisai's Belsiv and Orexigen's Contrave. Brokerage Norda sees sales from Novo's obesity franchise rising to \$4 billion in 2025, fuelled by semaglutide. Semaglutide is expected to be approved as a diabetes treatment in December and is - in addition to obesity - also being tested on non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), known as fatty liver, and cardiovascular and chronic kidney diseases. Semaglutide will be launched under the brand name Ozempic, Novo said. It will take aim at Eli Lilly's Trulicity, to which Novo's once-daily Victoza drug is currently losing market share. —Reuters

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Organized by



# 'Celebrate #Canada150' art

By Ben Garcia

The winners of the "Celebrate #Canada150" art competition organized by Kuwait Times were feted at an awards night held at the Four Seasons Hotel on Monday. Education Minister Dr Mohammed Al-Fares was the chief guest at the event, along with other dignitaries. The art competition drew hundreds of participants from both private and public schools in Kuwait - students aged 6 and above and art teachers.

In her opening remarks, Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait Martine Moreau lauded schools and students who took part in the competition. "2017 has been a truly exceptional year for Canadians as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our confederation as a country, or what is more

commonly known as Canada150," she said. Moreau pointed out that they are not only celebrating Canada's distinct ethnic, cultural and linguistic makeup, but also its rich history and heritage. "While we have been celebrating this important milestone in Canada throughout the year, we have also invited the world to join us by celebrating, exploring and participating in the best that Canada has to offer," she said.

According to Moreau, one of the main themes of #Canada150 anniversary is youth. "Canadians wish to enhance the engagement of young people at home and abroad and provide them the means of effectively contributing to our society and playing a meaningful role in shaping our future. Affording our youth with the knowledge, education,

tools, skill sets, genuine curiosity and openness to the world is critical in developing their potential so that they can contribute more effectively in their communities and beyond," she noted.

### Special friendship

Moreau also expressed her delight to have worked in collaboration with Kuwait Times on the "Celebrate #Canada150" student art competition. Nearly 12,000 students from over 100 schools participated in this competition. "Such active interest and enthusiasm by young students in learning more about Canada and in celebrating our 150th anniversary in this way speaks volumes about the special friendship Canada enjoys with Kuwait, and this has been very gratifying indeed," she said. "I must say that I have been truly impressed with the students' artistic renditions of Canada. Their originality and talent have certainly added a unique new perspective in their interpretations of not only the stunning physical beauty of our vast northern country, but also the richness of its history, traditions and cultural heritage."

Moreau said Kuwait and Canada share many common values that have served to underpin not only its friendship, but our strong bilateral partnership. "Given the genuine interest and enthusiasm demonstrated by these students - the future leaders of Kuwait - I am very optimistic that the excellent relations that exist between our two countries will continue to advance and prosper," she added.

"And of course, I offer hearty congratulations to all the winners from each age category for their beautiful drawings and sincere appreciation to all the students who took part in this competition. For me, every participant is a winner tonight. My gratitude is also extended to the dear parents, school counselors and teachers who provided the guidance and assistance needed to enable the students to be able to create such stunning artworks," Moreau said, thanking the sponsors for making this competition possible and special.

Adnan Saad, Deputy General Manager of Kuwait Times, said: "The art of drawing was, and still is, one of nations' symbols of civilization. Out of our belief in the role of this expressive field in developing the capabilities of individuals and disciplining the human soul, we launched the Celebrate #Canada150 competition with the support of the Canadian Embassy in



Adnan Saad explains the paintings to Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammed Abdulatif Al-Fares, left, and Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Martine Moreau.



Adnan Saad, Deputy General Manager of Kuwait Times



Female art teachers pose for a picture



General view of the audience



Didier Jardin, General Manager of Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait



David McHardy, President of Algonquin College Kuwait

Spons





# contest, a rousing success

Kuwait and the approval of the education ministry," he said.

The goal behind the competition was to make students reflect their feelings and knowledge about the landmarks and colors Canada enjoys in the form of beautiful nature and civilized heritage that is mixed with people's customs and cultures, animals, birds, forests and the beauty of its coasts, cuisine and scenes of celebrations. These were expressed in the drawings of Kuwait's students in watercolor, oil and acrylic.

"The students were creative in their drawings and took the opportunity to express their emotions with their feelings, skills and artistic abilities. The competition allowed students to affirm their self-confidence and gave them the opportunity to express their reactions, abilities, artistic sense and feelings of awareness," Saad said. "Students gained gradual skills that are suitable to their ages and levels, and their attachment grew with the pieces they drew. This is a story of artistic culture in the field of art and civilized heritage that is far from their eyes, which gave them an opportunity for purposeful art expression and taste," he said.

"The students' work gained our appreciation, so we applaud all of you for what you have presented. We salute your teachers and parents who supported you to project your skills and abilities. Thanks to Martine Moreau, Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait, for her support in spreading a message of art to introduce Canada with this competition, in which more than 11,800 students of both genders participated by drawing expressive pieces about Canada, its civilization, heritage and colors that were magnificent and beautiful, making it tough for the officiating committee to make a fair and just decision to decide the winning works," Saad added.

#### Sponsors honored

The president of Algonquin College - Kuwait, one of the sponsors of the event, David McHardy was very honored to be part of the competition. "As a Canadian, as President of Kuwait's only Canadian College - Algonquin College - Kuwait - and as President of the Canadian Business Council of Kuwait, I am honored to be here today recognizing the outstanding achievements of our young artists and taking part in the celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary," he noted. He also promoted his school to Kuwaiti students. "Since Canada is now considered to be the number one destination in

the world for international students, we sincerely hope that the talented contestants in this contest will consider studying at our Canadian college here in Kuwait or at other institutions in Canada," he said.

Didier Jardin, General Manager of Four Seasons Hotel, took pride in his youngest five-star hotel in Kuwait. "Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait belongs to a Canadian brand, and is privileged to be a part of this event. It is a great opportunity to be in a partnership today to invest in the Kuwait youth. Supporting the student art competition 2017 award ceremony is a commitment towards the future. It is a great pleasure for me to be here and meet each one of you in person. By supporting this event, we

are willing to create a hands-on approach to talent development, working closely with the ministry of education, the Canadian embassy and Kuwait Times to achieve this aim. As part of the development of young talents, Four Seasons is glad to support a new generation of artists," he added.

Kuwait Times would like to thank KUFPEC (Kuwait Foreign Petrochemical Company), Algonquin College of Kuwait, Petrochemical Industry, Ebla computer consultancy, Air Canada, Lufthansa, SNC-Lavalin and Four Seasons Hotel for their participation and support.



Martine Moreau, Canadian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait



DA 150



Tamara Saab, event hostess, poses with Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammad Abdulatif Al-Fares.



Male art teachers pose for a picture



Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammad Abdulatif Al-Fares, Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Martine Moreau, Amera Ashkhanani, Adnan Saad, Jury members Abed Al Kareem Al Enzi and Asaad Bunashi, Representative from Petrochemical Industries Company Mohammed Al-Maney pose for a picture with Anfal Group for special needs.



