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# Boursa Kuwait promoted to an 'emerging market'

## Promoting triggers lofty prospects, lures foreign capitals



From the editor's desk

By Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan  
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## Welcome to our new look

Last week the Kuwait Times celebrated 56 years in the market. We've been with Kuwait through the worst and the best of times. We've seen the country grow and develop and become a leader in the region. We've also seen it through disastrous experiences that left us all wounded. Times change however and now as Kuwait builds towards a brighter future, Kuwait Times is changing with it.

Across the globe, the disruption caused by the advent of social media and especially the 'smartphone' takeover, have greatly impacted traditional media and print newspapers most of all. We are all forced to adapt to these changes, just as Kuwait is adapting to the changing global environment. Kuwait Times has expanded into digital publishing, reporting through social media and reaching new and younger readers through our various online and social media platforms.

We are also proud to launch a new and fresh look for the print edition. Print newspapers may not hold the sway it once did but it still plays an important, even critical role in society. We understand our responsibility to our readers to provide them with credible, fact-checked and honest reporting on all matters of interest to the public of Kuwait. We continue with that pledge.

Our new look aims to offer a more aesthetically simplified visual presentation of the news of the day. With more white space, colors drawn from our long standing logo and a cleaner, streamlined visual design, we hope that you our dear readers will enjoy the look of the newspaper as much as you appreciate and rely on the news it contains.

As always, we remain dedicated to serving you.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti economists foresee significant growth of traded liquidity at Boursa Kuwait after its promotion to the level of an emerging market, thus boosting the prospects for a much healthier status of the national economy. Classifying Boursa Kuwait (formerly named Kuwait Stock Exchange [KSE]) as an emerging market will lure traders eager to invest in the Gulf region's second key stock market, which comprises large banks and corporates with investments and branches in many countries. Saleh Al-Salmi, Chairman of the International Financial Advisors Company, said in an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Chairman of Kuwait's Capital Markets Authority (CMA) Board of Commissioners Nayef Al-Hajraf tweeted Friday night that the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) Russell Governance Board promoted Boursa Kuwait to an emerging market. Al-Hajraf dedicated the prominent achievement to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, attributing the merited promotion to the hard efforts the CMA led in cooperation with the Kuwait Clearing Company and Boursa Kuwait (formerly the Kuwait Stock Exchange or KSE).

By joining the international market, the necessity arises for attracting global investment funds, where many companies that will be enlisted by the FTSE (The Financial Times Stock Exchange) will reap benefits, thus solidifying the local stock market a well those of the other GCC countries. Al-Salmi says. Muhammad Al-Sanea, Chief Executive Officer at Al-Riyada Investment Company concurred that the Boursa promotion constitutes a significant leap for the Kuwaiti

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## Big strides in medical innovation in Kuwait

### Kuwait association of surgeons off to a bright start

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Association of Surgeons and the Kuwait Chapter of the American College of Surgeons held the first Kuwait Association of Surgeons conference from September 28th 2017 - 1st October 2017 at the Jumeirah Messilah Hotel under the patronage of HE Dr Jamal Al-Harbi. The theme of the conference is Education and Innovation in Surgery.

The international faculty included the presidents, past and present and the leadership of the American College of Surgeons as well as many reputable professionals. The conference included many scientific lectures and workshops with delegates representing countries from

North America to Japan, in addition to a selection of Arab and Kuwaiti lecturers who have a long history in this field.

The main aims of the conference were to learn about the latest developments in the scientific methodology for investigating new surgeries and medical devices from internationally renowned surgical researchers discussing innovation and evaluation in multiple clinical areas, present research on innovations in surgery and therapeutic technology to an international audience of clinicians, scientists, manufacturers and regulators and learn about pathways for innovation

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**KUWAIT:** (Left to right) Dr Basel Al Sabah, Dr Ziad Al-Alyan, Dr Salman Al Sabah, Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi and Dr Adel Al Tawheed pose for a group photo during a conference held by Kuwait Association of Surgeons and the Kuwait Chapter of the American College of Surgeons at the Jumeirah Messilah Hotel yesterday.



**DUBAI:** A Volocopter prototype flies in front of the city skyline during a test flight in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. — AP

## Dubai dreams of flying taxis darting among its skyscrapers

**DUBAI:** With a whirling buzz from 18 rotors, the pilotless helicopter gently lifted off the ground and soared up into the afternoon sky, the spire of the world's tallest building visible behind it. The recent unmanned flight by the German-made electric Volocopter represents the latest step in Dubai's pursuit of flying taxis, which would not seem out of place among the Gulf city's already futuristic skyline - imagine "Blade Runner," with less rain.

Dubai already has invested in another

model of a flying, autonomous taxi, and is working to design regulations for their use. Putting more passengers in the air could free its already clogged highways and burnish the city's cutting-edge image of itself. "It's public transportation for everybody, so you can use, you can order it, you can pay for the trip and the trip is not much more expensive than with a car," said Alexander Zosel, Volocopter's co-founder. "If you build roads, you build bridges, it's a huge

Continued on Page 11



**MADRID:** People gather in front of the Cibeles Palace during a demonstration against independence of Catalonia. — AFP

## Police seal off polling stations in Catalonia

**BARCELONA:** Police in Catalonia had already sealed over half of the 2,315 polling stations in the region yesterday to stop an independence referendum from taking place, the Spanish government said, as separatists remained determined to fight for their right to vote. Teachers, parents, students and activists in this wealthy northeastern region have leapt into action to defend the vote slated for today, defying Madrid's warnings of repercussions by occupying more than 160 schools designated as polling stations, it said.

Enric Millo, the central government representative in Catalonia, told reporters 1,300 polling stations had already been sealed off. He said that 163 of those had

already been occupied when they were sealed off, which meant those inside were allowed to leave but no one could go in. AFP reporters, however, visited several schools occupied by parents, students and locals where people could go in and out freely, indicating there may be more occupied buildings that have yet to be sealed off.

The standoff between the central government and Catalan leaders over an independence referendum opposed by Madrid has morphed into one of the biggest crises to hit Spain since democracy was restored after the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

Continued on Page 11

## New health fees take effect

### Critical cases exempted

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi said yesterday that increase of medical care costs for expatriates would not include emergency and critical cases. Managers of hospitals and wards' chiefs are empowered to look into each case and take the required decision with respect to fees' payments, the minister indicated in a press release. The higher payments for the medical care have been imposed due to the heavy financial burdens borne by the Ministry of Health, he said.

The Health Ministry has been bearing high costs for medical operations, equipment, medicines, laboratories and various medical supplies, Minister Al-Harbi elaborated. Non-Kuwaitis who have visit visas will get medical treatment at set fees, he added. For his part, the MoH official spokesperson Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti said imposing higher fees for medical care "came in tandem with hike of prices of medical drugs and modern technology globally."

Medical insurance fees will remain unchanged at KD 50 for an expatriate, KD 40 for the wife and KD 30 for a child. Exempted cases include expatriate children suffering from cancer and aged less than 12, non-Kuwaiti woman married to a Kuwaiti, non-Kuwaiti mother of a citizen, children of a Kuwaiti mother married to a non-Kuwaiti.

The exception is also applied on occupants of social care houses, GCC citizens, illegal residents, members of official delegations, transit passengers and foreign inmates. Others relieved of the higher fees are students of scholarships granted by the Ministry of Education. Blind patients residing at the ministry-run hospitals are not compelled to pay for residency.

Continued on Page 11

# Cooperation with Iran to release citizen: Jarallah

## Coordination with US on e-piracy victims

**KUWAIT:** The Iranian authorities are responsive to the Kuwaiti efforts to release Faleh Al-Azmi, a Kuwaiti national who has been held in Iran, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said. The authorities in Tehran will not hesitate to release him, Jarallah told reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony held Thursday at the Chinese embassy in Kuwait to mark the 68th anniversary of People's Republic of China.

He added that a meeting was held with the Iranian Charged d'Affaires in Kuwait and he promised he would contact the authorities at home. The Iranian diplomat said Azmi would be set free as soon as investigations end. Jarallah hoped for "pleasant news" soon. According to the Iranian authorities, the Kuwaiti citizen entered a military zone, may be by mistake, and was held and interrogated.

### E-piracy victims

Meanwhile, Jarallah said that the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry is coordinating with the US authorities to restore the rights of the Kuwaiti citizens who have fallen victims to e-piracy in the US. He added that he met with the victims at the Foreign Ministry, and they gave a detailed account of how they were exposed to piracy, and the money seized from them. He noted that they hoped, through coordination with the US embassy in Kuwait, to help them recover their rights and avert any potential prosecution by the US



**KUWAIT:** Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di and Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah cut the cake during the ceremony. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

authorities in the future, as there are fake properties registered in their names, and due taxes have to be paid. They are in a critical situation and need to be assisted, he noted.

In the meantime, Jarallah said that the Syria issue "seems to be moving positively," hoping the ongoing Russian efforts would end the Syrians' tragedy. He hoped the Russian positive role and contacts would continue for the good of the Syrian people who have been suffering for long years. "The question is not whether (Syrian) President Bashar Al-Assad would remain in power, but the talk is about efforts, transition and a roadmap regarding the situation in Syria," he said. He voiced optimism for positive

development hoping the ongoing efforts would manage to contain the situation in Syria.

### Strategic partnership

On the Kuwaiti-Chinese relations, Jarallah expressed desire to make strategic partnership with China for closer political and economic bonds between Kuwait and the Asian nation. Jarallah indicated that the relationship with China dates back to the Asian nation's founding. "This is a very long period of time, a period full of accomplishments at the level of joint interests," he said. The Deputy Foreign Minister praised China's support for the State of Kuwait, at international quarters, particularly during the Iraqi occupation in the 1990s.

Chinese companies are partaking in mega development projects, namely in energy and housing sectors, in Kuwait, he said, noting that Beijing has earmarked up to \$400 billion for investments in South Asia and the Gulf. — KUNA

## Amir receives UN chief's message



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

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a message from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, expressing deep appreciation for His Highness' mediation in the GCC diplomatic crisis. The UN chief started his message by expressing great honor on meeting His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad during his visit to the State of Kuwait on August 26-27, 2017, indicating that his talks in Kuwait dealt with a wide range of crucial issues of mutual interest. He expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir for directly contacting leaders of the other GCC countries in a bid to find a solution to the diplomatic crisis that erupted last June.

Guterres wrote to His Highness, saying, "I greatly valued our exchange of views on the Qatari issue, and commended your personal mediation efforts by directly engaging with the leaderships of the other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in an attempt to find a solution to the diplomatic crisis that erupted on June 5, 2017."

"By staying above the fray and acting as a mediator, the State of Kuwait has re-asserted its important role in the GCC region. Once again I stand ready to lend my support to the mediation efforts should it be desired by all parties." Moreover, he expressed appreciation for the discussions he had held with His Highness the Amir regarding conditions in Yemen, the Arab Republic of Syria, the Republic of Iraq, as well as His Highness' initiative to combat extremism and terrorism. Furthermore, the UN chief praised His Highness' support for resuming the peace process in the Middle East on the two States' basis and lauded his admiration-worthy humanitarian role to rebuild Gaza. — KUNA



## Strategic partnership with China for closer bonds

efforts, transition and a roadmap regarding the situation in Syria," he said. He voiced optimism for positive

# CONDOLENCES

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

convey their deepest condolences to

## Dr. Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim Al-Fayez

Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Kuwait

on the sad demise of

## his mother

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on her

Local



(From left) Ahmad Al-Furaih, Dr Basel Al-Sabah, Dr Ziad Al-Alyan and Waleed A-Khashty attend the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi toured an exhibition held on the sidelines of the first Kuwait Association of Surgeons conference yesterday. He dropped by the booth of Central Circle Company, where he was welcomed by CEO Dr Ziad Al-Alyan and staff who gave him demonstrations on the company's latest products and services.

NBK sponsors 'Educate for a Brighter Kuwait'



KUWAIT: NBK Group Chief Executive Officer receives the KRCS chairman.

KUWAIT: For the third consecutive year, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsors Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Project "Educate for a Brighter Kuwait" to support the education of 5,000 children as part of its commitment toward corporate social responsibility.

In this occasion, Isam Al-Sager, NBK Group Chief Executive Officer received KRCS chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer at NBK's Head Office.

KRCS will launch this project in an exhibition at The Avenues Mall starting from 30th of September until the 14th of October. "Educate for a Brighter Kuwait" project aims at nurturing and educating children. The project will offer the financial support to non-Kuwaitis families with low income who are unable to afford the education of their children in Kuwait.

Sager expressed NBK's utmost support for the project. "This sponsorship reflects NBK's commitment toward cor-

porate social responsibility," Sager said. "NBK is keen to support the various private and public humanitarian missions and aid groups in their efforts to help children and families in need".

Sager expressed his sincere appreciation to Kuwait Red Crescent Society for its active and prompt response and efforts to help children who are in need for safety and education.

Sager added: "NBK's support comes in line with the bank's customary and ongoing spirit of social responsibility as well as the vital role it plays in supporting all students, youths and educational initiatives."

Commenting on the aims of the project, Sayer said: "This initiative is a great opportunity to support thousands of families in Kuwait to find the right education for their children. We are all invited to participate in the donation that will take place on the 30th of September at the Avenues Mall."

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\* Kuwait Times' employees, spouses and their second-degree relatives also cannot participate.

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## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A picture taken on September 19, 2017 outside the headquarters of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society in Shuwaikh shows a large banner for a fundraising campaign for the relief of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims. — Photo Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Kuwait's educational reform on right track: World Bank official

KUWAIT: Safaa El-Kogali, the Education Practice Manager for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at the World Bank Group, said Thursday the educational reforms in Kuwait proceed according to a correct methodology. The modernization of education contributes to Kuwait's economic development and helps bring about a better future for the country, she told reporters at the World Bank Kuwait Office at the conclusion of her visit to the country. The visit, part

### Ultimate goal

The ultimate goal of Kuwait's modern education is to tap into the role of education in economic development in the future, she went on. The World Bank is working with 188 countries to modernize their educational systems and build the capacity of teachers, she said, adding that training courses of teachers in the elementary and middle schools constituted a correct beginning towards unconventional education.

Meanwhile, Director of the World Bank Kuwait Office Dr Feras Raad said the new curricula were developed by Kuwaiti experts in collaboration with the World Bank. Educational cooperation between Kuwait and the World Bank started two years ago, he said, adding that the World Bank is committed to providing the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education with the latest technologies in order to back up the country's economic development plan.

### Civil Service

In other news, the decision to unify currency on financial allowances is exclusively for Civil Service employees abroad, not students sent by the higher education ministry, the ministry of Higher Education said Friday. Such a decision is only for Civil Service employees who are working for the state and living abroad, said Fatima Sinan, the Assistant Undersecretary for Scholarship and Culture Relations Affairs in the Ministry. Sinan added that no changes would happen to students' monthly allowances, which will be deposited during regular times of the month as usual.



KUWAIT: Education Practice Manager for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at the World Bank Group Safaa El-Kogali (left) is seen with Director of the World Bank Kuwait Office Dr Feras Raad. — KUNA

“The goal is to tap into the role of education in development”

of a tour of countries in the region, aimed to review with education policymakers the latest developments in their plans for modernization, Kogali pointed out.

During her stay in Kuwait, she discussed the country's education program in relation to the development report 2018 that gauges the level of education based on the ability of a country to reach the desired targets of educational process. She pointed out that there has been a great development in a number of government schools since her last visits to the same schools two years ago. Kogali applauded as excellent and innovative the curricula developed by Kuwaiti experts, saying that these curricula instigate creativity in schoolchildren and integrate them into school atmosphere.

### Cultural efforts

Separately, newly-elected Kuwaiti General Director of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) said the new position represents Kuwait's educational and cultural efforts in the region. Kuwait won 16 votes out of 21 in the first round, Undersecretary for research and curriculums at the Ministry of Education and ALECSO's General Director Saud Al-Harbi said in a press statement yesterday.

During his discussions with other Arab officials, Harbi noted that they had all praised the wise Kuwaiti leadership in dealing with conflicts and tensions in the Arab World. Harbi added that he is eager to resolve different issues facing ALECSO and spread awareness on the importance of Arab identity among youth. The Kuwaiti official also spoke on developing the use and teaching of Arabic language and promoting values of peace, freedom and respect away from extremism and terrorism. —KUNA

## International Student Network holds education fair in Kuwait

KUWAIT: The International Student Network (ISN) will return to Kuwait tomorrow for an educational fair at the Regency Hotel from 6-9 pm. US Cultural Attache Zennia Paganini will provide opening remarks. The fair will include representatives from seven US Colleges and universities who will provide information about their schools and answer questions from students and parents about educational opportunities in the United States. The three-hour educational fair is organized by ISN in cooperation with the US Embassy. The following universities will attend the event: Jackson College, Grand Valley State University, Adelphi University, West Virginia University, Bradley University, Snow College and Drury University.

## Kuwaiti aid continues to help people in hardship

KUWAIT: Kuwait maintained its unwavering approach of aiding nations ravaged by natural and man-made disasters across the globe throughout the past week. On Monday, Kuwait's International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) provided aid and shelter to 8,212 displaced Rohingya Muslim families in Bangladesh.

The aid is part of an urgent humanitarian program launched by the organization to help Muslims who fled the violence in Myanmar, said IICO Chairman, Amiri Diwan Advisor and consultant of UN Secretary General Abdullah Al-Matouq in a statement. The program involved distributing 7,700 food packages and building 512 houses, he said. IICO also aims to fund a project to shelter

250 families, with a cost of KD 200 per house. Moreover, the organization will launch another project to deliver 2,000 food packages worth KD 25 per package, said Matouq, adding that one package contains supplies that will last for two months.

On Tuesday, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched a new phase of aid for Syrian displaced people through its various projects in Lebanon. Head of KRCS' mission in Lebanon, Dr Mousaed Al-Anzi, said that the society launched the ninth phase of its dialysis project for the sixth year in the Orange Nassau Hospital in Tripoli to treat patients suffering from kidney diseases. He pointed out that the KRCS will distribute bread through the



bread project to 500 displaced Syrian families in northern Lebanon, as well as to 500 Palestinian refugee families in Beddawi camp in the north.

Meanwhile, in Jordan, Kuwait provided a Jordanian state university with financial aid worth \$33,000 meant to prop up the Hashemite Kingdom's education sector. After handing Hashemite University president (HU) Dr Kamaleldin Hani the monetary sum, given by Kuwait's Zakat House, Kuwait's ambassador to Amman Dr Hamad Al-Duaij

said that the aid aims to support students in obtaining a college education. On Tuesday as well, Kuwait provided a donation worth 467,000 euro (KD 167,000) for the expansion of an Islamic high school in the capital Podgorica. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Serbia and non-resident ambassador to Montenegro Yosif Abdulsamad met with Montenegrin Islamic officials to deliver the donation of Kuwait's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Kuwait Embassy in Serbia said in a statement. — KUNA

Local

# Blajat street closed soon as part of roundabout renovation

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) announced finishing around 24 percent of the Al-Bida Roundabout project, said the project's supervising engineer Alaa Al-Torki, noting that the ministry is keen on concluding the project ahead of schedule. Torki added that the Blajat street will be closed soon and that a detour will be used to divert traffic until the flyover construction work was over. Torki said that the project, scheduled to conclude in January 2019, involves building a 670 meter long flyover connecting the Blajat and Al-Taawon streets.

new sports law to FIFA officials at the sidelines of the 23rd Gulf Cup of Nation's draw that was held in Doha, where the GCC Union's Secretary General Jassem Al-Romaihi stressed that all GCC states are exerting considerable efforts to lift the suspension of Kuwait sports to make sure the national team takes part in the championship.

KFA's Secretary General Mohammed Khalil Al-Ameen said that the temporary transitional committee invited all clubs

issued a ministerial decision on allocating Mondays for health zone directors to receive citizens' grievances and complaints. Speaking during his weekly meeting with citizens, Harbi said that he noticed that many of the complaints he received could have been solved with health zones.

### Investments

Economic sources said that total expenditure on investments in the past

'Kuwaitize' all public sector jobs.

The sources noted that according to a statement made by Minister of Commerce and Industry, Acting Minister of Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan, Kuwait had attracted \$7 billion-worth of direct and indirect foreign investments over the past three years. The sources said that unemployment rates were still high despite the fact that the total public and private investments over the past few years added up to \$40 billion. Central Statistical Bureau statistics showed that the total number of unemployed citizens dropped from 19,061 in 2012 to 14,822 in 2017.

### Value added tax

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh stressed that the value added tax (VAT) law and its executive chart would consider avoiding any negative impacts of its implementation. He added that the finance ministry had reviewed other countries' VAT experiences and consulted with the IMF and the World Bank. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry made by MP Khalil Al-Saleh, the minister stressed that the GCC VAT Agreement was made in view of a study presented by IMF to GCC secretariat general. Saleh added that the study recommended imposing a five percent tax on goods and services and stressed that this percentage will be the least compared to other countries that have already implemented VAT.

## Detour will be used to divert traffic until the flyover construction is over



to hold an extraordinary general assembly on October 31 to elect a new board of directors according to KFA's chart where each club nominates two candidates to join the 14-member board leaving Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yousif as the only candidate for the chairmanship so far.

### Complaints

Health minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi

six years should have been more than sufficient to provide thousands of job opportunities for citizens, which never happened. The sources added that those astronomical figures did not result in creating job opportunities for citizens and stressed that unemployment is still at high rates, especially with government bodies' failure to absorb more Kuwaiti employees, which led to more calls to

## Undersecretary orders six deported after fish market brawl

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Police arrested six people; three Iranians and three Egyptians for fighting inside the fish market yesterday. The Egyptians claimed that the Iranians were cheating by selling fish imported from Iran as fish caught in Kuwait. Assistant Undersecretary for Security Affairs Major General Ibrahim Al-Tarrah ordered that all individuals involved in the fight be deported.

### Woman found dead

A man found his mother dead in her room, and investigations later revealed that the woman might have been dead for a week before her body was discovered. The man said during questioning that his mother used to sit alone in her room lately.

### Fire

Fire broke out in the garages area in Industrial Shuwaikh, prompting five fire stations to respond. The fire covered an area of 4,200 meters and was put out without any injuries reported.

### Robbery

Criminal detectives arrested a citizen and an Arab man for robbing 'oil production centers' in various locations, and taking away their brass contents. The thefts affected the continuation of pro-

ductions in the centers that were robbed. The suspects used to sell the stolen material to Asian nationals.

### Imposter caught

Police arrested a young man posing as a police captain. The suspect is 17 years of age and claimed to be a captain in the traffic department.

### Bribe

Residency Affairs detectives arrested an Asian man for attempting to bribe an officer. The suspect offered the bribe to release his compatriot who was running a gambling den. The same department arrested four Asians for running a press that was making stamps and receipts for bogus domestic help offices without security approval.

### Bedoons

Statistics from the Central Agency for Remedying of the Illegal Residents status showed that it uncovered the original nationalities of 11,628 who were registered as bedoons from 2011 until 2017. 8,421 of those corrected their status, while 3,207 are in the process of correcting their status. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health announced yesterday that they have issued 1,821 birth and death certificates since the past eight months to bedoons in collaboration with the central agency.

## KFH launches integrated awareness campaign against breast cancer

**KUWAIT:** KFH organizes an awareness campaign against the perils of breast cancer in cooperation with Kuwait Cancer Center at Salaam Hospital. The campaign comes as part of its social role and its keenness to provide all means of assistance and support to any programs, services and activities aiming to develop society and its main sectors namely health sector.

The one month campaign aims to spread awareness among all women about the best means and methods of protection against breast cancer and the necessity to conduct an early check up to identify the symptoms and signs of the disease as early as possible. This may be conducted through information messages broadcasted via social media, awareness messages, awareness campaigns, seminars and other means to shed light on this acute disease which is spreading more day by day, due to lack of awareness, early checking and ignorance of the symptoms and signs of the disease and the means of cure if dealt with in early stages.

The campaign focuses on heavy

crowds and gatherings at famous malls to ensure that the message shall reach all possible categories of society. The campaign comprises various activities e.g. audio and video messages through social media, live interviews and visits to medical centers to determine how far the disease has spread and means of resistance. Events include also seminars, lectures and exhibitions to spread awareness regarding breast cancer and its medical implications. Special seminars and lectures shall be organized for KFH employees (ladies) and their families.

KFH considers health issues as a priority. KFH has continued to support and foster several projects and initiatives in the field of health namely the major agreement to resist diabetes. KFH was the main participant among Kuwaiti companies in the International Diabetes Day events in cooperation with the diabetes unit at Ameer Hospital and Dasman Diabetes Center. Also, KFH has organized several courses on first aid and blood donation and patronized several seminars and awareness campaigns against several diseases.

local spotlight

## VAT in the GCC

By Muna Al-Fuzal

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

Tax is not a popular topic in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). In fact, it is a little scary because we Arabs feel that this is where the government takes part of our money for no reason or right. Maybe it is not true, but this is the common perception, and it is possibly time to give this issue an ear to figure out what and why.

For decades, GCC countries have benefited from high oil prices until we all started to hear a new term called value added tax, or VAT. In January 2018, VAT will come into effect for the first time in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This term is new to us in the GCC and has become a matter of concern to business people, and possibly will have consequences on the business environment and investments when implemented. VAT is a revenue source for the government to cover its needs and public demands.

VAT is a tax on the consumption of goods and services and has been set at five percent across GCC countries. This rate is the lowest in the world, with some countries charging VAT of more than 20 percent. I believe VAT is transparent method for GCC governments to increase revenue, boost their GDP and maintain their strong economies while continue to deliver their public service. I think it is a win-win situation for all.

I know that some Kuwaitis are doubting how much we benefited from the high prices of oil in the past, yet we need to admit that the high prices had allowed the country to at least keep the salaries' scale and employees' bonuses untouched. They also helped keep the government's hiring policy safe, as the government has been able to accommodate more new employees, Kuwaitis and expats, in state departments, and also support citizens who work in the private sector with a monthly bonus.

All this is good. However, a drop in demand in oil prices with an increased global competition, from around \$150 in 2008 for example to about \$50 today, has pushed the GCC to confront a new reality where crude oil is no longer something you can keep as the only source of a county's national income, but it should seek to diversify its economy while maintaining globally stable and competitive.

I have to admit that so far I see that UAE and Saudi Arabia are moving in the right direction, as the former depends heavily on tourism, while the Saudi industry is also becoming a destination for safe investments with attractive returns. Meanwhile, Kuwait seems serious and moving in the right direction. I think it is normal with any new system that there will be some implications and technical difficulties. Yet, there are a number of benefits that the VAT system will have on businesses and the economy, and we do need that in Kuwait. Certain sectors will be exempt from paying the VAT, such as healthcare and education, but these may differ between GCC member countries. Export of goods outside the GCC will be zero-rated, which means exporters can claim a tax refund.

VAT is not a business expense, but a cost that is passed on to the end-consumer when they buy a product. There are more than 150 countries that adopt VAT systems. The GCC is only doing it now.

According to some press reports, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance may postpone enforcing the VAT system for one or two more years after the scheduled date, which means it might not see the light until 2019. I think these reports will be confirmed or denied when 2018 comes.

I think businesses in Kuwait that need to be VAT-compliant should work with a trusted business partner and companies with international reputation and global experience to guide them through the implementation and operations phases.

## Amir commutes death sentences to life imprisonment

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait has commuted the death sentence of 15 Indian nationals to life in prison, the Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj reported yesterday. Swaraj said His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also directed that the sentences of 119 Indian nationals be reduced. In a series of tweets, Swaraj said "The Emir of Kuwait has been pleased to commute the sentence of 15 Indian nationals from death to life imprisonment." The Indian embassy in Kuwait will provide all possible assistance to the Indian nationals being released from the prison, she tweeted. It was not immediately clear what charges led to the men's death sentences.

## Abbas honors former ALECSO chief Mohareb

**KUWAIT:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas recently honored the late director of Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) Abdullah Mohareb in appreciation of his role in enhancing Arab and Palestinian culture, as well as his constant support to the Palestinian cause. A special ceremony was held in the presence of Palestinian Liberation Organization's executive committee member Mahmoud Ismael, who presented a medal of Culture, Sciences and Arts, to Mohareb's brother, Khaled, on behalf of Abbas. The ceremony was also attended by the Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub and the head of the Palestinian writers union Murad Al-Soudani.

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Myanmar refugee exodus tops 500,000

## Trump lashes out at San Juan mayor who begged for help

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ARBIL: The director of Arbil airport, Talar Faiq Salih, speaks during a press conference at the airport, in the capital of Iraq's autonomous northern Kurdish region. — AFP

# Iraq cuts all Kurdistan air links

## Neighbors condemn suspension as 'collective punishment'

**ARBIL:** The Iraqi government cut autonomous Kurdistan's direct air links with the outside world indefinitely on Friday, partially isolating the northern region after it voted a massive "yes" in an independence referendum. The move increases the pressure on the Iraqi Kurds amid soaring regional tensions following Monday's non-binding but deeply contentious vote. Washington said it did not recognize the "unilateral" referendum and urged all parties to reject the use of force and engage in dialogue.

"The vote and the results lack legitimacy and we continue to support a united, federal, democratic and prosperous Iraq," US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in a statement. The central government in Baghdad had ordered the halt to all foreign flights to and from the autonomous Kurdish region from 6:00 pm (1500 GMT) on Friday. Foreigners scrambled to fly out of the region's capital Arbil and its second largest city Sulaimaniyah before the ban took effect.

Iraqi Kurdish transport minister Mawlood Bawa Murad told AFP at Arbil airport that the ban would "negatively impact all international businesses in the Kurdistan region, in addition to all civilians, from all nations". It would "negatively impact our daily life," he said. "We will do our best to find a viable alternative, or succeed to bring back inter-

national flights." Arbil is a key gateway for humanitarian aid workers helping Iraqis affected by the battle against the Islamic State group (IS).

Washington said earlier it would be willing to facilitate talks between the Iraqi Kurdish authorities and Baghdad to calm escalating tensions over the 92-percent "yes" vote. Neighboring Turkey and Iran also strongly opposed the vote, fearing it would inflame the separatist aspirations of their own sizeable Kurdish populations. Ankara has threatened a series of measures including blocking lifeline oil exports from the region via Turkey.

The Kurds, whose borders with Turkey, Iran and Syria remain open, have condemned the flight suspension as "collective punishment". Iraq's Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said it was not "punishment" but a legal measure that would be reversed if the transport authority was transferred to Baghdad in line with the Iraqi constitution. The ban saw people, many of them foreigners, flock to Arbil airport to avoid being stranded.

### Kurds rush back

Iraqi Kurdistan is home to a large international community, most of whom enter on a visa issued by the regional authorities that is not recognized by the central govern-

ment, so they cannot travel elsewhere in Iraq. On Friday, around 100 passengers waited eagerly for their planes in Arbil, where the last flight out was to Vienna at 4 pm. "We were supposed to go back to Brazil next Saturday but we rescheduled our flight," said Isidoro Junior, a 32-year-old volunteer for an NGO providing medical assistance to Iraqis displaced by the war against IS. The director of Arbil airport, Talar Faiq Salih said humanitarian, military and diplomatic flights were excluded from the ban.

Earlier, the UN humanitarian office OCHA said it was working to ensure aid could continue to reach tens of thousands of needy Iraqis. In Sulaimaniyah, foreigners and others needing to leave sped to the airport before the ban took effect, while Kurds who were abroad for business or tourism rushed home. "There have been masses of people for two days," said airport spokesman Dana Mohammad Said, adding that the airport remained open for domestic flights.

### 'Help facilitate'

Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani, Iraq's highest Shiite religious authority, called for all sides "to abide by the Iraqi constitution and to appeal to High Federal Court to solve the Kurdistan crisis". "The latest political developments

should not have a negative impact on the strong relationship between sons of the homeland, Arabs, Turkmen, Kurds and others," his representative said. Washington said it would be prepared to "help facilitate a conversation" between Arbil and Baghdad.

"We would like to see some calm on all sides," US State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said, noting that the US had opposed the referendum "because we thought it would be destabilizing". On Thursday, the spokesman for the international coalition fighting IS in Iraq and neighboring Syria said the referendum had taken focus away from the war against the jihadists. French President Emmanuel Macron invited Al-Abadi to visit Paris on October 5 to discuss the referendum and offered France's help in calming tensions.

"Faced with the priority of fighting Daesh and the stabilization of Iraq, Iraqis must remain united," the presidency said in a statement, using another name for IS. Iraqi forces meanwhile launched an assault on the northern town of Hawija, one of the last IS bastions in the country along with a stretch of the Euphrates Valley near the border with Syria. Kurdish forces have been key allies in US-backed offensives against IS in both Syria and Iraq. —AFP

## Losing another Syria bastion, IS hits back behind front lines

**KOBANE:** Just after sunrise outside Syria's Raqa, dozens of Islamic State group jihadists donned Kurdish military uniforms, piled into cars with weapons, and broke back into a district they lost control of months ago. The raid was the latest evidence that IS, despite holding just a pocket of territory in its one-time stronghold, retains the capacity to wage deadly guerrilla attacks on areas thought to be relatively safe. The jihadists opened fire on a media centre run by the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces in Al-Meshleb, the easternmost neighborhood of Raqa and the first area taken from IS in June.

"They were wearing YPG (Kurdish People's Protection Units) uniforms and came in six cars from the east," said the centre's head Kani Shahani, who was communicating with AFP during the attack. The YPG forms the backbone of the SDF, a key force fighting IS in northern Syria with support from the US-led coalition against the jihadists. Hours of clashes left at least two SDF members dead and appeared to shake the confidence of the alliance of Arab and Kurdish fighters in the area as a safe rearbase.

The road into the east—which had seen regular civilian traffic over the past few weeks—has remained sealed for days, with large metal barrels and sand berms blocking access. Tense SDF fighters were on high alert as they searched cars and motorcycles at checkpoints on Friday. Two other failed infiltration attempts also hit the city's west this week. On Friday, jihadists were suspected of trying to sneak out of the city among civilians, SDF members said. More than a dozen vans of SDF fighters could be seen speeding from a western suburb into the city to reinforce regular positions.

### Sleeper cells, tunnels

"There has been more than one attempt from Daesh to break this siege on those inside, including striking behind the front lines," said SDF press chief Mustafa Bali, using



HAWIJA: Iraqi forces and the Hashed Al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization units) advance towards the Islamic State (IS) group's stronghold. — AFP

the Arabic acronym for IS. He said the attack on Al-Meshleb was waged by at least 30 IS fighters who snuck in from territory a few kilometers east of the city limits. "This shows that the infiltration was major. This area is supposed to be relatively secure," Bali said, adding that it was proof of "sleeper cells" in the area.

The SDF is tightening the noose on IS in a final pocket of territory that include Raqa's national hospital and the football stadium. While most of the city's neighborhoods are under SDF control, the US-backed fighters said that they have not cleared them house by house. Some feared IS was using a massive network of underground tunnels to move around in secret. Jeker Derek, an SDF fighter in the city's west, said that his unit had fought off a surprise attack by IS earlier this week. "Two days ago, we faced an

attack from underground. A group of Daesh fighters came out from here and we clashed with them," the lean fighter said. He was pointing to a now-sealed tunnel entrance in a building just hundreds of metres (yards) west of Raqa's national hospital, where hundreds of jihadists are thought to be holed up with civilians. "This is the entrance, but it's not clear where it ends."

### 'Come from anywhere'

Other SDF members and representatives of the US-led coalition backing the offensive on Raqa said IS was trying to blend in with displaced civilians to escape the city undetected before waging new attacks. The coalition said last week it had detained several IS fighters—including a local leader—attempting to flee Raqa alongside residents.

"Trying to sneak in with IDP (internally displaced people) flows, sneak out and lay low is something we're worried about," a senior commander from the US-led coalition backing the SDF's operations told AFP.

The commander said recent guerrilla attacks proved that IS was still a threat, but that it was lashing out in a last-ditch attempt to do damage to the SDF. "It's that boxer on the ropes throwing punches—he's still going to get one in every once in a while. It's still dangerous," the commander said. In Hawi Al-Hawa, a western suburb of Raqa under SDF control for months, fighter Jamal Mahmoud seemed nervous that his unit would be the next target. He had heard about the hit-and-run attack on Al-Meshleb earlier in the week and said it showed that "an attack could happen at any moment". —AP

## International

# For GOP women in politics, a needle that's not moving

## Republican women have little chance on improving representation

WASHINGTON: The president of Emily's List rose to the podium at a recent New York fundraiser to make a proud announcement: More than 18,000 women had contacted the group since Election Day, looking to explore running for office - "an explosion," she called it. Of course, they're all Democrats. On the Republican side, there's been no such explosion. While a tide of anti-Trump activism has led thousands of Democratic women to consider runs for office, their Republican counterparts are where they were before the 2016 election - with little chance of improving their representation.

"Republican women look very much the same now as they did pre-Trump," says Jennifer Lawless, profes-

sor at American University and co-author of a recent report that examined the persistent gender gap in political ambition, on both sides of the aisle. "They're generally not interested in running for office, the overwhelming majority has not been recruited to run, they don't think they're qualified to run, and their levels of political activity and enthusiasm are the same as they have always been."

