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# Ban hails action against N Korea workers, envoy

Former UN chief 'honored' to meet Amir



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah holds talks with visiting former United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon yesterday. — KUNA

By Ben Garcia and Agencies

KUWAIT: Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon yesterday commended HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for reducing the number of North Korean workers in the country and expelling the North Korean ambassador to Kuwait. Addressing members of the diplomatic community at the Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute in Kuwait City, Ban said the moves demonstrated Kuwait's support and commitment to UN Security Council resolutions.

"I know that by 2019, there will be no North Korean workers in Kuwait," he said. "Kuwait has already reduced the number of North Korean laborers to 1,000. Kuwait's action is a clear demonstration of its leadership and commitment, as Kuwait is poised to serve as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council from next year for the next two years," Ban added in his speech entitled "Leadership of Kuwait in the Changing World".

According to former UN chief, Kuwait is not the only country that has expelled the North Korean envoy, confirming Mexico, Peru, Spain and Italy also did so.

"It is very important to show our firm commitment that until North Korea behaves and stop its provocations threatening peace and stability in the international community, and until North Korea realizes it is defying and fighting the international order, we should be determined

in implementing sanctions," said Ban, who is a former foreign minister of South Korea. He said North Korea's continued defiant behavior and provocations are unacceptable and are very dangerous to the international community.

"North Korea has admitted to have tested a hydrogen bomb and numerous ballistic missiles, which is against UN Security Council resolutions. We all see the defiant attitude and provocations from their side, and this is very dangerous for us all," he stressed.

Ban also spoke about the advent of the fourth phase of the industrial revolution, where artificial intelligence (AI) could be more powerful than humans. "What does it mean to us, as humans? Are we going to continue to fight and compete with AI? AI can read minds and people's emotions, and this is a very serious issue. Many scientists have already become concerned on this subject," he said.

Ban referred to Google's AlphaGo, making the case that machines are now smarter than man - when it comes to games of strategy. AlphaGo made its name last year when it defeated high-profile Go player Lee Sedol 4-1, but now it has beaten the world's best player of Go, a hugely complex ancient strategy game. "I think in less than 10 years, we will have serious issues about AI and we need to use the benefit of technology to face AI, which potentially threatens the very existence of 7.5 billion humans," he said.

Continued on Page 11

## MP: New health fees should not hurt poor expats

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Islamist opposition MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei said yesterday that the government must make sure that the new hike in health fees imposed on expatriates will not hurt poor patients. The lawmaker said he is not against imposing medical fees on expatriates in the country, but he wants the government to ensure that poor patients are not hurt by establishing a fund to help them or introducing affordable health insurance.

The ministry of health began implementing at the start of October a decision to hike the cost of medical services for expatriates at public hospitals and clinics. Some of the charges have been raised several-fold, like hospital stays or hiring a private room. The new fees do not apply to Kuwaiti citizens, who continue to enjoy completely free medical services.

Former MP and ex-minister Maasouma Al-Mubarak meanwhile criticized the health ministry for imposing the hikes in medical charges and then issuing repeated decisions exempting certain categories. Mubarak, who herself was a health minister, said that after hiking the medical charges, the minister issued decisions exempting domestic workers and later spouses of Kuwaiti women and their children. She said that if this policy continues, the decision will lose its value and will only apply to a small section of people. Accordingly, she added, the issue should have been carefully studied before implementing it.

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## Khalfan: Giving up World Cup could end crisis

DUBAI: A top Emirati security official says the Qatar diplomatic crisis can end if Doha gives up hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the first time someone from the four Arab nations boycotting the country directly linked the tournament to resolving the months-long dispute. Dubai security Lt Gen Dhahi Khalfan, known for being outspoken on Twitter, later yesterday wrote his "personal analysis" of the situation had been misunderstood.

But his remarks came as lobbying firms backed by the four nations opposing Qatar in the diplomatic dispute increasingly target the upcoming football competition in their criticism. The tournament has not come up in the

demands previously made by the boycotting countries, though losing the World Cup would represent a bitter defeat for the tiny peninsular nation that's pushed itself onto the world stage with its bid and its Al-Jazeera satellite news network. Qatari officials did not respond to requests for comment yesterday. However, the 2022 tournament's head in Qatar told AP on Friday the boycott poses "no risk" to the competition being held.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates all cut diplomatic ties and began a boycott of Qatar on June 5, in part over allegations that Doha supports extremists and has overly warm ties to Iran. Qatar has long denied funding extremists and restored full diplomatic ties to Iran amid the dispute. Doha shares a massive offshore natural gas field with Iran that makes its citizens incredibly wealthy. On Sunday night, Khalfan targeted the FIFA tournament in his tweets. "If the World Cup goes out of Qatar, the crisis in Qatar will end because the crisis was made to break it," he wrote.