Jury member Abed Al Kareem Al Enzi



Najwa Lacson performs during the event

ored by \_\_\_\_\_



STUDENT ART COMPETITION

# Special Needs Category



Salman Dawoud Salman - Nibras Ideal School



Mousa Abd Al Aziz Hussian - Nibras School



Hebh Edrees Ghloom - Dasman B. School



Tharowah Sultan Al Saad - Anfal Group



Said Al Wuhaib - Al Bayan school



Hajer Al-Dosari - Al Kharafi



Hanifa Alam - KES



Aysha Salem Ali - Khalifa



Fadel Salem Jamaan - Kuwait Academy



Hansika Teekam - Khalifa

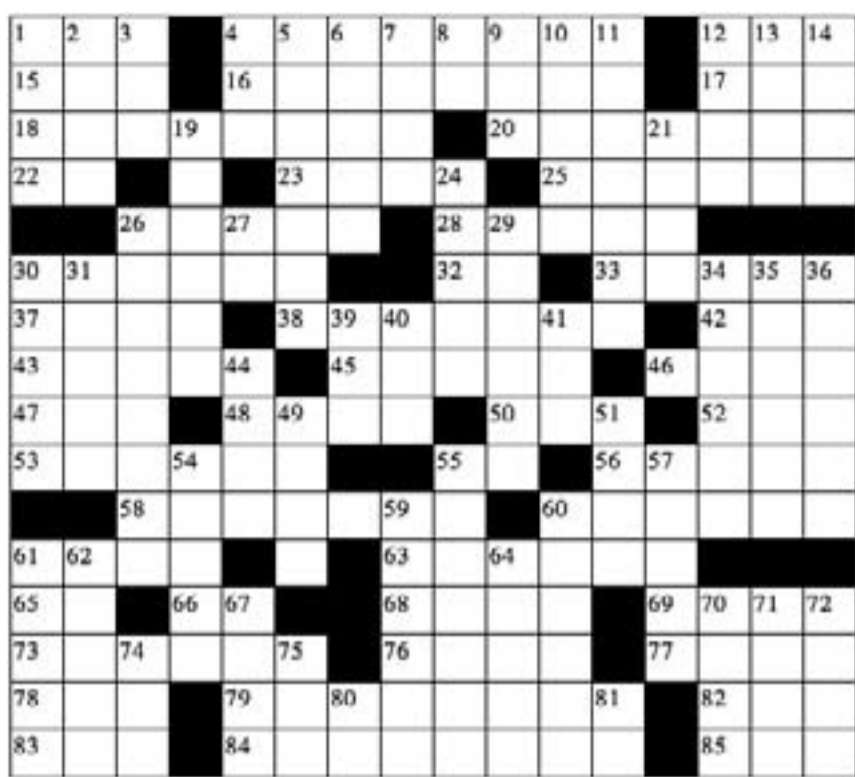


Sponsored by



Stars

CROSSWORD 1768



ACROSS

1. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
4. Lacking natural ease.
12. A man who serves as a sailor.
15. A local computer network for communication between computers.
16. A loose dressing gown for women.
17. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
18. (zoology) Used of mollusks, especially gastropods, as snails etc..
20. A Bantu language sometimes considered a dialect of Zulu.
22. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
23. Remove with or as if with a ladle.
25. One of two flaps attached to a cap to keep the ears warm.
28. British filmmaker (born in Hungary) (1893-1956).
30. Philosophical system developed by Lao-tzu and Chuang-tzu advocating a simple honest life and noninterference with the course of natural events.
32. A form of address for a man.
33. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
37. A visual representation of an object or scene or person produced on a surface.
38. Used of persons.
42. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
43. A radioactive gaseous element formed by the disintegration of radium.
45. A Spanish title of respect for a man.
46. A small boat of shallow draft with cross thwarts for seats and rowlocks for oars with which it is propelled.
47. Make amends for.
48. German industrialist who was the first in Germany to use an assembly line in manufacturing automobiles (1871-1948).
50. The act of slowing down or falling behind.
52. An audiotape recording of sound.
53. Conqueror of Gaul and master of Italy (100-44 BC).
56. Any of several tall tropical palms native to southeastern Asia having egg-shaped nuts.
58. To gain with effort.
61. God of death.
63. Aimlessly drifting.
65. Before noon.
66. 16 ounces.
68. A person with unusual powers of foresight.
69. (Greek mythology) The Titaness who was mother of Helios and Selene and Eos in ancient mythology.
73. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
76. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
77. Noisy talk.
78. (of securities) Not quoted on a stock exchange.
79. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
82. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series.
83. Game in which matchsticks are arranged in rows and players alternately remove one or more of them.
84. A large estate in Spanish-speaking countries.
85. A state of southwestern India.

DOWN

1. Flat blade-like projection on the arm of an anchor.
2. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
3. Black tropical American cuckoo.
4. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
5. Genus of hardy perennials with palmately lobed leaves and long racemes of small nodding five-petaled flowers.
6. Being in competition.
7. Advanced in years.
8. Not out.
9. (prefix) Reverse of or absence of.
10. Duck of the northern hemisphere much valued for the fine soft down of the females.
11. Causing fear or dread or terror.
12. A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
13. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
14. A short high tone produced as a signal or warning.
19. (microbiology) A hypothetical infectious particle thought to be the cause of scrapie and other degenerative diseases of the central nervous system.
21. A small nail.
24. Swedish oceanographer who recognized the role of the Coriolis effect on ocean currents (1874-1954).
26. United States inventor of vulcanized rubber (1800-1860).
27. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
29. Brass that looks like gold.
31. Jordan's port.
34. Worn away as by water or ice or wind.
35. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
36. The sodium salt of amobarbital that is used as a barbiturate.
39. The compass point midway between south and southeast.
40. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
41. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
44. The Hebrew patriarch who saved himself and his family and the animals by building an ark in which they survived 40 days and 40 nights of rain.
49. A person regarded as arrogant and annoying.
51. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
54. The skin that covers the top of the head.
55. (sports) The chief official (as in boxing or American football) who is expected to ensure fair play.
57. Full of ruts.
59. Italian painter and art historian (1511-1574).
60. Command against.
62. Italian violin maker in Cremona.
64. Acquire or gain knowledge or skills.
67. A vigorous blow.
70. A special way of doing something.
71. (prefix) Outside or outer.
72. A Loloish language.
74. The smallest multiple that is exactly divisible by every member of a set of numbers.
75. An accountant certified by the state.
80. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
81. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may feel you are in the right place this morning—everything just automatically falls into place. All the numbers add up and there are no complaints from the public, especially if you are working in a complaint department or in an employee department. Money benefits come your way. This is a nice day that should just flow along. Enjoy the company of your loved ones this afternoon. Meditate to relax your mind. This evening you will do well in activities that include children, young people and your home and surroundings. You could feel real support and harmony at this time for circumstances and those around you. You are compassionate. You also enjoy serving others, you worry about their welfare. Share in merriment this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You feel a love of order and law—an appreciation for responsibilities and duty. You may be called on to help with a problem co-worker or customer. Problems are valued for the lessons they represent, rather than perceived as obstacles. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste and emotion. Close relationships and other ties between people become a focus for much of your enthusiasm. New partnerships are entered into; old ones are renewed or else they are left behind. You try your strength against another—learning to cooperate or seeking to conquer. Work, achievement and ambition are the things that mean a lot to you.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a time during which confidence and self-expression are perhaps limited and disciplined. What you achieve now will hold and prove to be lasting. This time could be seen as a kind of apprenticeship during which you learn to control yourself. You may find yourself succeeding and moving ahead by using your mind. Also, communication and research in all forms could be a key area for career growth. There are plenty of positive aspects to make you feel uplifted and give you a deserved confidence in yourself. Your life takes on a kind of mystical quality. Dreams and illusions, forgiveness and understanding human frailties arouse deep feelings. Keep a wish book; then list three things that will get you started in making each dream come true.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Review your professional achievements. Think of ways to improve and perhaps be more effective in your career. There is plenty of optimism to go around. This is a day for thinking. You may feel like talking a bit more than usual, exploring new ideas or getting happily lost in a conversation. There will be an urge to communicate and solve problems. Also, perhaps a short trip or a special phone call is in order. Shopping this afternoon, you may discover that you cease to waste time and money acquiring that which is worthless. You have developed an eye for that which is lasting and worthwhile. Your bright wit and talkative streak make you always ready for a conversation. You love to get your ideas across to others—communication is at a high.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Taking care of business is important today but your mind keeps running over several lists that you have going in preparation for a celebration coming up soon. Health and work goals are important as well as a reunion of family and friends. Sympathy and understanding are emotional qualities that take on greater importance as you deal with young people this afternoon. There is an open invitation to have a special time with a few extraordinary friends. Marriage and other close relationships give rise to great expectations now, particularly as a new cycle of family and group achievement gets underway. This is a time to enjoy and appreciate your ties to others and to seek and promote harmony in the interaction between people.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have an inner drive to improve and reform the world, to share the wealth—true democracy. You have a feel for groups and any large-scale business or community project. You can be quite independent with a touch of the impersonal. With you, all persons get the same treatment. However, you may realize this and begin to work on a more personal approach with others. You may even find that you waste less time with hurt feelings than before. You will prosper by pursuing your dreams of how life could be. Don't be afraid to project that image—make those dreams real. This could be a time that you feel very passionate toward others and find unusual ways to help or care for others—there is insight into accepting life as it comes.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You find that you can really use your mind to make clear choices. Career decisions are straightforward and easy to make. You will find that today you may be lecturing or speaking to a group. You have more than just the gift of gab. Your words and ideas can transport and enchant listeners, carrying them beyond the world as they know it and into the world as they wish it could be. Perhaps you will instill some desire in a few of the listeners to think of ways they could contribute to making the world a better place. You may encourage others to volunteer in helping with a reading program for young people. People seem to enjoy hearing you speak and they have plenty of questions for you to answer. Enjoy a light dinner this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