### New enthusiasm almost entirely on the left side of the spectrum

Lawless' report, called "The Trump Effect," also throws some cold water on the expectation that Democrats will see a seismic shift in numbers of women running; re-energized political activism doesn't necessarily translate into candidacies. But the new enthusiasm has been almost entirely on the left side of

#### 'The Trump Effect'

the spectrum, and some groups are trying to address that. Erin Loos Cutraro, CEO of She Should Run, a nonpartisan group, says while the overall pace of adding women to elected office is too slow - women, after all, comprise just under 20 percent of Congress - it's clearly happening faster for Democrats.

Part of the problem: uneven institutional resources and support. "Feeling that you're not going at it alone makes a big difference," Cutraro says, "and it can feel really isolating for Republican women. They don't have the same networks, just in sheer numbers ... or the same level of institutional support. If you're a Democratic pro-choice woman, and you have Emily's List there to support you, that can be incredibly powerful. Republican women don't have anything that plays at the same level."

While a group like Emily's List lends concrete support to get a candidate over the finish line, She Should Run serves women seeking that first step. "I don't even know where to start" is something we hear over and over," says Cutraro. Rebecca Love is one of those women.

A longtime Republican - she was even president of the Republican club in high school - Love, 38, woke up at home in San Diego the morning after Election Day wanting to get involved, somehow. "I felt that my values as a Republican woman were not represented by the candidate who was elected," says Love, who has a young daughter and works in health care consulting. "I felt Republicans were better than this. It was a wakeup call."

So Love began Googling programs for women interested in politics. Most, she found, were for Democrats - and her experience had been that even groups calling themselves nonpartisan were populated mostly by Democrats, some not eager to engage with Republicans. Finally, Love, who identifies as a pro-abortion rights, moderate Republican, started working with She Should Run. She's learning the political landscape of her community, and expects to pursue a city council seat or something similar.



WOODINVILLE: In this file photo taken Aug 22, 2017, Jinyoung Lee Englund, candidate for 45th district Senate seat in Washington, talks with phone bank volunteers at her campaign headquarters. —AP

#### Bipartisan issue

By now, Love says, she feels confident enough that she doesn't need to be "asked" to run. But she meets women who do: "I say to them, 'You should think about running,' and they say, 'Me?'" Virtually any advocate working to get women into politics will say the same thing: Much more than men, women - of any party - need to be asked to run. Julie Conway of VIEW PAC, which works to get Republican women elected to federal office, puts it this way: "You have to tell women, 'Hey, you'd be great,' and not only that, but you'd be the best, and now I'm going to have 10 other people tell you you're the best. Guys just say, 'Hey, I could do this.'"

It's a bipartisan issue, Conway notes. "Women -

Democratic or Republican - need to be convinced that they know everything about everything," she says. "Because they don't want to fake it. Guys, you ask them about a question about a specific tax issue, and they say, 'Oh, we believe in lower taxes.' A woman will say, 'I need the exact details of how that works.'" Adds Stephanie Schriock, president of Emily's List: "For years we've sat at kitchen tables, we've said, 'You can do this, you don't need five years of training - that dude has no training!'" For Jinyoung Englund, getting asked - by a former boss - was a turning point. A daughter of Korean immigrants in Washington state, Englund got the bug for public service early, working on a congressional campaign and then on Capitol Hill while she was still in her 20s. —AP

## Trump seeks new health chief after Price resignation

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump is seeking a new health secretary to take the place of Tom Price, ousted after an outcry over flying on costly private charters for official travel. The Health and Human Services chief oversees a \$1 trillion department, with 80,000 employees and jurisdiction over major insurance programs, advanced medical research, drug and food safety, public health, and disease prevention.

The administration will also have to contend with renewed scrutiny of Cabinet members' travel. Following news reports about Price, the House Oversight and Government Reform committee launched a government-wide investigation of travel by top political appointees. Trump has named Don J Wright, a deputy assistant secretary of health, to serve as acting secretary. Mentioned as a possible permanent successor to Price is Seema Verma, a protégé of Vice President Mike Pence. She now leads the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, an HHS division that runs health insurance programs covering more than 130 million Americans.

Verma's immediate challenge is to manage the 2018 open enrollment season under the Obama-era Affordable Care Act, which Trump and the GOP-led Congress have been unable to repeal. Another possible HHS candidate is FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, who won some bipartisan support in his confirmation and is well known in policy, government and industry circles.

Price, 62, a former GOP congressman from the Atlanta suburbs, resigned Friday afternoon. His pattern of costly trips triggered investigations that overshadowed the administration's agenda and angered his boss. Price's regrets and a partial repayment couldn't save his job. Price became the first member of Trump's Cabinet to be pushed out in a turbulent young administration that has seen several high-ranking White House aides ousted. He served less than eight months.

#### 'Very fine person'

On Friday Trump called Price a "very fine person," but added, "I certainly don't like the optics" around his travels. Price said in his resignation letter that he regretted that "recent events have created a distraction." Privately, Trump had been telling associates in



WASHINGTON: In this March 24, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump with Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price in the Oval Office of the White House. —AP

recent days that Price was overshadowing his tax overhaul agenda and undermining his campaign promise to "drain the swamp" of corruption, according to three people familiar with the discussions who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Price's repayment of \$51,887.31 for his own travel costs did not placate the White House. The total travel cost, including the secretary's entourage, could amount to several hundred thousand dollars. An orthopedic surgeon turned politician, Price rose to Budget Committee chairman in the House, where he was known as a fiscal conservative. When Price joined the administration, Trump touted him as a conservative policy expert who could write a new health care bill to replace the Obama-era Affordable Care Act. But Price became more of a supporting player in the GOP's futile health care campaign, while

Vice President Mike Pence took the lead, particularly with the Senate. The perception of Price jetting around while GOP lawmakers labored to repeal "Obamacare" - including a three-nation trip in May to Africa and

Europe - raised eyebrows on Capitol Hill. Price flew on military aircraft overseas. But House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Friday that Price had worked hard to help that chamber pass its plan before the GOP effort reached an impasse in the Senate. "I will always be grateful for Tom's service to this country," he said.

Democrats were glad to see Price go. Some urged Trump to appoint an HHS secretary who would reach out to them. "I hope President Trump learns from this mistake, and looks to appoint someone who can work in a bipartisan way to strengthen health care for all Americans," said Rep. Frank Pallone, D-NJ. Price used private charter flights on 10 trips with multiple segments, when in many cases cheaper commercial flights were available. His charter travel was first reported by the news site Politico. The controversy over Price was a catalyst for Congress launching a bipartisan probe of travel by political appointees across the administration. The House oversight committee has requested travel records from the White House and 24 federal departments and agencies. —AP

what it calls "the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Judea and Samaria, The Jordan Valley, and the Golan Heights", and its colonization, with the participation of members of the right-wing ruling coalition, led by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates strongly condemns the provocative colonial policies practiced by the occupation authorities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as the ministry affirms that this event along with other events are an additional proof of Israel's unlimited official support for colonialism, land theft and Judaization of the Palestinian land. In line with the ruling right wing's ideology, founded for the perpetuation of the occupation and seizing of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and undermining any opportunity

for the establishment of a Palestinian State alongside Israel, which is an essential obstacle to resolve the conflict politically.

The Ministry believes that the international community's abandonment of its real responsibilities towards our people and their suffering encourages the occupation authorities to continue to occupy the land and destroy the two-state solution and continue to rebel against internationally legitimate resolutions and international law. Also, the international community's silence on the Israeli crimes and violations against our people raises many doubts about the seriousness of the states and international institutions in defending the two-state solution and their credibility in protecting and applying international and humanitarian law in Palestine.

#### News in brief

##### Anti-IS 'sheikh sniper' killed in Hawija battle

BASRA: A veteran fighter known as "the sheikh of snipers" has been killed in Iraq's battle to retake the town of Hawija from the Islamic State group, his paramilitary force announced yesterday. Abu Tahsin Al-Salhi, who took part in conflicts dating back to the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and said he had gunned down at least 320 IS jihadists, died on Friday. He was killed as he advanced on Hawija in northwest Iraq, said Ahmad Al-Assadi, spokesman for the Hashed Al-Shaabi alliance mostly of Shiite militias fighting alongside government forces against the last jihadist bastions. At his funeral near the southern port city of Basra, close friend Ahmad Ali Hussein said he was widely known by comrades as "the sheikh of snipers".

##### Air strikes kill 28 civilians in Syria safe zone: Monitor

BEIRUT: At least 28 civilians were killed in air strikes on northwestern Syria where a planned safe zone has been overshadowed by a bombing campaign against jihadists, a monitor said yesterday. Four children were among the dead in the overnight strikes on the town of Armanaz, in Idlib province near the Turkish border, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The Britain-based watchdog had earlier reported 12 dead in the strikes on the town in Harem district around 20 kilometers northwest of the provincial capital Idlib. An AFP correspondent who toured Armanaz on Saturday morning said entire apartment blocks had been flattened by the bombardment.

##### Iranian, Iraqi forces to hold joint drills

DUBAI: Iranian and Iraqi central government forces are to hold joint military exercises near their borders, Iran's state television reported yesterday, as part of Tehran's effort to support Baghdad after the Kurdish independence referendum. State television quoted a military spokesman as saying the decision to hold the war games was taken at a meeting of Iranian military commanders which also "agreed on measures to establish border security and receive Iraqi forces that are to be stationed at border posts".

##### 11 killed in S Africa township shootings

CAPE TOWN: Eleven people were killed in a series of overnight shootings in a Cape Town township, police said yesterday, including four victims shot dead when gunmen opened fire in a bar. Extra police officers were deployed to the Philippi district of Cape Town, a city that suffers from regular gang violence and armed clashes between rival criminal groups. "We have deployed teams comprising specialist detectives, high-risk units and intelligence operatives," police spokeswoman Novela Potelwa told the News 24 website.

## Palestinian FM: Israel welcomes Greenblatt with Central celebration for occupation

In accordance with President Donald Trump's Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt visit to the region, the Israeli government, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, is organizing a central celebration in the settlement of Gush Etzion on the occasion of

## International

# Trump lashes out at San Juan mayor who begged for help

## Laggard US response to the natural disaster

**BRANCHBURG:** US President Donald Trump yesterday lashed out at the mayor of San Juan and other officials in storm-ravaged Puerto Rico, contemptuous of their claims of a laggard US response to the natural disaster that has imperiled the island's future. "They want everything to be done for them when it should be a community effort," Trump said in a series of tweets a day after the capital city's leader appealed for help "to save us from dying. Such poor leadership ability by the Mayor of San Juan, and others in Puerto Rico, who are not able to get their workers to help," Trump said.

The tweets amounted to a biting response to San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz, who had accused the

destroyed," and "10,000 Federal workers now on the island are doing a fantastic job." Trump's acting homeland security secretary, Elaine Duke surveyed the Puerto Rican landscape by helicopter during a visit Friday. She also drove past still-flooded streets, twisted billboards and roofs with gaping holes, and offered encouragement to some of the emergency personnel the US government has on the ground.

Duke also tried to move on from the remarks she made Thursday in which she called the federal relief effort a "good-news story." On that front, she ran into winds as fierce as Maria. "We are dying, and you are killing us with the inefficiency," Cruz said at a news conference. "I am begging, begging anyone that can hear us, to save us from dying." Trump, from his golf club in New Jersey, took to Twitter to accuse Cruz of partisan politics.

### Accusations of 'nastiness'

"The Mayor of San Juan, who was very complimentary only a few days ago, has now been told by the Democrats that you must be nasty to Trump," the president charged, without substantiation. Thousands more Puerto Ricans

have received water and rationed food as an aid bottleneck has begun to ease. By now, telecommunications are back for about 30 percent of the island, nearly half of the supermarkets have reopened at least for reduced hours and about 60 percent of the gas stations are pumping. But many remain desperate for necessities, most urgently water, long after the Sept. 20 hurricane.

Trump said Friday that Puerto Rico is "totally unable" to handle the catastrophe on its own. "They are working so hard, but there's nothing left," he said.



**MOROVIS:** Marta Sostre Vazquez reacts as she starts to wade into the San Lorenzo Morovis River with her family after a bridge was swept away by Hurricane Maria. — AP

"It's been wiped out." He said the government is "fully engaged in the disaster and the response and recovery effort." Trump said he was not aware of Duke's "good-news" remark. "I haven't heard what she said," he told reporters. "I can tell you this: We have done an incredible job considering there's absolutely nothing to work with."

Yet even in voicing solidarity and sympathy with Puerto Rico, he drew attention again to the island's

debt burden and infrastructure woes, leaving doubt about how far Washington will go to make the U.S. territory whole. "Ultimately the government of Puerto Rico will have to work with us to determine how this massive rebuilding effort - it will end up being one of the biggest ever - will be funded and organized, and what we will do with the tremendous amount of existing debt already on the island," he said. "We will not rest, however, until the people of Puerto Rico are safe." — AP



## Trump administration is killing us with the inefficiency

Trump administration of "killing us with the inefficiency" after Hurricane Maria. She implored the president, who is set to visit the US territory on Tuesday, to "make sure somebody is in charge that is up to the task of saving lives."

Trump has pledged to spare no effort to help Puerto Rico recover from Maria's ruinous aftermath, and tweeted that military personnel and first responders had done "an amazing job," despite having "no electric, roads, phones etc." Puerto Rico, he said, "was totally

## 'A better future': May tries to rally her Conservatives

**LONDON:** Prime Minister Theresa May will set out plans to build "a road to a better future" for Britain at her Conservative Party conference next week, hoping to head off a rebellion over her handling of Brexit and the June election. Weakened by the loss of the Conservatives' parliamentary majority in that election, which prompted some members to call for her to go, May will try to show she is still the right person to lead the party and Britain.

She will set out her vision of a "country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few". May first made that promise on the steps of her Downing Street office when she became prime minister just over a year ago after Britain voted to leave the European Union and her predecessor David Cameron stepped down. She will be keen to play down divisions in her cabinet of ministers over the Brexit divorce talks with the EU, which has given the opposition Labour Party ammunition to criticise a squabbling government.

Instead, she will go on the offensive against Labour, which has won over voters by making a similar promise to govern "for the many, not the few". Labour came second in the election, but did far better than mainstream expectations. The standing of its leader, leftist Jeremy Corbyn, was raised considerably. "Our party meets in Manchester this week, and our message to you is simple. As Conservatives, we have a vision of a coun-

try that works for everyone, not just the privileged few - precisely the direction I set when I became prime minister last year," May said in a statement before the conference begins on Sunday.

"I understand the concerns raised, particularly by young people, during what was a disappointing election for my party. So my determination to act on those concerns, and crucially, to fulfil the promise of my first speech on the steps of Downing Street, is greater than ever." After Labour staged a conference this week at which it sounded triumphant, May hopes to fire up thousands of members who feel let down by what some describe as an awful election campaign, when their leader was dubbed "the Maybot" for her repetition of catchphrases. May is now dependent on a small Northern Irish party to be sure of passing legislation in parliament, and opinion polls indicate that Labour is a growing threat, persuading rivals in the party not to try to topple her quite yet.

### 'Road to a better future'

May will also be careful in Manchester to present a united front and keep a lid on divisions in her cabinet after arguments over her Brexit strategy and vision of future ties with the EU, and over austerity, broke out into the open. "So this week we'll be setting out our road to a better future for you (voters) and your family.



**FLORENCE:** Anti-Brexit protesters hold placards reading 'Europe is my country - make it (y)ours again' (L) and 'Denied a Vote - Denied a Voice' on September 22, 2017. — AFP

Yes, we have to get the best Brexit deal - but we must also take action here at home to make this a fairer place to live for ordinary working people," she said. "And for people considering the alternative, we have a clear message too. The Labour Party is simply not fit to govern - and have already gone back on their promises

about things like student debt." She offered no details of her plan to take the initiative in a domestic debate that has been dominated by Labour's criticism of economic austerity. Its criticism of public sector cuts and pay caps for nurses, police and firefighters has caught the mood of the public. — Reuters

## Mormons tune in to hear guidance from top leaders

**SALT LAKE CITY:** Mormons around the world will tune in today to hear guidance from the religion's top leaders during a twice-yearly conference in Utah. For the first time in more than a half-century, they won't hear from Thomas S. Monson, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' president since 2008. At 90 years old, Monson will be absent from the conference because of his health.

Monson has given speeches at every conference since 1963, when he became the youngest member ever of a top governing body called Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He is considered a prophet, seer and revelator. Presidents of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints serve until they die. Also missing will be 85-year-old Robert D. Hales, another top leader who was hospitalized in recent days. Hales has been a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles since 1994.

The Salt Lake City conference brings 100,000 people over two days for five sessions. Millions more watch live broadcasts of the speeches from their homes. In addition to speeches aimed at giving the religion's nearly 16 million members worldwide direction on how to practice their faith, church leaders sometimes announce new initiatives or key rule changes. — AP

## The price of water: S Sudan's capital goes thirsty as costs soar

**JUBA:** When Jimmy's parents finally pulled their son out of the churning river, his body was already lifeless and limp, heavy in the arms of his father. But the eight-year-old's death - and that of three other boys - could have been easily prevented, had it not been for the price of drinking water in South Sudan's capital Juba - costing a third of a family's monthly income. The only school the family could afford was on the other side of the river, and, with no bridge, Jimmy had to wade through its turbulent waters each day.

"My brother drowned on his way to class," said his 18-year-old sister Mary Irene, who has just graduated from high school. The pain of losing her brother this past May is still fresh. "Jimmy was always scared of the raging stream, but facing his fear was the only way for him to receive an affordable education. My family struggles to survive. We spend most of our money on water." South Sudan, home to the Nile, is not considered to be a water-scarce country. But civil war and hyperinflation have created a water crisis.

For an average family, spending a third of their earnings on water, the cost relative to income is six times greater than the internationally recognized five percent that the World Health Organization suggests families should be spending on water. In Khor William, a hilly suburb of Juba with red mud roads and small brick houses almost hidden by grasses and maize plants, Jimmy's family is not the only one forced to make sacrifices since water prices began to rise in recent years. Many families, especially government employees,

haven't received their salaries lately and live on less than 1,000 South Sudanese Pounds a month - a mere \$8 - even as prices rise with rampant inflation. "We survive by selling homemade cake and bread. I haven't received my wages in several months. Water comes first... Some people have died because they couldn't

“ My brother drowned on his way to class ”

afford medical treatment and others only eat maize flour and okra," said Rose Johnson, a social worker, mother of five and one of Mary's neighbors. "When someone in our community falls ill, all we can do is hope and pray for the best."

### Tough logistics

Providing clean drinking water is complex in the lush,

green country that won its independence in 2011 but descended into civil war two years later. Water is available, but facilities and resources to purify it for drinking are lacking. Pipe infrastructure built during British colonial rule in 1937 serves just 17 percent of Juba's permanent population of about 370,000 and is in need of repair and upgrading.

The rest of the city depends on supplies from almost 700 mostly privately owned water tankers, but in times of economic crisis, their prices have risen steeply. A liter of petrol costs 700 South Sudanese Pounds (\$5), but only limited imported supplies are available and the country's oil production has largely ground to a halt in the conflict. Chlorine and alum for water treatment are imported by road from Uganda, a dangerous journey through an area prone to attacks and looting, pushing up transport prices.

Aid agency Oxfam told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that in previous years tankers were operating on a profit margin of 45 percent, but those profits have turned to sharp losses. "It's one of the reasons why an increasing number of tankers pump water straight from the river, instead of getting it from a treatment plant," said Oxfam's water and sanitation adviser Mariana Matoso. "The businesses are scrambling to survive and some might therefore sell dirty water that they pumped for free." After fighting erupted in Juba in July 2016, a Japanese-funded project to build the city's biggest water treatment plant was suspended. Work is yet to resume, while the water crisis deepens. — Reuters



## International

# China's Xi flaunts Trump budding friendship in talk with Tillerson

## Ties appear warmer following N Korea tensions

**BEIJING:** Chinese President Xi Jinping told US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson yesterday that he expected President Donald Trump's upcoming visit to be "wonderful", as ties appear warmer following tensions over how to handle North Korea. Xi smiled as he greeted Tillerson at the imposing Great Hall of the People across Tiananmen Square for talks expected to focus on North Korea and Trump's November visit.

The two men, however, did not mention the hermit state in public remarks before their private talks. Xi recalled that he and Trump have spoken on the phone several times and that they already met at the US leader's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida in April and the G20 summit in Hamburg in July. "I have enjoyed each

Chinese companies accused of supporting North Korea's weapons program. But China, which accounts for 90 percent of North Korea's international trade, has since backed a slew of additional United Nations sanctions against its neighbor.

A senior US official said this week that China appears to be on board with the plan to squeeze Pyongyang. "This is a relationship that continues to grow and mature on the strength of the relationship between yourself and President Trump," Tillerson told Xi. "And we look forward to advancing that relationship at the upcoming summit."

Tillerson also met with China's top diplomat, State Councillor Yang Jiechi, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi to lay the groundwork for Trump's trip, which will include stops in Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines between November 3 and 14. "Let us concentrate on cooperation and properly manage our differences in the spirit of mutual respect and mutual benefit so that we can keep moving the China-US relationship forward in the right direction," Yang said. Wang told Tillerson: "At present, China-US relations overall have a positive momentum and have arrived at an

important opportunity to progress further." Tillerson had been due to arrive on Friday evening but his aircraft's problems forced him to travel to China on a military transport plane yesterday.

### 'Two trains of thought'

While it has backed UN sanctions against Pyongyang, Beijing has insisted that the punitive measures must be coupled with efforts to organize peace talks. China has proposed a plan, which Russia has backed, in which North Korea would suspend its



BEIJING: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, left, meeting with China's State Councillor Yang Jiechi at the Great Hall of the People. — AP

weapons programs in return for the United States to halt its military drills in the region. But the North conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on September 3, and Trump and Kim have traded increasingly personal insults that have raised fears of a conflict.

"There appear to be two trains of thought in the international community regarding denuclearization of the peninsula: Crush North Korea or talk to North Korea so as to increase its sense of security. China and

Russia hold the latter view," China's state-run Global Times newspaper said in an editorial. The acting US assistant secretary of state for East Asia, Susan Thornton, told skeptical US lawmakers ahead of Tillerson's trip that China was making "growing, if uneven" progress in the strategy to strong-arm Pyongyang. "We have recently seen Chinese authorities take additional actions," she said, referring to new controls on the cross-border trade and finance that is North Korea's economic lifeline. — AFP



## Trump's visit will be a special, wonderful and successful one

and every one of those engagements and we have made considerable efforts to push for the development of China-US relations," Xi said. "The two of us have also maintained a good working relationship and personal friendship," he said, adding that he believed Trump's visit "will be a special, wonderful and successful one".

Trump has touted his friendship with Xi but he has also prodded the Chinese leader in recent months to exert more pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear and missile activities. The Trump administration angered Beijing this summer by slapping sanctions on

## Myanmar refugee exodus tops 500,000 as more Rohingya flee

**TEKNAF:** He trekked to Bangladesh as part of an exodus of a half million people from Myanmar, the largest refugee crisis to hit Asia in decades. But after climbing out of a boat on a creek on Friday, Mohamed Rafiq could go no further. He collapsed onto a muddy spit of land cradling his wife in his lap - a limp figure so exhausted and so hungry she could no longer walk or even raise her wrists.

The couple had no food, no money, no idea what to do next. Their two traumatized children huddled close beside them, unsure what to make of the country they had arrived in just hours earlier, in the middle of the night. Rafiq said their third child, an 8-month-old boy, had been left behind. Buddhist mobs in Myanmar burned the child to death, he said, after setting their village ablaze while security forces stood idly by - part of a systematic purge of ethnic Rohingya Muslims from Buddhist-majority Myanmar that the United Nations has condemned as "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

Five weeks after the mass exodus

began on Aug. 25, the UN says the total number of arrivals in Bangladesh has now topped 501,000. And still, they keep coming. "We don't ever want to go back," a stunned Rafiq said, describing his family's ordeal as Bangladeshi volunteers stuffed a small wad of cash into his hand and gave their children biscuits. Another man offered a bottle of water, and Rafiq poured some into his wife's mouth as she lay in his arms, staring blankly at the sky. "This is not our home. It is not our country," Rafiq said. "But at least, we feel safe here."

### Desperate weeks

Not all those who have fled over the last few desperate weeks have survived. The International Organization for Migration said more than 60 refugees were confirmed dead or missing and presumed dead after one vessel capsized on rough seas in the area Thursday. The crisis began when a Rohingya insurgent group launched attacks with rifles and machetes on a series of security posts in



TEKNAF: Rohingya Muslim refugee carries his belongings as he walks with other people by night after crossing the border from Myanmar, on the Bangladeshi shores of the Naf River. — AP

Myanmar on Aug. 25, prompting the military to launch a brutal round of "clearance operations" in response. Those fleeing have described indiscriminate attacks by security forces and Buddhist mobs, including monks, as well as killings and rapes. While the international community has condemned the violence and called on Myanmar to protect the Rohingya, Sufi Ullah, a police officer in Teknaf, said nothing has changed. "We're seeing them come across whenever they get the chance," Ullah said. "They're hiding themselves in the forests and hills (inside Myanmar) in the daytime. And when they get the chance, they run. The Myanmar army is putting pressure on them. These people are afraid." Ullah said several

thousand new refugees arrived by boat in Bangladesh on Friday, and authorities were not expecting the flow to let up any time soon.

On Friday, dramatic scenes played out over and over as hordes of Rohingya who had crossed into Bangladesh overnight tried to make their way further inland. They trudged out of boats and through mud that in some places was knee deep. Men carried babies and old women on their backs. Everyone was exhausted. Sonabanu Chemmon was among those too weak to walk. Her son-in-law had carried her to one of Bangladesh's inland creeks, near Shah Porir Dip. But he then abandoned her along with several of her adult daughters. — AP

## Political banners reveal gulf with mainland in HK

**HONG KONG:** The banners and posters were quietly hung in universities across Hong Kong, often appearing overnight, with bold white lettering calling out for change and testing the limits of the freedoms that Beijing will allow this free-wheeling city. "Hong Kong Independence!" one banner declared. "Fight for Our Homeland!" said another. To students from Hong Kong, the banners were a defiant insistence that their city is different from the rest of China, and that they can express themselves in ways unimaginable on the mainland.

But to many mainland students, the calls for independence were unpatriotic insults. Some pushed back in anger, ripping them from university bulletin boards and setting off shouting matches caught on videos that spread quickly on Chinese

social media, exposing the widening gulf between Hong Kong and the mainland, which rules this former British colony.

The series of September clashes over the banners not only rekindled a debate over Hong Kong's relative rights to free speech and protest - freedoms unseen on the mainland - they have also revealed deeper tensions between students from the city and those from the mainland. The issues are exacerbated by anxieties among Hong Kong's youth over a perceived loss of job prospects to their mainland peers and the chilling effect the ruling Community Party has on campus discourse.

The student spat is one part of broader tensions surrounding Beijing's relationship with Hong Kong as the city undergoes an increasingly tense 50-year transition to



HONG KONG: In this Sept 6, 2017, photo, students walk beneath a black banner reading "Hong Kong Independence" which is displayed at the Chinese University of Hong Kong campus. — AP

Chinese rule. Beijing created a special status known as "one country, two systems" for Hong Kong following its 1997 handover from Britain to mainland China, giving it wide autonomy and civil liberties. At the city's universities, student union bulletin boards called "Democracy Walls" became filled with politics, polemics and youthful anger.

In the years since then, increasing numbers of mainland students have come to the city to study, laying the groundwork for tensions. In the last academic year,

mainland students made up 76 percent of international students in public university programs, according to the government. Although there is a cap on undergraduate admissions of mainland students, the number of Chinese postgraduate students has doubled in the last decade, making them a much more visible presence on campuses. "Hong Kong students think that mainland students are taking their learning opportunities and degrees from them," said Chris Chan, an economics student at Hong Kong Baptist University. — AP

### News in brief

#### India rail minister urges upgrades as toll rises

**MUMBAI:** India's railways minister yesterday told station managers "to spend whatever is necessary" to ensure passenger safety as the death toll from a stampede on a railway footbridge in Mumbai rose to 23. Railway officials said the accident happened after hundreds of people took shelter Friday on the station footbridge to escape a heavy downpour. Most of those killed were crushed to death, some suffocated and others fell from the narrow bridge. Around three dozen injured were also rushed to nearby hospitals.

#### Bali volcano evacuees outside danger zone told to go home

**KARANGASEM:** More than 144,000 people have fled from a rumbling volcano on popular tourist island Bali, but officials yesterday urged evacuees who live outside the immediate danger zone to return home. Mount Agung has been shaking since August, causing fears it could erupt for the first time since 1963 and triggering the highest possible alert level eight days ago. But officials say the number of evacuees has grown too high, and only people who live within nine kilometers of the crater should remain in temporary shelters or with friends and relatives further afield.

#### Afghan official: 2 people killed by roadside bombs

**KABUL:** At least two people including a police officer were killed by roadside bombs in Afghanistan's western Herat province, a provincial official said yesterday. Gelani Farhad, spokesman for Herat's provincial governor, said another officer was wounded when a police vehicle triggered the explosive in the Adraskan district. In a separate incident, Farhad said a civilian motorcycle hit a roadside bomb, killing one civilian and wounding another in the Shindand district. In yet another report from northern Kapisa province, at least nine civilians were wounded when a bicycle bomb exploded in a bazaar, said Qais Qaderi, spokesman for the provincial governor.

#### Poll shows Tokyo governor Koike's party threat to Abe

**TOKYO:** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's lead in next month's election has shrunk as the popular Tokyo governor pushes to unite opposition forces, a survey by Japan's top-selling daily indicated yesterday. Thirty-four percent of Japanese plan to vote for Abe's conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) while 19 percent favor a party formed this week by Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, according to the poll in the Yomiuri Shimbun. It also showed one quarter of those polled were still undecided on how vote in the October 22 election. The findings suggest Abe's path to victory may not be as easy as earlier believed. The poll was taken on Thursday and Friday, right after the main opposition Democratic Party made a surprise move to join forces with Koike's newborn "Party of Hope". — Agencies

## Analysis

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## FOCUS

## Catalonia, one of Spain's economic heavyweights

By Emmanuelle MICHEL

## Economic heavyweight

Contributing 19 percent of Spain's GDP in 2016, Catalonia rivals Madrid for the distinction of being the richest region in the country. It is fourth in terms of GDP per capita with 28,600 euros (\$33,600), after Madrid, the northern Basque Country and neighboring Navarra. GDP per capita in Spain overall is 24,000 euros. Like in Madrid, unemployment is also lower than in the rest of the country: 13.2 percent in the second quarter of 2017 compared to 17.2 percent nationally.

## Dynamic exports

Catalonia is by far Spain's top exporting region, with a quarter of all goods produced there sold abroad in 2016 and in the first quarter of 2017. It attracted some 14 percent of foreign investment in Spain in 2015, in second place after Madrid, which received a huge 64 percent, but far ahead of all the other regions, according to the economy ministry's latest data. Several large companies have their headquarters in Barcelona: textile group Mango, Spain's third largest bank CaixaBank, Gas Natural, highway giant Abertis or perfume firm Puig, which owns Nina Ricci, Paco Rabanne and Jean-Paul Gaultier.

## Major industrial player

The agri-food, chemistry and auto sectors are pillars of Catalan industry, which also has a big logistics hub. The biggest industrial sector in the region in terms of jobs and turnover is agri-food, buoyed by the powerful meat business which exports a lot of pork. Oil, food for cattle and grocery products also contribute. The region concentrates around half of all of Spain's chemical production, with a major hub in Tarragona. According to the sector's regional federation, turnover in Catalonia is higher than in Austria or Denmark. In 2016, the region was also the second car producer in Spain after Castilla y Leon. Nissan and Volkswagen, via its brand Seat, have factories there. Spain is the second biggest vehicle maker in the EU after Germany.

## Cutting-edge research

Since the 1990s Catalonia has invested in research, particularly in bioscience-genetics, neurosciences, cell biology—and the sector now represents 7 percent of its GDP. With many cutting-edge hospitals and research centers, including in the nuclear sector with a particle accelerator, the region says it is number one in Europe for pharmaceutical companies per capita. New technology is also very present in Barcelona, which every year hosts the Mobile World Congress. Catalan universities are among the best in the country: of the top five Spanish universities in the widely-watched annual ranking compiled by the independent Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, three are Catalan. These are Pompeu Fabra, the University of Barcelona and the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Its business schools-ESADE and IESE—are well known and Barcelona also has big publishing houses.

## Tourism destination

With its capital Barcelona and Costa Brava beaches, Catalonia is the Spanish region that most attracts foreign tourists and the trend is on the rise. More than 18 million visitors went in 2016, or a quarter of all foreigners who came to Spain. Its airport is the country's second biggest after Madrid. In 2016, it handled more than 44 million passengers. It is particularly valued by low-cost companies that want to make it a European hub for their long-distance flights to the Americas. Barcelona's port is the third biggest in Spain for goods after Algeciras in the south and Valencia in the east, and one of the largest in Europe for cruise ships.

## Debt the weak link

Catalonia's debt represents 35.4 percent of its GDP, which made it the third most indebted region in Spain in the first quarter of 2017, after Valencia and Castilla La Mancha. At the end of June, its debt stood at 76.7 billion euros. Ratings agencies have given it a low, speculative grade, which means Catalonia is not able to borrow directly on financial markets. So it depends on loans emitted by the Spanish state.

## Economic impact

The issue is much debated among both camps, who generally present widely different figures, often based on different methodologies and hypotheses. If independence were to happen, Spain's economy ministry claims that Catalonia would leave the European Union, its GDP would fall 25 to 30 percent and unemployment would double. —AFP



## Apartheid in the heart of Hebron

Dr James J Zogby  
President Arab American Institute

Last week Israel announced that the heart of Hebron would henceforth be a separate municipality directly governed by Israel's Civil Administration. There are about 700 extremist Israeli settlers currently living in a few compounds in the center of the city protected by the Israeli military. While this disruptive and provocative presence has been ongoing for more than two decades, the decision to formally sever Hebron into two cities was profoundly unsettling, though not entirely unexpected.

Twenty-two years ago, I wrote down my observations of what was happening in Hebron—in an effort to convey how Israeli policies were cruelly impacting daily life. At the time, I was one of the leaders of a project launched by Vice President Gore working to support the "peace process" by growing the Palestinian economy. The year was 1995. The glow of Oslo had not yet gone out, but it was dimming. I visited Hebron last week [June 5, 1995] and left profoundly disturbed by what I saw. Daily life there is far removed from the peace process. Palestinians in that city are forced to endure debilitating economic pressures and harsh repressive military control.

More than one year after the massacre at the Al-Ibrahim mosque, the nearly 300,000 residents of the Hebron district are still suffering from the consequences of that horrific act. Baruch Goldstein [the Jewish terrorist who committed the massacre] is being celebrated as a hero [his grave in the nearby settlement

of KiryatArba has become a pilgrimage site] and the Israeli military is providing extensive security for the extremist settlers who live in the heart of Hebron and in large settlements that border the city.

In order to protect the 300 Jewish settlers who have illegally seized three large buildings in various parts of the center of town, the Israeli military has deployed over 1,000 heavily-armed soldiers. They have closed off major streets including large sections of Hebron's souq [the central market]. As a result, Arabs may no longer drive through Hebron. Instead they must travel all the way around the perimeter of the city.

One dozen newly constructed metal gates provide the Israeli military with the ability to shut down the entire city center, at will. The scene in this once bustling souq area of Hebron is simultaneously frightening and depressing. Where thousands of Palestinians once strolled and shopped, there are now empty streets, many closed shops (some remain almost defiantly open, but no one comes to buy anything).

Few Arabs can be seen, only the children of Jewish settlers playing in the street or harassing those Arabs who still work in the center of their city, and Israeli soldiers and civilian settlers. Hebrew graffiti abounds on the walls of Arab shops: stars of David, and Hebrew slogans reading "Death to the Arabs" and "Goldstein is our Hero." The settlers' children have free reign to play, to harass, and to deface Arab properties.

The stress that this environment places on Hebron, a city of over 120,000 people, is obvious. It is equally disruptive to the well-being of the additional 150,000 Palestinians who live in the neighboring towns and villages.

To protect the settlers traveling from the nearby settlement of KiryatArba, the Israeli military has established numerous checkpoints and closed side roads. The situation is absurd. Residents from two Palestinian villages with combined populations of 30,000 can no longer drive the short distance into Hebron to shop and visit relatives and friends. The road they would have taken has been cut by military blockades at two points, roughly 50 meters apart. Arabs driving from the villages must park on one side, walk to the next barricade where they can take a taxi into Hebron. On their return, they must reverse this same process.

The checkpoints are even more disturbing. On a virtually deserted road, a row of Arab cars wait at a checkpoint while young Israeli soldiers sit under an umbrella ignoring them. The drivers bake in the sun for 10 minutes or more as the Israeli's decide, on a whim, to let one pass and then, many minutes later, to let another pass. Holding them and letting them pass - for no reason other to demonstrate that they are in control.

Violence is a part of everyday life in Hebron. While shootings of Palestinians were a frequent occurrence, an Israeli human rights organization recently reported that the Israeli military has apparently changed tactics and now uses random beatings to make their point. The report documents hundreds of beatings per month. The reasons given by the soldiers for the beatings range from punishment for illegal parking to "just having fun."