Continued on Page 11

## From robocops to flying taxis, Dubai a pioneer

DUBAI: From flying taxis to Batman-style surveillance motorcycles, Dubai's GITEX expo this week showcased innovations that were symbols of the city-state's ambitions to be a metropolis of the future. Known for its futuristic skyline and artificial islands, Gulf emirate Dubai has carved out a place alongside cities like Singapore as a hub for innovative ideas. At this year's 37th Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX), which runs until Thursday, city authorities were keen to show off their remain on the cutting edge.

The undisputed star of the expo, which has more than 4,000 companies from 71

countries participating, was Dubai's flying taxi project. Videos of the craft's first "concept" flight last month - albeit without passengers - generated widespread buzz on social media. Authorities at the Dubai Road and Transport Authority (RTA) anticipate five years of testing to put in place safety procedures, infrastructure and legislation governing the system. "The air taxi is the star of our innovations, and I am confident that we will see the day it becomes reality," said Khaled Abdul Rahman Al-Awadhi, director of automated fare collection at the RTA.

Officials are keenly aware that even residents of ultra-modern Dubai may not be ready to step into a futuristic unmanned craft guided via a mobile phone application. They are already working to explain planned safety measures for the craft, which will cost 200,000 to 250,000 euros (\$235,000 to \$295,000) each. The two-seater drone is supported by 18 rotors and equipped with an emergency parachute to

Continued on Page 11



DUBAI: A drone taxi is seen at the Gitex 2017 exhibition at the Dubai World Trade Center on Sunday. — AFP

## Rohingya boat sinks, 14 dead

SHAH PORIR DWIP, Bangladesh: At least 14 Rohingya refugees, most of them children, drowned and scores more were missing yesterday after their overloaded boat capsized in the latest tragedy to strike those fleeing violence in Myanmar. Authorities in Bangladesh said the boat was carrying between 60 and 100 people when it overturned and sank in rough seas on Sunday night. The bodies of 11 children, two women and a man were washed up on Shah Porir Dwip island in Bangladesh and border guards pulled 13 survivors from the sea, but the fate of the others remains unknown.

Alif Jukhar, a Rohingya refugee who has long lived in Bangladesh, lost nine relatives

in the disaster including his mother and father. "Yesterday I spoke to my parents on the phone and they told me they they would arrive in Shah Porir Dwip tomorrow," he told AFP as he used his bare hands to bury their bodies. Shortly afterwards, overcome with grief, he collapsed screaming in the middle of the cemetery.

More than half a million Rohingya have left Myanmar since militant raids on police posts on August 25 prompted a brutal military backlash against the Muslim minority that the United Nations has said could amount to ethnic cleansing. Around 150 have drowned trying to make the journey in small and rickety fishing boats that coastguards say are woefully inadequate for the rough seas.

Survivor Sayed Hossain wept as he watched the body of his two-year-old son being taken away to the local cemetery for burial.

Continued on Page 11



A Rohingya refugee reacts while holding his dead son after crossing the Naf river from Myanmar into Bangladesh in Whaikhayang yesterday. — AFP

### News in brief

#### Tolls to develop roads

KUWAIT: Assistant Undersecretary of the Roads Department at the Public Works Ministry Ahmad Al-Hassan said yesterday that a study on imposing fees for using some roads aims at developing the road traffic system. In an interview with Al-Rai daily, Hassan noted alternative roads will be available free of charge. On the new roads projects, Hassan confirmed that the plan includes opening a number of roads and completing the west part of Jamal Abdunnasser Road, which will be delivered during the first quarter of next year. He pointed out that 26 road projects will be implemented in the near future.

#### 17 students suffocate

KUWAIT: Dozens of students at a Jahra high school for girls suffered from suffocation due to playing with a fire extinguisher yesterday, according to the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFS). The number of suffocated students reached 17, and all of them were treated onsite, while three were taken to the hospital, KFS said in a press statement.