An important message could get lost in the presentation if you do not have notes. Be sure to write notes for the presentation. Then if you do not have the notes with you, it will not matter because you will have gained a focus through the writing. Communicate clearly with your peers. Do not leave out any major details. Your critical faculties are excellent and you will pick out the important parts of issues in order to create a positive change. There are good practical job-related thoughts and ideas available for you. You are a real charmer—able to enchant others and bring them under your spell. Working with public relations issues is your specialty. Your ideals and ability to see the whole picture are obvious to all who come to know you.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Be flexible in your routine today. Outside influences tend to throw you off track. New ways to organize and discipline yourself are possible now. Here is an opportunity to get some insight into some of your responsibilities that may prove of great value in time to come. This is a great time to reflect and understand your own situation—just how you feel about your circumstances. A complicated task demands your expertise. Do not be too hasty in trying to speed up the task—you could eliminate something important. Later today you will find yourself writing notes, making calls and taking time for those in the community who need support. Energetic activities are favored at this time. This evening you may make an important decision concerning a child.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are driven and passionate in your pursuit of change and inner growth. You are well advised to seek the counsel of someone you trust when it comes to career matters. Things are happening on which your career or path depends. Your own ambition and drive are strong. This is the perfect time to get ahead by taking action. This is a real time to settle down and concentrate on your goals. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Your career is moving into a much more determined and solid form—a firm foundation. You can enjoy and depend more on those family members and friends now. You are able to dispense with some of the unessential and develop what is most basic.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Your career or life-path may depend on your talent for responding and making something out of ideas, insights... Whatever is new and challenging. The business world may call for your ability to react and build on opportunities. This is a time for getting ahead and a time to enjoy your career and savor its rewards. The social graces pave your path to success. Your personal reputation is of the utmost importance while visiting with executives—you will put your best foot forward. The key spot in your personality is your mind—the world of ideas and communication. You will take the opportunity to present your ideas to higher-ups. Unconventional and possibly eccentric, but positive solutions to housing are available.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is lots of early action on the job today. Work through the madness. You may also help a co-worker to get on track. You are wise to pull from your own experience when offering advice. Real estate plays a big part in your life goals and a surprise or unexpected event regarding real estate may be quite profitable. Stay with the flow of events and see where the ride takes you. A pregnancy or upcoming marriage may come to your attention this afternoon. The contributions you make toward a good relationship are very important at this time. Give of your time, energy and money to help with this relationship. Joint resources prosper under today's energies. Come together with a plan to expand. Surround yourself with people you can trust.

Wordsearch Puzzle

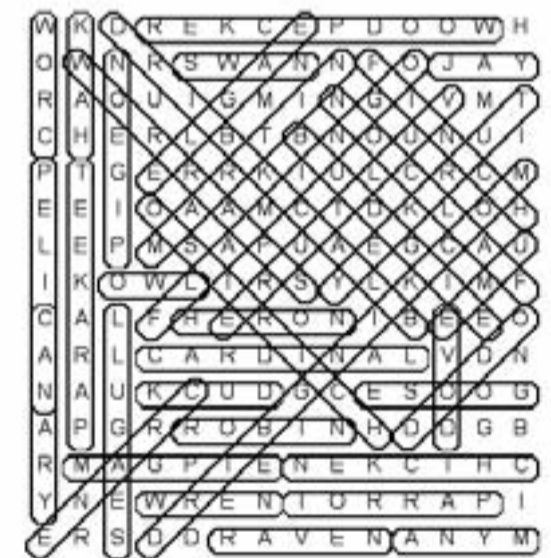
Breakfast

Find and circle all of the breakfast items that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a popular breakfast drink.

Y O G U R T O M E L E T S E  
O S E G A S U A S Y L L E J  
F A L O N A R G A E T F E R  
C R O I S S A N T S F T O D  
S H U M M L O R T O A L W O  
L A A I U A A I C L L M A U  
E S L S T F U E O S A E F G  
G K E M H C F C R R B G F H  
A D E K S B O I M E A D L N  
B A T I A H R A N H C I E U  
L E B O C C L O O S O R S T  
H R G T A A N N W J N R N S  
A B O G D S E A A N G O E J  
M H U E S Y T M P I S P C E

- |            |               |           |          |
|------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| BACON      | EGGS          | JELLY     | ROLLS    |
| BAGELS     | FRUIT         | MARMALADE | SAUSAGES |
| BISCUITS   | GRANOLA       | MILK      | TEA      |
| BREAD      | HAM           | MUFFINS   | TOAST    |
| CEREAL     | HASH BROWNS   | OATMEAL   | WAFFLES  |
| COFFEE     | HONEY         | OMELETS   | YOGURT   |
| CROISSANTS | HOT CHOCOLATE | PANCAKES  |          |
| DOUGHNUTS  | JAM           | PORRIDGE  |          |