There are other examples of the violence visited upon Hebron. One night, a month ago, while the city was in the midst of a six-week long curfew, the Israeli military massacred over 100 of the city's dogs.

## Ethiopian religious festival marred by bloodshed

A year ago Firommissa Darasa barely made it out of Ethiopia's Irreecha festival alive, managing to escape from a deep ditch where dozens perished. The tragedy happened after police fired tear gas at anti-government protesters, sparking a stampede. Last year's bloodshed at the annual religious festival held by Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, the Oromo people, became a turning point in the months of anti-government protests which prompted the government to declare a nationwide state of emergency.

While dissatisfaction with Ethiopia's government still runs deep among the Oromos, last year's protests have since died down. Those planning to attend this year's Irreecha festival say they are hoping for the best when Sunday's gathering begins in the resort town of Bishoftu, southeast of the capital Addis Ababa. "I feel fear inside but if I don't come, the people around me won't come. This is our ancestral celebration and we will have to keep it," said one of the festival-goers, 28-year-old Firommissa.

## At least 50 killed

The Oromo people began protesting in late 2015, angered by a government proposal to expand Addis Ababa that they feared would deprive them of their land without proper compensation. Those tensions exploded at last year's Irreecha when activists took to the stage and began shouting anti-government slogans, prompting police to open fire with tear gas. At least 50 people were killed in the ensuing stampede, according to government figures. Activists put the toll much higher. Changes have been made this year at the festival grounds adjacent to a lake in the town 60 kilometers southeast of the capital.

A new open-air amphitheatre has been built and cobblestones laid on the ground, while the ditch that claimed so many lives last year has been fenced off. The presence of armed security forces was seen as exacerbating last year's chaos, but the Oromia regional government said this year there would be no weapons. "This year will be different because there



BISHOFTU, Ethiopia: File photo shows people looking at corpses of festival goers killed during a stampede in Bishoftu, Ethiopia. —AFP

will be no political involvement from the government and no security from them as well," said attendee Dachassa Gosa, 22.

## 'I am still angry'

Irreecha, or thanksgiving, is the most important annual festival of the Oromo people and it celebrates the end of the months-long rainy season and the upcoming harvest. While traditionally a time to give thanks and pray for prosperity and abundance, it has increasingly been an opportunity for the Oromos to assert their identity and criticize government policies they say marginalize them. Last year's deaths re-ignited the protests across the Oromo region, but this time the targets were government- and foreign-owned businesses, with several destroyed.

All told, the months of violence left more than 940 people dead, according to the government's human rights commission, while arrests topped 22,000. The

bloodshed only ended with the declaration of a state of emergency, which was lifted in August. However many Oromos feel their grievances were not addressed and sporadic strikes and protests still occur.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has urged the Ethiopian government to "act with restraint" this time around and to take measures to ensure there is no repeat of last year's tragedy, while calling for a proper investigation into what happened. "Certainly, if there were to be a return to what happened at least year's Irreecha, you would expect that would lead to much wider unrest," HRW researcher Felix Horne said. Oflaha Oromoo has travelled from a district hours away to join the celebration, but expects a more subdued event this weekend. "Personally, I am still angry, but we have to be patient and celebrate," he said. "This year we want to remember the people who died." —AFP



GAZA: Senior political leader Ismail Haniyeh (4th left) and Yahya Sinwar (3rd left) the new leader of the Hamas Islamist movement in the Gaza Strip attend a meeting with leaders of Palestinian factions in Gaza City. — AFP

## Palestinian unity tour: Rebirth or another false dawn?

**JERUSALEM:** West Bank-based Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah is to make his first visit to Gaza since 2015 tomorrow, in a fresh attempt to reconcile with the Islamist movement Hamas which rules the Israeli-blockaded coastal enclave. The trip by Hamdallah and several of his ministers aims to crown a rapprochement between Hamas and Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party after a decade of animosity and spurts of violence.

The talks are intended to prepare for a transfer of power in the Gaza Strip from Hamas to Abbas's Palestinian Authority. The renewed attempt at rapprochement, backed by Egypt, has the potential to impact both the Israeli-Palestinian dispute and the wider Middle East. For the two million residents of Gaza, the hope is to see an improvement in the miserable living conditions in the overcrowded and impoverished territory.

Battered by three wars with Israel since 2008, it is under Israeli and Egyptian blockade and suffers from severe water and electricity shortages, an economic slump and unemployment of more than 40 percent. Hamas and its rival Fatah, which dominates the

Palestinian Authority, have both expressed confidence that the latest unity initiative will fare better than the failures of the past. But among many questions to be answered is the central issue of whether Hamas is really prepared to give up its Gaza security apparatus and share power with the PA.

### Turn of the screw

Senior Hamas official Mussa Abu Marzuq has said there is "great hope" for the success of the reconciliation efforts but that disarming Hamas personnel is not on the agenda. "This never was nor will it be up for discussion," he said in a statement. Azzam Al-Ahmad, a leading Fatah member, said he was now "more optimistic of ending Palestinian division in Gaza than at any previous opportunity." But he said the PA must be able to fulfill its responsibilities, "including security, without any interference from any faction".

Hamas, blacklisted as a terrorist group by the European Union and the United States, won a landslide victory in 2006 Palestinian parliamentary elections. It ousted Fatah from Gaza the following year after wrangling over the formation of a new government degen-

erated into bloody clashes. Since then, Abbas's limited power is confined to the West Bank which is under Israeli military occupation and located, at its nearest point, 40 kilometers from the Israel-Gaza border. The Palestinian schism is seen as a major obstacle to a peace agreement between Israel and a future Palestinian state combining the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Abbas has this year turned the screw on his rival, halting payments to Israel for electricity it supplies to Gaza, cutting the salaries of officials in the territory and limiting the number of Gazans given approval to receive medical treatment elsewhere. Hit by a fall in financial aid from longtime benefactor Qatar and facing the prospect of social unrest among disgruntled Gazans, the increasingly isolated Hamas finally agreed to demands from Abbas.

### Hot potato

Hamas is now waiting for Abbas to revoke his sanctions. "These measures will be cancelled the moment the Palestinian government takes over its responsibilities in Gaza," Fatah's Ahmad promised. Those respon-

sibilities include a PA takeover of Gaza border crossings with Egypt and Israel, he said. Other issues include the future of the tens of thousands of public officials hired by Hamas since 2007.

Ghassan Khatib of the West Bank's Birzeit University says Hamas's initiative is purely tactical. "Hamas seems to be trying to throw the hot potato into the lap of the Palestinian Authority," he said. Analyst Jihad Harb said Egypt was the key player. "It is evident that this time it is playing a serious role, not only in sponsoring reconciliation but in actually implementing it."

An Egyptian delegation is to monitor the return of central government to Gaza. Harb said there were signs of wider international support for the plan too. "So far, we have not seen any American or Israeli veto of the reconciliation as in the past," he said. "It is clear there is an international will, whether at the European Union or at the United Nations, to achieve the reconciliation." The UN special envoy for the Middle East, Nickolay Maldenov, said the chance must be grasped. "If we miss this opportunity, I don't think another opportunity will come anytime soon," he said. — AFP

## Dubai dreams of flying...

Continued from Page 1

amount and it's always much more cheaper to have a system where you don't need that infrastructure." Driving in Dubai already makes one yearn for the open skies. Rush hour on Sheikh Zayed Road, a dozen-lane artery running down the length of the city, alternates between dense gridlock and sports-car slalom. Over 1.5 million Dubai-registered vehicles ply its roads, not counting those crowding in from the United Arab Emirates' six other sheikhdoms.

The Volocopter's designers envision the electric, battery-powered

two-seat helicopters taking off and landing from pads set up across the city. The prototype used in Dubai has a maximum flying time of 30 minutes at 50 kph, with a maximum airspeed of 100 kph. Batteries charged in climate-controlled areas near the pads would be swapped in as needed. "I believe (the) urban air taxi will contribute an interesting addition to the existing transportation modes," Volocopter CEO Florian Reuter said. "There are certain routes that are just extremely beneficial if you can go to the third dimension."

In practice, however, there's a long way to go. Convincing white-knuckled flyers to get into a buzzing, pilotless helicopter is just the beginning. Unpiloted passenger flights represent a new frontier for regulators. Dubai's Road and Transportation Authority, which has invested an undisclosed sum in Volocopter, says it will work the next five years to come up with laws and develop safety procedures. — AP

On Friday, tractors paraded through Barcelona, some decked with the "Estelada", the separatists' flag of red-and-yellow stripes with a white star on a blue chevron. They and firefighters have pledged to protect polling stations. From district to district, people gathered to form "Committees to protect the referendum", using the Telegram messaging app to get organized and urging everyone to remain peaceful, said an AFP correspondent who saw some of the messages. The move appeared to be partly coordinated by a platform of "schools open for the referendum."

### Mobilization will continue

Carles Riera, a lawmaker in the regional parliament for the radical CUP party, part of Catalonia's separatist coalition, vowed that mobilization would continue after today's vote-if the "yes" camp won but Madrid opposed the result, as is almost certain. "We're in a process of popular mobilization that is going to last a while," he told reporters. "This democratic wave, this level of auto-organization will have to keep going for a long time to defend the republic." On Friday, Spain's education ministry said in a statement that head teachers in Catalonia "were not exempt from liability" if they cooperated and allowed their schools to remain open for the vote.

Some schools have imagined innovative ways to circumvent an order that public spaces cannot be used for the referendum by organizing leisure activities all over the weekend, from pyjama parties for the kids to volleyball games. Barcelona's Joan Brossa high school, for instance, advertised a series of activities, including film screenings, football matches and Zumba dance fitness classes. It remained unclear though how people would be able to enter sealed-off schools today to vote, even if they are occupied. — AFP

cussed the process of developing, protecting, funding and commercializing innovations and inventions in surgery. The "so you want to be a surgeon..." workshop was aimed at residents and medical students included topics relating to what it takes to be a surgeon, residency programs, fellowships, transition into private practice, academia and more.

The "Stop the Bleed" provided a hands-on training opportunity targeting multiple approaches with stations centered on the theme "Stop the Bleed". In addition to plenary lectures, participants were able to interactively participate and learn experientially at the many stations through the use of simulation of real-life scenarios, including stress inoculation with managing bleeding simulations.

One of the main highlights of the conference was the launch of the national campaign "Stop the Bleed." The campaign is a joint national endeavor between the Kuwait Association of Surgeons, the Kuwait Chapter of the American College of Surgeons and the Ministry of Health. The campaign aims to educate and train the public, healthcare professionals and government agencies to improve accident outcomes by learning to manage bleeding in accidental situations.

## New health fees take effect

Continued from Page 1

MoH workers, their husbands and children do not pay for X-ray fees and nuclear medical treatment at the public hospitals and clinics. Dr Al-Shatti has also noted that non-Kuwaitis of special needs are to be treated on same par with citizens of same challenges with respect of artificial limbs. The minister of health has issued two decisions raising medical care costs for the expatriates, effective as of today.

Public hospitals and polyclinics in

Kuwait will start collecting the increased fees for services offered to expatriates today. The Health Ministry reportedly sent lists containing the new fees to local medical facilities, which include charging KD 5 for visiting the Emergency Department of general hospital, KD 10 for going to outpatients clinics, KD 10 per day for inpatients, KD 30 for staying at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), KD 50 for the private room and KD 200 as deposit. As for maternity, KD 10 will be collected per visit, in addition to KD 50 paid for normal delivery. — Agencies

## Police seal off polling...

Continued from Page 1

As such, it has Spaniards the country over worried. In Spain's major cities, Madrid, Barcelona, Sevilla, Santander, Alicante, Valencia and Malaga, thousands protested for Spanish unity. "We shouldn't have got to this point. We've arrived at a point of no return," said Fernando Cepeda, a 58-year-old engineer, a Spanish flag tied around his waist in front of Madrid's city hall.

### Call to remain peaceful

Catalan separatist leaders and organizers of "committees to protect the referendum" stressed that everyone must remain peaceful. In one incident, though, someone fired a pellet gun on Friday night at a group of people standing in front of an occupied high school in the Catalan town of Manlleu, lightly injuring three people, police said.

The referendum has sown divisions among Catalans themselves, with the region deeply split on independence, even if a large majority want to be allowed to settle the matter in a legal vote. Authorities in Madrid have instructed police to ensure no votes are cast in a referendum that the courts have ruled unconstitutional. For days, they have been seizing electoral items such as ballot papers while prosecutors have ordered the closure of websites linked to the vote and the detention of key members of the team organizing the referendum. But those for the vote have mobilized.

## Big strides in medical...

Continued from Page 1

in medicine and perspectives on regulation and reimbursement. Dr Salman Al-Sabah, conference president and a member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons stated that "Through the establishment of the Kuwait Association of Surgeons and the Kuwait chapter of the ACS, we hope to achieve an increase in the overall quality of medical services in Kuwait. We will do this with the creation of educational opportunities for surgeons and the promotion of the exchange of knowledge and development of skills between surgeons locally, regionally and internationally as well as through meetings like this, workshops and the publication of national surgical journals and periodicals."

The conference also included workshops. The "I have an idea, now what?" featured many local innovators and inventors. It outlined the process of innovation to take an idea from concept to creation. It dis-

## Bursa Kuwait promoted ...

Continued from Page 1

economy, forecasting positive impact on most enlisted leading and operating companies.

Bursa Kuwait's elevation is the result of Kuwait's string of economic and legislations' reforms and amendments, Al-Sanea said. Moreover, the move will turn attention of global investment conglomerates to the Kuwaiti banks and services' companies, thus the traded liquidity will grow. He expressed hope that the bourse company would find a formula balancing legislations with facilities for the traders, instead of being stiff in enforcing the regulations.

Salah Al-Sultan, an advisor at Arzak Capital company eyes the bourse placing at this eminent international status as a "normal fruit" of the steps that have been taken by the Capital Market Authority and the bourse, which is managed by the private sector. Among the forecast positive results are greater trades, in terms of turnover and number of trades, luring foreign funds; an eventuality that will lead to higher liquidity, he added.

Anticipating the promotion, some traders have been assembling blue chips, particularly those under Kuwait-15 index, he observes, anticipating that this tendency will persist further. Bursa Kuwait will witness noticeable rebound in the coming week's sessions, Al-Sultan predicts, also expecting record rally by companies' shares, expected to be enlisted by the FTSE.

Mohammad Al-Tarrah of the Traders Society affirms that the promotion will make the Kuwaiti market much more attractive and will result in enlarging the liquidity. Liquidity, Al-Tarrah believes, will swell to KD 100 million (\$327 million) per session once non-Kuwait investments enter the market. Issam

Al-Tawari of New Perry Consulting Company cautioned that some foreign traders might be concerned about their interests if they join Kuwaiti groups, noting that concern must be devoted to sustainable enlisting by the FTSE, with respect of sensitive factors such as risks, transparency and protecting small investors.

Khaled Al-Khaled, the bourse CEO, has affirmed the approach to meet the terms for promoting the national bourse, noting that the development would result in increasing the liquidity, shoring up the market and acknowledging the government success in granting leading role for the private sector in developing the economy. The new FTSE status has been a key objective of Bursa since the inception in April last year, he said. It highlights its mission to enhance the current level of performance in Kuwait, enable Bursa Kuwait to compete with regional peers and build a market reflecting the strength, depth and flexibility of the Kuwaiti private sector. Al-Khaled noted.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Bursa Kuwait Talal Al-Ghanim has affirmed significance of promoting the bourse to level of an emerging market however he cautions that luring foreign capitals will require enormous efforts. In a statement released hours after The Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) Russel promoted Bursa Kuwait to an emerging market, Al-Ghanim noted that this accomplishment came "within framework of implementing the Government approach outlined in the document stipulating reforms" for financial and economic back-up. Al-Ghanim congratulated His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, the Kuwaiti people and all concerned parties for this substantial historic achievement. — Agencies

## Sports

## Guardiola reveals Spain ambition

LONDON: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has revealed he wants to coach Spain in the future. Former Spain midfielder Guardiola is in his second season with City after successful spells at Barcelona and Bayern Munich. The 46-year-old failed to win a trophy in his first year in England, but City have emerged as early pace setters in the Premier League title race this season. While Guardiola has no plans to leave City any time soon, he admitted he is keen to test his skills at international level. Asked whether he would like to take charge of a national team, Guardiola told BBC's Football Focus: "Yes, Spain I think. "I would like to be a manager in a World Cup, and the European Cup (European Championships), I would like to feel that." After a chastening first season at City, Guardiola spent big on new signings before the new campaign. The early results are promising, but he knows he must deliver silverware soon to keep City's Abu Dhabi-based owners happy. "I am so happy to be here," he added. —AFP



## Stokes' alleged victim a former soldier: Report

LONDON: The man allegedly punched by England cricket team vice-captain Ben Stokes is a former British Army soldier who served in Afghanistan, the Daily Telegraph revealed. Stokes is being investigated over accusations of causing actual bodily harm following an incident outside a night club in the early hours of Monday morning in the southwest city of Bristol. The 26-year-old who was suspended by England along with team-mate Alex Hales on Thursday, a day after video footage of the incident was published by the Sun newspaper—is accused of punching Ryan Hale, also 26. Stokes's place on the tour of Australia hangs in the balance and the all-rounder's absence would deal a serious blow to the tourists' hopes of retaining the Ashes. Hale's mother—with whom he lives—told the Daily Telegraph her son is not an 'aggressive type' adding that the former soldier "is not OK and it is not something that happens on a daily basis". —AFP

## China FA bans Villas-Boas for eight games over ref 'insult'

BEIJING: China's Football Association has slapped an eight-game touchline ban on Shanghai SIPG coach Andre Villas-Boas for lobbing an "insult" at a referee, effectively ending his Super League season. The association said on its website that Villas-Boas was fined 40,000 yuan (\$6,000) as well as barred from the touchline for four Chinese Super League games and four other "official games" hosted by the FA. The ban comes as Shanghai SIPG are four points behind league leaders Guangzhou Evergrande with just four games to go in the championship. The FA said the Portuguese manager "insulted" and made "insulting gestures" at the referee during the 78th minute of Shanghai SIPG's 1-0 victory over Beijing Guoan on September 22. "Respect for the rules, referees, fans, opponents and the game is what we asked of all football players," the FA said. Villas-Boas was already banned for two games by the FA earlier this season over a social media post. —AFP



## Hamilton takes pole position for Malaysian GP, Vettel to start last

SEPANG: Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes pulled out the stops to seize pole position for the Malaysian Grand Prix in an inspiring display of speed, even as a power unit problem stranded left title rival Sebastian Vettel in the garage. The championship leader scorched the 5.5-kilometre long Sepang track in one minute 30.076 seconds, the fastest lap ever set at the track, to beat Kimi Raikkonen and birthday boy

Singapore, with Hamilton capitalising from fifth to win. The gap between the pair is the biggest it has been all year and if Hamilton triumphs today, with Vettel lower than second, the Briton will not need to win another race to clinch his fourth title.

The Malaysian Grand Prix has never been won from lower than eighth on the grid. But retired champion Nico Rosberg recovered to third last year after a spin at the start dropped him to the back of the field.

## RAIN THREAT

Rain is also an ever-present threat in Malaysia and a typical tropical downpour could also aid Vettel in his recovery. The four-times champion's qualifying setback left the way clear for Hamilton to take the 70th pole position of his career which makes the 32-

year-old, who surpassed Michael Schumacher's record haul of pole positions with his 69th at Monza, the first driver to reach the landmark.

It was also his ninth of the season and fifth in Malaysia. But, even with Vettel out of contention it did not come easy, with Mercedes having struggled all weekend to extract pace from their car. Hamilton's team mate Bottas was only fifth.

"Those laps, particularly the first Q3 lap, was very well put together, very nice lap, I don't really know where it came from to be honest," Hamilton, whose first flying lap in the final part of qualifying remained his fastest, said.

"It's a surprise to be up here. I'm very



SEPANG: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain, center, poses for photograph after taking pole position after the qualifying round for the Malaysian Formula One Grand Prix in Sepang, Malaysia, yesterday. —AP

grateful." Daniel Ricciardo, who led Verstappen in a one-two for Red Bull in Malaysia last year, will start fourth. He will share the second row of the grid with the Dutchman who engaged in a bit of fun banter with Raikkonen after qualifying.

"I don't want to be sandwiched," said Verstappen, pincered by the Ferraris in the opening-lap Singapore crash. "I don't want to be hit," responded Raikkonen. Frenchman Pierre Gasly, drafted in as a last-minute replacement

for under-performing Russian Daniil Kvyat at Toro Rosso, will make his Formula One debut from 15th on the grid. 21-year-old lost out to Renault-bound team mate Carlos Sainz by less than two-tenths of a second. —Reuters

'The gap between the pair is the biggest'



Max Verstappen in a hard-fought session. Vettel, however, failed to set a time and will start dead last in yet another blow to his title hopes, after a power unit issue on his first flier in the opening phase of qualifying forced him to limp back to the pits. "I went out, everything was fine and then during the flying lap in turn five very abruptly I lost power," Ferrari's Vettel, who had an engine change before qualifying after running into problems at the end of yesterday's final practice session, told reporters.

Vettel trails Hamilton by 28 points in the overall standings heading into today's race. The German crashed out of pole position on the opening lap of the last race in

## Olympics could be hot topic in next round of NHL, CBA talks

NEW YORK: Going to the Olympics was a life-changing experience for T.J. Oshie, a shootout star for the United States against Russia in Sochi. Oshie and dozens, if not hundreds, of NHL stars are disappointed they won't get a chance to do it again at the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea. He would like to ensure Olympic participation in the future - but not at any cost.

"To what end, like what we would have to give up?" Oshie said. "Now you're talking about an entire league of players and families potentially losing out on whatever it would be. ... What we'd be giving up would affect everybody. It's a tough talk."

Because Olympic participation wasn't written into the collective bargaining agreement signed in 2013, the decision rested with NHL owners, who decided against going to Pyeongchang after the league participated in the previous five Games. With the first chance for players or owners to opt out of the CBA now two years away, the Olympics, escrow payments and the draft age look like they are bound to be among the hot topics.

NHL Players' Association executive director Donald Fehr said owners choosing to skip the 2018 Olympics "is a thorn, is a sore" for players and is "not going to be forgotten." "I think it is clearly something the players are going to want to think long and hard about when they get to the point of formulating their positions," Fehr said. "I

would not be at all surprised if they wanted to make this an issue around which they felt very strongly in terms of the overall agreement because you have to remember that while it's true that roughly a fifth of the players play in any particular set of Games, everyone would like the opportunity to go."

Dallas Stars center Tyler Seguin said not going to the Olympics "kind of makes you angry." Seguin added: "We're going to have to figure something out for future players and for our future in general as a game."

The future of the game likely will involve increased international events that help grow revenue and spread hockey's influence around the world. The Los Angeles Kings and Vancouver Canucks recently played in Shanghai and Beijing, site of the 2022 Olympics, with the NHL attempting to make inroads in China. The NHL and NHLPA staged the return of the World Cup of Hockey last year in Toronto, and the Colorado Avalanche and Ottawa Senators will play two games in Sweden in November. Fehr said the NHL has "for some time now indicated a lot more interest in China" than in Korea. But Commissioner Gary Bettman said in several meetings with Chinese businesses and government entities "not one of them asked about the Olympics because what we're doing isn't about two weeks." The NHL is interested in China, and it wouldn't hurt the

players' Olympic chances if Salt Lake City or Calgary lands the 2026 Winter Games, but the topic of ensuring participation is not an easy one for upcoming negotiations. "For us to say that there's a change of heart, there's obviously going to have to be a change in circumstance, including how the (International Olympic Committee) and the (International Ice Hockey Federation) view our participation," said Bettman, who noted that neither side is currently focused on reopening CBA talks.

"I have no idea what the Players' Association will raise in that regard. But we were clear in the last round of bargaining that we needed the ability not to go to the Olympics because we understood how disruptive they are to the season."

After 147 NHL players participated in Sochi, much of the reaction inside locker rooms to the NHL's decision on Korea wasn't positive. At the very least, a handful of players said they'd like to know in advance about the Olympics so it doesn't come down to the wire like it did last time.

"I think it's important that we address it so that it's a done issue, whether it be that we're not going or we're going," Anaheim Ducks center Ryan Getzlaf said. "I don't think we want to leave it open to interpretation every year that it goes on."

One thing that hasn't been open to interpretation since 2013 is players having some of their pay held in escrow to compensate for the 50/50 split of revenue with owners. Last season, players had 15.5 percent of their pay withheld and many have expressed displeasure with the system.

Fehr said changes could be made to the escrow system, but added that it has always been his view that salary caps "cause all kinds of problems." —AP



KFH's PR team with Kuwait Jet Ski team

## KFH sponsors Kuwait national jet ski team

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) renewed its strategic partnership with Kuwait Sea Sports Club in supporting and sponsoring Kuwait National Jet Ski team on taking part in the World Jet Ski Championship in USA for the eighth year in a row.

This sponsorship is part of KFH's social responsibility activities towards both the society and individuals including outstanding sportsmen who have been international achievements and hoisting Kuwait's name high in international competitions.

Commenting on the occasion, KSSC's Chairman of Board, Maj General, Fahad Al-Fahad highly appreciated KFH's efforts.

## Garcia overpowers Barty, storming to Wuhan title

WUHAN: Caroline Garcia overpowered Australia's Ashleigh Barty 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 to claim her first Wuhan Open title yesterday in a thrilling see-saw final in the Chinese city. Ranked 20 in the world, Garcia battled her way through two tight sets against Barty before breezing the third to claim the biggest title of her career in two hours and 43 minutes. "It was such a fight all the week and especially today," the French player said after the match.

"A title is the best thing you can have in tennis, that's why you fight all year long. I'm over the moon for sure." —AFP

Sports

# Boston Red Sox fail to clinch AL East title again after loss to Astros

## Playoff-chasing Rockies homer 4 times to beat Dodgers 9-1

**BOSTON:** The Boston Red Sox once again failed to clinch the AL East, losing 3-2 to Alex Bregman and the Houston Astros on Friday night. The magic number for the Red Sox remained at one. Boston leads the New York Yankees by two games - both teams have two games left and they are each assured playoff spots. If Boston and New York wind up even, they will play a one-game tiebreaker tomorrow at Yankee Stadium for the division crown, with the loser going to the wild-card game. Bregman homered and drove in three runs for Houston, which reached 100 wins for the second time in team history. Charlie Morton (14-7) pitched into the sixth inning, and Ken Giles got three outs for his 34th save.

### ROCKIES 9, DODGERS 1

Nolan Arenado hit the first of Colorado's four homers, and Chad Bettis picked up his second win since his return from testicular cancer. The Rockies have two games remaining and hold a two-game lead over Milwaukee for the second NL wild card. Mark Reynolds, Charlie Blackmon and Trevor Story also connected for Colorado. Bettis (2-4) allowed one run over seven innings. Los Angeles' Hyun-Jin Ryu (5-9) allowed five runs over two innings. It was his shortest outing this season.

### BREWERS 5, CARDINALS 3

Stephen Vogt homered and drove in three runs, Chase Anderson pitched seven solid innings, and Milwaukee kept its playoff hopes alive. The Brewers entered two games behind the Rockies for the second NL wild card. Milwaukee has won four of its last six games. Anderson (12-4) allowed one run and three hits in his fourth win in

highest total since coming to the major leagues, and the playoff-bound Yankees won for the fourth time in five games. Tanaka (13-12) retired his first 14 batters before Ezequiel Carrera reached on an infield single up the middle. Aroldis Chapman worked the ninth for his 21st save in 25 chances. Greg Bird had two hits and two RBIs for New York, and Aaron Judge also drove in a run. Toronto right-hander Joe Biagini (3-13) allowed three runs and six hits in five innings.

### MARLINS 6, BRAVES 5

Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton had two hits, but remained at 59 home runs. Marcell Ozuna drove in three runs for Miami, which trailed 5-0 heading into the sixth inning. Adam Conley (8-8) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win, and Brad Ziegler got two outs for his 10th save. The Marlins scored four times in the seventh. Justin Bour's two-run single gave Miami a 6-5 lead. The Marlins also got run-scoring singles from Ozuna and Stanton off Dan Winkler (0-1). Ozzie Albies and Lane Adams homered for Atlanta.

### CUBS 5, REDS 4

Ian Happ hit a three-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning, and the Cubs won for the 14th time in 17 games. With a second straight NL Central title in hand and their sights set on another World Series championship, the Cubs held sluggers Anthony Rizzo and Kris Bryant out of the lineup. Trailing 4-2 in the eighth, Tommy La Stella started the rally with a one-out single against Amir Garrett. Taylor Davis then singled to third off Michael Lorenzen (8-4). After Kyle Schwarber struck out, Happ drove his 24th homer to left. Brian Duensing (1-1) pitched a scoreless eighth. Justin Grimm worked the ninth for his first save in three chances.

### NATIONALS 6, PIRATES 1

Stephen Strasburg pitched 7 2/3 shutout innings for Washington, and Ryan Zimmerman homered twice. Strasburg (15-4) gave up two hits, struck out eight and walked two. He is 5-1 with a 0.84 ERA since returning from the disabled list on Aug. 19. Zimmerman hit a two-run homer in the sixth and a solo shot in the eighth for the NL East champions. It was his seventh multihomer game of the season.

### INDIANS 10, WHITE SOX 1

Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run double for the AL Central champion Indians, and Jay Bruce and Jose Ramirez drove in two runs apiece. Cleveland maintained its one-game lead over Houston for the best record in the AL with two games remaining. The top seed will play the winner of the wild-card game between the Yankees and Twins in the Division Series. The Indians' 101 victories are the second-most in franchise history and set a record for wins by an AL Central team. Cleveland's Trevor Bauer (17-9) allowed one run over six innings. Cleveland built a 10-0 lead after three innings, aided by six walks from Mike Pelfrey (3-12) and an error by shortstop Tim Anderson.

### ROYALS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Kansas City's Ian Kennedy picked up his first home



**BOSTON:** Boston Red Sox's Rajai Davis reacts after striking out to end the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros at Fenway Park in Boston, Friday. — AP

victory in more than a year. Kennedy (5-13) snapped a franchise record of 18 winless home starts, holding the postseason-bound Diamondbacks to one run in five innings. It was his first Kauffman Stadium victory since Aug. 20, 2016. Jake Lamb hit his 30th homer in the second for Arizona. Zack Greinke (17-7) allowed two runs in four-plus innings in his final tuneup before starting the wild-card game Wednesday in Phoenix against Colorado or Milwaukee.

### RANGERS 5, ATHLETICS 3

Shin-Soo Choo tied a career high with his 22nd home run, helping Texas end a seven-game skid. Rangers left-hander Martin Perez (13-12) allowed three runs in six-plus innings. The 13 wins are a career high for Perez and the loss guaranteed Oakland would finish last in the AL West. A's catcher Bruce Maxwell took a knee during the national anthem and was booed by a portion of the crowd before and after the song. It was the first time Maxwell has taken a knee on the field in an opposing ballpark. Oakland's Raul Alcantara (1-2) was charged with four runs in 4 1/3 innings. Alex Claudio worked a scoreless ninth for his 11th save.

### RAYS 7, ORIOLES 0

Evan Longoria and Logan Morrison homered, and Tampa Bay clinched third place in the AL East. Longoria hit a leadoff drive in the fifth against Wade Miley (8-15), marking Longoria's fifth straight 20-homer season and the ninth of his 10-year career. Morrison hit his 38th homer off Chris Tillman in the seventh. Rays starter Jake Odorizzi

left his final start of the season after four innings with a sore right knee. Brad Boxberger (4-4) got the win.

### PHILLIES 6, METS 2

Maikel Franco, Jorge Alfaro and Cesar Hernandez homered, powering Philadelphia to the victory. Earlier in the day, the Phillies (65-95) announced manager Pete Mackanin would not return to the dugout in 2018. Mackanin was given a role as a senior adviser to general manager Matt Klentak. Jose Reyes and Dominic Smith connected for New York, which had won three in a row. Matt Harvey (5-7) allowed four runs and seven hits in four innings. Ben Lively (4-7) pitched six effective innings for Philadelphia.

### GIANTS 8, PADRES 0

Buster Posey hit three RBI doubles, Brandon Crawford drove in three runs and had three hits, and San Francisco ensured it won't finish with a 100-loss season. Joe Panik added a run-scoring double among his four hits to back Chris Stratton (4-4). The Giants needed one victory in the final series of the season to avoid their first 100-loss year since 1985. Jordan Lyles (1-5) took the loss.

### ANGELS 6, MARINERS 5

Mike Trout hit two homers and Los Angeles rallied past Seattle. Luis Valbuena had a two-run, pinch-hit double to cap a four-run comeback in the eighth inning. Blake Wood (2-0) pitched the eighth to earn the win and Blake Parker got his eighth save. Marc Rzepczynski (2-2) was the losing pitcher. — AP



## Brian Dozier hit a 3-run homer in the second inning

his last five starts. Cardinals rookie shortstop Paul DeJong hit his 25th homer in the fourth. John Gant (0-1) allowed four runs in five innings in his second start of the season.

### TWINS 6, TIGERS 3

Brian Dozier hit a three-run homer in the second inning, leading Minnesota to the victory. Eduardo Escobar also homered and drove in three runs, helping the Twins bail Kyle Gibson out of a 3-0 deficit after an RBI triple by Alex Presley and a two-run home run by Nicholas Castellanos. Gibson was removed after 4 2/3 innings, so Jose Berrios (14-8) was credited with the win after recording four outs in a tune-up relief outing. Matt Belisle notched his ninth save with a perfect ninth inning for the Twins, who will visit New York or Boston on Tuesday in the AL wild-card game. Detroit's Matt Boyd (6-11) allowed five runs in five innings.

### YANKEES 4, BLUE JAYS 0

Masahiro Tanaka struck out 15 over seven innings, his

## Another win gives Phil Mickelson all-time record at Presidents Cup

**JERSEY CITY:** Phil Mickelson won the 25th Presidents Cup match of his career yesterday, a record one better than fellow American Tiger Woods. Mickelson achieved the mark when he teamed up with Kevin Kisner to beat the International duo of Jhonattan Vegas and Emiliano Grillo 2&1 in a morning foursomes match at Liberty National.

Mickelson also became the most successful player in foursomes, with 12 career victories—one more than Woods, who is an assistant captain this week.

The 47-year-old Mickelson, who has played every Presidents Cup since the event was created in 1994, deflected praise, instead heaping compliments on Kisner. "He drives it like a stallion and putts even better than that... pulling out the best golf in me," Mickelson said.

Mickelson improved his career record in the Cup to 25 wins, 16 losses and 13 losses. US captain Steve Stricker rewarded Mickelson with a rest, sitting him out of the afternoon four-ball matches. With the Americans enjoying a nearly insurmountable 11-1/2 to 2-1/2 lead, Mickelson's absence was not likely to be missed.

Stricker, suffering an embarrassment of riches, also rested Rickie Fowler, Kisner and Matt Kuchar. Price benched Adam Scott after three straight losses, continuing the Australian's miserable week, his woes compounded by the defeat of his beloved Adelaide Crows in the Australian Football League grand final overnight.

Price also omitted Canadian Adam Hadwin, Argentine Emiliano Grillo and



**JERSEY CITY:** Phil Mickelson and Kevin Kisner of the US Team react on the eighth green after winning the hole against Emiliano Grillo of Argentina. — AFP

South African Charl Schwartzel.

### DRAW FOR AFTERNOON FOUR-BALL MATCHES, (US names first):

Jordan Spieth/Patrick Reed v Jason Day/Louis Oosthuizen Justin Thomas/Daniel Berger v Hideki

Matsuyama/Jhonattan Vegas Charley Hoffman/Kevin Chappell v Kim Si-woo/Anirban Lahiri Dustin Johnson/Brooks Koepka v Branden Grace/Marc Leishman (Reporting by Andrew Both; Editing by Clare Fallon). —Reuters

## Rory McIlroy back in the groove at British Masters

**NEWCASTLE:** Rory McIlroy produced his lowest European Tour score in over two years with a sizzling six-under par 64 on day three of the British Masters at Close House in Newcastle yesterday. McIlroy didn't drop a shot in managing six birdies to move to a share of the clubhouse lead on 10-under par. He joined Swede David Lingmerth, who produced the lowest round of the week, an eight-under par 62. But as McIlroy and Lingmerth enjoyed lunch, overnight leader Tyrrell Hatton was struggling early in his round. McIlroy did shoot a closing 64 in June's PGA Tour Travelers Championship in Connecticut, however his British Masters effort is a lowest European Tour round since a second round 64 on route to victory in the 2015 Dubai Desert Classic. It also boosted McIlroy's hopes of winning for a first time this season in what is his penultimate event of the year. "I felt today I got the most out of my round as I scrambled well when I needed to," he said. "Some of these three or four footers that you leave yourself are pretty tricky as the greens are soft, along with some heel prints and stuff, so I was just trying to make a committed stroke as I could and thankfully they did for me today."

"So, it was nice as I gave myself plenty of chances and it is always nice to be bogey-free, as well." After a no-frills opening two days, McIlroy finally gave the crowd something to cheer about, including chipping-in from pin high and left of the green at the par three, fifth hole. Then for a third day running McIlroy birdied the par five sixth hole ahead of birdying the ninth and 13th holes for a second occasion in three days. McIlroy moved to 10-under for the event holding a five-footer from behind the flag at the par three 17th. "The crowds out there were brilliant today with a lot of people out there, so it was nice to have that support," McIlroy said. "It was also nice to hit shots like that chip-in on five in front of them and give a nice reaction but it has been great all week including a huge number on the tee when I teed-off on Thursday." —AFP

## Sports economy course concludes

**KUWAIT:** The sports economics course, that was held under the patronage of Acting Director of Public Authority for Sports Dr Humoud Fulaitih concluded at the Abdallah Al-Salem Leaders Training Programs in the presence of representatives of clubs, associations and authorities.

Center Director Mahmoud Abul represented Dr Fulaitih in the ceremony, as the course continued for five days during which lectures on the world sports status and means of benefiting from economy and investment to develop sports federations

and clubs, and the possibility to turn clubs into companies to achieve the sought after goals. The course also dealt about the status of Kuwait sports and how problems can be overcome and go forward with the popular sport, and the expenditures on the rest of the games. Despite the large participation in the course, workers at the clubs were supposed to attend to benefit and get to know all what is new in the world of economics, investment, privatization and finance, which the country plans to implement soon.



## Sports

# Azhar defies Sri Lanka again with a fighting half century in first Test

## Azhar joins Pakistan's 5,000 Test club

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day in the first Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka yesterday in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Sri Lanka 1st innings	
Dimuth Karunaratne run out (Abbas, S. Ahmed)	93
Kaushal Silva b H. Ali	12
Lahiru Thirimanne lbw b Shah	0
Kusal Mendis c S. Ahmed b Shah	10
Dinesh Chandimal not out	155
Niroshan Dickwella b H. Ali	83
Dilruwan Perera lbw b Sohail	33
Rangana Herath c B. Azam b Shah	4
Suranga Lakmal lbw b Abbas	7
Lakshan Sandakan lbw b Abbas	8
Nuwan Pradeep b Abbas	0
Extras (lb-11 nb-3)	14
Total (all out, 154.5 overs)	419
Fall of wickets: 1-34 K. Silva, 2-35 L. Thirimanne, 3-61 K. Mendis, 4-161 D. Karunaratne, 5-295 N. Dickwella, 6-387 D. Perera, 7-396 R. Herath, 8-408 S. Lakmal, 9-419 L. Sandakan, 10-419 N. Pradeep	
Bowling: Mohammad Amir 27-5-63-0; Mohammad Abbas 26.5-0-75-3(nb-2); Yasir Shah 57-11-120-3; Hasan Ali 27-6-88-2(nb-1); Shan Masood 1-1-0-0; Haris Sohail 13-0-51-1; Asad Shafiq 3-0-11-0.	

Pakistan 1st innings	
Shan Masood b Herath	59
Sami Aslam lbw b D. Perera	51
Azhar Ali not out	74
Asad Shafiq c Thirimanne b Herath	39
Babar Azam c Dickwella b Pradeep	28
Extras (b-4 lb-9 nb-2)	15
Total (for 4 wickets, 112.4 overs)	266
Fall of wickets: 1-114 S. Aslam, 2-116 S. Masood, 3-195 A. Shafiq, 4-266 B. Azam	
To bat: H. Sohail, S. Ahmed, M. Amir, Y. Shah, M. Abbas, H. Ali	
Bowling: Suranga Lakmal 15-3-30-0(nb-1); Nuwan Pradeep 16.4-1-44-1; Dilruwan Perera 27-7-58-1(nb-1); Lakshan Sandakan 26-6-68-0; Rangana Herath 25-6-47-2; Dimuth Karunaratne 3-1-6-0.	

**ABU DHABI:** Azhar Ali once more rescued Pakistan's batting with a fighting half century on the third day of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The one-drop batsman was unbeaten on 74 but saw Babar Azam fell for 28 in the last over of the day as Pakistan finished on 266-4 on a Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch which has started to assist spinners. Pakistan still trail the Sri Lankan first innings total of 419 by 153 runs with six wickets intact.

Pakistan had pinned their hopes on Ali in the post Younis Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq era who retired in May this year after shouldering team's batting for nearly seven years. A cautious Ali made sure Pakistan do not concede a big lead in the first innings, having hit only one boundary in his 26th Test half century. In all Ali has so far hit three boundaries during his 297 minutes of batting. He added 79 for the third wicket with Asad Shafiq who made 39 to take the fight to Sri Lankan three-pronged spin attack.

Veteran left-arm spinner Herath was the most successful bowler with 2-47. When on 32, Ali also completed 5,000 Test runs in his 61st Test. He became the eighth Pakistan batsman behind Younis Khan (10,099), Javed Miandad (8832) Inzamam-ul-Haq (8829), Mohammad Yousuf (7530), Salim Malik (5768), Misbah (5222) and Zaheer Abbas (5062) to reach the milestone. But it was the opening pair of Shan Masood and Sami Aslam who set the platform for a big total by putting together a solid 114-run opening stand after they resumed at 64 without loss.

Sri Lanka, however, hit back by removing both openers in the space of two runs. Aslam, recalled after being dropped from the West Indies tour on disciplinary grounds earlier this year, was trapped leg-before by off-break bowler Dilruwan Perera. He hit four boundaries in his seventh Test half century. Two runs later Masood attempted a sweep shot off the wily Herath but missed the ball and was bowled round his legs. Pakistan had luck on their side with the reviews as



**ABU DHABI:** Pakistan's Asad Shafiq plays a shot during the third day at the first Test cricket match against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, yesterday. — AP

both Ali and Shafiq survived confident appeals. Ali wisely reviewed a leg-before decision off Perera, but the ball hit his bat before the pad. Shafiq was given not out on a review when he was stumped off Herath on

one. It was Herath who finally dislodged Shafiq when a sharp turner caught an edge off Shafiq's bat, deflected from wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella's thigh to slip where Lahiru Thirimanne took the catch. — AFP

## Kuwait SC wins, Qadisiya and Salmiya match ends in a brawl

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** It started as a football match between two top teams Qadisiya and Salmiya and ended in a brawl between four well established players Bader Al-Mutawa and Mohammad Al-Fahad from Qadisiya and Ahmad Abdelghafour and Mohammad Al-Suwaidan from Salmiya.

The fight was triggered by a reckless tackle by Ahmad Abdelghafour, and the fight ensued. A fan was arrested for being involved in the fight.

The match however ended in a 2-2 draw though tension was dominant, in the third round of Viva League.

The first half was balanced between the two teams and they exchanged attacks, so Salmiya placed an added pressure on Qadisiya to shake its defences and go through, but such attempts were to no avail. Qadisiya kept calm and disciplined and had several attacks that did not result in a score. In the 43rd minute, Qadisiya's Jordanian player Ahmad Al-Riyahi found the net and beat goalkeeper Sattam Al-Hussaini, but in the 45th minute, Salmiya's Uday Al-Saifi, also a Jordanian equalized.

Attempts continued, especially by Qadisiya whose players kept the pressure on Jahra's goal until Saleh Al-Sheikh was able to shoot at the goal that was thwarted away by Saddam Al-Hussein, and then Mohammad Al-Fahad was able to net the second goal in the 85th minute. Referee Saad Al-Fadhly gave Salmiya a penalty during the added time which Fahad Al-Rashidi scored the second equalizing goal.

\* In a highly anticipated match between the leader of Viva League Al-Jahra Sports Club and Kuwait Sports

Club. Kuwait took the opportunity and won the match by scoring the only goal in the match. This result moved Kuwait into first place with seven points, as Jahra dropped to second place with six points. Kuwait's only goal was scored by Brazilian Patrick Fabiano in the 80th minute of the match.

Meanwhile, the match between Arabi and Kazima ended in a 1-1 draw, which means both teams have two points each as they did not record any win since the season started.

Arabi Sports Club manager Mohamad Ibrahim started with a formation that included Nigerian forward Clement and Egyptian defender Shawqi Al-Saeed and had Ali Khalaf in the center keeping Talal Nayef out and had Jumaa Al-Enezi instead of Ahmad Ibrahim.

Arabi players had control of the ball in the middle, but did not have any threat against Kazima goal.

Kazima's manager Olivera from Portugal had Mushari Al-Azmi, Hamad Harby and Omar Hubaiter carrying out attacks in attempts to reach Suleiman Abdelghafour's goal, but could not do so.

The second half was better, as Arabi had a fast attack when Clement had a shot that went by the post. Kazima answered with a counter attack but goalkeeper Abdelghafour was able to block it.

Kazima was able to score its goal in the 56th minute by Johnson with an assist from Omar Hubaiter. Kazima then had several attacks until Arabi's Mohammad Furaih was able to score the equalizer in the 67th minute.

### STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	Goals	Pts
Kuwait	3	2	1	0	+4	7
Jahra	3	2	0	1	+1	6
Qadisiya	3	1	2	0	+2	5
Salmiya	3	1	2	0	+1	5
Nasar	3	1	0	2	-0	3
Arabi	3	0	2	1	-2	2
Tadhamon	3	0	1	2	-5	1



Arabi Sports Club goalkeeper stops the ball during the match.



**POTCHEFSTROOM:** South African bowler Andile Phehlukwayo (R) celebrates the dismissal of Bangladesh batsman Tamim Iqbal (L) during the third day of the first Test cricket match between South Africa and Bangladesh in Potchefstroom yesterday. — AFP

## S Africa takes lead to 230 over Bangladesh

**POTCHEFSTROOM:** South Africa took its lead to 230 runs over Bangladesh before bad light brought an end to day three of the first Test yesterday. South Africa was 54-2 in its second innings and in control of the series opener despite the early loss of its openers.

Bangladesh's bowlers slowed South Africa's progress with those strikes, some relief for the tourists after they conceded 496-3 declared in the first innings to immediately be under pressure in the test.

Hashim Amla, a century-maker in the first innings, was 17 not out at the close and Temba Bavuma was with him on 3 not out. Openers Dean Elgar and Aiden Markram fell within eight runs of each other, with Mustafizur Rahman and Shafiqul Islam collecting the wickets.

South Africa captain Faf du Plessis will likely face a tricky decision on day four in deciding how much of a lead is enough to put Bangladesh back in and push for victory. The pitch at Senwes Park is a good one for bat-

ting and hasn't appeared to deteriorate much in the first three days.

Earlier, Bangladesh was 320 all out in its first innings to surrender a deficit of 176 runs. Bangladesh clawed its way toward South Africa's big first-innings total with 77 from Mominul Haque and 66 from Mahmudullah. Bangladesh had four successive half-century partnerships, three of them involving Mominul, who made the highest test score by a Bangladesh player in South Africa.

But South Africa made sure neither of those two batsmen went on to a big score. Spinner Keshav Maharaj ended Mominul's resistance and finished with 3-92 to lead the South African attack. Morne Morkel made an important breakthrough 10 minutes before tea when he dismissed Mahmudullah with the second new ball. Taskin Ahmed was run out three balls later for 1 and South Africa made efficient use of that second new ball to remove the last five Bangladesh batsmen for just 28 runs.

Maharaj had Mominul out to a close catch at short leg in his 2-89. Duanne Olivier and Morkel struck in the space of three overs as Sabbir Rahman (30) and Mahmudullah both went by playing on to their own stumps before Taskin's run out. Taskin fell to a piece of slick fielding by Temba Bavuma at backward point, pulling off a diving stop and throwing to Markram to finish off the run out. —AP

### SCOREBOARD

**POTCHEFSTROOM, South Africa:** Scoreboard Saturday at stumps on day three of the first test between South Africa and Bangladesh:

<b>South Africa 1st Innings:</b> 496-3 declared		
<b>Bangladesh 1st Innings</b> (Overnight: 127-3)		
Liton Das c Amla b Morkel	25	
Imrul Kayes c Markram b Rabada	7	
Mominul Haque c Markram b Maharaj	77	
Mushfiqur Rahim c Markram b Maharaj	44	
Tamim Iqbal c De Kock b Phehlukwayo	39	
Mahmudullah b Morkel	66	
Sabbir Rahman b Olivier	30	
Mehidy Hasan Mirza c Elgar b Rabada	8	
Taskin Ahmed run out (Bavuma/Markram)	1	
Shafiqul Islam c Amla b Maharaj	2	
Mustafizur Rahman not out	10	
Extras: (lb, 9lb, Inb)	11	
Total: (all out)	320	
Overs: 89.1		
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-36, 3-103, 4-158, 5-227, 6-292, 7-304, 8-305, 9-308, 10-320.		
<b>Bowling:</b> Morne Morkel 19-7-51-2, Kagiso Rabada 24-5-84-2 (Inb), Keshav Maharaj 27-1-8-92-3, Duanne Olivier 11-1-52-1, Andile Phehlukwayo 6-2-18-1, Aiden Markram 2-0-13-0.		
<b>South Africa 2nd Innings</b>		
Aiden Markram c Liton Das b Mustafizur Rahman	15	
Dean Elgar lbw b Shafiqul Islam	18	
Hashim Amla not out	17	
Temba Bavuma not out	3	
Extras: (Inb)	1	
TOTAL: (for 2 wickets)	54	
Overs: 15.5		
Still to bat: Faf du Plessis, Quinton de Kock, Andile Phehlukwayo, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Morne Morkel, Duanne Olivier.		
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-38.		
Bowling: Mehidy Hasan Mirza 4-1-15-0, Shafiqul Islam 5-1-18-1, Mustafizur Rahman 4-1-7-1, Taskin Ahmed 2.5-0-14-0 (Inb).		

Sports

# In-form Kane scores two more, Tottenham beats Huddersfield 4-0

## Kane underlined again why he is Europe's hottest properties

**HUDDERSFIELD:** A Harry Kane masterclass ensured Tottenham cruised to a 4-0 victory against Huddersfield yesterday. Tottenham beat Cypriot champions APOEL Nicosia 3-0 courtesy of a brilliant Kane hat-trick on Tuesday and he was just as impressive in West Yorkshire, killing off Huddersfield inside the opening 20 minutes with two superbly taken goals.

Ben Davies got Tottenham's second and substitute Moussa Sissoko added a late fourth as the London side blew away David Wagner's men. The early kick-off gave Tottenham a chance to keep in touch with the Premier League leaders and they gleefully took that opportunity against a Huddersfield team with plenty of heart but little real quality. Asked if he has ever had a better spell, Kane said: "Probably not. If you look at the goals to games it's probably the best month I've had. "It's nice, I feel confident. When these boys are up the pitch putting in good crosses and through balls, I'm just there to put them away." Huddersfield have proven to be surprisingly durable in defence this term, keeping four clean sheets in their opening six league matches, but that was long forgotten during a 90 minutes they will want to forget. They were more than a match for Spurs early on as Tommy Smith had one fine long-range effort palmed away by Hugo Lloris and Rajiv van la Parra also saw Eric Dier block another opportunity.

However, Kane underlined again why he is one of Europe's hottest properties and why almost every major side in the world would love to have him. After nine minutes, Huddersfield's Chris Lowe was caught napping at the back, the England striker raced through

on goal and calmly slotted past Jonas Lossl to put Spurs ahead. It was the kind of cool and clinical finish that Premier League fans have come to expect from the 24-year-old. Wagner's side remained lively but the visitors moved the ball very quickly and it was not long before Davies had doubled their lead as Huddersfield's defence again failed to deal with Spurs' forward forays. After seven one-touch passes, the ball bobbed loose to Davies 16 yards out and he had all the time in the world to clip a shot past Lossl.

### WONDERFUL

Spurs were fortunate not to concede a penalty shortly after their second goal as Davinson Sanchez clumsily barged Elias Kachunga inside the area. But any hopes Huddersfield could get back into the contest were extinguished after 23 minutes when Kane scored a goal so good that even Huddersfield's fans applauded. Kane, with his back to goal and two defenders nearby, shrugged off their attention, swivelled and hit a wonderful curling effort past Lossl from 25 yards.

The strike was Kane's 13th in September alone and meant Spurs had scored three goals in three consecutive away performances. Huddersfield kept running but were fairly shell-shocked by the scoreline and Dele Alli could have made it four after 30 minutes but his close-range toe-poke hit the post from a tight angle.

Just before the break, Laurent Depoitre smashed an effort against the Spurs crossbar. Huddersfield certainly did not give up but they lacked the class needed to get back into the contest. Spurs took their foot off the accelerator after the restart and the entire game took a



**HUDDERSFIELD:** Tottenham Hotspur's Moussa Sissoko scores his side's fourth goal of the game during the English Premier League soccer match between Huddersfield Town and Tottenham Hotspur at the John Smith's Stadium, Huddersfield, England, yesterday. — AP

dip in quality as a result.

Dier and Christian Eriksen continued to harass Huddersfield but their impact was limited and Kane failed to see enough of the ball to cause further trou-

ble. Spurs took Eriksen off towards the end and his replacement Sissoko blasted one low effort straight at Lossl but then did better in stoppage-time, bundling home to seal the victory. —AFP

Live		Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
<b>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE</b>			
Arsenal v Brighton & Hove Albion	beIN SPORTS HD 2	14:00	
Everton v Burnley	beIN SPORTS HD 2	16:15	
Newcastle United v Liverpool	beIN SPORTS HD 2	18:30	
<b>SPANISH LEAGUE</b>			
Real Sociedad v Real Betis	beIN SPORTS HD 3	13:00	
Barcelona v Las Palmas	beIN SPORTS HD 3	17:15	
Valencia v Athletic de Bilbao	beIN SPORTS HD 3	19:30	
Villarreal v Eibar	beIN SPORTS HD 12 EN	19:30	
Real Madrid v Espanyol	beIN SPORTS HD 3	21:45	
<b>ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE</b>			
Napoli v Cagliari Calcio	beIN SPORTS HD 4	13:30	
Lazio v Sassuolo Calcio	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
Chievo Verona v Fiorentina	beIN SPORTS HD 8	16:00	
Torino v Hellas Verona	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
Benevento v Internazionale Milano	beIN SPORTS HD 4	16:00	
spal v Crotone	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
Milan v Roma	beIN SPORTS HD 4	19:00	
Atalanta v Juventus	beIN SPORTS HD 4	21:45	
<b>GERMAN LEAGUE</b>			
Freiburg v Hoffenheim	beIN SPORTS HD 6	14:30	
Hertha Berlin v Bayern Munich	beIN SPORTS HD 5	16:30	
Koln v Leipzig	beIN SPORTS HD 5	19:00	
<b>FRENCH LEAGUE</b>			
Troyes v Saint Etienne	beIN SPORTS HD 12 EN	16:00	
Angers v Olympique Lyonnais	beIN SPORTS HD 6	18:00	
Nice v Olympique Marseille	beIN SPORTS HD 6	22:00	

## Dortmund go clear despite Aubameyang penalty howler

**BERLIN:** Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's miserable week continued as he missed a penalty but Borussia Dortmund still ground out a 2-1 win at Augsburg yesterday to extend their Bundesliga lead. Star striker Aubameyang followed on his poor performance in Tuesday's 3-1 Champions League defeat at home to Real Madrid by firing a weak penalty straight at Augsburg goalkeeper Marwin Hitz 10 minutes from time. Despite last season's Bundesliga top-scorer squandering the chance to kill off the game, it didn't prove costly as goals from Andriy Yarmolenko and Japan international Shinji Kagawa either side of Caiuby's equaliser sent Dortmund five points clear at the top.

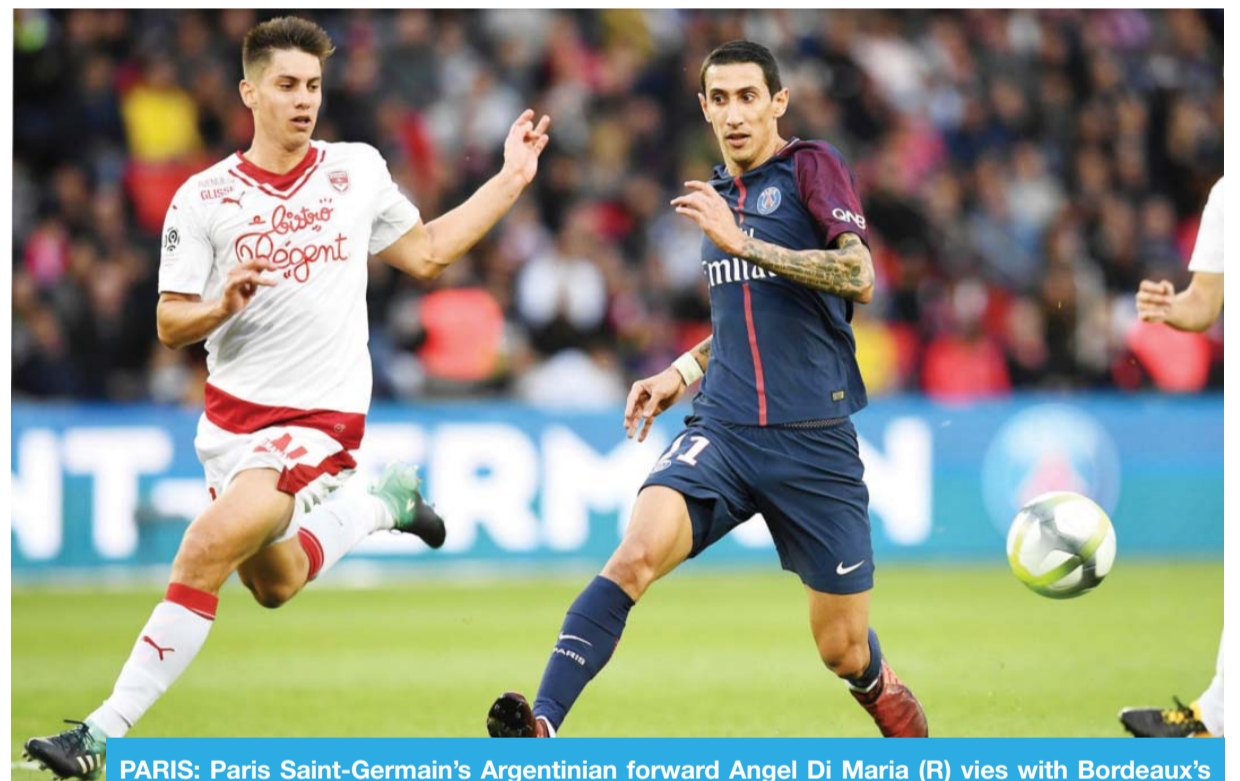
It was a controversial penalty awarded by the video assistant referee (VAR) after referee Marco Korb missed a foul by Koo Ja-Cheol, South Korea's ex-captain, on Lukasz Piszczek. That came after the VAR had earlier failed to award Augsburg a penalty when Dortmund's Sokratis clearly tugged at the shirt of Brazil midfielder Caiuby. Dortmund had taken the lead after just four minutes in Bavaria through winger Yarmolenko before Caiuby headed an equaliser. Kagawa scored what proved to be the winner on 23 minutes with a dream goal when he floated a shot over Hitz following good work from Gabon's Aubameyang and Yarmolenko. —AFP

## Neymar sparkles as PSG thrash Bordeaux

**PARIS:** Neymar scored twice, including a first-half penalty, and created another goal as Paris Saint-Germain hammered previously unbeaten Bordeaux 6-2 in Ligue 1 yesterday. The Brazilian curled in a brilliant 30-yard free-kick after just five minutes at the Parc des Princes before sliding in Edinson Cavani to double the lead seven minutes later. Thomas Meunier's excellent side-footed finish made it 3-0 to PSG on 21 minutes, but Bordeaux hit back on the half hour as Younousse Sankhare applied the final touch to a slick team move. PSG were then awarded a penalty, the first since a row between Neymar and Cavani over spot-kick duties overshadowed a 2-0 win against Lyon a fortnight ago, with Neymar this time stepping up to convert.

Julian Draxler volleyed in a superb fifth before half-time and Kylian Mbappe added another on 58 minutes, while Malcom scored a late penalty for Bordeaux, as PSG pulled three points clear of defending champions Monaco at the top. Unai Emery rested captain Thiago Silva for the visit of third-place Bordeaux, who arrived in the capital trailing PSG by just four points after seven matches. The hosts brushed aside five-time European champions Bayern Munich 3-0 in midweek and the gap in class on Saturday was evident from the start against Jocelyn Gourvenec's team. With Monaco dropping points in Friday's 1-1 draw at home to Montpellier, PSG immediately signalled their intent as three quick-fire goals left Bordeaux seeking to limit the damage. Neymar struck early as his magnificent free-kick flashed beyond a helpless Benoit Costil, with the Brazilian then playing in Cavani to poke in his eighth league goal of the season on 12 minutes.

PSG were further in front when Yuri Berchiche's cross



**PARIS:** Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinian forward Angel Di Maria (R) vies with Bordeaux's French defender Theo Pellenard during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain and Bordeaux at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris yesterday. — AFP

from the left skipped past Mbappe but Meunier ran onto it and the Belgian international steered past Costil. Bordeaux replied on 31 minutes after Theo Pellenard demonstrated remarkable composure to thread in Nicolas de Preville who squared for Sankhare to tap into an empty net.

But a senseless handball from Otavio gifted PSG a penalty and Neymar, rather than Cavani whose effort in the Lyon win on September 17 was saved, tucked away the spot-kick for his sixth league goal.

Draxler made it five in style on the stroke of half-time

when he fired in from Mbappe's floated cross, and the French teenager notched a goal of his own on 58 minutes after he was released in behind the defence by the German. Bordeaux substitute Alexandre Mendy smacked the outside of the post on 69 minutes while a shot from Neymar whistled just wide after a clever exchange with Draxler. Brazilian Malcom, who extended his contract with Bordeaux until 2021 this week, netted a consolation in the final minute after Jonathan Cafu was fouled in the area by Meunier. —AFP

## Richarlison preserves Watford away record at the death

**WEST BROMWICH:** Brazilian youngster Richarlison scored in time added on to give Watford a share of the points in a 2-2 draw with West Brom completing their comeback from a two goal deficit in their Premier League clash yesterday.

West Brom remain unbeaten at home in the Premier League this season but had looked set for three points when Salomon Rondon and Jonny Evans put them 2-0 up inside 22 minutes. However, Watford showed great character to come back with goals from Abdoulaye Doucoure and then 20-year-old Richarlison's late effort preserving their unbeaten record away from home this term. The hosts got off to a flier opening up a 2-0 lead inside the first half hour with a veritable goal glut for them, having scored just four times in their previous six league encounters. Venezuelan ace Rondon opened the scoring in the 18th minute shooting past Heurelho Gomes from inside the penalty area. Gomes, who has started every league game for Watford since November 2014, was picking the ball out of his net for a second time three minutes later as Northern Irish international Evans forced the ball over the line. However, the visitors worked their way back into the game and should have reduced the deficit but on loan Andre Carrillo somehow headed the ball wide in front of an empty net.

Nevertheless the Hornets did manage to get on the score-sheet before the break as good work by the impressive Brazilian Richarlison set up Doucoure who got the better of Evans and beat goalkeeper Ben Foster. Foster looked a relieved man early in the second-half after Etienne Capoue worked himself into a good position and let fly but veteran Gareth Barry managed to get a touch to it that deflected it just wide of the West Brom goal. West Brom had to weather quite a storm as Watford pushed forward searching for the equaliser and at least maintaining their unbeaten away record - Richarlison sending his header just wide of the post. —AFP



**STOKE:** Southampton's Maya Yoshida, down at centre, scores his side's first goal against Stoke City during the English Premier League soccer match between Stoke City and Southampton at the bet365 Stadium, Stoke, England, yesterday. — AP

## Late Crouch winner earns Stoke first victory since August

**STOKE CITY:** Substitute Peter Crouch scored a late winner as Stoke City beat Southampton 2-1 yesterday to claim their first Premier League victory since August. The imposing former England forward poked

home from close range in the 85th minute, 15 minutes after coming on, to seal only the second victory of the season for the Potters. Maya Yoshida had appeared to rescue a point for Southampton after he fired home a 75th-minute equaliser to cancel out Mame Biram Diouf's headed opener in the 40th minute. Stoke's Sadio Berahino missed a first-half penalty to extend his goalless streak to 29 games, while Southampton's Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk who submitted a transfer request in the summer-made his first start since January. Stoke Climb to 13th with eight points and trail Southampton, in 12th, on goal difference. — Reuters

**12** Hamilton takes pole position for Malaysian GP, Vettel last



**14** Azhar defies S Lanka with a fighting half century



**15** In-form Kane scores two more, Tottenham beat Huddersfield



LONDON: Chelsea's English defender Gary Cahill wins a header from Manchester City's Portuguese midfielder Bernardo Silva during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Manchester City at Stamford Bridge in London yesterday. — AFP

## De Bruyne's rocket sinks Chelsea

### City return to top of the Premier League

**CHELSEA:** Manchester City regained top spot in the Premier League with a deserved 1-0 victory over an out-of-sorts Chelsea at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

Having been knocked down into second place by Manchester United's win over Crystal Palace earlier in the day, Pep Guardiola's side jumped back ahead of their city rivals on goal difference thanks to Kevin De Bruyne's superb second-half strike.

City are now unbeaten in 15 league games and have dropped only two points this season. Chelsea sustained their second defeat of the campaign at Stamford Bridge and fall to fourth, six points adrift of the two Manchester clubs and one behind Tottenham Hotspur, who are third.

Their poor performance and result were compounded by losing top scorer Alvaro Morata to injury in the first half when he limped off, holding his hamstring. Chelsea started quickly and had an excellent opportunity to take the lead inside three minutes when N'Golo Kante crossed from the right for Morata but the Spaniard's recent lethal form in front of goal deserted him and he could only loop his header from six metres over.

The hosts then almost gifted City a goal when Thibaut Courtois dithered over a clearance and saw his kick ricochet off the charging Gabriel Jesus and bounce just wide. Cesar Azpilicueta had a left-foot

shot turned around the post by Ederson and David Silva had a strike palmed clear by Courtois as the two sides fought out an evenly matched contest.

City, though, began to take control of both territory and possession after the half-hour mark and both Nicolas Otamendi and Fernandinho missed headers from corner as the visitors pushed for an opener.

Matters worsened for Chelsea when Morata was forced off 10 minutes before the break. City continued to press in the second half and Raheem Sterling should have done better than half-volley over when he received the ball unmarked on the edge of the box from a corner.

Sterling turned provider in the 66th minute when he cut back to the unmarked Silva on the penalty spot, but the Spaniard took too long and his right-foot shot was blocked. It did not matter as City took the lead a minute later when De Bruyne played a one-two with Jesus and rifled a sublime left-foot shot into Courtois's left-hand corner for his first Premier League goal of the season.

Conte responded by sending on Pedro and Michy Batshuayi and the hosts' play immediately became more urgent and threatening, but City still looked the more dangerous team and were able to see out the game. — Reuters

### Fellaini double helps Man United crush Palace 4-0

**MANCHESTER:** Marouane Fellaini scored twice as Manchester United maintained their blistering start to the season with a 4-0 thrashing of lowly Crystal Palace yesterday. Juan Mata, making his 200th Premier League appearance, gave United the lead after just three minutes, with Fellaini's goals followed by a late tap in for Romelu Lukaku, who scored for the 11th time in 10 games. Watched from the stand by their former midfielder David Beckham, Jose Mourinho's side kept the pressure on title rivals Manchester City, who were due to play at Chelsea in Saturday's late game.

Palace, meanwhile, remain without a point or a goal in the league this season, and rarely looked like ending either sequence against opponents who have now scored 31 times in a 10-match unbeaten run in all competitions. Mourinho made five changes to a team that had only arrived home from Russia in the early hours of Thursday morning following their midweek Champions League victory over CSKA Moscow.

There was little sign of early sluggishness, though, as they scored in the third minute from their first attack thanks to two players left out of the starting line-up on Wednesday.

Marcus Rashford showed clever footwork to deceive Palace full-back Joel Ward down the left, then pulled the ball back for the unmarked Mata to sweep in from 12 yards.

That was a huge setback for a Palace team who had been beaten on each of their previous 10 league visits to Old Trafford, since a 2-1 victory in December 1989.

They had lost striker Christian Benteke before the game with a knee injury that is expected to keep him out for six weeks, but despite going behind so early, they started to cause more of a threat. Centre-back Mamadou Sakho headed over from a free-kick played in from the right by Yohan Cabaye after Ashley Young had brought down Ward near the corner flag, and United had to defend a series of corners after that.

#### PRESSURE

Bakary Sako, the winger pushed into service as a striker to replace Benteke, almost equalised as he ran in from the left on to Andros Townsend's diagonal through ball, but goalkeeper David De Gea beat away the drive at his near post.

United, though, rode out the pressure and added a second goal 10 minutes before half-time, with Young crossing from the left for Fellaini to volley in from close range at the far post.

Chris Smalling almost added a third, heading just wide from Henrikh Mkhitaryan's corner, before Rashford's shot was blocked at the near post by goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey. — AP



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Romelu Lukaku, right, and Crystal Palace's Damien Delaney battle for the ball in the English Premier League soccer match. — AP

### 18 hurt, 3 seriously in French stadium barrier collapse

**AMIENS:** Eighteen Lille fans were hurt, including three seriously, in Amiens yesterday when a stadium barrier collapsed in the away section as supporters celebrated a goal in French league match.

The Ligue 1 fixture between Amiens and Lille was suspended in the 16th minute, and later abandoned, after a fence separating fans from the pitch crumbled under their weight as they celebrated a goal by Fode Ballo-Toure. Several supporters tumbled around 1.5 metres down to the side of the pitch and were crushed by fellow fans before emergency services rushed to the scene to tend to the injured.

Ballo-Toure ran towards the section of visiting fans after scoring the opening goal, prompting a surge that caused the barrier to give way. Both teams were sent to the changing rooms as the match was halted initially before a French league official later said the game had been called off.

Amiens' Stade de la Licorne is currently undergoing renovation work, with one stand at the compact arena closed for refurbishment. The stadium is the smallest of the 20 French Ligue 1 clubs. Repair work on the roofing is taking place throughout the 2017-18 season, Amiens' first campaign in the top flight in club history. "The works are going to start in June and will be done stand by stand, at a rate of one stadium per trimester," local politician Alain Gest said last May. — AFP



## Business

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

**18** Oil prices enjoy post-Harvey increase as markets tighten**19** Kuwait deficit figure expected to touch KD 4.5bn to KD 5bn: Report**21** National Cleaning Company launches Kuwait's first Innovation Lab

KUWAIT: A crowd of people wait outside a telecom company headquarters to purchase the new Apple iPhone 8 yesterday in Kuwait City. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# China to boost lending to small firms

## Manufacturing activity grows at fastest pace in over 5 years

**BEIJING:** China's central bank yesterday cut the amount of cash that some banks must hold as reserves for the first time since February 2016 in a bid to encourage more lending to struggling smaller firms and energize its lackluster private sector.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said on its website that it would cut the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) for some banks that meet certain requirements for lending to small business and the agricultural sector. The PBOC said the move was made to support the development of "inclusive" financial services and will be available to all medium and large-sized banks that meet requirements starting in 2018. The reserve requirement rate will be cut a further 50 bps or 0.5 percent - for banks whose loans to the targeted groups account for 1.5 percent

of their balance of outstanding newly added loans for the previous year. The rate will be cut a further 100 bps for banks whose loans to the designated groups account for 10 percent of all loans, the PBOC said. China's cabinet had recently flagged a possible move, saying the government will take a number of measures, including tax exemptions and targeted reserve requirement ratio cuts to encourage banks to support small businesses. The PBOC said the move was made to support lending of under 5 million yuan to small firms, loans to individual proprietors and for agricultural production, and lending that supports innovation, the poor and education.

The move is in line with existing policy to encourage more targeted lending to more vulnerable sectors of the economy, even as the government tries to

cut down on speculative investment in the financial sector and property and rein in a rapid buildup in overall corporate debt.

But in the last two years, the central bank has preferred using new policy tools such as short- and medium-term lending facilities for a similar purpose. Most economists polled by Reuters had not expected an RRR move before 2018. The PBOC said in a statement that the targeted RRR cut did not constitute a change to its prudent and neutral monetary policy.

RRR is the amount of cash as a percentage of deposits that banks must park at the central bank as reserves. The current rate for major banks was set at 17.0 percent after the last general RRR cut that took effect in March 2016. The central bank in February extended a preferential program that

allows financial institutions that support rural finance and small enterprises to apply for a lower required level of cash reserves.

But despite still-strong credit growth nationwide, many small businesses and farmers remain in desperate need of funds and do not have easy access to ample cheap credit that state-run firms enjoy.

China's manufacturing activity grew at the fastest pace since 2012 in September as factories cranked up output to take advantage of strong demand and high prices, easing worries of a slowdown before a key political meeting next month. Production, total new orders and output prices all improved to the highest level in at least a year, while a pick-up in a reading for the construction sector indicated a building boom is undiminished.— Reuters

## Trump interviews 4 for Fed chair job

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump is ramping up his search for a new chief for the US central bank, meeting with former Federal Reserve Governor Kevin Warsh and three others and promising a decision next month. "I've had four meetings for Fed chairman and I'll be making a decision over the next two or three weeks," Trump told reporters on the White House South Lawn.