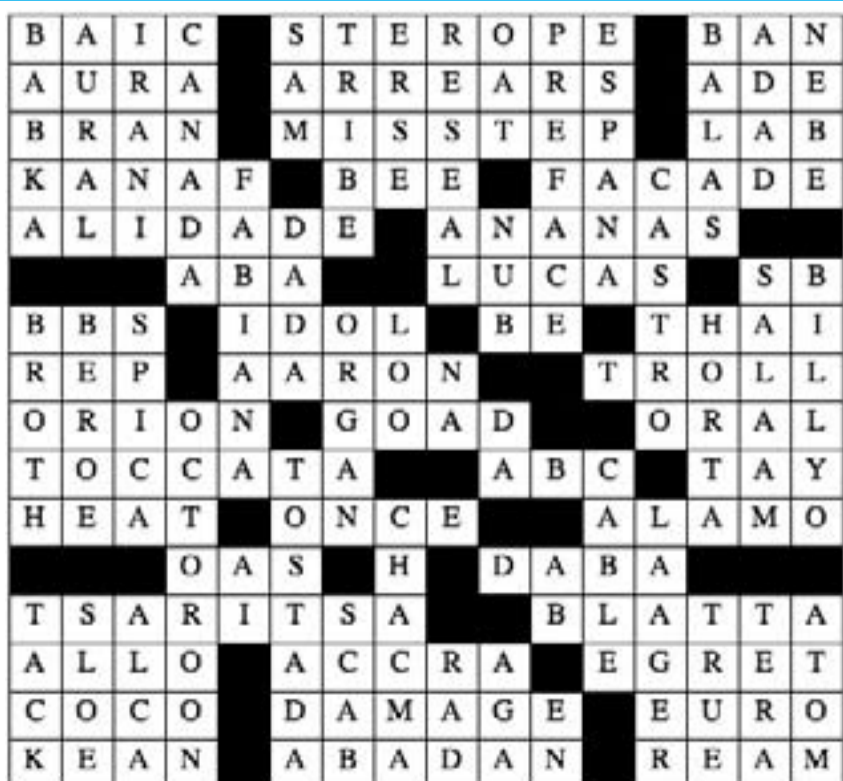
Birds



- |           |          |             |            |
|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| BLACKBIRD | EAGLE    | MARTIN      | ROBIN      |
| BUDDIE    | EMU      | MOCKINGBIRD | SEAGULL    |
| CANARY    | FALCON   | MYNA        | SPARROW    |
| CARDINAL  | FINCH    | OSTRICH     | SWAN       |
| CHICKEN   | FLAMINGO | OWL         | TURKEY     |
| CRANE     | GOOSE    | PARAKEET    | VULTURE    |
| CROW      | HAWK     | PARROT      | WOODPECKER |
| DODO      | HERON    | PELICAN     | WREN       |
| DOVE      | JAY      | PIGEON      |            |
| DUCK      | MAGPIE   | RAVEN       |            |

The hidden message is: HUMMINGBIRD

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# In 'Coco,' Pixar journeys to Mexico and beyond the grave

Pixar films have never been shy about death. The "Toy Story" films are, in part, about mortality. The poetic highlight of "Up" is a wordless sequence of a spouse's passing. The Earth, itself, was left for dead in "Wall-E." But Pixar plunges fully into the afterlife in "Coco," a brightly colored fable surrounding the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). The imagery of skeletons and graves in a kids' movie might have put off other animation studios. But director Lee Unkrich ("Toy Story 3," "Monsters, Inc.") envisioned a film about family heritage and keeping alive the memories of deceased loved ones so they aren't, as he says, "just fading photos in an album." It's also a celebration of Mexico, as seen through the eyes of a 12-year-old boy who dreams of becoming a musician. But after a feud with his family, he slips into a wondrous netherworld where he depends on his long-dead ancestors to restore him to the land of the living.

"Coco," which opens Wednesday, is Pixar's first feature film with a minority lead character, and one of the largest American productions ever to feature an almost entirely Latino cast (among them Benjamin Bratt and Gael Garcia Bernal). That makes it something of a landmark event, one that has already set box-office records in Mexico where it opened several weeks early. But it also took a lot of homework and a lot of outreach for Pixar to convince

Latinos that the production wasn't just big-budget cultural appropriation. Such fears spiked when Disney tried to trademark "Dia de los Muertos" in 2013. After a backlash, the studio abandoned the effort.

Charting a different path, Pixar brought in cultural consultants, including playwright Octavio Solis and cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz, who had been critical of the trademark bid. Unkrich retailed the film's approach, doubling down on efforts to create an authentic celebration of Mexican folklore, traditions and music. "We took every pain that we could along the way to surround ourselves with cultural consultants, to spend a lot of time in Mexico, specifically embedding ourselves with Mexican families down there," said Unkrich.

"I knew that there would be a fear that we were going to lapse into cliché and stereotype and so we did everything we could to not let that happen." It also meant pivoting from Unkrich's initial idea, which centered on a Mexican-American boy who travels to his family in Mexico for the first time. In that treatment, the young protagonist is trying to get over the grief of a loss. "It was born out of the fact that I'm not Latino myself. I'm American and that was at the time my natural entrance into a story," said Unkrich. "We realized that that thematically was antithetical to what Dia de los Muertos is also about, which is this obligation to never forget, to never let go.



In this image released by Disney-Pixar, character Hector, voiced by Gael Garcia Bernal, left, and Miguel, voiced by Anthony Gonzalez, appear in a scene from the animated film, 'Coco.' — AP

We at that point had an epiphany that we were making the film as outsiders." "It didn't really embrace the DNA of the holiday, which is not letting go of but staying connected to," says Darla K. Anderson, a veteran Pixar producer. "When we realized that, we definitely pivoted to embrace more of the connected nature of Dia de los Muertos." Pixar also looked within its own ranks to help Unkrich craft a culturally faithful tale. Adrian Molina, an animator on previous Pixar releases, serves as co-director and helped steer the script.

"Growing up Mexican-American, I know the transformative power that seeing yourself repre-

sented onscreen has," says Molina. "My hope is for anyone who's a small Latino or Latina kid and sees this film that that has an impact on how they see themselves. And if you're coming from a different experience, recognizing the fact that there's Latino and Latina heroes and the beauty of a Mexican family." Hispanics are one of the largest demographics of regular moviegoers, yet they are seldom catered to. They last year accounted for 23 percent of frequent moviegoers in the US and Canada, according to the Motion Picture Association of America.

Mexican music, too, plays a central role in the film. For that, composer Michael Giacchino

("Up," "Ratatouille") collaborated with Mexican-American composer Germaine Franco. A research team was dispatched to Mexico City to bring back musical styles from throughout the country. And DJ and producer Camilo Lara served as musical consultant. "It was important for me to know as much as I could about every style, every location in Mexico - how the music differs from place to place," said Giacchino. "I really wanted the music to feel authentic real. So homework was a huge part of the job. Normally, music is the job. This had the extra layer of homework." The whole production, from Unkrich's initial pitch to completion, took six years. Pixar, where animators often toil in secrecy, found itself "inviting people in," says Molina. "And that meant really asking the question at every stage of the process: Is this reflective of these families? Is this reflective of the traditions?" says Molina. "Wherever it fell short, we wanted to open the door, ask the question and make it better." Those six years included changes outside the filmmaker's control. Donald Trump's presidency has put strains on US-Mexican relations, as has his ambitions to build a border wall.

Though the film derived simply from Unkrich's fascination with the Dia de Muertos, Giacchino says that "now it feels more important than ever to make a movie like this." "We think that we've built a bridge with this movie," says Unkrich. "It's a confusing world we live in right now and there's a lot of negativity but I think we all feel honored and grateful that we're able to put something positive into the world that's hopeful and will hopefully do its own part to erode the artificial barriers we put between us." —AP



Dave Stewart and Annie Lennox, the music duo who formed the band The Eurythmics in London in 1980, pose inside Studio 3 at the EastWest Studios in Hollywood, California. — AFP

## Before 'Sweet Dreams,' Eurythmics braced for failure

"Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)" has become a classic in pop music and marked a commercial breakthrough for synth-pop. But before the Eurythmics wrote it, the duo feared they were finished. "I remember that I was in a terrible mood that day. I actually thought we should give up," Lennox recalled of the 1982 recording session in London with her bandmate Dave Stewart.

"I'm sitting there feeling like I'm probably going to tell him that I'm going back to Scotland and just forget it," said the Aberdeen native, whose first album with Stewart as the Eurythmics had been a commercial failure. Suddenly, Lennox found a deceptively simple melody on the keyboard. And Stewart, generally a guitarist, quickly came up with a beat as he tinkered with an early drum machine. "Everything was oddly infectious and powerful, but we didn't-and the record label definitely didn't-choose it as a single off the album until about the third or fourth choice," Stewart said.

The duo, who have not performed together for several years but retain a friendly chemistry, were speaking to AFP as they vie to enter the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Strolling the historic EastWest Studio in Hollywood, where The Beach Boys recorded "Pet Sounds," Lennox sat down at a piano and unprompted-offered an acoustic version of "Sweet Dreams."

### Remembering early struggles

The Eurythmics are in the running for the first time for the Hall of Fame, with music experts and fans voting for a decision to be announced in December. Other acts in the running range from experimental rockers Radiohead to singing legend Nina Simone. To mark the renewed attention, the group announced that they will reissue all of their albums on vinyl in 2018. Stewart said that the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame has recognized the artists who have persevered.