Trump has previously suggested he may reappoint Fed Chair Janet Yellen to the post. Jerome Powell, one of the current governors on the Fed's board, also met with Trump earlier this week about the Fed job, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday. Trump on Friday did not provide details on his meetings. A new Fed chair would take the helm as the central bank eases well away from crisis-era policies in response to a strengthening economy and falling unemployment, though inflation still lingers below the Fed's 2-percent goal. Under Yellen, the Fed has raised interest rates and launched a plan to shrink its \$4.5 trillion balance sheet. Much of the latter was accumulated through a controversial bond-buying program that Yellen said helped the economy avert an even deeper downturn. Her term as chair expires in February. — Reuters

## US inflation measure disappoints in August

**WASHINGTON:** A bump in fuel prices nudged the US Federal Reserve's preferred inflation measure a little higher in August, but price pressures remained tame, official figures showed.

One key measure that is closely watched by the central bank also fell to its lowest level in nearly two years, according to the Commerce Department. The weak reading was likely to sharpen disagreements among policymakers about whether to hike interest rates again this year. Fed Chair Janet Yellen this week acknowledged that central bankers may have "misjudged" the strength of the forces driving inflation, which has remained persistently weak despite falling unemployment. The Personal Consumption Expenditures price index rose 0.2 percent for August, driven largely by rising costs in energy, and was double the pace of July's 0.1 percent increase.

The result fell short of a consensus forecast among analysts, who were expecting a 0.3 percent gain for the month. When excluding the volatile food and fuel categories, the measure rose only 0.1 percent, also a tenth of a point below analyst expectations—and the same level recorded over the prior three months.

Compared to August 2016, the price index held steady



MONETARY PARK: Fresh vegetables are displayed at a Friday Farmer's Market in Monterey Park, California yesterday. — AFP

at 1.4 percent, the same level recorded in June and July but down 0.8 points since February. The "core" 12-month measure, which strips out food and fuel prices, actually fell a tenth to 1.3 percent, its lowest reading since November 2015. This measure has undershot the Fed's two percent target for more than five years. After seven

years of uninterrupted job creation and falling unemployment, economists have been befuddled by persistently weak inflation in the world's largest economy. Some research suggests that wages, the key driver of inflation, have remained low as job growth has been driven by part-time and temporary employment.

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

# Oil prices enjoy post-Harvey increase as markets tighten

## IEA revises its demand growth estimates for 2017

**KUWAIT:** By the standards of 2017, September has so far been a good month for oil prices. Both Brent and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) are up by 8 percent or more to the \$56 and \$50 per barrel (bbl) levels, respectively, amid signs that the physical markets are tightening. (Chart 1) For Brent, the recovery has seen the marker recoup almost all its losses this year, as it trades near its January 2017-high of \$57/bbl. Encouraging demand/supply fundamentals are driving the improvement in sentiment: global demand for crude posted one of its best quarters of growth for a long time in 2Q17; OPEC production trended downwards in August, along with an improvement in members' compliance; and OECD crude and petroleum product stocks drew down in July for the fifth time in seven months.

Moreover, reflecting the tightening in fundamentals, the Brent forward curve has flipped into a structure known as backward-

ation, where contract prices for future delivery are below contract prices for immediate/spot delivery. This suggests that traders are beginning to view the near-term more bullish than the medium-to-long term. This is the first instance of backwardation since oil prices were above \$100/bbl in 2014.

The IEA puts the global supply pullback in August at around 720,000 b/d, which is the first fall in four months. However, in our view, this won't be enough to prevent supply exceeding demand in 3Q17, by an estimated 100,000 b/d, and avert a build-up in global crude stocks after months of drawdowns. Despite the negative impact of Hurricane Harvey on US crude production, non-OPEC supply growth is still expected to accelerate before year-end, possibly adding as much as 500,000 b/d in the fourth quarter. However, for 2017 on average, we expect

scandal to 25.1 billion euros (\$29.6 billion). "In the third quarter, negative special items of circa 2.5 billion euros are expected to weigh on the operating result," the German car giant said in a statement.

"The reason is an increase in provisions relating to the buyback/retrofit program for 2.0-litre TDI vehicles, which is part of the settlements in North America that is proving to be far more technically complex and time consuming," Volkswagen last year agreed to buy back or repair nearly half a million 2.0-litre diesel cars in the US that had been fitted with cheating software to make them seem less polluting than they were.

The group later agreed to a similar settlement concerning some 80,000 3.0-litre cars as well.

The storied German auto giant has been engulfed in crisis since US regulators uncovered the cheating scam

there could be a supply shortfall of around 200,000 b/d. This would be the first year since 2013 that demand exceeds supply on an annual basis.

Though this will be comforting for OPEC as it works its way through its 15-month production cut agreement in a bid to accelerate the global stock drawdown, the group still has its work cut out. Nine months into the agreement period and OECD crude and petroleum product inventories, one of the key yardsticks by which OPEC measures its success, are still stubbornly high at 3.02 billion barrels (July). This is still more than 250 million barrels above OPEC's target 5-year average level of around 2.75 billion barrels—even if total crude and product stocks have fallen in five of the last seven months.

Worryingly for OPEC, 2018 could see stocks accumulate rather than draw down if, as the IEA reckons, non-OPEC supplies, led by a resurgent US, increase at double 2017's rate by an estimated 1.5 mb/d. This would almost certainly push back OPEC's coveted stock drawdown target into 2019.

### OPEC may extend production cut

It should come as no surprise then that there has been more chatter lately emanating from the OPEC camp about rolling over the production cut agreement beyond March 2018, possibly by more than three months. The group admitted in its recent oil report that it expects the demand for its crude (the "call") in the first and second quarters of 2018 to be below current production levels.

This suggests that deeper cuts may have to be considered, with Iraq recently raising the possibility that oil producers may need to curtail output by an additional 1 percent. It is not clear that there is an appetite for this let alone an intention to comply among OPEC and the ten non-OPEC signatories to the current agreement; Iraq, for one, is among that select band of producers that has yet to fully meet its obligations even under the existing agreement.

Indeed, shoring up non-compliers and bringing on board Libya and Nigeria, who are exempt from the production cuts altogether, will need to be OPEC's first task. Compliance, using OPEC secondary source data, improved to 98 percent in August, up from 89 percent in July, as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Venezuela and several others pumped well below their quotas. Apart from Iraq, the UAE and Algeria remain the only OPEC members never to have achieved their targets.

OPEC's aggregate output fell by 80,000 b/d to 32.76 mb/d in August from 32.84 mb/d in July. Supply is still more than 1 mb/d above

two years ago, and its legal woes are far from over at home and abroad.

### Arrests at Audi

In Germany on Thursday, prosecutors arrested a second Audi employee and said they were widening their investigation into the diesel emissions cheating scam to include more suspects. German media named the arrested suspect as Wolfgang Hatz, who stepped down from his post on Porsche's management board last year after being suspended over the dieselgate investigation.

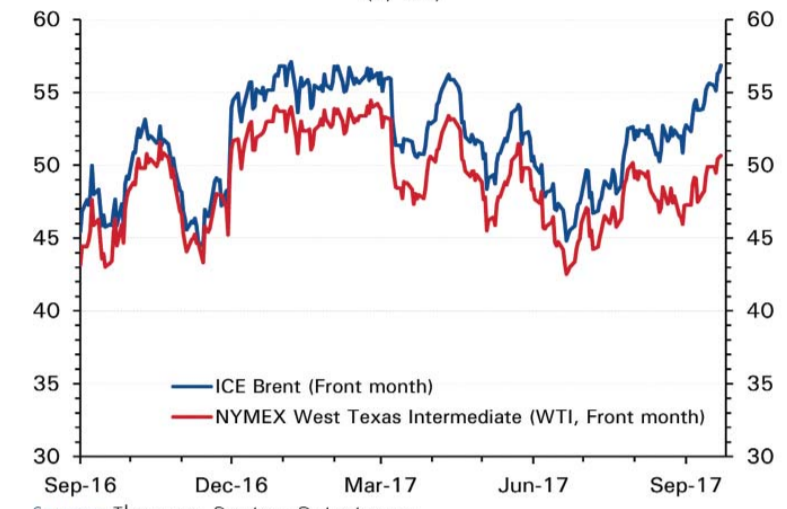
Hatz was head of engine development at Audi from 2001 to 2007, before moving on to lead powertrain development at the VW group and then becoming research and development chief at Porsche, another

VW subsidiary. Also in custody since July is former Audi executive Giovanni Palmio, suspected of instructing engineers to design software that could cheat emissions tests.

In another setback for Volkswagen, German news weekly Der Spiegel on Friday reported that the carmaker had improperly registered nearly 500,000 gasoline-powered cars in the US between 2009 and 2017. The magazine, which did not cite its sources, said VW had failed to disclose software updates as required by US regulators, and could now face fines.

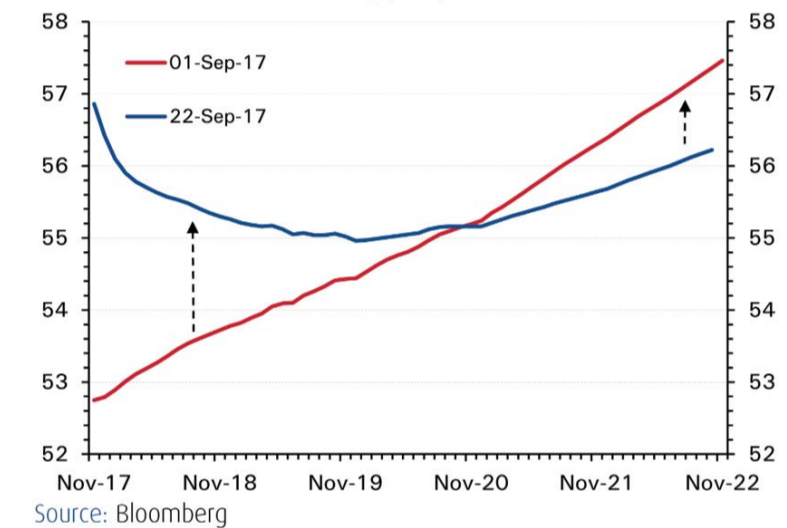
VW was not immediately available for comment when contacted by AFP. VW shares were down 0.3 percent to 137.95 euros in afternoon trading in Frankfurt, underperforming the DAX 30 index of leading German shares which was up 0.5 percent. —AFP

Chart 1: Crude oil prices (\$/bbl)



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

Chart 2: Brent forward curve (\$/bbl)



Source: Bloomberg



## OPEC mulls extending output cut beyond March 2018

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The group later agreed to a similar settlement concerning some 80,000 3.0-litre cars as well.

The storied German auto giant has been engulfed in crisis since US regulators uncovered the cheating scam

## VW's dieselgate bill jumps on 'complex' US recalls

**MUNICH:** Volkswagen on Friday said it was setting aside another 2.5 billion euros to deal with the fallout from the "dieselgate" scandal in the United States as its efforts to recall tainted cars there proved to be more "complex" than expected.

The latest provisions bring the total sum set aside by Volkswagen to deal with fines and costs over the diesel

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.695
Indian Rupees	4.616
Pakistani Rupees	2.872
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.975
Nepali Rupees	2.926
Singapore Dollar	223.930
Hongkong Dollar	38.784
Bangladesh Taka	3.691
Philippine Peso	5.934
Thai Baht	9.117

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.787
Qatari Riyal	83.207
Omani Riyal	786.772
Bahraini Dinar	804.440
UAE Dirham	82.482

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.800
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.087
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	124.330
Jordanian Dinar	427.310
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.730

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	358.000
Sterling Pound	408.110

Canadian dollar	245.940
Turkish lira	86.500
Swiss Franc	313.730
Australian Dollar	239.930
US Dollar Buying	301.550

#### GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

#### Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	302.100
Canadian Dollar	244.875
Sterling Pound	408.660
Euro	359.530
Swiss Franc	293.695
Bahrain Dinar	801.800
UAE Dirhams	82.640
Qatari Riyals	83.465
Saudi Riyals	81.420
Jordanian Dinar	427.375
Egyptian Pound	17.133
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.975
Indian Rupees	4.631
Pakistani Rupees	2.866
Bangladesh Taka	3.721
Philippines Peso	5.947
Cyprus pound	17.979
Japanese Yen	3.705
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.902

#### Selling Rate

Malaysian Ringgit	72.835
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.145
Thai Bhat	10.105
Turkish Lira	85.730

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

#### CURRENCY

	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.399608	0.409608
Czech Korune	0.005673	0.017673
Danish Krone	0.043824	0.048824
Euro	0.350908	0.359906
Georgian Lari	0.121647	0.121647
Norwegian Krone	0.034239	0.039439
Romanian Leu	0.077350	0.077350
Russian ruble	0.005217	0.005217
Slovakia	0.009023	0.019023
Slovenia	0.033115	0.038115
Swedish Krona	0.305103	0.316103
Swiss Franc		
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.229593	0.241593
New Zealand Dollar	0.211567	0.221067
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.239397	0.248397
US Dollars	0.298650	0.303070
US Dollars Mint	0.299150	0.303070
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003223	0.003807

Chinese Yuan	0.044196	0.047696
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036688	0.039438
Indian Rupee	0.004221	0.004909
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002608	0.002788
Korean Won	0.000255	0.000270
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068002	0.074002
Nepalese Rupee	0.003021	0.003191
Pakistan Rupee	0.002745	0.003035
Philippine Peso	0.005856	0.006156
Singapore Dollar	0.217611	0.227811
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001598	0.002178
Taiwan	0.009859	0.010039
Thai Baht	0.008752	0.009302
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796057	0.804557
Egyptian Pound	0.014509	0.020417
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000193	0.000253
Jordanian Dinar	0.422401	0.431401
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021192	0.045192
Omani Riyal	0.779944	0.785624
Qatar Riyal	0.078868	0.083808
Saudi Riyal	0.079647	0.080947
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.119557	0.127557
Turkish Lira	0.080500	0.090800
UAE Dirhams	0.081002	0.082702
Yemeni Riyal	0.000984	0.001064

## Business

AL-SHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

# Kuwait deficit figure expected to touch KD 4.5bn to KD 5bn: Report

## KD 420.5 million collected from non-oil revenues in five months

**KUWAIT:** In its monthly follow-up report for the State's Financial Administration until August 2017 (published on its website), the Ministry of Finance indicates a continued drop in its revenues. Until 31/08/2017, the first 5 months of the current fiscal year 2017/2018, total collected revenues amounted to approximately KD 5.725 billion, about 42.9 percent of the total estimated revenues for the entire current fiscal year in the amount of approximately KD 13.344 billion.

In detail, actual oil revenues until 31/08/2017 scored about KD 5.304 billion, i.e. 45.3 percent of estimated oil revenues for the entire current fiscal year in the amount of KD 11.711 billion, or about 92.7 percent of total collected revenues. The average Kuwaiti oil price for the 5 months scored \$47.5 per barrel. An amount of KD 420.5 million was collected from non-oil revenues during the same period, a monthly average by KD 84.1 million, while the total estimated amount for the entire current fiscal year was about KD 1.643 billion. This means the realized amount will be less for the entire fiscal year by about KD -624.3 million than the estimated.

Expenditures allocations for the current fiscal year were estimated at about KD 19.9 billion, of which an amount of KD 5.236 billion was actually spent according to the bulletin- until 31/08/2017, a monthly spending average by KD 1.047 billion. We, however, do not recommend relying on

June). It rose to KD 14.6 million in August and increased slightly to KD 25.1 million in September. Gains of both August and September increased value of listed companies since the beginning of the year investors' wealth- by KD 4.721 billion.

Gains of indexes since the beginning of the year scored 13.3 percent for the Boursa weighted index, 12.7 percent for Kuwait 15 index, and about 16.2 percent for the price index. Despite some recent healthy trends in Boursa trading, about half of listed companies are still non-liquid and secured 3.9 percent only of the Boursa liquidity in the past part of the year. About 50 listed companies secured 0.5 percent of Boursa liquidity and one company remained without trading in its shares. Some speculating companies remained active.

15 companies whose market capitalization value is not more than 1.7 percent only of listed companies' value got 20.1 percent of the Boursa liquidity. What calls for concern is the sharp fluctuation in the Boursa liquidity. While daily trading value during last January 2017 scored KD 53.9 million tilted sharply towards speculation, it dropped sharply to KD 8.4 million in June and then it rose again to KD 25.1 million in September with some maturity.

Liquidity distribution among the 4 categories of companies during the first 9 months of the year was as follows:

The Highest 10 percent In Liquidity: 18 listed companies contributed by 53.3 percent to Boursa market capitalization value while they captured about 58.9 percent of the Boursa liquidity, including 13 large companies which contributed by about 52.7 percent of the Boursa market capitalisation value of that category and took about 86 percent of the liquidity of that category, and 5 small companies which took 14 percent of the liquidity of that category while their market capitalization value did not exceed 0.6 percent only of all Boursa companies value. While some big companies obtained high deserved liquidity, deviation is still significant towards small companies,

though it started to improve during the months of August and September.

### The lowest 10 percent in Market

Capitalization Value: that category contributed by about 72.4 percent of the Boursa capitalization value and acquired 40.6 percent of its liquidity. However, there was obvious liquidity deviation in favor of 11 companies which captured about 95.6 percent of that category liquidity leaving approximately 4.4 percent only of the liquidity of that category for 7 other large companies.

The Lowest 10 percent in Market Capitalization Value: that category contributed by 0.3 percent to the Boursa companies' value but they took 4.5 percent of the Boursa liquidity. 14 companies within this category captured 97.9 percent liquidity of this category, while 4 other small companies got only 2.1 percent of that category's liquidity. This liquidity deviation in this category suggests a very high dose of speculation on some of its companies. But with the healthy bias of operational companies, some adjustment may occur during the fourth quarter of the current year.

**Liquidity of Boursa Sectors:** There are 5 active sectors in the Boursa that contribute 88.2 percent to its value. They acquired 92.8 percent of liquidity suggesting consistence between liquidity and the weight of those sectors in the Boursa value. But there was deviation within those sectors in liquidity trends. The banking sector for instance got 28.1 percent of Boursa liquidity which accounts for 49.5 percent only of its contribution to its value.

This means its share of liquidity is more than half of its contribution to value. The financial services sector got 24.5 percent of Boursa liquidity, which equals 2.8 times its con-

tribution to its value. The real estate sector got 18.5 percent of Boursa liquidity which equals 2.5 times its contribution to its value, and both sectors are speculative ones. The remaining 7 sectors, liquid and non-liquid, acquired liquidity ratios close to their contribution to the Boursa value.

### Warba Bank financial results

Warba Bank announced results of its operations for the first half of the current year, which indicate that the bank's net profits -after tax deduction- scored about KD 2.5 million, compared with KD 455 thousand for the same period of 2016, showing that the bank continued its positive performance achieving growth in its profits by KD 2.1 million. This is due to the rise in total operational incomes by higher value than the rise in total operational expenses. Therefore, the bank's operational profit rose by about KD 5.9 million and scored KD 8.5 million, compared with KD 2.6 million in the same period of last year.

In details, total operational incomes of the bank increased by about KD 6.7 million and scored KD 16.8 million, compared with KD 10.1 million for the same period of 2016. This resulted from the rise in most operational incomes items, especially the item of net financing incomes increased by KD 5.8 million and scored KD 13 million (representing 77.5 percent of total incomes) vis-à-vis KD 7.2 million (71.6 percent of the total). The item of net investment

assets) in the end of 2016. It rose by 69.2 percent, or by about KD 55.3 million, compared with KD 79.9 million (8.7 percent of total assets) in the same period of 2016.

Figures indicate that the bank's total liabilities (without calculating total equity) increased by KD 292.2 million, or by 28.3 percent, and scored about KD 1.324 billion, compared with KD 1.032 billion in the end of 2016. It increased by KD 499.5 million, or by 60.5 percent, compared with the total in the same period of last year.

Percentage of total liabilities to total assets scored about 88.4 percent, compared with 89.9 percent. Results of analyzing financial statements calculated on annual basis indicate that all bank's profitability indexes rose compared with the same period of 2016. The average return on shareholders' equity relevant to the bank shareholders (ROE) increased to 5.3 percent compared with 1 percent. Average return on capital (ROC) increased to 5 percent versus 0.9 percent. Likewise, the average return on bank's assets (ROA) increased to 0.4 percent compared with 0.1 percent. (EPS) scored 2.5 fils versus 0.5 fils. (P/B) scored 1.5 times compared with 1.8 times.

The banking sector comprising 10 banks achieved noticeable growth in its net profits during the first six months of the current year vis-à-vis the same period of 2016. Profits in the first half of 2017, after tax deductions and minority rights, scored KD 388 million, increased by



## Oil price scenario remains volatile

this figure because there are expenses which have become due but have not been actually spent. Spending in the last month of the fiscal year will be much higher when settlements are made and then in the final account. Although the bulletin concludes that the budget in end of the first five months of the current fiscal year scored a surplus by about KD 488.938 million before deducting the 10 percent of revenues for the Future Generations Reserves, we publish it without recommending its endorsement as we believe that the surplus figure will revert into deficit in the end of these five months and with the issuance of the final account. Deficit figure depends mainly on oil price and its production in the remaining 7 months of the current fiscal year. We anticipate it to be between KD 4.5 billion to KD 5 billion.

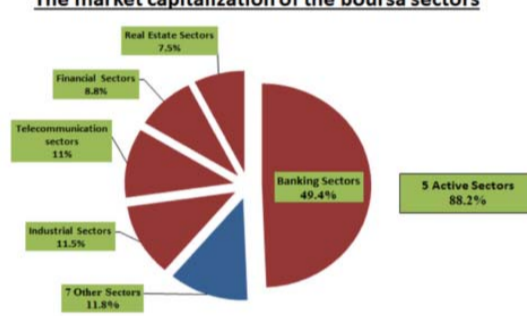
### Performance of Boursa Kuwait

Boursa Kuwait performance during the third quarter of the current year was more better due to the rise in most important of its indexes: Al-Shall index and the Boursa weighted and Kuwait 15 indexes, due to the high rise in its liquidity, the most important index, coupled with mature trends. First, its rise maintained the escalating pace in the quarter's end contrary to the second quarter and it is biased towards operational companies.

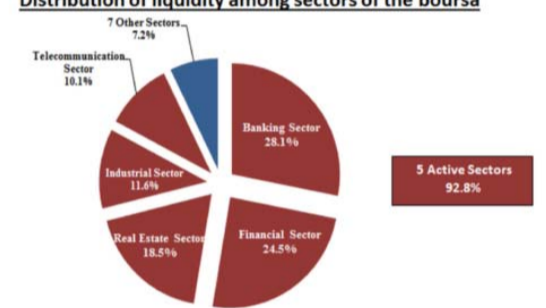
Al-Shall index rose by 46.7 points or by 12.3 percent vis-à-vis the end of second quarter, likewise the Boursa indexes rose between the two quarters by 7.9 percent for the weighted index, 9.6 percent for Kuwait 15 index, while the price index declined by -1.2 percent. The excellence of weighted indexes performance over price index is a correct and healthy development if it continues.

Liquidity during the quarter was rising. Daily trading value for July scored KD 13.7 million (KD 8.4 million for

The market capitalization of the boursa sectors



Distribution of liquidity among sectors of the boursa



incomes increased by KD 549 thousand and scored KD 2.3 million, compared with KD 1.7 million. Likewise, item of net fees and commissions rose by KD 346 thousand and scored KD 1.1 million, compared with KD 802 thousand.

Total operational expenses increased by less value than the rise in total operational incomes. It rose by KD 777 thousand and scored a total of KD 8.3 million, compared with KD 7.5 million. As all items of operational expenses increased except for the item of depreciation, which dropped by about KD 173 thousand. Percentage of total operational expenses to total operational incomes scored 49.2 percent, compared with 74.2 percent. Item of provision for impairment increased by KD 3.8 million and scored KD 5.9 million, compared with KD 2.2 million in the same period last year. This explains the rise in the net profit margin to 15 percent in the first six months of current year, compared with 4.5 percent in the same period last year. The bank's financial statements indicate that total assets increased by about KD 371.1 million, or by 32.9 percent, and scored KD 1.498 billion, versus KD 1.127 billion in the end of 2016. Total assets increased by about KD 580.1 million, or by 63.2 percent, if compared with the same period of 2016, when it scored KD 918 million. Item of financing receivables rose by KD 304 million, or by 36.7 percent, and scored KD 1.132 billion (75.6 percent of total assets) vis-à-vis KD 827.9 million (73.5 percent of total assets) in the end of 2016. It rose by KD 456.5 million, or by 67.6 percent, compared with KD 675.3 million (73.6 percent of total assets) in the same period 2016.

Percentage of total financing receivables to total deposits scored 86.1 percent versus 82.5 percent. Item of available-for-sale investments rose by KD 35.4 million, or by 35.4 percent and scored KD 135.2 million (9 percent of total assets) vis-à-vis KD 99.8 million (8.9 percent of total

KD 30.8 million or by 8.6 percent, compared with KD 357.1 million in the same period of 2016. Operational profits of the banks prior to deducting provisions rose by about KD 56.1 million, or by 3.3 percent, and scored KD 1.762 billion, compared with KD 1.706 billion, due to a rise in operational incomes of the banks by a higher value than the rise in total expenses. The impact was reflected directly on the rise in net banks' profits value. When we compare second quarter profits with the first quarter, we note it dropped by -2 percent and scored KD 192 million, while it rose by 10.5 percent when compared with profits of the second quarter of 2016.

Despite the growth in incomes, Kuwaiti banks continued the policy of blocking provisions against non-performing loans. Total provisions blocked scored KD 342.4 million in the first half, compared with KD 272 million in the first half of last year, rose by 25.9 percent. Though the rise in total provisions might affect negatively the net banks' profits value, there is much uncertainty of hedging in operations environment.

Profits of the five traditional banks scored about KD 244.5 million, representing 63 percent of total net profits of the 10 banks, rose by 6.6 percent compared with the same period of last year. While of the Islamic banks scored KD 143.4 million, representing 37 percent of the 10 bank's net profits, rose by 12.2 percent from its level in the same period of last year.

This means the performance of Islamic banks continued to grow at higher rates in the first half. (P/E) for the banking sector on annual basis scored 14.8 times compared to 14.1 times for the same period last year. Return on total assets calculated on annual basis rose to 1.04 percent compared with 0.98 percent. Average return on equities (ROE) rose to 8.3 percent versus 7.9 percent in the same period of last year.

### Bayt.com weekly report

## How to prepare for your company restructure

**KUWAIT:** Facing change can be uncomfortable and nerve-wrecking. The unknown and the unfamiliar leave us both curious and apprehensive. It is in our nature to feel anxious when confronted with change, especially because we are creatures of habit, bound by whatever rhythm we find comforting. This is especially true in the workplace, where stability and consistency provide ease to employees and employers alike.

If you are a figure of empathy, comfort and support such as an HR professional, or a figure of authority, structure and leadership like a manager, you're probably wondering how you can prepare yourself and those around you for an upcoming shift. Have no fear for Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 Job Site, is here to give you support every step of the way. Detailed below are five, fail-proof steps that will ensure you feel equipped and prepared for what's yet to come.

### Step 1: Make a detailed plan

Restructuring a company is no easy challenge. It is a process that becomes complete only after a lot of thought and strategies have been put into it. While it is never easy when top management decides to implement major changes to the company's structure, it is your role as an HR professional or a team leader to create a plan that assists employees in preparing for any new roles they might be taking charge of.

Here are a few things you will need:

- \* To create new job descriptions, with clearly outlined tasks and outcome expectations.
- \* To prepare for the needed professional development, including training courses or training sessions, for all personnel who will be taking on new roles.
- \* To clarify who will be reporting to whom, design a new organizational chart that reflects the change.

### Step 2: Announce the change

Another critical step is being fully honest and admitting that change will occur in your company. If you deny that this change or restructure will affect the organization, your employees will struggle to embrace it. Your best strategy is to put yourself in the employees' shoes. Recognize the way the restructure is going to affect your job and share that feeling with others. Connecting with your employees on an emotional and professional level and empathizing with their feelings will show them that you relate to them and that they are not alone. Here are a few steps to empathize with your employees:

- \* Make employees aware of how the restructure is going to affect your job and how you intend to cope with it and process it.
- \* Relay to your employees that while the change is not going to be easy, it will be a smooth process due to the carefully thought out and detailed plan that you have developed.
- \* Reassure your employees that all their needs and enquiries will be addressed throughout the process and that you will lend an ear to their concerns.
- \* If, for any reason, part of the restructure involves letting employees go, be honest, straightforward and clear with them about it as soon as possible. The more time they have to process their feelings and begin looking for new job opportunities, the more secure they will feel. Be lenient and understanding. Make sure you give them ample time to adjust and find other opportunities.

### Step 3: Improve your communication system

For any business to be successful, healthy and optimal, communication must be maintained. In the case of a company restructure, communication needs to be stronger than ever.

Whatever issues, concerns, increased pressure or demands that are left unaddressed will negatively impact your employees' morale, performance, and job satisfaction. Detail the following points to every single employee and make sure they are taken into action:

- \* Implement an open-door policy during the restructure and ensure your employees know that you are available to help them every step of the way.
- \* Advise your team to communicate openly, honestly and immediately when they have an opinion or a concern so that they are addressed quickly.
- \* Let your employees know that if they have any objections towards their new job role or tasks that they should speak up and make their objections known before it is too late to change the layout of the restructure.

### Step 4: Forecast and prepare for your talent needs

Restructuring doesn't necessarily mean that you will be cutting back on staff, because your employees will be responsible for new tasks and job roles. Rather, you might want to hire new personnel in order to assist with the new structure of your organization. Ensure you plan ahead for whatever talent your company needs so that you hire the necessary personnel in time for the restructure.

### Step 5: Stay positive

In a working environment, attitude can be infectious. Humans are intuitive and empathetic, so your employees can sense how you are feeling. Because restructure involves change, negative energy is to be expected. That is why it is crucial that you set an example and remain positive and reassuring. If you lose your positivity and optimism, the negativity will spread faster than you think. Here are a few ideas to maintain and spread a positive attitude:

- \* Undertake a team activity in which everyone can share thoughts and concerns and have them addressed by the new manager/supervisor.
- \* Remind each and every employee how vital their new role is for the continual success of both the organization and the employee.

## For Rent

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



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

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



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# Boursa Kuwait equities bearish amid selloffs, profit-booking

## Banking sector remains highest traded sector

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 6,679.73 points, down by 2.47 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 1.92 percent after closing at 430.70 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 997.37 points down by 2.37 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 15.41 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 21.79 million, whereas trading volume average was 105.82 million shares, recording a decrease of 31.43 percent.

The Boursa three indices, continued recording losses for the second consecutive week, amid

positive, due to the improvement in the Boursa levels during the last three months.

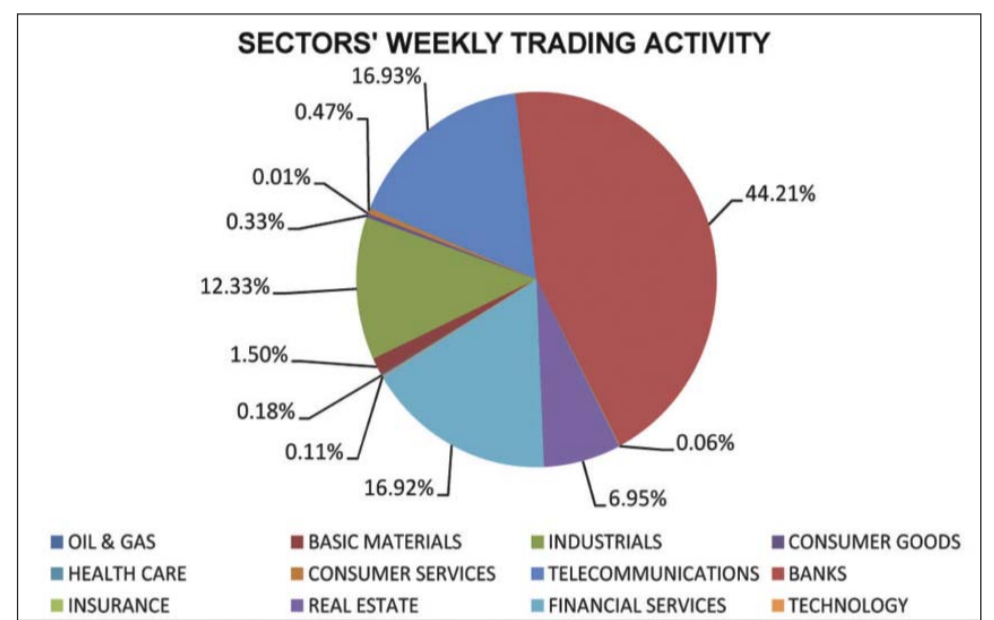
Moreover, the Boursa lost around KD 474 million from its market cap during the last week (including approximately KD 65 million, the stocks' value of Eyas for Higher & Technical Education after being delisted from the Boursa last Thursday), to reach by the end of last week to about KD 28.87 billion, down by 1.61 percent from its level on a week earlier where it reached KD 29.35 billion; while the market cap gains contracted since the beginning of the year to reach around KD 3.47 billion or 13.64 percent compared to its value at end of 2016, where it

ond session, affected by the continued selling trend that controlled the market and included most of the listed stocks, amid more concentration of selling operations over the leading stocks, which was reflected on the performance of KSX-15 Index in particular, that dropped below 1,000 point level, to end the session's trading at 991.64 point, down by 1.69 percent.

On the mid-week session, the market witnessed a relative improvement in its performance, amid quiet trading and decreased declines, in addition to the return of the purchasing operations on some leading stocks once again, however at weak pace, where the Boursa ended its session with mixed closings for the three indices, as the Weighted and KSX-15 indices were able to compensate a small part of its losses, after it ended the session recording increases by 0.18 percent and 0.33 percent respectively, while the Price Index continued recording losses, however limited, to end the session down by 0.04 percent.

On Wednesday's session, the Boursa indices were able to return to the green zone, after the selling pressures that were in control previously, as it witnessed a strong purchasing trend targeted some stocks of which recorded large decreases in the previous sessions, especially the heavy ones that reached tempting purchasing levels, which positively reflected on the market weighted indices, especially KSX-15 that was able to break the 1,000 point level up, to end the session at 1,002.18 point. However, the last session of the week witnessed a strong selling trend that included many listed stocks of different weights and sectors, which negatively affected all the market indices, especially the Price Index that lost around 89 point from its value, the largest loss in around three months, specifically since the 2nd July session of the current year.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 16.21 percent annual



gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 13.32 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 12.69 percent growth.

percent, closing at 1,051.09 points.

### Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 214.42 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 40.53 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 24.63 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 130.30 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 48.17 million or 44.21 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Telecommunications sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 18.45 million representing 16.93 percent of the total market trading value.

### Sectors' indices

All of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone except for one sector. The Health Care sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 10.30 percent to end the week's activity at 1,510.51 points. The Industrial sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 3.77 percent, closing at 1,790.89 points, followed by the Consumer Services sector, as its index closed at 933.04 points at a loss of 3.56 percent. The Financial Services sector was the least declining as its index closed at 701.06 points with a 0.41 percent decrease. On the other hand, the Consumer Goods sector was last week only gainer, which index grew by 1.01

## Three indices continue to record losses



control of the selling pressures and the profit collection operations and the quick speculations on many listed stocks, especially the leading ones, that recorded strong increases during the past weeks, which was negatively affected all the Boursa indicators, especially the weighted indices, the most recording to losses by the end of the week. Also, the Boursa is currently witnessing a general state of watch and cautious waiting for the listed companies results for the third quarter of the current year, which ended by the end of last week, as it is expected to disclose its results consecutively on the coming weeks, amid forecasts that most of the outcome will be

reached then KD 25.41 billion. (Note: The market cap for the listed companies in the primary market is calculated based on the average number of outstanding shares as per the latest available official financial statements).

As per the daily trading activity for the Boursa during the last week; the first session of the week witnessed a grouped decline to the three indices affected by the increased selling operations executed on most of the listed stocks, headed by the leading ones of which prices reached high levels in the previous session. In addition, the market continued recording grouped losses for its three indices on the sec-

## Technology firms and small firms lead US stocks higher

**NEW YORK:** Large technology and health care companies and smaller US-focused firms rose again Friday as stocks finished the third quarter at record highs.

Stocks were mixed at the start of trading, as they had been the day before. But chipmakers and big-name technology companies pulled stocks higher, as they have done all year. Health care companies also did better than the rest of the market. Tyson Foods climbed after it gave strong profit forecasts, and investors cheered strong quarterly results from homebuilder KB Home.

The market ended the quarter on a four-day winning streak that began after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said the central bank plans to continue to raise interest rates. "It's all about the confidence they have that despite low inflation, it still makes sense to raise interest rates," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading and derivatives at the Schwab Center for Financial Research. "She's confident in the economy and the economic backdrop is very solid."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.30 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,519.36. The Dow Jones industrial average turned higher to finish with a gain of 23.89 points, or 0.1 percent, at 22,405.09. The Nasdaq composite index jumped 42.51 points, or 0.7 percent, to 6,495.96. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq both closed at all-time highs. The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks added 2.08 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,490.86. It's also at record highs after a big rally this month. It climbed 6 percent in September as investors felt positive about the US economy and hoped Congress and President Donald Trump's administration will reduce taxes.