"A lot of people see an artist like ourselves-we're on TV or whatever-and that's the first time they see you and they think, 'Oh, they're already doing great.' But they don't see the four, five or 10 years of living in a squat or struggling and playing to three people. I think every single artist in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame has been through these challenges." "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)" and its album of the same name, released in early 1983, shot up the charts in both Europe and North America followed by other major albums including "Be Yourself Tonight."

### Surprisingly enduring

On the "Sweet Dreams" song, Stewart found the drum machine out of whack, giving a heavy boom on the first beat, unlike dance tracks where the backbeat generally is dominant. The song has nonetheless become a common sample in electronic dance music and frequently covered, most notably by goth rocker Marilyn Manson. "We never in a million years thought that this would be a song that would be in every EDM festival around the world, because we weren't making dance music," Stewart said. — AFP

With "The Punisher" newly-available on Netflix and "Runaways" about to debut on Hulu, Marvel's TV division has been working hard to match the Disney-owned studio's robust motion picture output. This is a list of every TV show in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, along with its average approval rating among critics across all seasons, collated by entertainment website Rotten Tomatoes.

### ABC series

"Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D."-four seasons (2013-17) 93 percent  
"Agent Carter"-two seasons (2015-16) 88 percent  
"Inhumans"-one season (2017) 10 percent  
Netflix  
"Daredevil"-two seasons (2015-16) 86 percent  
"Jessica Jones"-one season (2015) 92 percent  
"Luke Cage"-one season (2016) 95 percent  
"Iron Fist"-one season (2017) 17 percent  
"The Defenders"-one season (2017) 74 percent  
"The Punisher"-one season (2017) 64 percent

### Hulu

"Marvel's Runaways"-one season (2017) 86 percent  
Marvel also produces "X-Men"-related shows such as "Legion" (FX) and "The Gifted" (Fox), but these are not considered part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.—AFP

## Marvel's TV takeover: Every series the studio has produced



This image released by Marvel Studios shows Chris Hemsworth, left, and the Hulk in a scene from, 'Thor: Ragnarok.' — AP

## Branagh, Friel among winners of International Emmy Awards



Actress Anna Friel, left, and Sebastian Koch, right, pose in the pressroom with the award. — AP photos



Actor Kenneth Branagh poses in the pressroom with the award. — AP photos

Kenneth Branagh won the International Emmy for Best Actor, while Anna Friel won the Best Actress trophy at the 2017 International Emmy Awards gala Monday night in New York. Branagh and Friel were among 11 winning performers and programs spanning eight countries: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The awards are presented annually by the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, which represents more than 60 countries and 500 companies from all sectors of TV, including internet and mobile technology.

Branagh won for his role as Swedish detective Kurt Wallander in the popular BBC drama series "Wallander," which has won an American following on public television's "Masterpiece." Friel was awarded for her performance as Sergeant Marcella Backland in the British series "Marcella" (which is available on Netflix). The other winners include:

**Arts:** "Hip-Hop Evolution" (Canada).  
**Comedy:** "Alan Partridge's Scissored Isle" (United Kingdom).  
**Documentary:** "EXODUS: Our Journey to Europe" (United Kingdom).  
**Drama Series:** "Mammon II" (Norway).  
**Non-English Language US Primetime Program:** "Sr. Avila" (carried on HBO Latin America).  
**Non-Scripted Entertainment:** "Sorry Voor Alles" ("Sorry About That"), (Belgium).  
**Short-Form Series:** "The Braun Family" (Germany).  
**Telenovela:** "Kara Sevda" ("Endless Love"), (Turkey).  
**TV Movie or Miniseries:** "Don't Leave Me" (France).

In addition, the Emmy Directorate Award was presented to Emilio Azcarraga Jean, head of Grupo Televisa, the world's largest Spanish-language content provider as well as Mexico's largest broadcaster and pay-TV provider. The evening was hosted by Iranian-American comedian-actor Maz Jobrani. — AP



In this file photo, Taylor Swift arrives at the iHeartRadio Music Awards at The Forum in Inglewood, California. — AP

## Taylor Swift's 'reputation' sells 1.22 M albums in 1st week

Taylor Swift's "reputation" is in good standing: the album has sold more than 1.22 million units in its first week. Nielsen Music and Billboard report Monday that the album is Swift's fourth project to sell more than a million copies in a week. Swift became the first artist in history to have three albums sell more than a million units in their debut week when "1989" sold 1.29 million copies in 2014. Her albums "Red" and "Speak Now" each sold 1.21 and 1.05 million copies when they were released in 2012 and 2010, respectively. "Reputation," released on Nov 10, has sold more traditional albums than any other

release this year. Ed Sheeran and Kendrick Lamar's recent albums are behind Swift, but have not sold a million units traditionally. Since Billboard changed how it views album sales - incorporating single track sales (10 song sales = 1 album sale) and streaming (1,500 streams = 1 album sale) - both Sheeran and Lamar's albums have each sold more than 2 million units. Swift's "reputation" is not available on streaming services, pushing fans to buy it or wait until it appears on Spotify or Apple Music. The album includes the hit singles "Ready for It?" and "Look What You Made Me Do." — AP

Lifestyle | Travel



Baccarat Hotel in New York



Public hotel on New York's Lower East Side

# A LOOK AT FIVE NYC HOTELS, EACH WITH SOMETHING SPECIAL TO OFFER

New York has hundreds of hotels, located in different neighborhoods, with different styles and amenities. But a hotel is more than just a place to rest your head. Many hotels have something truly special to offer, and often those features can be experienced even if you're not staying overnight. Stop in for a drink, for dinner or even just take a peek inside the lobby or the bar. Here's a quick look at five Manhattan hotels and what's unique about each of them.

**Best historic restoration**

The Beekman hotel opened just last year at 123 Nassau St., but its Temple Court restaurant and bar has already become one of Lower Manhattan's most popular after-work spots. It's located in a landmarked 1881 building that was vacant for years before the hotel's painstaking historic restoration brought it back to life.

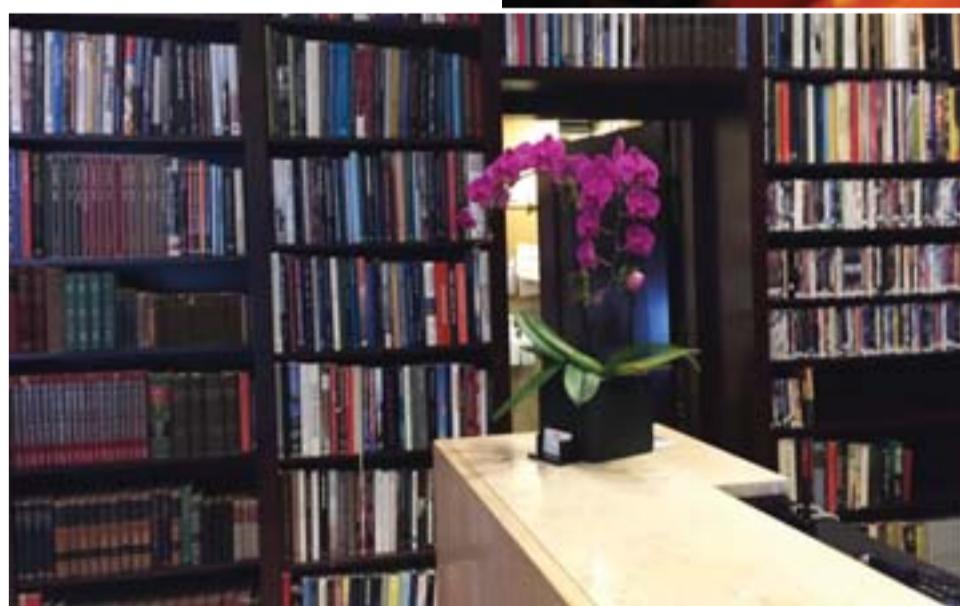
The building's star attraction is a glorious nine-story atrium surrounded by decorative wrought-iron balconies. In the lobby, antique oriental carpets suggest exotic adventure, while Edgar Allan Poe's portrait connects the site to an even earlier incarnation as the Mercantile Library Association, frequented by Poe and other 19th-century writers.