Tyson Foods jumped after the food company raised its annual guidance and said profits for its beef business were better than expected. Thanks in part to cost cuts, Tyson also forecast a bigger profit than analysts expected for next year.

Tyson climbed \$5, or 7.6 percent, to \$70.45. The stock gained more ground Friday than it had for the rest of this year put together. Rival Hormel Foods, whose brands include Skippy, rose 43 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$32.14. Those companies and their competitors have struggled in recent years as Americans look for fresher food options. Technology companies rose further and were the best-performing S&P 500 sector in the third quarter. They also held that distinction in the first quarter. The S&P 500 technology index has climbed 26 per-

cent in 2017, while the S&P 500 is up 12.5 percent. Facebook added \$2.14, or 1.3 percent, to \$170.87 and chip equipment maker Applied Materials rose \$1.47, or 2.9 percent, to \$52.09. Chipmaker Nvidia advanced \$3.09, or 1.8 percent, to \$178.77.

The recent gains for tech companies have come in spite of a slump for Apple, the world's most valuable publicly-traded company. While Apple has soared this year, it's down 4 percent since it announced its new line of iPhones and other products Sept. 12.

KB Home advanced after its third-quarter profit and sales beat estimates. The stock rose \$1.90, or 8.6 percent, to \$24.12. Other homebuilders also rose. Meritage Homes picked up 85 cents, or 2 percent, to \$44.40 and D.R. Horton advanced 95 cents, or 2.4 percent, to \$39.93.

Oil prices recovered and turned higher just before the close of trading. Benchmark US crude rose 11 cents to \$51.67 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, rose 13 cents to \$57.54 a barrel in London. US crude oil rose 12 percent in the third quarter, which helped energy companies do better than the rest of the market. But on Friday those companies gave back some of their recent gains.

Stocks have risen for eight quarters in a row, and Frederick, of the Schwab Center, said he expects that to continue in the fourth quarter as the global economy is likely to keep growing and interest rates in the U.S. should rise more, which will help profits for banks. However Frederick said it's possible that concerns about domestic politics, including the federal debt limit, or international concerns such as tensions with North Korea will weigh on stocks again, as they did at times in the third quarter.

In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline slid 3 cents to \$1.61 a gallon. Heating oil declined 2 cents to \$1.81 a gallon. Natural gas gave up 1 cent to \$3.01 per 1,000 cubic feet. Bond prices turned lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.33 percent from 2.31 percent. Gold lost \$3.90 to \$1,284.80 an ounce. Silver slid 17 cents to \$16.68 an ounce. Copper fell 3 cents to \$2.96 a pound. The dollar rose to 112.51 yen from 112.39 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1816 from \$1.1791. Germany's DAX added 1 percent and the FTSE 100 in Britain and CAC 40 in France both gained 0.7 percent. In Japan, the benchmark Nikkei 225 inched down less than 0.1 percent. South Korea's Kospi jumped 0.9 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up 0.5 percent. — AP



## Hani Mohammad Al-Mousa wins KD 500,000 prize in Gulf Bank draw

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank is pleased to announce the lucky winner of its Al-Danah's third quarterly draw for this year. Hani Mousa Mohammad Al-Mousa, winner of the KD 500,000 cash prize, was announced during the draw event, live on Q8 Pulse 88.8 FM 'Rabaa Al-Diwaniya' show, on Thursday, 28 September 2017, in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

During the show, Gulf Bank has also announced names of the three winners of the bank's Cards Summer Campaign, who are Aseel H Al Otaibi, winner of KD 5,000 cash prize, Bader Abdulrazzaq Abdulkareem Khalafi, winner of KD 10,000 cash prize and Nahid Badir Ali Al Qattan, who won the Grand Prize of KD 25,000. The remaining 47 winners will be receiving KD 1,000 each; their names will be announced on Gulf Bank's website and through social media channels.

Also, the bank has announced the three winners of its ninth monthly red account draw, names are, Dehayyem Mesbeh Dehayyem Al Majidi, who received an iPhone7 Plus, Ali Sayed Ahmad Al Haddad, who received an iPad Pro and Hasnaa Rabian Mutlaq Al Subaie, who won an Apple Watch.

The Al-Danah account is Gulf Bank's flagship account, it offers three quarterly cash prizes for KD 200,000; KD 250,000; KD500,000; and a yearly draw for KD 1 million, in addition to daily draws with two winners per working day, each receiving KD1,000. The Al-Danah account's annual prize for KD 1 million is not only the largest bank prize in Kuwait; it has additionally been



recognized by Guinness World Records achievement for the largest prize linked to a bank account in the world!

The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 11 January 2018, where the Kuwait's new Al-Danah millionaire will be announced. Account holders can increase their chances of winning by depositing more into their Al-Danah account, through the Bank's Interactive Teller Machines, ATMs, the new "ePay" service or by visiting any of the banks' branches across Kuwait. The last date for customers to deposit and enter the final draw is 31 October 2017.

The Gulf Bank's summer campaign was for Credit cardholders who use their cards locally and internationally and for Debit cardholders who use their cards internationally, by doing so, they were automatically enrolled into a raffle draw for a chance to win cash prizes. During the campaign period, customers got one chance to enter the raffle draw for every KD 10 spent locally using their Credit cards; while they got three chances to enter the raffle draw for every KD 10 spent internationally when they used their Gulf Bank Credit or Debit cards.



## The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 11 January 2018

Business

# Cadillac sales rose 12% in H1 2017 supported with new CT6, XT5 sales

## Wealth of unique technologies deliver strong and smooth performance

**KUWAIT:** Cadillac Alghanim, the sole distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, announced that it has registered a 12 percent sales growth in the first half of 2017 in comparison to the same period last year. Cadillac Alghanim continued to see exceptional sales

of the premium CT6 sedan, which embodies elegance and luxury. The flagship sedan comes equipped with a wealth of new and unique technologies that deliver a strong and smooth performance. In addition, the beautiful design and the great attention to detail delivers a strong and smooth performance not found in large luxury vehicles.

The unique qualities and features of the CT6 place it in a well-deserved first-class position among luxury sedans in Kuwait. The car boasts the finest materials in designing and equipping its interior, and employs the best industry standards to deliver a superior performance and unprecedented experience. The car's leadership position is based on three main qualities of smooth performance, communication and entertainment, as well as luxury, and all what these qualities reflect in innovation and excellence.

Also supporting the double-digit growth is the iconic XT5 Crossover, which played a crucial role in Cadillac Alghanim's success. The completely new luxury vehicle from Cadillac comes with a bold new design and a wealth of space, while remaining one of the dealer's best sellers, setting the benchmark of the crossover segment with a balance of sophistication, functionality, and technology.

A favorite in the dealer's showroom, the ATS, CTS and all their variants have set new standards for the sedan, including the V-Series line-up that includes the CTS-V with a 6.2L V8 engine SAE certified at 640 horsepower for customers seeking an adrenaline rush.

For those who prefer larger cars, the popular flagship Escalade SUV is a vehicle that sets the benchmark for SUV luxury, making a presence felt on every road. The car comes with Cadillac's Magnetic Ride Control, the world's fastest reacting suspension system, delivering precisely controlled driving performance. All models are standard with 4WD drivetrains, powered by a 6.2L V-8 engine backed by an eight-speed automatic transmission.

The advanced standards and technological features



in Cadillac vehicles are complemented with the Premium Care program to further provide ease of mind to the customer's ownership experience. Customers enjoy service and maintenance for four years or

100,000 km, warranty for 4 years or 100,000 km, 24-hour roadside assistance anywhere in the Middle East for four years (unlimited mileage) plus courtesy transportation and a replacement vehicle upon availability.



### CT6 in well-deserved first class position

due to the introduction of the new models, superior customer care and aftersales services offered with every Cadillac sold.

Supporting Cadillac Alghanim's impressive sales results was the introduction of Cadillac's latest iteration



## National Cleaning Company announces launch of Kuwait's first Innovation Lab

**KUWAIT:** National Cleaning Company (NCC), a leading waste management company in the GCC, is now accepting applications for its Innovation Lab: NCC Edition, the first of its kind in Kuwait. Run by Berkeley Research Group and Kuwait Ventures, the 5-week program will offer foundational course teaching entrepreneurs to map out, build and learn to monetize their ideas, followed by an intensive four-week period of customer discovery, mentorship and coaching. Each team will be granted a reasonable budget to cover expenses for the customer discovery phase, and at the end of the 5-week program will present their business plan to NCC for potential funding and incubation. The program is open to new teams, existing startups, and teams from within NCC and its subsidiaries, that are based in Kuwait.

NCC expects to discover and develop new products and services relevant to its lines of business and those of its subsidiaries, including the fields of waste management (municipal waste collection and disposal, environmental waste management, and bioremediation, among others), agriculture and landscaping, pest control, laundry services, valet parking, and security services. NCC

is also interested in tech startups and other entrepreneurs with innovations related to internal business and logistical functionality within its companies.

Applications will be accepted online at: [kventures.io/apply](http://kventures.io/apply) from September 24, 2017 through October 26, 2017. The successful applications will be notified by November 5, 2017 and the 5-week program will begin on November 12, 2017.

"NCC is very excited to partner with BRG and Kuwait Ventures on this exciting opportunity. We look forward to tapping into the entrepreneurial talent and new ideas in Kuwait and partnering to build a new chapter in the NCC success story locally and internationally," said Mohsin Bushahri, NCC Chief Executive Officer.

According to BRG General Manager Jared Willis, "We are delighted to be working with NCC and Kuwait Ventures on Innovation Lab: NCC Edition, the first of its kind in Kuwait. The chance to work NCC represents a unique opportunity for Kuwaiti entrepreneurs to develop their idea alongside an established and experienced partner, and we expect this will be a fruitful partnership for all parties."



"It's great to see this international phenomenon coming to Kuwait, and I'm very excited to be working with such a strong corporate partner as NCC on this Innovation Lab," said Kuwait Ventures Managing Partner Sara N Al-Ateeqi.

National Cleaning Company was started 38 years ago by several dedicated and enterprising individuals, and has grown into a major shareholding company with a multinational workforce exceeding 10,000 and equipped with over 2,500 specialist machineries to support its business.

Berkeley Research Group is a leading global strate-

gic advisory and expert consulting firm that provides independent advice, data analytics, authoritative studies, and regulatory consulting to Fortune 500 corporations, financial institutions, government agencies, major law firms and regulatory bodies around the world. BRG's Kuwait subsidiary is the first wholly-owned foreign consulting firm to be registered in Kuwait under the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Law of 2014.

Kuwait Ventures is a venture advisory firm based in Kuwait that focuses on providing corporations and governments a bridge to innovation via the startup ecosystem.

## VIVA launches Samsung Galaxy Note8 with postpaid plans

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announces the launch of the Samsung Galaxy Note8, with new postpaid voice plans at all VIVA's stores in Kuwait starting from KD 35.

The Galaxy Note8 is designed to use with ease and simplicity. Bigger picture with a 6.3" Infinity Display and discover multitasking features that will change the way of communication. Packed with innovations, the Galaxy Note8 means it's possible to do bigger things. It's the biggest ever for a Galaxy Note giving a 6.3" screen for a bigger view yet it fits in the hand. Even watching movies is simply more enjoyable with a 14 percent wider viewing area with the Infinity Display's 18.5:9 aspect ratio. With its dual camera with a dual OIS, shots are crisp and clear and they come out beautifully steady even with camera shake. The high-performing 10nm mobile processor and 6GB RAM make things run smoothly to do more with the phone. The Galaxy Note8 simply brings a seamless experience to communicate in a whole new way.

## A smoother, faster, more secure WiFi experience with Huawei

**KUWAIT:** For today's millennials, hopping on a plane to an exotic, far-flung location is more than just a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, as it may have been in their parent's day. Be it for work, leisure or adventure, this internet-savvy generation of travelers will jump online to book their flights and accommodation, and will also expect to be able to document and share their experience with their friends and family, while on the go. Having 24/7 hour access to the Internet is high on the priority list for today's young explorers and digital nomads as nothing is more frustrating than poor signal quality, unprotected networks or excessive data roaming costs. The more seasoned travelers will have already found the solution to the problem: a portable WiFi router. This travel-sized travel router solves the issue from all angles - you can get online using your own private connection from anywhere in the world, and never miss a chance to share your adventures with your global network of friends.

For anyone looking for a top-of-the-range product with easy plug-and-play installation, the lightning-fast Huawei B618 - the world's 1st CAT11 600Mbps Router - let's you enjoy the fastest speeds and up to 64 simultaneous WiFi connections. The HUAWEI B618 supports 4\*4MIMO and 2CC[IS1]. It also contains two non-removable antenna connectors for both 3G & 4G anten-



nas, improving indoor connection by more than 140% comparing with other routers. For those who travel for work and require more robust network connectivity for activities such as video conferencing or gaming, the router features the Triple Carrier Aggregation, which allows the HUAWEI B618 to bundle three different frequency ranges with a maximum of 20 MHz each.

## Wataniya Airways appoints Janahi in its pilot team



**KUWAIT:** Wataniya Airways announced the joining of Arwa Janahi as the first lady pilot of the company. This appointment comes as part of a series of initiatives by Wataniya Airways as part of supporting young talent and promising opportunities for both men and women. From her side Lana Al Resheed PR manager of Wataniya Airways said: "We are proud to have Arwa in Wataniya Airways team who have been carefully selected to ensure the highest level of air services on Wataniya Airways," she said. "We are proud of the presence of women who have ambitions to compete. In all areas of business until aviation."

Wataniya Airways launched their operation last July to several destinations in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Sarajevo, Bahrain, Egypt and other destinations.

## Technology

# Chaos and hackers stalk investors on cryptocurrency exchanges

## Concerns about accountability grow

LONDON, SHANGHAI, NEW YORK: Dan Wasyluk discovered the hard way that trading cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin happens in an online Wild West where sheriffs are largely absent.

Wasyluk and his colleagues raised bitcoins for a new tech venture and lodged them in escrow at a company running a cryptocurrency exchange called Moolah. Just months later the exchange collapsed; the man behind it is now awaiting trial in Britain on fraud and money-laundering charges. He has pleaded not guilty. Wasyluk's project lost 750 bitcoins, currently worth about \$3 million, and he believes he stands little chance of recovering any money.

"It really was kind of a kneecapping of the project," said Wasyluk of the collapse three years ago. "If you are starting an exchange and you lose clients' money, you or your company should be 100 percent accountable for that loss. And right now there is nothing like that in place." Cryptocurrencies were supposed to offer a secure, digital way to conduct financial transac-



still debating how to handle cryptocurrencies, and Yermack says the US Congress will ultimately have to take action. Some of the freewheeling exchanges are plagued with poor security and lack investor protections common in more regulated financial markets, Reuters found. Some Chinese exchanges have falsely inflated their trading volume to lure new customers, according to former employees.

There have been at least three dozen heists of cryptocurrency exchanges since 2011; many of the hacked exchanges later shut down. More than 980,000 bitcoins have been stolen, which today would be worth about \$4 billion. Few have been recovered. Burned investors have been left at the mercy of exchanges as to whether they will receive any compensation.

### Compensation wait

Nearly 25,000 customers of Mt. Gox, once the world's largest bitcoin exchange, are still waiting for compensation more than three years after its collapse into bankruptcy in Japan. The exchange said it lost about 650,000 bitcoins. Claims approved by the bankruptcy trustee total more than \$400 million.

In July, a federal judge in Florida ordered Paul Vernon, the operator of a collapsed US exchange called Cryptsy, to pay \$8.2 million to customers after he failed to respond to a class-action lawsuit. The judge ruled that 11,325 bitcoins had been stolen but did not identify the thief. "This is no different than bank robbers in the Old West," said David C. Silver, one of the plaintiffs' attorneys. "Cryptocurrency is just a new front." Vernon could not be reached for comment.

Another challenge for traders: government intervention. This month, Chinese authorities ordered some mainland Chinese cryptocurrency exchanges to stop trading. The order, however, did not apply to exchanges based in Hong Kong or outside China, including those affiliated with mainland Chinese exchanges.

So-called "flash crashes" - when cryptocurrencies suddenly plummet in value - are also a threat. Unlike



regulated US stock exchanges, cryptocurrency exchanges aren't required to have circuit breakers in place to halt trading during wild price swings. Digital coin exchanges are also frequently under assault by hackers, resulting in down times that can sideline traders at critical moments.

On May 7, traders on a US exchange called Kraken lost more than \$5 million when it came under attack and couldn't be accessed, according to a class-action lawsuit filed in Florida. During the incident, the suit alleges, the exchange's price of a cryptocurrency called ether fell more than 70 percent and the traders' leveraged positions were liquidated. They received no compensation. The exchange declined to comment on the lawsuit. In a court filing, it asked for the case to be dismissed and said the claims should be decided by arbitration.

Another two flash crashes occurred this year on the US exchange GDAX. The exchange said it compensated traders who lost money. Not surprisingly, many banks are leery of cryptocurrency exchanges and some have refused to deal with them. At a bank investor conference this month in New York, Jamie Dimon, chief executive of JPMorgan Chase & Co, called bitcoin "a fraud" and predicted it will "blow up."

Boycotts by banks can make it impossible at times for exchanges to process wire transfers that allow customers to buy or sell cryptocurrencies with traditional currencies, such as dollars or euros. In March, Wells Fargo stopped processing wire transfers for an

exchange called Bitfinex, leaving customers unable to transfer US dollars out of their accounts, except through special arrangement with the exchange's lawyer. Wells Fargo declined to comment.

Dealing with the banks "is a constant and ongoing challenge," said Bitfinex Chief Executive Jean Louis van der Velde. "Citizens and businesses being treated like criminals when they are not, including myself." He declined to say which banks Bitfinex is now using. In part, banks say they are concerned about the due diligence cryptocurrency exchanges do on their customers to guard against money laundering, criminal activity and sanctions violations. While regulators require banks to verify who their customers are, some cryptocurrency trading platforms have performed minimal checks, Reuters found.

Internal customer records reviewed by Reuters from the BTCChina exchange, which has an office in Shanghai but is stopping trading at the end of this month, show that in the fall of 2015, 63 customers said they were from Iran and another nine said they were from North Korea - countries under U.S. sanctions. Americans are generally prohibited from conducting financial transactions with individuals in Iran and North Korea. Statements on BTCChina's website from 2013 and 2014 identify Bobby Lee, who holds American citizenship, as its chief executive and co-founder. Lee is currently CEO of BTCC, a separate Cayman Islands-registered cryptocurrency exchange company, according to a spokesman for the exchanges. —Reuters



## The freewheeling exchanges are plagued with poor security

tions, but they have been dogged by doubts. Concerns have largely focused on their astronomical gains in value and the likelihood of painful price crashes. Equally perilous, though, are the exchanges where virtual currencies are bought, sold and stored. These exchanges, which match buyers and sellers and sometimes hold traders' funds, have become magnets for fraud and mires of technological dysfunction, a Reuters examination shows, posing an underappreciated risk to anyone who trades digital coins.

Huge sums are at stake. As the prices of bitcoin and other virtual currencies have soared this year - bitcoin has quadrupled - legions of investors and speculators have turned to online exchanges. Billions of dollars' worth of bitcoins and other cryptocurrencies - which aren't backed by any governments or central banks - are now traded on exchanges every day.

"These are new assets. No one really knows what to make of them," said David L. Yermack, chairman of the finance department at New York University's Stern School of Business. "If you're a consumer, there's nothing to protect you." Regulators and governments are

## Uber's Kalanick reignites power struggle, names 2 to board

SAN FRANCISCO: Uber Technologies Inc co-founder Travis Kalanick on Friday said he had appointed two new directors, a surprise move that publicly reignited a board battle over the role of the ousted former chief executive.

Uber investors are divided over whether Kalanick, who was pressured to step down as CEO earlier this year in the wake of several company scandals, should himself be on the board and whether he can name two other directors. The company and new Chief Executive Dara Khosrowshahi are scrambling to portray Uber as a reformed company that is responding to concerns including sexual harassment claims and a US bribery probe.

Kalanick, still one of the largest shareholders, said in a statement he had appointed former Xerox Chief Executive Ursula Burns and former Merrill Lynch Chief Executive John Thain as directors.

"I am appointing these seats now in light of a recent board proposal to dramatically restructure the board and significantly alter the company's voting rights. It is therefore essential that the full board be in place for proper deliberation to occur, especially with such experienced board members as Ursula and John," he said. He did not specify the proposals he opposed.

The appointments were a "complete surprise" to Uber and its board, the company said in a statement. "That is precisely why we are working to put in place world-class governance to ensure that we are building a company every employee and shareholder can be proud of," it added.

An investor who has supported Kalanick, Yucaipa Companies managing partner Ron Burkle, praised the appointments on Friday, calling Burns and Thain "smart, high-quality people."

Division among Uber investors exploded in public in August, when Benchmark Capital filed a lawsuit to force Kalanick off the board and rescind his ability to fill two other seats on the panel, accusing him of concealing a range of misdeeds. Yucaipa and other Uber investors defended Kalanick and asked Benchmark to divest its own shares and step down from the board. A Delaware judge later that month stayed the Benchmark lawsuit and sent it to arbitration, pushing the dispute out of public view and delivering Kalanick a victory.

Kalanick's action on Friday could be subject to a new legal challenge. —Reuters

## Smartphone app for migrants gets trial in CentAm, Mexico

SAN JOSE: A smartphone app designed to help migrants safely move through countries is being tested in Central America and Mexico from this week, ahead of a wider roll-out elsewhere in the world, the UN Migration Agency said Friday.

"MigrantApp" offers information in English, Spanish and French on safety, health, accommodation and organizations offering assistance.

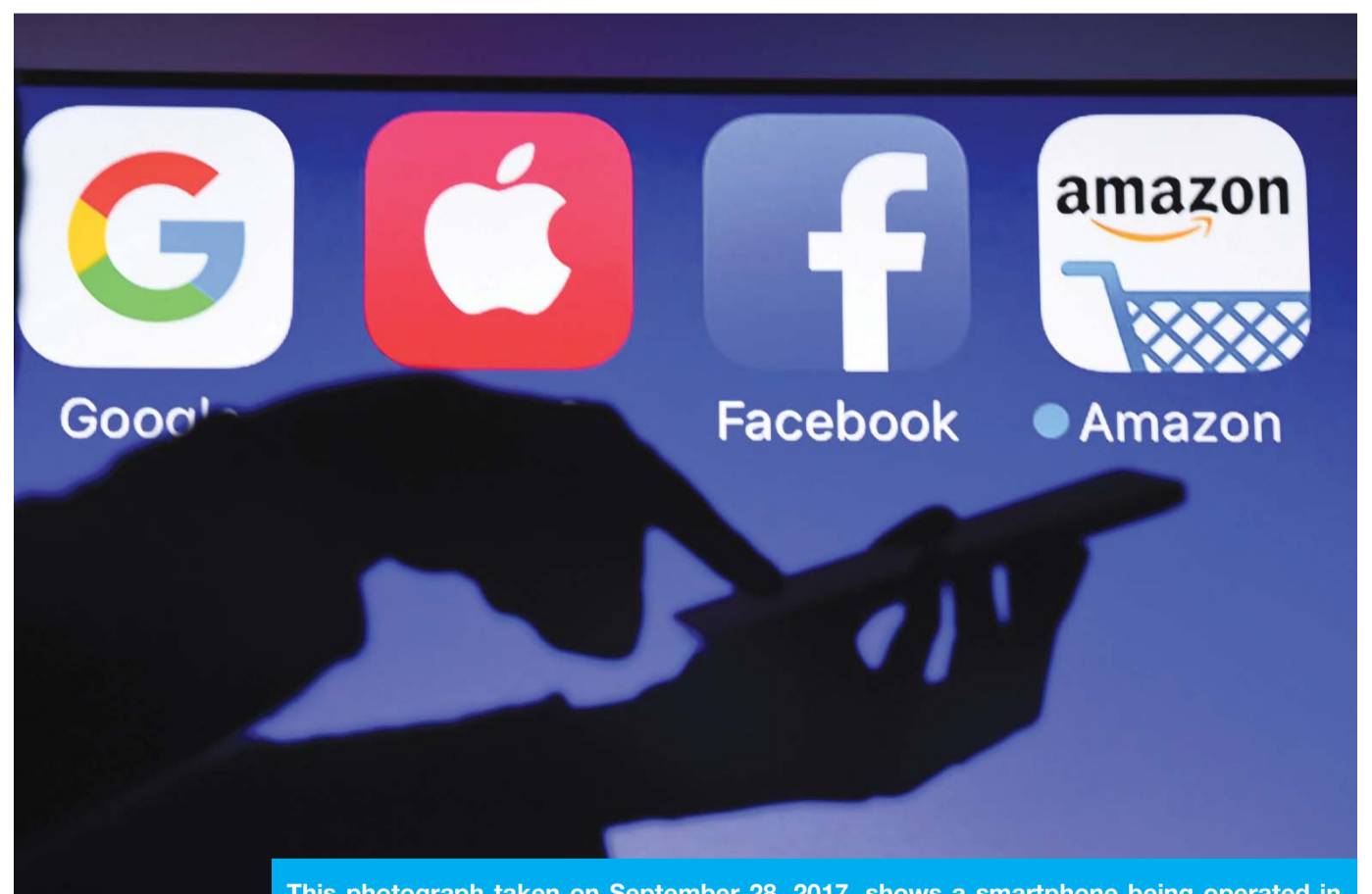
Its launch comes at a time when the United States is making undocumented immigration far more difficult, while ending programs that had eased the entry and residence of certain migrants.

Much of the US attention is directed at Mexicans and Central Americans who make up the largest number of undocumented migrants who have entered America.

Central America is also a major corridor for other migrants from Latin America-particularly Venezuelans right now-and from countries on other continents seeking to get to the US.

The UN Migration Agency, also called the International Organization for Migration (IOM), stressed that its new app was not a tool to help migrants try to circumvent government controls on immigration.

Instead it provides "clear and reli-



This photograph taken on September 28, 2017, shows a smartphone being operated in front of GAF A logos (acronym for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon web giants) as background in Hede-Bazouges, western France. —AFP

able information on their legal options" so they are less likely to opt for riskier, irregular crossings that often expose them to exploitation and fraud, said Roeland de Wilde, country chief of IOM in Costa Rica.

His office developed the app with funding from the US State Department. The path through Central America and

Mexico "is the biggest migration corridor in the world," he noted, adding it made sense to provide migrants with information on a mobile platform given that most of them relied on phones throughout their journeys.

Data from migrants using the app will be kept confidential. Initially available only on Android phones, it will be

released for Apple's iOS devices later. The pilot app is being released two weeks after the IOM's deputy director general, Laura Thompson, told a conference in Costa Rica that migration flows in the Americas were overwhelmingly from south to north-with 94 percent of migrants aiming for the US and Canada. —AFP

## Ariane 5 rocket puts satellites into orbit on second attempt

CAYENNE: An Ariane 5 rocket put two commercial satellites into orbit after an initial attempt was aborted earlier this month, operator Arianespace said early yesterday.

The rocket launched successfully from the Kourou

Space Centre in French Guiana on Friday, carrying the Intelsat 37e and the BSAT-4a satellites into space, Arianespace said. The launch had initially been set for September 5 but was aborted in the final countdown as the main engine was being ignited for lift-off due to an "anomaly on the launcher," Arianespace said.

The last time an Ariane 5 lift-off was aborted at ignition was in March 2011.

Friday's launch was the fifth Ariane 5 rocket mission this year, and the ninth successful launch by Arianespace. It saw the Intelsat 37e, which weighs around 6.5 tons, separating from the rocket just under 30 minutes after liftoff.

And the BSAT-4a satellite, which weighs around 3.5

tons, was placed in orbit a little more than 47 minutes after taking off from the French overseas territory in South America.

Intelsat 37e is a high-speed satellite built by Boeing that will offer high-performance telecoms services while BSAT-4a is a satellite for Japan's Broadcasting Satellite System Corp.

Kourou is Europe's spaceport in South America and Arianespace is a launch operator which puts satellites into orbit for the European Commission and European Space Agency.

Guiana, which is home to some 250,000 people, has been administered as a French region since the end of the 18th century. —AFP

Health

# US calls mysterious health ailments in Cuba 'attacks'

WASHINGTON: The United States delivered an ominous warning to Americans on Friday to stay away from Cuba and ordered home more than half the US diplomatic corps, acknowledging neither the Cubans nor America's FBI can figure out who or what is responsible for months of mysterious health ailments. No longer tiptoeing around the issue, the Trump administration shifted to calling the episodes "attacks" rather than "incidents."

The US actions are sure to rattle already delicate ties between the longtime adversaries who only recently began putting their hostility behind them. The US Embassy in Cuba will lose roughly 60 percent of its American staff and will stop processing visas for prospective Cuban travelers to the United States indefinitely, officials said. Roughly 50 Americans had been working at the embassy. President Donald Trump said

in Cuban hotels. While American tourists aren't known to have been hurt, the agency said they could be exposed if they travel to the island - a pronouncement that could hit a critical component of Cuba's economy that has expanded in recent years as the US has relaxed restrictions.

At least 21 diplomats and family members have been affected. The department said symptoms include hearing loss, dizziness, headache, fatigue, cognitive issues and difficulty sleeping. Until Friday, the US had generally referred to "incidents." Tillerson's statement ended that practice, mentioning "attacks" seven times: the travel alert used the word five times. Still, the administration has pointedly not blamed Cuba for perpetrating the attacks, and officials have spent weeks weighing how to minimize the risk for Americans in Cuba without unnecessarily harming relations or falling into an adversary's trap.

If the attacks have been committed by an outside power such as Russia or Venezuela to drive a wedge between the US and Cuba, as some investigators have theorized, a US pullout would end up rewarding the aggressor. On the other hand, officials have struggled with the moral dimensions of keeping diplomats in a place where the US government cannot guarantee their safety. The administration considered expelling Cuban diplomats from the US, officials said, but for now no such action has been ordered. That incensed several lawmakers who had urged the administration to kick out all

of Cuban's envoys.

"It's an insult," said Florida Sen Marco Rubio, a vocal critic of Cuba's government, in an interview. "The Cuban regime succeeded in forcing Americans to downscale a number of personnel in Cuba, yet it appears they're going to basically keep all the people they want in America to travel freely and spread misinformation." The US travel warning said, "Because our personnel's safety is at risk, and we are unable to identify the source of the attacks, we believe US citizens may also be at risk and warn them not to travel to Cuba." Canada, which also has reported diplomats with unexplained health problems, said it had no plans to change its diplomatic posture in Cuba. The US moves deliver a significant setback to the delicate reconciliation between America and Cuba, countries that endured a half-century estrangement despite only 90 miles of separation. In 2015, President Barack Obama and



HAVANA: Picture shows the US embassy in Havana. United States announced it is withdrawing more than half its personnel in response to mysterious health attacks targeting its diplomatic staff. — AFP

Cuban President Raul Castro restored diplomatic ties, embassies were re-opened and travel and commerce restrictions were eased. Trump has reversed some changes but has broadly left the rapprochement in place.

After considering options that ranged all the way to a full embassy shutdown, Tillerson made the decision to reduce all nonessential personnel and all family members. Also included in the recall is Scott Hamilton, currently the highest-ranked diplomat at the mission. Staffing at the embassy in Havana was already lower than usual due to recent hurricanes that whipped through Cuba. Cubans seeking visas to enter the US may be able to apply through embassies in nearby countries, officials said. The US will stop sending official delegations to Cuba, though diplomatic discussions will continue in Washington.

The United States notified Cuba early Friday via its embassy in Washington. Cuba blasted the American move as "hasty" and lamented that it was being taken without

conclusive investigation results. Still, Josefina Vidal, Cuba's top diplomat for US affairs, said her government was willing to continue cooperation with Washington "to fully clarify these incidents." Her government took the rare step of the inviting the FBI to the island after being presented with the allegations earlier this year.

To medical investigators' dismay, symptoms have varied widely. In addition to hearing loss and concussions, some people have experienced nausea, headaches and ear-ringing. The Associated Press has reported some now suffer from problems with concentration and common word recall. Some US diplomats reported hearing loud noises or feeling vibrations when the incidents occurred, but others heard and felt nothing yet reported symptoms later. In some cases, the effects were narrowly confined, with victims able to walk "in" and "out" of blaring noises audible in only certain rooms or parts of rooms, the AP has reported. — AP



## Americans urged to stay away from Cuba

that in Cuba "they did some very bad things" that harmed US diplomats, but he didn't say who he might mean by "they."

### Travel warning

Though officials initially suspected some futuristic "sonic attack," the picture is muddy. The FBI and other agencies that searched homes and hotels where incidents occurred found no devices. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who reviewed options for a response with Trump, said, "Until the government of Cuba can ensure the safety of our diplomats in Cuba, our embassy will be reduced to emergency personnel in order to minimize the number of diplomats at risk of exposure to harm."

In Friday's travel warning, the State Department confirmed earlier reporting by The Associated Press that US personnel first encountered unexplained physical effects

## Kuwaiti family hopeful for girl's bright future

KUWAIT: Three-year old Rayah has not had the most typical start to life. Rayah was born with a complex heart defect called pulmonary atresia, ventricular septal defect and major aortopulmonary collateral arteries. The defect was causing her heart and breathing complications at an early age, and required a series of specialized surgeries: surgeries that were recently performed with success.

Rayah first visited the London-based hospital in 2014 to undergo the first set of operations to resolve her heart problems and breathing difficulties. Speaking on Rayah's initial visit to GOSH in 2014, Robert Yates, Consultant at Great Ormond Street Hospital said, "Rayah had a very complex surgery which required lots of planning and working across our multidisciplinary teams. As part of her condition, Rayah did

not have normal lung arteries and instead her lungs were supplied with blood from several individual collateral arteries. As part of her original operations last year, these had to be detached from the aorta and joined together to create a more normal blood supply to the lungs.

Earlier this year, Rayah received an eagerly awaited and final set of surgeries to fix the structure of her heart, replacing a heart valve and closing the hole between pumping chambers. Yates said, "Once these had grown big enough, after the initial shunt operation and subsequent catheter procedure, we had to make a connection between the newly created lung circulation and the right ventricle using a valved tube, and at the same time, the hole in her heart had to be closed as the final stage of a series of operations.

We thought we would have to leave a small hole at the end of the final operation, however Rayah's lung arteries grew well and we were able to close the hole completely which will make her cardiac prognosis much better for the future. This is a very encouraging result after a lot of planning and team work, and is an example of how planning treatment in stages over a period of time at the same hospital can really improve outcomes." After waiting for a year for Rayah's clinical progress to improve for the second set of surgeries to take place, Rayah's parents are now hopeful for the future.

"Rayah's last two surgeries happened in a timeframe of a month, with the most recent being the closing of the hole in her heart which took place in May this year," said Rayah's father. "We wish to see her in the best shape and for her to do what she wants to do. Rayah enjoys playing games and playing with toys like most children and she is a very smart girl; she has learnt English while in London," he added. "GOSH has become more than a hospital to us. I feel immense gratitude to the nurses and doctors there. I consider the GOSH staff to be part of our family," concluded Rayah's father.



Rayah

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199





Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
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إستشاري أطفال  
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What's On

# Condolence ceremony held for Imam Hussein



The representative of Sultan Al-Bohra in Kuwait Sheikh Hussein Imran Ali Bhopal Wala, at the Burhani Center of the Islamic Bohra community in Kuwait located in Ardiyah area, held a condolence ceremony in the memory of Imam Hussein yesterday morning. The ceremony was attended by a large number of Bohra community members residing in Kuwait where he initiated the ceremony with saying praise to Allah and peace and blessings upon His honorable prophet, his esteemed family members and honorable companions. He then proceeded to mention the Prophet's noble features, virtuous biography, noble morals and grace on the entire humanity.

His Eminence then mentioned the great sacrifices of Imam Hussein and the family of the Allah's prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, in order to uphold the word of truth, and that he sacrificed soul and precious property, and sacrificed his virtuous family and noble companions in order to preserve the Sharia of his grandfather the last prophet, Allah's peace and blessings be upon him.

He also indicated the efforts exerted by the late Sultan of Bohra, Dr Muhammad Burhanuddin to enhance the social, educational and economic status of the Bohra community in the world. It is worth mentioning that current Sultan of Bohra, Dr Syedana Mufddal Saifuddin T.U.S, is holding the memorial services this year in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The deputy representative of Sultan Al-Bohra Sheikh Hussein also urged the members of Bohra community to adhere to the Islamic Sharia and maintain good morals, in particular, to respect the laws of the State of Kuwait and participate with their Kuwaiti brothers in serving the beloved State of Kuwait in all spheres.

He expressed grateful thanks, recognition and acknowledgment to His Highness the Amir of the State

of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, High Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Excellency Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Excellency Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, may Allah protect them, and to His Excellency Undersecretary, Ministry of the Interior, Lieutenant General Mahmoud Al-Dousari, His Excellency Sheikh Mohammad Yusuf Al-Sabah, the Assistant Undersecretaries in the Ministry of the Interior, the esteemed government, the Ministry of Interior, the security agencies, and particularly the Kuwaiti people for providing facilities and assistance to hold the religious rituals in the memory of martyrdom of Imam Hussein in the month of Muharram.