**Most playful**

Moxy hotels are part of the Marriott chain, but they were designed to appeal to millennial and they have the look and feel of fun, chic boutique hotels. The Moxy Times Square, which opened in late September at 485 Seventh Ave., has already become a playground for the city's 20somethings. It's hosted everything from a graffiti master class to a pop-up shop with an "embroidery bar" offering personalized designs. But it's the Moxy's Magic Hour rooftop bar and lounge that's the



Public hotel on New York's Lower East Side



Library Hotel in New York

killer attraction, with a view of the Empire State Building, live DJs, a carousel, a mini golf course called Foreplay and topiary bears in naughty poses. You can even order up a \$99 crash pad from the cocktail menu.

**Coollest co-working spaces**

Hang out with the cool kids on the Lower East Side in the co-working spaces at the Public hotel, 215 Chrystie St. It's got everything from stadium-style seating to long white sofas, along with spots for food, coffee and cocktails. Bring your laptop, sketchpad or notebook and come up with the next big idea. There's also a small, tranquil park with a picnic table just out front, a sleek rooftop bar with great views and a groovy escalator lined with neon-like lights. The hotel opened earlier this year and is the brainchild of Ian Schraeger, co-founder of the

legendary 1970s disco Studio 54 and the businessman credited with creating the concept of boutique hotels.

**Best theme**

There are 6,000 books in the Library Hotel. You'll find books in the lobby, in your room, at the rooftop bar and in the hotel's reading room. Located at 299 Madison Ave., it's a block from the grand New York Public Library building with those famous stone lions out front. You can even see the public library from some of the guest rooms.

But the really clever thing about the Library Hotel is that it's organized according to the Dewey Decimal System, which uses numbers to classify books by subject. Every floor is themed on a different Dewey Decimal category - for example technology, social sciences or litera-

ture. And each room is themed with art and books on a topic within that category. Looking for a romantic place to spend the night? On the philosophy floor, there's a room themed on love.

**Most luxurious look**

You may know the name Baccarat from the company that produces some of the world's finest French crystal. But you may not know that there's a Baccarat hotel, open since 2015 and discreetly located at 28 W. 53rd St. across from the Museum of Modern Art. If you can't afford an \$855-a-night room here, how about a \$42 cocktail called La Belle Epoque? As you walk to the bar, take in the crystal chandeliers and candelabras, the sparkling stemware and bowls, the white sofas and bouquets of perfect, bright red roses. It's not just bling. It's a sumptuous look that simply defines luxury. — AP



Thompson Hotel in Lower Manhattan





People visit the opening of the museum of painter and Holocaust survivor Samuel Bak's allegorical work inspired by Jewish history in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. — AFP photos

## Holocaust survivor opens art museum in hometown Vilnius

Painter and Holocaust survivor Samuel Bak on Monday opened a museum of his allegorical work inspired by Jewish history in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, more than half a century after he held his first exhibition as a nine-year-old inside its wartime ghetto. As a boy he was sent to live in the ghetto after the German Nazis occupied the city in 1941 during World War II. He survived—unlike most of his family—by hiding in a Catholic convent, and fled to Israel after the war with his mother. He now lives in the United States.

"I have lived in so many different coun-

tries. But I am from Vilna. I identify myself with this city," Bak, now 84, said, referring to the Hebrew name of the city. "For me to be here is somehow to come back to the very beginning of the beginning. It is also a possibility to express my gratitude to Christians who helped me survive," he said before the opening ceremony attended by several hundred people. Bak donated more than 60 of his paintings—with dozens more to come—to the Samuel Bak Museum, which will officially be part of the state-funded Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum.

"Bak's work weaves together personal

history and Jewish history to articulate an iconography of his Holocaust experience," said the Pucker Gallery that represents him. "Across seven decades of artistic production Bak has explored and reworked a set of metaphors, a visual grammar and vocabulary that ultimately privileges questions," the gallery added on its website.

Instead of presenting death directly, Bak uses allegory and substitution, such as showing a child's toys instead of the murdered children who once played with them. Lithuania's Culture Minister Liana Ruokyte-Jonsson hailed Bak's return to

Vilnius as "a testimony that the effort of annihilation does not triumph in the end". Pre-war Lithuania was home to a thriving Jewish community, with Vilnius a hub of learning known as the "Jerusalem of the North".

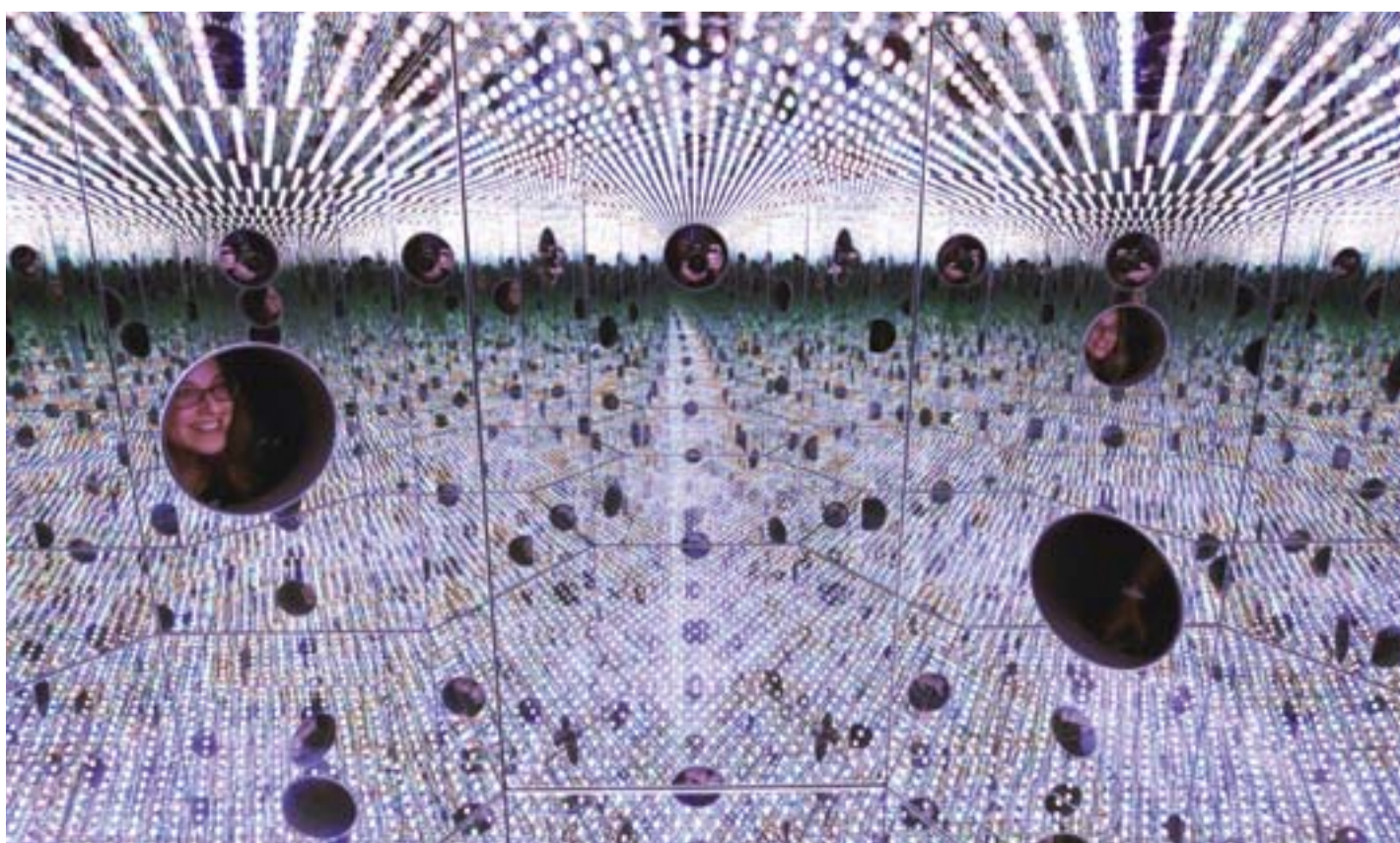
Around 195,000 Lithuanian Jews died under the 1941-44 German occupation. Today there are around 3,000 Jews living in the NATO and EU member of 2.8 million people. Community leader Faina Kukliansky said the museum "will become yet another sign of the extraordinary Jewish cultural heritage in Lithuania and the world". —AFP