Furthermore, the representative of Sultan Al-Bohra in Kuwait presented to express sincere condolence and support to His Excellency Sheikh Khalid Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah and to Al-Sabah family on the death of Sheikh Sarah Al-Ahbi Al-Sabah. He expressed sincere condolence to His Excellency Undersecretary, Ministry of the Interior, Lieutenant General Mahmoud Al-Dousari on the death of First Lieutenant Ahmed Mohamed Al-Dousari, praying to Allah to grant His mercy to both decedents and inspire their family with patience and solace.

He concluded the ceremony by invoking Allah the Almighty to grant His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah the long life, health and well-being and bestow Kuwait and the people of Kuwait security, safety, prosperity and progress.

He also invoked Allah to grant the Sultan of Al-Bohra His Eminence Dr Syedana Mufddal Saifuddin the long life to serve Islam, Muslims and mankind.



# Ayanam Open Forum sweeps KANA theatre awards; 'Kazhcha' shines

Ayanam Open Forum's 'Oru Sadacharakala Pranayam' swept most of the laurels followed by Kazhcha Kuwait with its drama 'Kazhcha' at the 'Thoppil Bhasi Theatre Festival 2017' which was organized by Kerala Arts and Nataka Academy (KANA Kuwait) at the Indian Community School auditorium, Khaitan on Friday.

At a colorful event titled 'Thoppil Bhasi Theatre Festival 2017', four amateur troupes competed for the awards. Ayanam Open Forum bagged the 'Thoppil Bhasi Award 2017' for the best drama. The best second play award went to 'Kazhcha' staged by Kazhcha Kuwait while its protagonist - Prisoner- played by Wilson Chirayath was adjudged the best actor of the festival.

Bergman Thomas bagged the best director award for

Devi of the same play was adjudged the second best actress. Alan Rejoy was chosen the best child artist for his distinct style of acting in the drama 'Nam Enthucheyyanam.' Special Jury Award was given to Merin Wilson for her role in 'Kazhcha'. Cash awards were also given to the winning plays. The awards were given away during a glittering ceremony following the competition.

The festival was inaugurated by Chief Guest of the session, Sibi US, Second Secretary, Indian Embassy in the presence of the theatre director and playwright Thoppil Soman, theatre actor V J Antony and KANA Kuwait office-bearers. KANA Kuwait General Secretary Jiju Kalayil welcomed the gathering and president Kumar Thrithala delivered the presidential speech. Kalashri Babu Chakola, paying homage to late Thoppil Bhasi, recalled his emotional meeting with Bhasi's wife Amminiamma at her home in Kerala. Thoppil Soman spoke about how the Malayalam theatre had distanced itself from people over the years.

General Convener of Thoppil Bhasi Theatre Festival 2017 and KANA Advisor Sajeev K Peter briefly spoke about the Late Bhasi and how his social dramas transformed the cultural arena in Kerala in 1950s and 1960s. Advisor K P Balakrishnan and drama festival jury member V J Antony also spoke on the occasion. KANA Kuwait Vice President Punnose Anchery proposed a vote of thanks. Technical Advisor Idiculla Mathews and Reji Mathew were also present during the inaugural ceremony. Manju Mathew and Shilpa Sajeev anchored the inaugural session. A large number of theatre enthusiasts and Indian community members were present during the three-hour festival.

KANA Kuwait is a non-profit socio-cultural organization formed on World Theatre Day (March 27, 2017) in Kuwait by a group of theatre activists with a view to promoting theatre and generating a positive theatre culture among the Indian community in the country.

## Thoppil Bhasi Theatre Festival 2017

his brilliant work 'Oru Sadacharakala Pranayam' while best script award went to Wilson Chirayath for the play 'Kazhcha'. Treesa Wilson won the best actress award for her stellar performance in 'Orusadacharakala Pranayam'. The second best script award went to Subi George for her play 'Nam Enthu Cheyyanam' which was presented by Marina Moving Arts.

Second best actor award was bagged by Rafeeq Thayath (Orusadacharakala Pranayam), while Sharanya



## Indian Embassy announcement

The Embassy shall remain closed on 1st October, 2017 (Sunday) & 2nd October, 2017 (Monday) on the occasion of Muharram and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday respectively. However, emergency consular services will be rendered by the Mission.



TV

MOVIES ACTION

- 01:05 The Transporter: Refueled
02:50 War Of The Worlds
04:55 Insurgent
06:55 In The Heart Of The Sea
08:55 War Of The Worlds
10:50 Insurgent
12:50 Virtual Revolution
14:25 In The Heart Of The Sea
16:25 Being Evil
18:05 Snake Eyes
19:45 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
22:00 Striking Distance
23:40 Swordfish

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 Swamp Brothers
01:13 Swamp Brothers
01:40 Swamp Brothers
02:08 Swamp Brothers
02:35 Swamp Brothers
05:02 Tigers Attack
05:49 Tigers Attack
06:36 Going Ape
07:00 Going Ape
07:25 Whale Wars
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Treehouse Masters
11:00 Treehouse Masters
11:55 Treehouse Masters
12:50 After The Attack
13:45 Wild Animal Rescue
14:40 The Vet Life
15:35 Swamp Brothers
18:20 Expedition Mungo
19:15 Sharkzilla
20:10 Pit Bulls & Parolees
21:05 Wildest Middle East
22:00 Wildest Middle East
22:55 Untamed & Uncut
23:50 Untamed & Uncut
00:00 EastEnders
00:30 The Good Karma Hospital
01:20 The Good Karma Hospital
02:10 The Durrells
03:05 Doctor Foster

BBC FIRST

- 04:00 Doctors
04:30 EastEnders
05:00 Death In Paradise
06:00 Father Brown
06:50 EastEnders
07:20 Stella
08:10 New Tricks
09:10 Doctors
09:40 EastEnders
10:10 Father Brown
11:00 The Coroner
11:50 Stella
12:35 New Tricks
13:30 Doctors
14:00 EastEnders
14:30 Father Brown
15:25 Stella
16:10 New Tricks
17:10 The Coroner
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 The Level
21:00 Luther
21:50 Unforgotten
22:40 Unforgotten
23:30 Doctors

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 Paranormal State
00:30 Paranormal State
01:00 The Haunting Of...
02:00 Ghost Inside My Child
04:00 Paranormal State
04:30 Paranormal State
05:00 The Haunting Of...
06:00 The First 48
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Private Crimes
08:30 Private Crimes
09:00 Cold Case Files
10:00 Cold Case Files
11:00 Evil Up Close
12:00 Evil Up Close
13:00 Evil Up Close
14:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
15:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
16:00 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Cold Case Files
19:00 Cold Case Files
20:00 The First 48
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 I Didn't Do It
23:00 Killer Kids

COMEDY CENTRAL HD

- 00:05 Idiotsitter
00:30 The Half Hour
00:55 Tosh.0
01:20 Tosh.0
01:45 The Alternative Comedy Experience
02:10 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
02:35 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
03:00 Lip Sync Battle
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 Another Period
04:15 Idiotsitter
04:40 Nathan For You
05:05 Tosh.0
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Framework
07:15 Lip Sync Battle
07:40 Lip Sync Battle
08:05 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:30 Brotherhood
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Idiotsitter
09:45 Nathan For You
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Framework
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef
12:18 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Lip Sync Battle
13:05 Lip Sync Battle
13:30 Nathan For You
13:55 The Jim Gaffigan Show
14:20 Brotherhood
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Friends
15:35 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:00 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Workaholics
17:20 Brotherhood
17:45 Idiotsitter

- 18:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show
18:35 Lip Sync Battle
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
20:12 Friends
20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00 The President Show
21:30 Ridiculousness Arabia
22:00 The Half Hour
22:25 South Park
22:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:15 Inside Amy Schumer
23:40 The President Show

Discovery Family

- 00:30 Destroyed In Seconds
02:10 Pick A Puppy
02:35 Pick A Puppy
03:00 Pick A Puppy
03:25 Pick A Puppy
03:50 Finding Bigfoot
04:40 Finding Bigfoot
05:30 The Big Brain Theory
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Awesome Adventures
07:25 Dick 'n' Dam Go Wild
07:50 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
08:15 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 How It's Made
10:45 How It's Made
12:50 Destroyed In Seconds
16:10 Destroyed In Seconds
16:35 Destroyed In Seconds
17:00 Nextworld
17:50 The Big Brain Theory
18:40 Troy
19:30 Serious Explorers
19:55 Serious Explorers
20:20 Space Dealers
21:10 Sonic Sea
22:25 Finding Bigfoot
23:15 Finding Bigfoot

ID HD

- 00:30 Sin City Justice
01:20 Murder In Lehigh Valley: Keith Morrison...
03:00 I Am Homicide
03:48 Forbidden: Dying For Love
04:36 True Nightmares
05:24 Disappeared
06:12 Fatal Encounters
07:00 Disappeared
07:50 Disappeared
08:40 Disappeared
09:30 Disappeared
10:20 Disappeared
11:10 Grave Secrets
12:00 Nowhere To Hide
12:50 Nowhere To Hide
13:40 Nowhere To Hide
14:30 Nowhere To Hide
15:20 Nowhere To Hide
16:10 Fatal Encounters
17:00 Blood Relatives
17:50 Blood Relatives
18:40 Blood Relatives
19:30 Blood Relatives
20:20 Blood Relatives
21:10 Betrayed
22:00 Disappeared
22:50 Devil In The Details
23:40 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff

Disney CHANNEL HD

- 00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 The Zhuzhus
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Bunk'd
09:00 K.C. Undercover
09:25 K.C. Undercover
09:50 Stuck In The Middle
10:15 Stuck In The Middle
10:40 Disney's Descendants
12:30 Descendants 2: It's Going Down
12:55 The Zhuzhus
13:10 Bunk'd
13:35 Bunk'd
14:00 A.N.T. Farm
14:25 Wizards Of Waverly Place: Wizards vs. Angels
15:15 Jessie
15:40 Jessie
16:05 Descendants Wicked World
16:10 Good Luck Charlie
16:35 Good Luck Charlie
17:00 Disney The Lodge
17:25 Adventures In Babysitting
06:20 Framework
18:55 Rolling With The Ronks
19:05 Descendants 2: It's Going Down
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Elena Of Avalor
20:20 Jessie
20:45 Bizaardvark
21:10 The Zhuzhus
21:35 Stuck In The Middle
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
22:50 LoloLock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 WAGs Miami
00:55 WAGs Miami
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Mariah's World
04:50 Mariah's World
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 E! NYC
06:50 E! News
07:20 Just Jillian
08:10 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
08:50 E! News
09:05 E! News
09:30 E! News
09:55 E! News
10:05 E! News
10:30 E! News
10:55 E! News
11:15 E! News
11:40 E! News
12:05 E! News
12:30 E! News
12:55 E! News
13:15 E! News
13:40 E! News
14:05 E! News
14:30 E! News
14:55 E! News
15:15 E! News
15:40 E! News
16:05 E! News
16:30 E! News
16:55 E! News
17:20 E! News
17:45 E! News
18:05 E! News
18:30 E! News
18:55 E! News
19:15 E! News
19:40 E! News
20:00 E! News
20:25 E! News
20:50 E! News
21:15 E! News
21:40 E! News
22:05 E! News
22:30 E! News
22:55 E! News
23:15 E! News
23:40 E! News

Disney JUNIOR

- 01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
07:30 Goldie & Bear
08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:30 Doc McStuffins
09:00 P.J. Masks
09:30 Sofia The First
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
11:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
12:00 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
12:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
13:00 Miles From Tomorrow
13:30 Miles From Tomorrow
14:00 Miles From Tomorrow
14:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
16:00 Doc McStuffins
16:30 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
17:00 The Lion Guard
17:30 Sofia The First
18:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
19:00 P.J. Masks
19:25 Harry And Bird
19:35 The Lion Guard
20:05 Goldie & Bear
20:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
21:05 Doc McStuffins
21:35 Miles From Tomorrow
21:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
22:20 Sofia The First
22:50 P.J. Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
23:40 Loopdidoo

food network

- 00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant Stakeout
02:00 Mystery Diners
02:30 Mystery Diners
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:25 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:50 Man Fire Food
07:15 Chopped
08:05 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:55 The Pioneer Woman
09:20 The Pioneer Woman
09:50 Siba's Table
10:20 Siba's Table
10:50 Bake With Anna Olson
11:20 Chopped
12:10 Man Fire Food
12:35 Man Fire Food
13:05 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Chopped
15:00 Barefoot Contessa
15:30 Barefoot Contessa
16:00 The Pioneer Woman
16:30 The Pioneer Woman
17:00 Siba's Table
17:30 Siba's Table
18:00 Bake With Anna Olson
18:30 Bake With Anna Olson
19:00 Man Fire Food
19:30 Man Fire Food
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Siba's Table
21:30 Siba's Table
22:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
22:30 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
23:00 Chopped

Discovery CHANNEL HD

- What On Earth?
01:05 Fast N' Loud
01:50 Fast N' Loud
02:35 Fast N' Loud
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Street Outlaws
04:50 Street Outlaws
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Deadliest Catch
06:45 Misfit Garage
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 The Island With Bear Grylls: USA
09:00 Storage Hunters UK
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Edge Of Alaska
10:55 Alaskan Bush People
11:40 So You Think You'd Survive?
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Storage Hunters UK
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 The Island With Bear Grylls: USA
14:40 Outback Truckers
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Misfit Garage
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Storage Hunters UK
18:20 Storage Hunters UK
18:50 Kings Of The Wild
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Idris Elba: No Limits
21:50 Harley And The Davidsons
23:30 Fast N' Loud

XHD

- 06:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
07:15 Right NOW Kapow
07:40 Walk The Prank
08:05 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
08:10 Gravity Falls
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Disney11
09:25 Disney11
09:50 Disney11
10:20 Disney11
10:45 Disney11
11:10 Lab Rats
11:35 Mech-X4
12:00 Walk The Prank
12:30 Phineas And Ferb
12:55 Kirby Buckets
13:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:45 Marvel's Spider-Man
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Milo Murphy's Law
14:40 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
15:30 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right NOW Kapow
16:25 Supa Strikas
16:50 Supa Strikas
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Gravity Falls
18:05 Milo Murphy's Law
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man
18:35 Lab Rats
19:00 Kirby Buckets
19:25 Walk The Prank
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Right NOW Kapow
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Mighty Med
21:10 Gravity Falls
21:35 Marvel's Ant-Man
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

H2 HD

- 00:00 Ancient Aliens
01:00 Ancient Aliens
02:00 Ancient Aliens
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Ancient Aliens
04:30 Ancient Aliens
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 Ancient Aliens
07:00 Ancient Impossible
08:00 Ancient Impossible
09:00 Serial Killer Earth
10:00 Serial Killer Earth
11:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
12:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
13:00 Ancient Impossible
14:00 Ancient Impossible
15:00 Serial Killer Earth
16:00 Serial Killer Earth
17:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 The Lost Evidence
20:00 United Stuff Of America
21:00 In Search Of Aliens
22:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
23:00 DB Cooper: Case Closed?

EHD

- 00:00 WAGs Miami
00:55 WAGs Miami
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Mariah's World
04:50 Mariah's World
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09:05 E! News
09:30 E! News
09:55 E! News
10:05 E! News
10:30 E! News
10:55 E! News
11:15 E! News
11:40 E! News
12:05 E! News
12:30 E! News
12:55 E! News
13:15 E! News
13:40 E! News
14:05 E! News
14:30 E! News
14:55 E! News
15:15 E! News
15:35 E! News
16:00 E! News
16:30 E! News
16:55 E! News
17:20 E! News
17:45 E! News
18:05 E! News
18:30 E! News
18:55 E! News
19:15 E! News
19:40 E! News
20:00 E! News
20:25 E! News
20:50 E! News
21:15 E! News
21:40 E! News
22:05 E! News
22:30 E! News
22:55 E! News
23:15 E! News
23:40 E! News

- 09:05 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
17:10 E! News
17:35 E! News
18:05 E! News
18:30 E! News
19:00 E! News
20:00 The E! True Hollywood Story
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:30 WAGs Miami
23:30 E! News

NAT GEO people HD

- 00:15 Food
00:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:10 Street Food Around The World
01:40 Raw Travel
02:05 Raw Travel
02:35 Dog Whisperer
03:30 Rustic Adventures Italy
03:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
04:50 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
05:20 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
05:45 Raw Travel
06:15 Restoration Man
07:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
07:35 Rustic Adventures Italy
08:05 Rustic Adventures Italy
08:30 Rustic Adventures Italy
09:00 Cesar To The Rescue
09:55 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
10:20 Places We Go
10:50 Places We Go
11:15 Around The World In 80 Dishes
12:40 Raw Travel
13:05 Fish Of The Day
13:35 Dog Whisperer
14:30 My Pacific Quest
15:25 Cruise Ship Diaries
16:20 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
16:45 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
17:15 Rustic Adventures Italy
17:40 Rustic Adventures Italy
18:10 The Wine Show
19:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
20:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
20:30 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
21:00 Rustic Adventures Italy
21:30 Rustic Adventures Italy
22:00 The Wine Show
22:55 Raw Travel
23:20 Fish Of The Day
23:50 Dog Whisperer

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Big Fix Alaska
01:00 Seconds From Disaster
01:30 Seconds From Disaster
02:00 Big Fish, Texas
03:00 Wicked Tuna
04:00 Big Fix Alaska
05:00 Maritime Silk Road Reborn
06:00 Seconds From Disaster
06:30 Seconds From Disaster
07:00 Highway Thru Hell
08:00 Locked Up Abroad Compilations
10:00 Pope vs Hitler
12:00 Attack Of The Zeppelins
13:00 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Big Fish, Texas
16:00 Wicked Tuna
17:00 Year Million
18:00 Seconds From Disaster
18:30 Seconds From Disaster
19:00 Big Fish, Texas
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Year Million
21:40 Seconds From Disaster
22:05 Seconds From Disaster
22:30 Big Fish, Texas
23:20 Attack Of The Zeppelins

itv CHOICE HD

- 00:15 Coronation Street
00:40 Coronation Street
01:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Coronation Street
04:55 The Chase
05:50 Doctor Thorne
06:50 The Jonathan Ross Show
07:50 Midsomer Murders
09:30 Victoria
10:25 Grantchester
11:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
12:20 The Chase
13:15 The Chase
14:05 Tracey Ullman's Show
14:35 Grantchester
15:30 Victoria
16:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
17:25 Midsomer Murders
19:00 The Chase
19:50 Doctor Thorne
20:40 Victoria
21:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
22:25 Midsomer Murders

H2 HD

- 00:00 Ancient Aliens
01:00 Ancient Aliens
02:00 Ancient Aliens
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Ancient Aliens
04:30 Ancient Aliens
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 Ancient Aliens
07:00 Ancient Impossible
08:00 Ancient Impossible
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11:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
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13:00 Ancient Impossible
14:00 Ancient Impossible
15:00 Serial Killer Earth
16:00 Serial Killer Earth
17:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 The Lost Evidence
20:00 United Stuff Of America
21:00 In Search Of Aliens
22:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
23:00 DB Cooper: Case Closed?

HISTORY HD

- 00:20 Mystery Pickers
01:10 Mountain Men
02:00 LEEP And Pitbull
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 Pawn Stars
03:40 Pawn Stars Australia
04:05 Storage Wars: Barry's Best Buys
05:00 Grave Trade
06:00 Big Easy Motors
06:25 Big Easy Motors
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
08:12 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Aussie Pickers
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
13:30 Time Team
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Big Easy Motors
15:35 Big Easy Motors
16:00 Time Team
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
18:30 Alone: Lost And Found
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 Mystery Pickers
22:40 Cars That Made America

NAT GEO people HD

- 00:15 Straight To The Source: Korean
00:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:10 Street Food Around The World
01:40 Raw Travel
02:05 Raw Travel
02:35 Dog Whisperer
03:30 Rustic Adventures Italy
03:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
04:50 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
05:20 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
05:45 Raw Travel
06:15 Restoration Man
07:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
07:35 Rustic Adventures Italy
08:05 Rustic Adventures Italy
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14:30 My Pacific Quest
15:25 Cruise Ship Diaries
16:20 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
16:45 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
17:15 Rustic Adventures Italy
17:40 Rustic Adventures Italy
18:10 The Wine Show
19:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
20:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
20:30 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
21:00 Rustic Adventures Italy
21:30 Rustic Adventures Italy
22:00 The Wine Show
22:55 Raw Travel
23:20 Fish Of The Day
23:50 Dog Whisperer

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Big Fix Alaska
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14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Big Fish, Texas
16:00 Wicked Tuna
17:00 Year Million
18:00 Seconds From Disaster
18:30 Seconds From Disaster
19:00 Big Fish, Texas
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Year Million
21:40 Seconds From Disaster
22:05 Seconds From Disaster
22:30 Big Fish, Texas
23:20 Attack Of The Zeppelins

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Mission Critical
02:50 Survive The Wild
03:45 Cameramen Who Dare
04:40 Chasing Rhinos
05:35 Warrior Bees
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Man v. Animal
08:45 Man v. Animal
09:15 Animals Gone Wild
10:10 Wild Case Files
11:05 Predator Falls
12:00 World's Weirdest (2015)
12:55 Safari Brothers
13:50 Survive The Wild
14:45 Strangest Bird Alive
15:40 World's Deadliest Animal Apocalypse
16:35 Unlikely Animal Friends
17:30 Monster Fish
18:25 Incredible Bats
19:20 Strangest Bird Alive
20:10 World's Deadliest Animal Apocalypse
21:00 Unlikely Animal Friends
21:50 Monster Fish
22:40 Incredible Bats
23:30 World's Weirdest (2015)

nick HD

- 00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 School Of Rock
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Hunter Street
15:24 Breadwinners
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House

- 17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

nick jr. HD

- 00:01 Max & Ruby
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:47 The Day Henry Met
00:52 The Day Henry Met
00:57 The Day Henry Met
01:03 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:24 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:46 Team Umizoomi
02:09 Team Umizoomi
02:31 Paw Patrol
02:55 Paw Patrol
03:19 Shimmer And Shine
03:42 Shimmer And Shine
04:05 Nella The Princess Knight
04:27 Nella The Princess Knight
04:50 Rusty Rivets
05:14 Rusty Rivets
05:37 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:24 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Dora The Explorer
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Wallykazam!
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Zack & Quack
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Shimmer And Shine
11:39 Shimmer And Shine
12:01 Max & Ruby
12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:47 The Day Henry Met
12:52 The Day Henry Met
12:57 The Day Henry Met
13:03 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:24 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:46 Team Umizoomi
14:09 Team Umizoomi
14:31 Paw Patrol
14:55 Paw Patrol
15:19 Shimmer And Shine
15:42 Shimmer And Shine
16:05 Nella The Princess Knight
16:27 Nella The Princess Knight
16:50 Rusty Rivets
17:14 Rusty Rivets
17:37 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:24 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Zack & Quack
19:21 Bubble Guppies
19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:07 Paw Patrol
20:30 Shimmer And Shine
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Wallykazam!
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Zack & Quack
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:39 Shimmer And Shine

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Mission Critical
02:50 Survive The Wild
03:45 Cameramen Who Dare
04:40 Chasing Rhinos
05:35 Warrior Bees
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Man v. Animal
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18:25 Incredible Bats
19:20 Strangest Bird Alive
20:10 World's Deadliest Animal Apocalypse
21:00 Unlikely Animal Friends
21:50 Monster Fish
22:40 Incredible Bats
23:30 World's Weirdest (2015)

MOVIES FAMILY

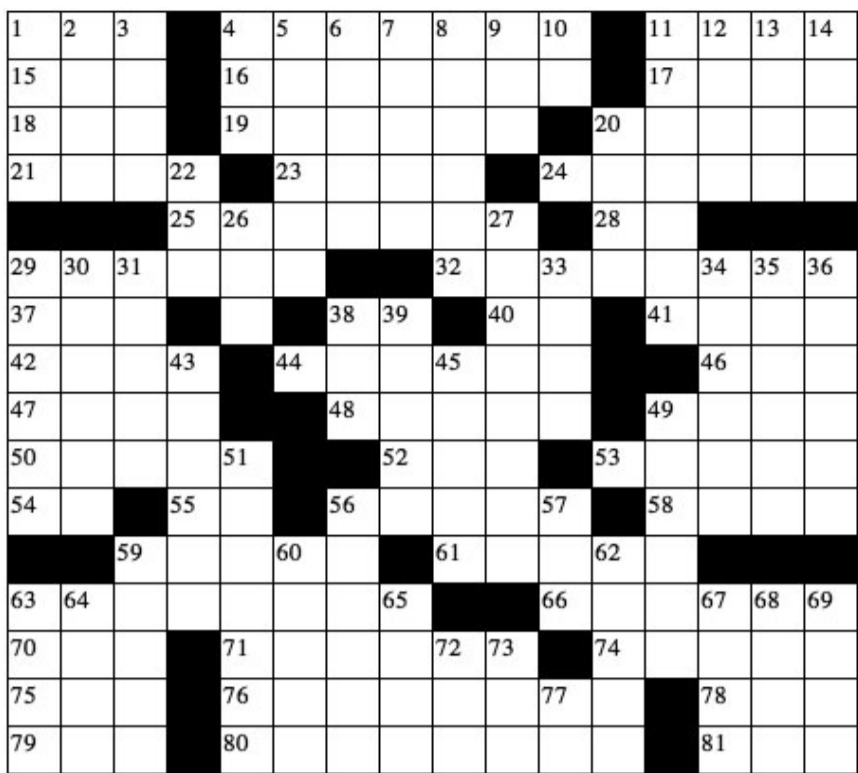
- 01:10 Max Keeble's Big Move
02:40 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen
04:15 Alice In Wonderland
06:05 Tarzan
07:50 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen
09:25 The Incredibles
11:30 Alice In Wonderland
13:25 Gnomeo & Juliet
15:00 Mars Needs Moms
16:30 Cars
18:30 The Game Plan
20:25 Return To Oz
22:25 Gnomeo & Juliet

MOVIES COMEDY

- 00:55 Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo
02:25 The Grand Seduction
04:25 Mr. Popper's Penguins
06:05 The Guilt Trip
07:45 Almost Christmas
09:50 The Grand Seduction
11:55 Mr. Popper's Penguins
13:40 The Guilt Trip
15:25 Yoga Hosers
17:10 Three Men And A Little Lady

Stars

CROSSWORD 1723



ACROSS

- 1. (computer science) A computer that is running software that allows users to leave messages and access information of general interest.
4. Any of a group of proteases that mediate apoptosis.
11. Indian physicist who with Albert Einstein proposed statistical laws based on the indistinguishability of particles.

DOWN

- 1. Cry plaintively.
2. A small cake leavened with yeast.

Friday's Solution

ARAB CAT AWBA AWE
RUDE ABASHED CAD
CHADARBIO TAE DDD
ARMADA ON EG ER IA
MACAO CLIMB
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LADL I BOO EMIT
BLOC EMIR PHRASE
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LAE LIA ASC IDIAN
ACANN A DE IRATE
IBSEN LXII
JUDAH TOLL PABBA
ESE ARGY REIA GAL
TEA SPARE RIB HAG
HDL AMBROSIA ALA

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Frustration, especially in getting things accomplished, sets today's mood. Exercise some control over your emotions and be ready to let go of some longstanding view.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Visiting with a friend this morning puts you in a great mood before the workday begins. You may be thinking about updating your resume, whether you are looking for a job or not.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There are conversations in the elevator and the break room about advancements today. An increase in salary is likely for many of the employees, including you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

New job, new project or just simply solving old problems today puts you in a great mood. That feeling of wellbeing also comes from good health as well as a job well done.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You can be assertive successfully today as you move forward with your career decisions. You have enthusiasm for your work and enjoy the process of success.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You find your way through the many turns and twists of solving puzzles today. You liked puzzles as a kid but professionally speaking, you may have never thought your duties would be to solve puzzles.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You could be enjoying a rather average, or less than average day—find ways to reach out and help others. With work being rather light just now, it would be a good time to learn something new or complete any unfinished projects.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You can be a great worker, once you make up your mind to move forward. Sometimes you are not quite ready to blindly follow instructions—which can be a real plus in some cases.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may feel inclined to create new ideas, think in new directions and spot new ways your company can grow and prosper. This will certainly help secure your job and is one of the reasons your skills are in demand.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

It is your turn for positive rewards. You might say the research is over and now it is show time. Your skills are showing and you do not have to prove any points as your work speaks for you.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Ambition and the desire for status can get a little out of touch with reality. Inflated expectations could be a problem unless you get a grip on yourself. Still, you may find that you develop a knack for being in the right place at the right time—and that can win the admiration of others.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your outward seriousness and no-nonsense approach to things is obvious to all. This deliberate sense of responsibility comes across and is central to your personality and the way you relate to other people.

Wordsearch Puzzle

The Raven

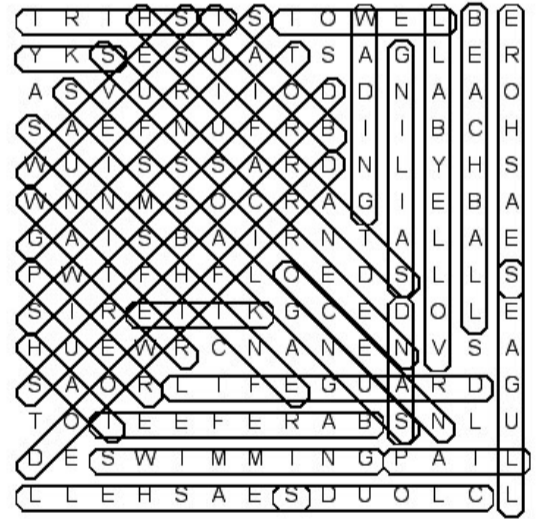
Find and circle all of the words from the poem "The Raven" that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an Edgar Allan Poe quotation.

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

- ANGELS DOOR GRIM NAPPING QUOTH
BEAK DREAMS HEART NEPENTHE RADIANT
BEGUILING DREARY HORROR NEVERMORE RAPPING
BIRD EBONY LATTICE OMINOUS RAVEN
BLACK ENTRANCE LENORE PALLAS RUSTLING

Friday's Solution

The Beach



- BARE FEET SAILING SURFBOARD
BEACH BALL SAND SURFING
BOAT SEAGULL SWIMMING
CLOUDS SEASHELL SWIMSUIT
DRIFTWOOD SEASHORE T SHIRT
HAT SKY TOWEL
KITE STARFISH VOLLEYBALL

The hidden message is: SANDCASTLE

Daily SuDoku

6 7 2 8
8 9 8 4
1 5 7
8 3
5 7 8 6
3 6
4 2 5 3

Friday's Solution

5 4 1 9 8 7 2 3 6
3 6 9 4 5 2 1 8 7
8 2 7 3 6 1 5 9 4
4 3 6 5 2 8 9 7 1
1 9 2 7 4 3 8 6 5
7 8 5 1 9 6 3 4 2
9 1 4 6 3 5 7 2 8
2 7 3 8 1 4 6 5 9
6 5 8 2 7 9 4 1 3

# Kuwait Times Classifieds

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

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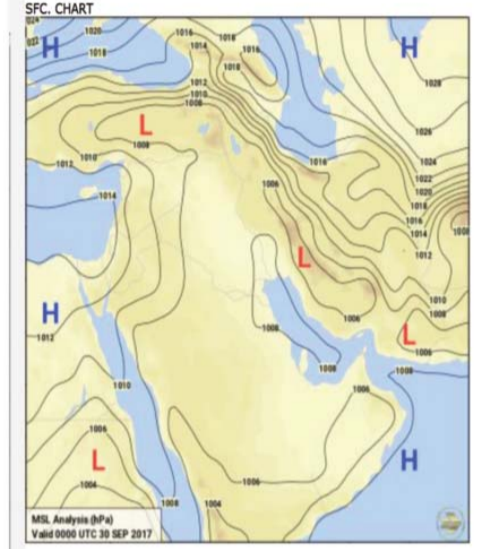
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**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**  
Issued 30/09/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

**Max Temperature 43 °C**

**By Day :** Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h.  
**By Night :** Fair and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h.



**Four-Day Forecast**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>Expected Weather</b>	Hot	Hot	Hot and some scattered clouds will appear	Hot
<b>Min Temp °C</b>	25	24	24	23
<b>Max Temp °C</b>	43	42	40	41
<b>Wind Direction</b>	variable to northerly westerly	northerly westerly to northerly	northerly westerly to northerly	northerly westerly to northerly
<b>Wind Speed km/h</b>	06 - 26	08 - 32	12 - 35	10 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

**Warnings & Weather Watches**  
no warnings or weather watches

**Kuwait Forecast**

Station	MIN °C	REC °C	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	31		43	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	25		43	
ABDALY	26		43	
BUBYAN	23		43	
JAHRA	28		44	
FAILAKA ISLAND	27		43	
SALMIYAH	33		39	
AHMADI	32		39	
JAL ALIYAH	26		44	
QAROH ISLAND	33		37	
UMM AL-MARADEM	32		38	
NUWAISIB	27		41	
WAFRA	24		43	
SALMY	27		43	
MUTRIBA	25		45	

**Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport**

Max Temp (°C)	42
Min Temp (°C)	24
Max Rel Hum (%)	34
Min Rel Hum (%)	10
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	28 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

**Sunrise** 05:41  
**Sunset** 17:36

**Prayer Times**

Fajr	04:22
Sunrise	05:41
Zuhr	11:38
Asr	15:02
Sunset	17:36
Isha	18:52

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Kuwait Airways	22087426	Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Jazeera Airways	177	Egypt Air	22421578
Jet Airways	22924455	Swiss Air	22421516
FlyDubai	22414400	Saudia	22426306
Qatar Airways	22423888	Middle East Airlines	22423073
KLM	22425747	Lufthansa	22422493
Air Slovakia	22434940	PIA	22421044
Olympic Airways	22420002/9	Alitalia	22414427
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6	Balkan Airlines	22416474
Reservation	22433388	Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
British Airways	22425635	Czech Airlines	22417901/
Air France	22430224	Indian Airlines	2433141
Emirates	22921555	Oman Air	22456700
			22958787

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**SALWA COMPOUND**  
**9 Compound Villas**  
Contents and specifications

**GENERAL CONTENTS**

Quantity	Details
9	Villas (3 floors each) - each villa contents will be explained later
9	Driver's bedrooms (in the basement)
4	Driver's toilets (in the basement)
1	Main kitchen for the drivers (in the basement)
10	Store rooms (in the basement)
1	Swimming pool (in the ground floor's courtyard)
1	Shower & toilet to serve the swimming pool (in the ground floor)
19	Cars parking (in the basement)
1	Gym (in the basement)
1	Security control room (in the basement, including toilet & kitchen)
1	Management office (in the basement)
1	Kitchen for the management (in the basement)

Mobile: 99644246

**Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988**

**EMERGENCY 112**

**Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)**  
**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Arrival Flights on Sunday 1/10/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 1/10/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	FEJ	932	Alexandria	13:55
KAC	102	London	00:55	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	ICV	775	Hong Kong	15:20
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:40
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JZR	238	Amman	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	FDK	802	Damascus	16:55
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
NIA	510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
RBG	559	Alexandria	04:10	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	552	Alexandria	17:25
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
FEJ	931	Alexandria	05:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
THY	1414	TZK	05:05	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	WAN	115	Bahrain	17:45
QTR	8511	Doha	05:20	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC	381	Dubai	17:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
BAW	157	London	06:05	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
WAN	342	Sohag	06:40	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
JZR	563	Sohag	07:55	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:05
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:30
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	203	Lahore	21:45
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:55	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	528	Asyut	23:05
				KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

# Beyonce sings Spanish in hurricane relief remix

Beyonce has returned to music to raise money for hurricane relief, delivering verses in Spanish in a remix of Colombian reggaeton star J Balvin's hit "Mi Gente." The collaboration marks the first new music by the pop superstar since she gave birth in June to twins-whom she references in the song. Beyonce, releasing the song late Thursday, announced on Instagram that all her proceeds would go to victims of Maria and other hurricanes that have ravaged Puerto Rico, other Caribbean islands and Mexico.

The Houston native earlier said separately that she planned a relief drive for her hometown in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. The new version of "Mi Gente" carries the same reggaeton beat as the original song-which itself is a remix of the African rhythm-driven track "Voodoo Song" by French DJ Willy

William. "Mi Gente," which means "My People," shot to number one in much of the Spanish-speaking world after its release in June.

In the remix, Beyonce-rapping more than singing-contributes fresh Spanish-language verses such as: "La fiesta la llevo en mis genes / Yo soy la reina de los nenes," meaning, "I've got the party in my genes / I'm the queen of the kids." The remix also goes into English and briefly French. Beyonce in her English verses makes a reference to her newborn twins and also issues a plea for charity: "Lift up your people / From Texas, Puerto Rico / Dem islands to Mexico."