Painter and Holocaust survivor Samuel Bak holds up a medal during the opening of his museum. —AFP



People look at the art of Yayoi Kusama in Chelsea. — AFP photos



French-American sculptor Arman seen with one of his works. — AFP

## FAMILY ENDS ROW OVER LEGACY OF ARTIST ARMAN

A decade-long row between the heirs of the sculptor Arman, whose works were once some of the most expensive in the world, has been resolved, lawyers said Monday. The French-American artist, one of the founders of the "New Realism" movement alongside Yves Klein, left his work to a trust controlled by his second wife when he died in New York in 2005, aged 76. But his children from his first marriage contested the will and set up their own founda-

tion called A.R.M.A.N.

The new agreement will allow his American wife Corice and daughter Marion Moreau to sit together on a board that will catalogue and authenticate his works and "develop a museum" for them, the Paris-based law firm Cabinet Neuer said in a statement. French-born Arman is best known for his spectacular public artworks such as "Long Term Parking" (1982), a 20-metre tower of 59 cars piled one on top of each other, which helped cement his reputation as an "archaeologist of contemporary society".

Another of his monumental sculptures, "Hope for Peace"—made from 83 tanks and other military vehicles—was commissioned to mark the end of civil war in Lebanon. Born Arman Fernandez, he made his name in the 1960s with his "Poubelle" (Dustbin) installations comprised of rubbish strewn on the floor, and "Accumulations", arrangements of identical or almost identical objects. —AFP

## Rare 'Dracula' poster sells for \$525,800 at auction

An auction house says a rare poster for the 1931 horror film "Dracula" has sold for \$525,800. Dallas-based Heritage Auctions said the sale Saturday appears to be the highest amount a movie poster has garnered at auction. Heritage says the poster, which features the image of actor Bela Lugosi as Dracula, is one of only two known to be left of that particular version.

The buyer wishes to remain anonymous. Heritage says the poster was put up for auction by the family of longtime cinematographer and photographer George J. Mitchell Jr., who had owned the poster since the 1950s. Mitchell's son, Arthur Mitchell, said in a news release that his late father, who loved horror films, had childhood memories of seeing "Dracula" when it was released.



# VICTORIA'S SECRET FASHION SHOW STRUTS INTO SHANGHAI



US model Martha Hunt presents a creation during the 2017 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in Shanghai. — AFP photos



Portuguese model Sara Sampaio

structed bras towards more comfortable intimate wear. Victoria's Secret is banking on its name recognition and top models like Adriana Lima, Alessandra Ambrosio and their Chinese counterparts to win over women in China who are increasingly interested in expressing their sexuality, say social and fashion analysts.

### Quality and cachet

As Communist-era prudity slowly recedes, lingerie has become one of the fastest-growing segments in the Chinese women's apparel market, according to market-intelligence firm Mintel. The firm predicts it will grow to 148 billion yuan (\$22 billion) by 2020, up 32 percent from 2015 numbers. "Chinese consumers are receptive to foreign brands that ooze quality and cachet," said Matthew Crabbe, Mintel's regional trends director, calling the Victoria's Secret fashion show "a great way to raise consumer awareness".

But he added that Victoria's Secret was entering "a tough retail market with many competitors", both foreign and domestic. "Foreign brands have to do their homework. They must learn about the local market dynamics, the culture and the consumers—especially how diverse consumers are across China," he said. The show has not been without controversy. Top US model Gigi Hadid withdrew Friday after Chinese



US singer Miguel performs during the 2017 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show.

netizens savaged the 22-year-old over a months-old video clip showing her making a squinty-eyed "Asian" face—accusing her of racism.

US fashion media have also run unconfirmed reports that Russian models Julia Belyakova, Kate Grigorieva and Irina Sharipova, and Ukraine's Dasha Khlystun, were slated to walk in the show but were denied Chinese visas. The show's climax comes when a model dons the jewel-encrusted "Fantasy Bra". This year Brazil's Laís Ribeiro will model a \$2 million bra by Swiss-based luxury-goods company Mouawad studded with nearly 6,000 gemstones. The show tapes in Shanghai on Monday night but will not air globally until November 28. — AFP



British singer/musician Harry Styles performs during the 2017 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show.

SHANGHAI: Victoria's Secret brings its racy annual fashion show to Shanghai on Monday night, making its debut in China's growing lingerie market in typically brazen style but with added Chinese flair. English heart-throb Harry Styles headlines the musical acts who will perform as the world's top models strut in skimpy bras and underwear in Shanghai's Mercedes Benz Arena, in what the US lingerie brand dubs the sexiest show on earth.

The show, now in its 23rd year, has faced past criticism for leaning heavily towards western models, but this year it will feature a record 55 women from 20 countries. They will include eight from China—also a new high—led by the country's top model Liu Wen, the first Asian on Forbes' annual list of the world's highest-paid fashion divas. She reveled in the excitement of "walking" in her homeland.

"The VS show is different each year, but this time it is even more special because it is in China and in Shanghai," Liu, 29, told AFP during make-up on Monday afternoon ahead of the show. "We can be thankful that China is such a big market, so there could be so many Chinese faces appearing. So personally I feel proud of my own country." Victoria's Secret is hoping to win a slice of that market, with Monday's glitzy gala following the opening of its first two super-stores in China this year, in Shanghai and Chengdu. The company's sales in its home US market have sagged this year, with analysts blaming its slow-footed response to a trend away from con-

## China lifts up model who fell on Victoria's Secret catwalk

China's internet saw an outpouring of support yesterday for model Ming Xi, who apologized to the country for tripping on the catwalk of the first-ever Victoria's Secret fashion show held in her country. Xi, who was born Xi Mengyao, went down after stepping on the train of her flowing costume during the show in her hometown Shanghai.

The spotlight was on participants like Xi after Victoria's Secret chose a record seven Chinese-origin models for the annual show—which is broadcast in over 190 countries—as it seeks to break into the country's growing lingerie market. But Xi was the only one of the 55 models in the show to suffer the occupational hazard of falling on the catwalk, in what quickly became one of the top-trending items on China's Twitter-like Weibo. "I'm sorry to let everyone down. Thanks for everyone's concern," Xi, 28, said on Weibo. "As a model for seven years, I have fallen on this road many times, but I know no matter how painful it is, I must stand

and finish." "The future road is long. I will always continue walking." Chinese netizens praised Xi for getting up, straightening the elaborate floral-themed decorative frame on her back and finishing her walk. "My heart broke watching that. But Ming is still pretty! Go girl!" said one of thousands of Weibo comments. Supermodel Karlie Kloss chimed in on Xi's feed. "You handled that with such grace and elegance. Sometimes you trip and fall but it's how you get back up that matters, and you got up like a champ and owned it. Love you Ming!" Kloss said. The racy exhibition of skimpy bras and panties, now in its 23rd year, was recorded Monday but airs globally on November 28.

US media also reported that singer Katy Perry was expected to perform but was denied a Chinese visa. The reports suggested China was upset that Perry had previously draped herself in the flag of diplomatic rival Taiwan and performed in colors implying support for those on the island opposing closer relations with China. — AFP

I will always continue walking



Chinese model Ming Xi falls as she presents a creation during the 2017 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in Shanghai. — AFP



Victoria's Secret models pose to mark the countdown to the 2017 Victoria's Secret fashion show.

## Supermodel leads mourning for fashion's 'King of Cling'

Supermodel Naomi Campbell and Tunisia's president led mourners in a final tribute Monday to French-Tunisian fashion designer Azzedine Alaïa, who died this month

aged 77 after winning a worldwide following. Campbell and fellow fashion icon Farida Khelifa, close friends of Alaïa, accompanied his remains from France to Tunisia, French Ambassador



British model Naomi Campbell, left, mourn as she and Tunisian-Italian model Afef Jnifen, right, attend the funeral of the late Tunisian fashion designer Azzedine Alaïa, who died this month aged 77, in the Sidi Bou Said cemetery in the capital Tunis. — AFP

Olivier Poivre d'Arvor said. Alaïa, dubbed the "King of Cling" for his form-fitting gowns, was buried in the famous blue and white village of Sidi Bou Said on the shores of the Mediterranean. An AFP journalist saw Campbell leaving Alaïa's home surrounded by dozens of people to head for the cemetery of Sidi Bou Said in the northern suburbs of Tunis. Visibly moved, she picked her way between the cemetery's modest white tombstones on Khelifa's arm. President Beji Caid Essebsi, Alaïa's relatives and public figures took part in the commemoration. Culture Minister Mohamed Zine El Abidine paid tribute to Alaïa, saying the designer's work had expressed "the quintessence, the beauty, the fertile imagination" of Tunisia.

Among Alaïa's admirers at the funeral, Tunisian designer Salah Barka gave homage to the man he considered to be a master. "I learned a lot with Azzedine Alaïa," he said. "He sculpted women's bodies. I learned to mix colors, to blend materials, to give character..." Alaïa was born to a farming family in Tunisia in 1940 and studied sculpture at the capital's fine arts school before working at a modest neighborhood dressmaker's shop.

He moved to Paris in the late 1950s, working briefly for Dior and Guy Laroche before going solo, winning a reputation for sexy designs celebrating the female form. His muses ranged from French actress and singer Arletty to Hollywood icon Greta Garbo and statuesque Jamaican singer and actress Grace Jones.

Alaïa gained world fame in the 1980s with tight black shorts and back-zipping skirts, designs that helped define the confident female silhouette of the time. He refused to march to the beat of international fashion weeks, however, releasing his collections in his own time with scant concern for publicity. Among others, Alaïa dressed pop sensation Tina Turner, supermodel Carla Bruni, and former American first lady Michelle Obama. — AFP

## Al Nasser reveals new autumn winter collection



Al Nasser announced the arrival of autumn winter season 2017/2018, characterized by warm colors in addition to cotton and wool. A variety of autumn, elegant and colorful collection, with its models falling under the theme of the new season and manufactured with details and quality to suit its budget.

A range of theme colors and designs offers many color options ranging from navy blue, dark red, yellow to dark green, in addition to the designs of the

latest comfort shoes of the latest winter trends, suitable for work, including special occasions, with leather, velvet and other material making from every step a special one.

Come visit us and discover the fall season this winter. Through the branches of Al Nasser spread throughout the State of Kuwait, we provide everything a family needs under one roof which makes it fun to shop and save time and effort with the best quality and prices.

# Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017



A visitor stands near a 3D printed sculpture titled 'Inhumane' by Bahrain artist Othman Khunji displayed at a gallery in Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## New Palestinian city rises with sleek homes, boutiques

With wide boulevards, fashionable shopping and a Roman-style amphitheatre, the newly built Palestinian city of Rawabi is the culmination of a decades-long dream for developer Bashar al-Masri. The Palestinian-American businessman has struggled to overcome Israeli hurdles, critics in his own community and political instability to turn the \$1.4-billion project in the occupied West Bank into reality—but now he hopes it can become a beacon in the quest for statehood.

So far only some 3,000 people live in the pristine rows of beige tower blocks that have gone up since work began from scratch in the barren hills just north of Ramallah almost a decade ago on the first ever planned city to be built by Palestinians in the territory. Construction is still rumbling on and some streets can feel eerily quiet, but eventually it is hoped 40,000 people will one day call the city home. "Rawabi, especially in the past four or five months, has

other towns in the occupied territory. It boasts an extreme sports centre and 15,000-seater amphitheatre hung with giant pictures of Arab and Western entertainment stars, while a cinema and winery are set to be built. The city's design and high-end facilities have sparked criticism that it caters only for the elite and is out of place and out of reach in an impoverished region where unemployment is rampant.

But Masri insists there is demand and says the Palestinians themselves will determine if his project will succeed. "I do not know who decides what the Palestinians want. Is it the occupation? The world? We decide for ourselves what we want and not all of us want the same thing," he insisted. "The Palestinians deserve a better life. We should not be oppressed because we live under occupation."

### Everything is available

For the Palestinians flocking to catch a



was impressed by facilities that you can't find elsewhere in the West Bank.

"Everything is available here in one place. There are clothes, toys," he said. "In Ramallah, you would need to visit several places to find what you are looking for." The first residents moved into Rawabi in 2015 and the price for flats

now runs from \$70,000 to \$180,000. Those fortunate enough to have managed to buy a place—often well-heeled Palestinians who worked in the Gulf states or even Arab Israelis—say they now feel at home.

Fatima Nazzal admitted the development felt "kind of empty" when she moved in with her husband Iyad and three daughters after returning from Saudi Arabia but the family now says the standard of living matches what they experienced abroad. "We found the same things we were used to here in relation to infrastructure, comfort and a way of life we are used to," Iyad said. "Now, with the opening of the Q Center, there are people coming here and there are activities," Fatima added.

### Giant step

Turning a vacant hillside of shrubs and sand into gleaming residential streets and cafes has been a long and bumpy road—especially in an area so fraught with political tensions. Those behind Rawabi say the Israeli authorities took

years just to approve one access road and stalled for a long time on connecting the development to the main water supplies, nearly scuppering the entire project. Despite those obstacles, Masri has also faced criticism from those on the other side of the divide who argue he is in fact too close to Israel.

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement have claimed in the past that Masri uses dealings with "Israeli political and business elite as a means to advance personal interests and profit-making at the expense of Palestinian rights." But the developer, who has not directly responded to the complaints, dismissed critics who he said "target anything that is constructive" — and is adamant that the project has popular support. And even if he cannot guarantee it will make money, Masri is convinced that constructing cities like Rawabi will help bolster the Palestinians as they seek to create their own country. "Time will prove to these people that this is a giant step towards building our state," he said. — AFP



become a destination for all Palestinians," sharply dressed Masri, 56, insisted, as he sat at a cafe in the city's new shopping mall. "Every month, at least 100,000 Palestinians visit and come out impressed."

The symmetrical housing and careful planning of Rawabi—which means hills in Arabic—has led some to say it resembles more the Israeli settlements that most Palestinians cannot visit than

glimpse, the city is meant to offer another vision for life in their troubled territories. Saed Abu Fkheida and his wife were only window shopping at the international brands like Max Mara, Juicy Couture, Armani Jeans and Lacoste in the sleek Q Center mall, built like the rest of the city with the help of state funds from Qatar. While many shops still remain to be filled some six months after the shopping complex opened, he