Beyonce's husband, rap mogul Jay-Z, a day earlier announced a hurricane relief concert in New York on October 17 as part of his Tidal streaming service. Jay-Z is among 30

artists on the line-up including Jennifer Lopez, a New Yorker of Puerto Rican descent who has already donated \$1 million. Puerto Rico has been hit especially hard in the series of hurricanes that have struck in quick succession.

The remix of "Mi Gente," from a commercial perspective at least, follows the model of mega-hit "Despacito" which was already popular in Spanish earlier this year when a remix came out starring Justin Bieber. An earlier remix of "Mi Gente" already came out that featured the Cuban American rapper Pitbull. Beyonce is no stranger to Latin culture and sang in Spanish on parts of an eight-track EP, "Ireemplazable," that came out in 2007.—AFP



This file photo shows Beyonce attending the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards at Madison Square Garden in New York.— AFP

# 40 years after death, singular voice of Callas finds new life

Maria Callas died in 1977 as a life-weary recluse, her glories on stage long past, but 40 years on her reputation has only grown as one of opera's defining sopranos. The anniversary is bringing out a breadth of fresh looks at the Greek American singer nicknamed La Divina including exhibitions, films and a major restoration of her live performances. The 42-CD box-set by label Warner Classics seizes on technological advances to hone a fuller sound for some of the diva's signature

roles starting from her career breakthrough in Italy in the late 1940s. "I think we are very fortunate living in this time because we can still access material that is in good condition-the lifetime of a lot of tapes is not eternal-as

largely avoided. The box-set remasters one of the historic moments of 20th-century opera-a 1951 performance of "Aida" in Mexico City where Callas thrills the audience by soaring to a surprise, unwritten E-flat to close the second act.

The set ends with "Tosca" in London in 1964, a closing that Castellani described as "respectful" to Callas. She last performed in opera a year afterward as her voice faltered, and her later recitals never won the same acclaim. Her life was also marred by off-stage drama worthy of her characters. Born in New York to Greek parents, Callas endured a difficult relationship with her mother and struggled with her weight before she drastically slimmed down.

Adding to the media spotlight on her life, Callas left her husband, Giovanni Battista Meneghini, for shipping mogul Aristotle Onassis-who instead married Jacqueline Kennedy. She shunned the public eye for her final years, dying in her Paris apartment of a heart attack in September 1977. She was 53.

## Icon in fashion

With her cape-like dresses and bobbed-back hair, Callas also became a style icon-a legacy revisited in exhibitions marking the anniversary of her death in Greece and Italy. The event at the Theocharakis Foundation in Athens-where Callas, born as Sophia Cecilia Anna Maria Kalogeropoulou, had her start-shows more than 200 gowns, letters and other items from La Divina. La Scala, opera's shrine in Milan, dedicated an evening to Callas with testimonials and videos.

And a film, "Maria by Callas," will come out later this year. Directed by Tom Volf, the documentary aims to tell her story in her own words through years of tracking down archives and speaking to people who knew her. Stephane Grant, producer of a series on Callas on France Musique public radio, said La Divina was singularly able to bring new life to operas that were already a century old.

Many other performers "were sopranos with these light, fruity voices in the treble and absolutely did not have the dramatic power needed for these roles," Grant said. "It's often said that to sing 'La Traviata,' a soprano needs to have three voices. But for Callas, it was like a thousand voices in one."—AFP

## A historic high note

The collection comes three years after Warner Classics released a remastered set of Callas' studio recordings. The new box-set offers a window on her dramatic stage persona and includes her early performance of "Parsifal" by Wagner, a composer whom Callas

well as technology that is far better than in the 1980s or 1990s," Castellani said. The box-set offers greater intimacy, with a crisper quality that further reveals La Divina's vocal powers. Background clutter is drastically reduced and the remastering also straightens out wobbly pitches from the tapes.



roles starting from her career breakthrough in Italy in the late 1940s.

"There is still a huge interest in Maria Callas. Of course it's an interest maybe in her character, but I'm not one who thinks it's just about a legend outside of her singing," said Bertrand Castellani, vice president of international catalog at Warner Classics. With most older opera recordings, Castellani said it only took a brief listen to discern the style and identify the decade of the performance. Not so with Callas.

"This is what makes it current. In her way of approaching opera, she was completely out of her time," he said. "By finding the veracity of her charac-



People visit a tribute exhibition to Greek American opera singer Maria Callas (1923-1977) with the title 'Maria Callas: The myth lives on' at the Theocharakis Foundation in Athens.— AFP photos

## 'Super Dark Times': Indie cinema takes on teen violence

Three decades after "Stand by Me" cast its long shadow over coming-of-age storytelling, Stephen King's influence continues to resonate with theater-goers and TV audiences. Based on King's novella "The Body," Rob Reiner's 1986 cult hit spawned its own genre, typically featuring a group of wise-cracking, cursing kids, often on bikes, facing up to teenage trauma in Anytown, USA.

Several Steven Spielberg movies fit the mold, as does J.J. Abrams' "Super Eight," but critics also point to small screen fare like the Duffer Brothers' "Stranger Things" and the 1990 horror TV miniseries "It," remade this year as a smash-hit theatrical film. The latest example of the genre, indie movie "Super Dark Times," is unlikely to reach anything like as wide an audience as "It," but the critical plaudits are comparable.

Part coming-of-age fable, part brutal teen slasher, Kevin Phillips' feature directorial debut is not itself based on a King novel, but owes a clear debt to its "kids on bikes" predecessors. "The themes that were present in the script both enticed me and scared me," Phillips said at a preview screening ahead of the film's US release on Friday. "It took me a while to truly come around to deciding this was the movie to make."

## Blood-drenched violence

The events take place in a pleasant but prosaic suburb in upstate New York, where Zach (Owen Campbell) and his intense, mop-haired friend Josh (Charlie Tahan) are negotiating young adulthood in the mid-1990s. It is the era before social media and smartphones but teenagers have never needed the internet to find their kicks in first loves and experimenting with drugs.

The boys' relationship changes suddenly and traumatically when Josh accidentally kills their overbearing companion Daryl (Max Talisman) with a samurai sword in a tussle fueled by an argument over cannabis. They hide the body and Zach goes back to his everyday life, trying to present a cool front but backing away from a budding relationship with high school crush Allison (Elizabeth Cappuccino).

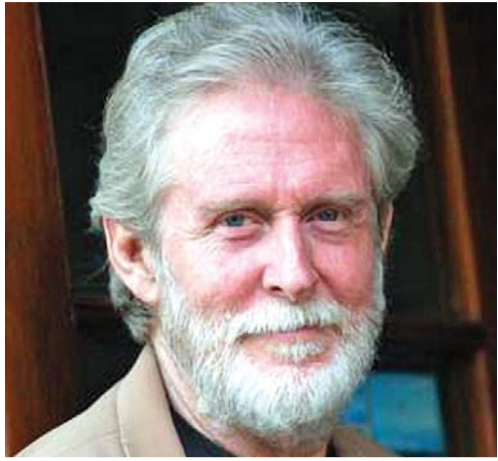
Josh, apparently traumatized by guilt, retreats to his bedroom at first-only to return suddenly to school and his social life, acting like he doesn't have a care in the world. But the nightmare of what has happened sets in motion an increasingly complex set of circumstances that spiral into dark paranoia and spectacular violence. Phillips worked with cinematographer Eli Born to create something that "could harken back to films we loved growing up when we were kids in the 1990s," he said.

## Visceral and gripping

Co-writer Ben Collins recalls how the idea for the movie came to him in his sleep. "I don't dream a lot or I don't remember my dreams, but it was like I woke up and the fact that I even remembered it was striking," he told the audience at the screening, part of the Downtown Los Angeles film festival. "When I was taking a shower it was coming back, and it was basically just kids (messing) around with a samurai sword."

Collins, whose dream featured Japanese children, assumed that he had been influenced by a real-life event in the news. "In the dream the kid got decapitated, and I was like, 'That sounds insane-let me make sure that didn't really happen.' I spent the day Googling it, and it didn't happen," he said. He decided that if it wasn't real, it was a compelling enough idea to pursue in film, although no one actually loses a head in "Super Dark Times."

Critics have lavished the film with plaudits since its premiere in January at the Rotterdam International Film Festival, handing it an impressive approval rating of 86 percent on reviews collation website Rotten Tomatoes. "Super Dark Times is that special kind of film that we as genre fans are always desperate to discover, the one that we fall in love with and show to all of our friends," said Brad Miska, founder of horror genre website Bloody Disgusting. "It's essentially a new classic that will stand the test of time."—AFP



## Indian theater actor **Tom Alter** has died at age 67

Tom Alter, a well-known Indian theater, television and Bollywood actor of American descent, has died in Mumbai of cancer. He was 67. A statement issued by his family on Saturday says Alter died Friday night at home with his family around him in Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital. He had been diagnosed with skin cancer last year. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his grief and recalled Alter's contribution to the film world and theater.

Alter acted in more than 300 films in several Indian languages, including Hindi, Bengali, Assamese and Telugu. His

popular movies included Shatranj Ke Khiladi (Chess Players), Gandhi, Parinda (Bird), Kranti (Revolution), Aashiqui (Love) and Junoon (Obsession). Alter also was a cricket enthusiast and had written for several sporting journals. He won the Indian government's "Padma Shri Award" in 2008 for his contribution to the fields of arts and cinema.

Alter was the son of American Christian missionaries. His grandparents had migrated to India from Ohio, the United States, in 1916 and settled in Lahore, now in Pakistan. After the partition of the Indian subcontinent in

1947, his grandparents stayed in Pakistan, while his parents moved to India. He had schooling in the northern Indian hill resort of Mussoorie and later joined the Film and Television Institute in the western city of Pune from 1972 to 1974. He made his Bollywood acting debut in 1976.

He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter. Alter's body was cremated on Saturday in Mumbai, the Press Trust of India news agency quoted his son Jamie Alter as saying. A memorial service will be held next week. — AP

## Plotting return, Rita Ora to host **MTV Europe awards**



Ready to launch an album after several years of reluctant silence, pop singer Rita Ora will return to her hometown of London to host the MTV Europe Music Awards in November. The youth culture network announced Ora—a household name in Britain who has been trying to crack into the US top ranks—will lead the EMAs at Wembley Arena on November 12.

A self-proclaimed lifelong EMA viewer, Ora promised to put on a lively show. Like its main US-based counterpart—the MTV Video Music Awards—the EMAs are more closely watched for pop culture moments than for the actual winners. The 26-year-old also told AFP she would perform a new song from her upcoming album—which she confirmed was finished and highly personal in subject matter.

Ora has topped the British charts with catchy hits such as "How We Do (Party)," an adaptation of a track by slain rap legend The Notorious B.I.G. In 2008, she looked set to break big in the United States when rap mogul Jay-Z signed her to his Roc Nation imprint. But she later filed a lawsuit, saying Roc Nation had little time for her while the contract kept her from pursuing music on her own.

Her upcoming album, her second, will come out on major New York label Atlantic Records—and she called the

work "lyrically driven." "I had a lot to write about," Ora said. "There was a lot of frustration and a lot of sadness—and happiness—as I couldn't put out music for the past few years." she said. "There are moments when I'm really lashing out and there are moments where I'm really vulnerable."

Ora added she was continually writing music even as she became known for on-screen roles—both on "The X Factor" and other television contest shows and in movies, including the erotic thriller "Fifty Shades of Grey." In May, Ora put out the album's first track—"Your Song," a giddy dance number co-written with Ed Sheeran on which she declares, "I don't wanna hear sad songs anymore / I only wanna hear love songs."

Ora will be the second consecutive host of Albanian descent. Bebe Rexha, the New York-born pop singer whose parents are Albanian, hosted last year's EMAs in Rotterdam. Born in Kosovo, Ora's family moved to London when she was a toddler but she has enthusiastically embraced her heritage, serving as an honorary ambassador. "I tend to really represent my country wherever I go," Ora said. "I've always been very proud of where I'm from and where I was born."—AFP



This combination photo shows Ryan Gosling at CinemaCon 2017 in Las Vegas, left, and Jay-Z performing at a campaign rally for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in Cleveland. — AP

## 'SNL' gears up for new season launch with **Gosling, Jay-Z**

"Saturday Night Live" kicks off its new season with Ryan Gosling as host, Jay-Z as the musical guest - and pretty likely some jokes at the expense of the White House. The sketch comedy show starts up again Saturday and is hoping to build off one of its most-watched seasons in more than two decades thanks to Alec Baldwin's turn as President Donald Trump and Melissa McCarthy's appearances as former White House press secretary Sean Spicer.

Both actors recently won Emmys for their work, as did Kate McKinnon, who played Hillary Clinton on the show. The 90-minute show is now entering its 43rd season. It has grown so popular that it spun off the half-hour "Saturday Night Live Weekend Update Summer Edition" while the main show was on break.—AP

## Toned down, tuned in, Miley Cyrus turns country balladeer

She transitioned from wholesome TV kid to pansexual media sensation—and now Miley Cyrus is reinventing herself again. On "Younger Now," the sixth album in her already storied career, the 24-year-old dips back into country—the music of her father, singer Billy Ray Cyrus. But the album, which was released Friday, is despite its oxymoronic title no straightforward return to her childhood—or the innocent days of her country-singing "Hannah Montana" Disney persona.

Instead, Cyrus finds through country storytelling a window to relay a maturing life story of discovering love, heartache and a political voice. "Younger Now" begins with a title track in which Cyrus declares she has no regrets over a scrutinized life—whose memorable moments include scantily clad twerking and joyful hits from a bong. "I'm not afraid of who I used to be / No one stays the same," Cyrus sings, adding: "I feel so much younger now."

On the title song and the album's first single, "Malibu," Cyrus crafts a modernized take on

1970s pop-rock, a gentle electric guitar riff carrying a mid-tempo beat. "Malibu" climaxes into the most rocking track on the album, a beat coming in after Cyrus describes a journey of building trust and love on the sun-kissed California beach. By the third track, "Rainbowland," she goes full country—collaborating with her godmother and fellow Tennessee-born cultural figure Dolly Parton.

### Mellow and reflective

However sensational her on-stage antics or divisive her artistic choices, critics of Cyrus are hard-pressed to dismiss her voice, whose rich timbre and four-octave range make her one of the more versatile singers in pop. On "Younger Now," Cyrus shows off her lower vocal range and dusts off her country twang which, while it never vanished, she has downplayed as her career developed.

But in showing her new maturity, "Younger Now" also turns the page on some of the spunk that gave Cyrus her musical success. After the frenetic hip-hop energy of her defining 2013 album "Bangerz" and the playful psychedelia of 2015's "Miley Cyrus & Her Dead Petz," "Younger Now" is a mellow affair. Much of the lyricism appears to reflect on Cyrus' on- and now reportedly-off-again relationship with Australian actor Liam Hemsworth.

"I know that I gave you my heart / But you stomped it to the ground," Cyrus sings on "Week Without You," a country tune tinged with a doo-wop harmony. Some fans online suspected that "She's Not Him"—with the lines "I just can't fall in love with you / You're not him"—was an explanation by Cyrus, who identifies as pansexual, of her feelings for New Zealand model Stella Maxwell, with whom she has made out in public.

Cyrus ends on a more subdued note, with a mournful violin behind the guitar featuring on "Inspired." The song pays tribute to her father. But Cyrus has said she wrote the songs to come to terms with Donald Trump's election after the singer, like many celebrities, campaigned for Hillary Clinton. Questioning how "we can escape all the fear and all the hate," Cyrus implores the world: "You're the handle on the door that opens up the change."—AFP



This file photo shows US singer Miley Cyrus performing on stage during NBC's Today show at the Rockefeller Plaza in New York City. — AFP

## Curtain goes up on a documentary-rich New York Film Festival

Ninety-nine feature films will dot the sparkling lineup at the 55th New York Film Festival, which kicks off Thursday night with Richard Linklater's "Last Flag Flying." There is no way, really, to take as a whole an 18-day festival that will include new films from Todd Haynes, Woody Allen, Agnes Varda, Claire Denis, Greta Gerwig and Hong Sangsoo. But the common denominator at the sober-eyed New York festival has always been quality, as discerned through an especially global outlook.

The only currency that matters at the Film Society of Lincoln Center's annual uptown event is the movies, themselves - not red carpets (they're typically short and perfunctory), not prizes (there aren't any) or even Oscar buzz. The New York Film Festival generates a lot of conversation by keeping the noise at bay.

"I see a lot of things shifting in the film festival world, and they're shifting for reasons that have to do with things other than the art of cinema," says Kent Jones, the festival's director. "We're 55 years old now and we've always stuck to our mission. And I think that means a lot to the audiences and the filmmakers." The festival's main slate, its most curated selections, numbers 25 films this year.

Most of them ("Lady Bird," "Call Me By Your Name," "Mudbound," "The Square") have been plucked from the standouts of Sundance, Cannes, Telluride and other festivals. But this year's festival is also intent to play by a different set of rules than other major international film festivals. The main slate is light on world premieres, a much-sought designation for prominent entries elsewhere. Others will play in a different format: Arnaud Desplechin's "Ismael's Ghosts" will screen in a director's cut that differs from the version that opened the Cannes Film Festival in May.

There will still be several much-watched premieres. Allen's "Wonder Wheel," the 81-year-old filmmaker's second film for Amazon Studios, is the clos-

ing night film. A "return to form" is often said of Allen's later works but the gala slot is a clear sign of belief in Allen's latest. Set in 1950s Coney Island, it stars Kate Winslet, who will also sit for a staged conversation at the festival.

Opening the festival is "Last Flag Flying," a road trip reunion of three former Navy men (Bryan Cranston, Steve

reuniting with old friends, comrades: What does that mean? How are we the same? How are we changed? These are big questions in all of our lives," said Linklater. "There's nothing like an impromptu reunion with people who you went through something with a long time ago to make you examine your own life." Linklater has a gift for giving thoroughly



This image released by Lionsgate shows Laurence Fishburne, from left, Bryan Cranston and Steve Carell in a scene from Last Flag Flying. — AP

Carell, Laurence Fishburne) who are something like older, grown-up versions of the main characters in Hal Ashby's "The Last Detail" (1973). In Linklater's film, which Lionsgate and Amazon will release Nov. 3, the trio reunites to bring home the dead son of Carell's character, a young soldier killed in Iraq.

"I thought it was such an interesting portrait of middle age, and I hadn't done a lot of that, although I'm there myself, age-wise," said the 57-year-old Linklater, whose career ("Boys n' Girls," "Before Sunrise," "Dazed and Confused") has often chronicled seminal stages of life. "It was fun to deal with these themes of memory and past experience and

planned, minutely detailed scenes an easy naturalism. Chloe Zhao's sensational sophomore feature, "The Rider," goes further in blending fiction with nonfiction.

A deeply heartfelt heartland elegy, it stars real Sioux cowboys in South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation, following a rodeo star (Brady Jandreau) forced to contemplate quitting. Including Zhao, a third of the films in the main slate are directed by women - many of which rank among the class of the festival. Zhao is just starting out but Agnes Varda, the 89-year-old French filmmaking legend, has been at it for decades. —AP



Models wear creations for Nina Ricci Spring/Summer 2018 ready-to-wear fashion collection presented in Paris. — AP photos

Japanese fashion designer Yoshiyuki Miyamae acknowledges applause after Issey Miyake Spring-Summer 2018 ready-to-wear collection.



Actress and model Emily Ratajkowski poses before Nina Ricci Spring-Summer 2018 ready-to-wear collection presented in Paris.

# Rich colors dominate the runway at Paris Fashion Week

Soirees merged from night to day as design houses Nina Ricci and Issey Miyake showed off color-rich creations in Friday's installment of celebrity-filled Paris Fashion Week. Here are some highlights of the spring-summer 2018 ready-to-wear shows.

### Nina Ricci's militaristic spring

American model and actress Emily Ratajkowski posed ahead of the Nina Ricci show in a checked brown 70s-style suit taken from its fall collection. But for spring, designer Guillaume Henry channeled suits of a different nature: the military. It was a theme that spoke to the show's venue: the former French military hospital, the grand Hotel des Invalides, which is now home to France's Army Museum.

A military jacket in gray with voluminous sleeves opened the show, sporting epaulets, large buttons and exaggerated pockets. Jodhpurs mixed with large visor hats, reminiscent of the French Legion. Fringing that evoked uniform detail came in large silken swathes across a soft ankle-length gown with a plunging decollete.

One of the collection's best looks - an oversize golden yellow plume coat - was styled on a model with a large colonel's feather pointing up from a

diaphanous array of fluttery, lightly-colored printed silken gowns. There was great thought behind the deceptively-simple collection.

A loose blue embroidered coat had a shimmery finish like the glaze on pottery. And a beautiful jade green dress had an Eastern feel with its swirling multitudinous layers and long fine neck scarf. At several points, an Arabic text print covered the bust. Flashes of the West - like denim dungarees - added a fun contrast.

### The art of the invitation

The age of email doesn't seem to have left a mark on the fashion industry's antiquated system of invitations. Season after season, gasoline-guzzling couriers crisscross Paris to personally deliver the ever-elaborate, often hand-made, show invites to fashion insiders. Top houses vie for the funniest or most imaginative invite.

For her debut invitation at Chloe, Natacha Ramsay-Levi sent out a box of matches - perhaps hoping it might give critics a spark. Balmain's was a clunky, golden trophy that was impractically heavy. And little-known house Sirloin sent invitees an actual postcard of the Eiffel Tower. In a tie for the best invitations were Stella McCartney and Rick Owens.

While Owens produced a beautifully wearable foulard with a print of a futurist sculpture, ecologically-minded McCartney's details were written on a giant tubular wad of 20 "Trashion Bags" - "made of 100% recycled linear low density polyethylene."

### Balmain x L'oreal party

Posters promoting Balmain and L'Oreal's new lipstick are plastered all around Paris - so it's little wonder that VIPs turned out aplenty for the lipstick line launch party in the posh Boulevard Saint Germain. A youthful-looking Pamela Anderson caused a stir at the red carpet photo call in a striped glitter mini-dress and tousled hair. Singer Courtney Love arrived in a trendy oversize dark glittery coat and an embellished, shimmering pastel gown. Balmain designer Olivier Rousteing posed for cameras alongside Brazilian soccer sensation Neymar, who plays for French club Paris Saint Germain. — AP



Singer Courtney Love and Mohammed Al-Turki



Pamela Anderson poses during a photocall for the LiOreal Balmain party.



Model Maria Borges, designer Olivier Rousteing and model Cindy Bruna pose during a photocall for the L'Oreal Balmain party.



Brazilian PSG striker Neymar

head piece. The collection got more feminine as it progressed - and included a flame red harem-style gown. But Henry's detail-rich clothes sometimes could have benefited from a simpler, more spring-infused, approach.

### Issey Miyake's Icelandic poetry

The great mysteries of nature and Iceland were touchstones for Issey Miyake in its Paris show. Loose silhouettes - the display's principle style - hung from the shoulder featuring hazy images of the Icelandic landscape. The blurred motifs were created by baking printed glue on the fabric, sealing the fashion house's reputation for cutting-edge clothes-making techniques.

Elsewhere, fabric panels of colorful checks folded haphazardly across the torso used a brown hue taken from a natural mud pigment. To end the show, squares were pieced together, creating a dark, geometric fabric that evoked light reflecting on volcanic Icelandic rocks. "Great clefts in a harsh landscape, igneous rock covered in moss, gleaming in the rays of the sun, and crystal-clear glaciers stretching as far as the eye can see," said the program notes.

### Christian Wijnants' Middle East

It was prints galore for Christian Wijnants as his guests were treated to the silks and decorations of the Ottoman Empire and Persia. The talented Belgian designer evoked the floral motif found on fine Ottoman and Persian ceramics - that also adorns manuscripts and miniatures - in his



Models wear creations for Issey Miyake Spring-Summer 2018 ready-to-wear collection.



Lifestyle | Fashion

# Fashion world shaken by #NoFreePhotos row

Photographers have risen up in revolt at the way fashion labels and influencers are using their street style images without crediting them, highlighting discontent about the "work for free" culture in the multi-billion dollar industry. More than 40 photographers who follow the fashion circuit and snap its top celebrities and bloggers as they arrive for shows in New York, Paris and Milan have formed an unofficial union, and have threatened to shame brands and influencers who use their images without permission.

Influencers and bloggers are often paid by labels to wear their clothes and promote their lines in social media posts, mostly on Instagram. And the photographers claim that some influencers with hundreds of thousands of social media followers are making money from their photos while they get nothing in return. The row raises questions about how the fashion industry works in the digital age, with many people prepared to work for little or nothing to get a foothold in such an outwardly glamorous world.

Most models, particularly young ones climbing the catwalk ladder, are paid "peanuts", with one 17-year-old model at Paris Fashion Week telling AFP: "It is pocket money for doing something that I love." The protesting photographers have begun adding the hashtag #NoFreePhotos to images uploaded to their Instagram accounts, which have more than three million followers. And they have threatened to refuse to tag rogue influencers and instead call them out with the #NoFreePhotos hashtag.

**'We make them'**

One of the group's leaders, Nabile Quenum, said that the protest was "not about shaming anyone. We are in this together. We are just asking for respect. 'Girls get famous because of the photographers. We take pictures of the people we judge cool. When we shoot someone it says they are cool and people look for inspiration from cool people. 'Brands can see (from what we do) who is hot, who is marketable... and who they can pay



These file photographs show women posing for photographers during the Paris women's 2018 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion week in Paris. — AFP photos



to lead them to the consumer. Somehow (the influencers) have forgotten that we make them."

Quenum, who has been on the circuit for eight years, said most brands and influencers respected "copyright-protected photos". But a "growing minority" did not, using their images for commercial gain without paying. A Japanese photographer called Koji outside the Issey Miyake Paris Fashion Week show on Friday said he had stopped uploading his images to Instagram because of rampant piracy. "Why should I so people can steal my work and not even credit me. I have had enough," he added.

**Influencers not being paid**

But the claims that influencers were making a "disproportionate gain" from cheerleading for brands drew a sharp response on Instagram from some bloggers.

"The notion that many influencers are being 'disproportionately' paid to wear clothes is quite laughable," said top blogger Bryan Grey Yambao, aka Bryanboy, who has more than 640,000 Instagram followers. "Do these photographers know how absolutely cheap many of the brands are?"

A lot of the girls I know are not being paid to wear clothes. Many spend money to go back and forth for 'fittings'... and are often dressed by brands to be on their 'good graces'. All for free! "Influencers are happy to do all that to develop a (usually disposable) relationship with brands who are more than happy to move on to the next girl with even more followers," the Filipino style guru insisted.

Yambao said he understood that photographers had to be paid. "But then again, when was the last time an influencer demanded a model release form from pho-

tographers who sell their images to magazines, retailer websites or the brands directly? "Imagine if every influencer or editor or fashion person started complaining that their images are being taken and sold without authorization?" he added.

But American photographer Jennifer Graylock said the relationship was "lopsided in favor of the influencer or celebrity. If a photo runs of you wearing designer X you get exposure. Which leads to more followers which leads to more interest in your favor. "However (if the photographer has been credited) they only get the 10 cents and never benefit further."—AFP

## Metro is just the ticket for Paris fashion show



Paris Fashion Week went underground in more ways than one when a rising young avant-garde designer held her show on the city's metro. Berlin-based Andra Dumitrascu had to think quickly when the venue for her show late Friday fell through at last minute. So she directed fashionistas to the nearest metro station, Rambuteau, where her models used the platform as a runway.

"I didn't like the idea of doing it in the street, I thought a metro station might be a better place," the Romanian-born designer said. "I love the adrenaline and the instability of the situation," she added. However, the organizers had their work cut out to clear a passage, with the models sometimes being swallowed up by passengers getting on and off the trains.

While Dumitrascu did not have official permission for the show, she said "it was worth taking the risk"—and fashion critics and passengers alike seemed to enjoy the spectacle. This is not the first time the designer has gone off-piste—her last show took place in a sex hotel. This collection, called "kebaby", had a youthful rave vibe with clothes mixing sportswear with Islamic influences.

Earlier in the day the Japanese brand Issey Miyake had used dancers to kick off a

remarkable collection drawn from the landscape of Iceland, with dresses and capes summoning up ice floes and ice cubes that you could see Bjork drooling over. Tokyo master Yohji Yamamoto's spring-summer collection on Friday night was almost entirely in black with flashes of vampire red in the lining of his trailing capes and scarves, with one model wearing one of his labels on her skin.

Another Japanese tyro Junya Watanabe wowed critics in the first of the Saturday shows with his bravura punky hook-up with the Finnish textile house Marimekko. "Now that's a collaboration," tweeted the New York Times' Vanessa Friedman of his startling sculptural black-and-white creations.—AFP



Brazilian designer Francisco Terra of Neith Nyer acknowledges the audience at the end of his women's 2018 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP

## Catwalk dreams now start with message on Instagram

Once upon a time it was a young girl's dream to be stopped in the street like Kate Moss and be asked to model in a fashion show. Now fame comes via a message on Instagram. Last week Leya Ljaz, a 17-year-old Pakistani-American who lives in Switzerland, jumped on a train for Paris with her smartphone and a dream of making it onto the catwalk at Paris Fashion Week. Now here she was clutching her phone and waiting for her turn at a casting for Neith Nyer, the hip and edgy young label of Brazilian creator Francisco Terra.

"Yesterday I did my first casting. There were real models there, it was incredible. I am still waiting for them to get back to me," she said. But come what may Ljaz is convinced that one day "I am going to end up in fashion", she said. "I grew up in New York and know fashion week—my mother loves it," said the student who is sleeping at a friend's place for free having paid her own way to the French capital. The vast majority of the 30 models who were chosen for the show on Wednesday were like Ljaz recruited from Instagram, fashion's social network of preference.

**Casting on a smartphone**

The rest were represented by agencies. But casting director Leila Hassiba Azizi insisted all were paid the same. Azizi works for several fashion brands and does most of her "street casting" these days on Instagram. That is where she came across photos of Leya. She liked what she saw and messaged the young woman, who had only ever modeled once before, in Geneva. "Instagram is an incredible work tool," she said.

"It allows you to see things that you would not have time to look for in the street. It is much more intimate—you find out much more about who they are. People show you their tastes, and a little bit of their personality," she added. Azizi said she never asked the girls their measurements because she said she was looking for "a different kind of beauty

than agencies do", something more "real". When someone catches her eye she messages them telling them that she would be interested in working with them and ask them to let her know if they are coming to Paris.

As fashion week approaches the emails begin to flood in, she said. Like the one from 23-year-old Belgian stylist Maud Van Dievoet. Short-haired and smiley, she lives in London and has already walked the catwalk there. "Walking down the runway in a show is exciting, it's the adrenaline, and when you love the clothes you are proud that you were chosen, and that you are getting them out there," she said.

**'We are our own boss'**

Not being with an agency means you are your own boss, she said. With Instagram "we look after ourselves unlike girls which have an agency where everything is organized." Twenty-year-old Dane Ida Rathje Ravnberg is one of five models at the casting who have come from an agency, having already done the rounds at Milan Fashion Week. She was not discovered on Instagram. One of her friends sent her photos to an agency which rang her and asked her to sign a contract. Not long afterwards she was off on the fashion week circuit of London, Paris and Milan.

"I never thought I would be a model, but I am delighted," she Ravnberg, who is on a gap year. "We have just arrived from Milan and the agency is putting us up in an apartment." She had six castings that day and hopes to get at least one of them, even if up to now only a few of her friends have managed to land themselves slots on the Paris runways. But the girls' rather unusual and atypical looks do not suit every label, said Azizi, who also works with a model agency. "People who follow the big brands are not yet into this kind of beauty," she said.—AFP



Models wear creations for Junya Watanabe Spring-Summer 2018 ready-to-wear fashion collection presented in Paris. — AP photos

# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017



A model presents a creation by Junya Watanabe during the women's 2018 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris.

## North Korean rockettes serve up Coca-Cola in Dubai

On any night of the week, residents of cosmopolitan Dubai can get a taste of reclusive North Korea's culture at Okryu-gwan, a satellite of Pyongyang's massive national canteen. On a weekend night, a waitress, wearing a stoplight red dress and DPRK flag name tag, carried a tray full of matching red Coca-Cola cans to a table of Asian patrons. The waitress—one of thousands of North Koreans working in the Gulf with the blessing of Pyongyang—served the ubiquitous American soft drink without fanfare, while a group of regulars shuffled into a private karaoke room.

A flat screen television tuned to a North Korean channel streamed nature scenes and military propaganda clips, but offered no hint of the escalating tensions between Washington and Pyongyang. The bellicose rhetoric between the two nations has reached new heights in recent days, following Pyongyang's sixth nuclear test earlier this month.

Days after threatening to "totally destroy North Korea" in his first address to the UN General Assembly, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order targeting foreign companies doing business with the country. But the show goes on like clockwork at Okryu-gwan, a microcosm of the hermit republic and one of three branches in the United Arab Emirates in Dubai's bustling Deira district. The lights dimmed and from a side door three waitresses emerged in bright sequined tops to take their places behind a keyboard, a keytar and a guitar to belt out the first Korean number.

### Kimchi and keytars

It was the first of six evening performances, which included a flautist, a fan dance and a skit where two waitresses moved their limbs like marionettes, acting out a courtship between a male suitor and his darling. Other waitresses buzzed around the restaurant, one moment grilling beef bulgogi (barbeque) to be served with spicy kimchi (pickled cabbage), the next strapping on an accordion and heading to the stage. They perform the 8:00 pm show every day of the week—every single night of the year.

"We makes small changes every time," one waitress said with an enthusiastic smile, when asked if she ever became bored of the nightly routine. "We arrange the music, we choose the costumes, we do everything," Kim Songum added. As for holidays, the waitresses say they get a month off a year. "Of course, we go home to (North Korea). It's home and it's cheaper there. Everything is free," Kim said, comparing it with the high cost of living in capitalist Dubai.

Speaking in English with help from a translation app, she said the waitresses are aware of the latest news from North Korean television. "We do not want war," Kim typed in Korean, pulling the phone back to add: "But we are not afraid."

### Gulf exception?

Patrons entering Okryu-gwan cannot miss the enormous group photos of the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh



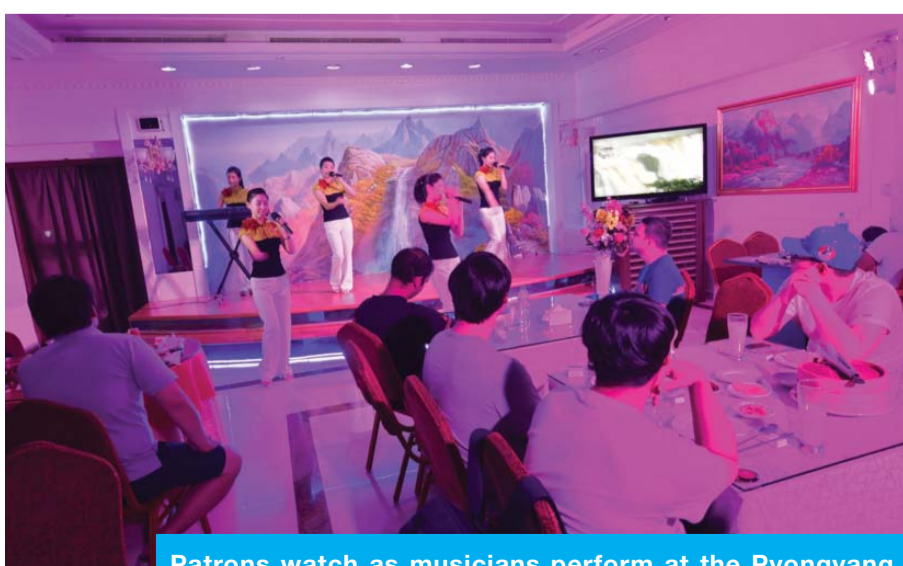
A picture shows a traditional dancer performing for patrons at the Pyongyang Okryu-gwan, a North Korean restaurant in Dubai. — AFP photos

Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, flanked by the entire smiling restaurant staff. The portraits are a treasured symbol of approval for the management, in a country which also enjoys close relations with rival South Korea and the United States. The North Korean culinary establishment may be a taste of home for East Asian patrons—even South Koreans, according to the waitresses—but it is also a source of contention for Washington and Seoul, both on a fresh drive to isolate Pyongyang.

South Korea, which enjoys multi-billion dollar trade and investment ties with the Gulf states, has had recent success in pressing its allies to isolate its neighbor. Kuwait City, the only Gulf capital to host a North Korean embassy, this month ordered its ambassador to leave and put a charge d'affaires in his stead. Kuwait has also slashed the number of North Korean workers on its soil from 4,000 to 1,500, according to a South Korean diplomat in charge of North Korean issues in the Gulf.

Qatar and Oman, which host up to 2,000 and 100 North Korean laborers respectively, are now phasing out those work permits, the UAE-based diplomat said

on condition of anonymity. Only the business-centric United Arab Emirates, with around 1,300 North Korean construction workers and restaurant staff, had "unfortunately" not taken any action, he said. South Korea accuses North Korean authorities of confiscating a significant portion of the income of workers in the Gulf, which the diplomat said averaged around \$1,000 per month.—AFP



Patrons watch as musicians perform at the Pyongyang Okryu-gwan.



Patrons dine as a musician performs with an accordion.



A picture shows a waitress serving a dish to patrons.