#### Municipal Council dissolved

KUWAIT: The Cabinet has dissolved the Municipal Council and formed an interim caretaker body to assume its duties, a minister announced yesterday. In remarks to KUNA after the Cabinet's weekly session, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri cited "lack of progress and mass resignations on the part of municipal officials" as reasons for the dissolution of the municipal council. Bearing public interest in mind, Jabri, who is also Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, added that "an interim caretaker committee comprised of various state bodies will be taking over municipal responsibilities".

Local

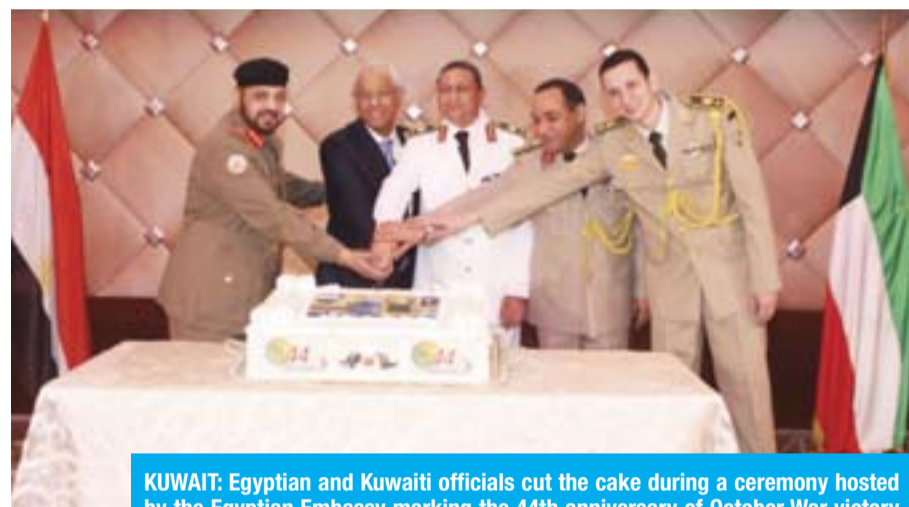
Crown Prince receives officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with President of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday Sheikh Dr Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. His Highness also received President of

the Public Authority for Civil Aviation Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. His Highness later received Head of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Egyptian and Kuwaiti officials cut the cake during a ceremony hosted by the Egyptian Embassy marking the 44th anniversary of October War victory in 1973. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwaiti-Egyptian ties deep-rooted, distinguished: Official

KUWAIT: Head of medical services department at the Kuwaiti Army Major General Mohammad Al-Khodhr yesterday stressed that the Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations are deep-rooted and distinguished in various fields. Speaking during a ceremony held by the Egyptian Embassy marking the 44th anniversary of October War victory in 1973, Khodhr stressed the role of the Kuwaiti Army side-by-side with the Egyptian military to achieve this great victory over Israel. Kuwaiti and Egyptian blood mixed together to liberate land, he said, adding that "we come here to share the joy of Egypt." He congratulated Egypt on being qualified for 2018 FIFA World

Cup Russia. On this occasion, Khodhr conveyed greetings and congratulations of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Chief of General Staff of the Army Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodhr and his deputy Lieutenant General Abdullah Nawaf Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, retired Colonel Abdullah Al-Meqled, who took part in the war, said it was an honor for him to participate in the war alongside the Egyptian army, confirmed the deep-rooted relations between the two peoples. He emphasized that the Kuwaiti army had a big role during the War of Attrition. — KUNA



Egyptian Embassy staff welcome Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (second from left).



New Zealand chief lawmaker eager to boost ties with Kuwait

Amir hosts several diplomats



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives David Carter. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives David Carter and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and head of the welcoming delegation MP Ali Al-Deqba.

Following the meeting, Carter expressed eagerness to enhance ties with Kuwait on many levels, and praised the warmth of relations between Kuwait and New Zealand. He said that he looks forward for a trade and free trade agreement as part of the agenda discussed with His Highness the Amir. Carter also acknowledged Kuwait and His Highness's huge role to settle the tensions in the region. He also welcomed the visit of a Kuwaiti parliamentarian to New

Zealand, to boost both countries' relations. Carter also met separately with Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir received the visiting President of the Swiss National Council Jurg Stahl and his accompanying delegation. He also met with the outgoing Omani Ambassador Hamed bin Saeed Al-Ibrahim, and Swaziland's Queen Mother Nfombi. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Ambassador of Cyprus to Kuwait Charala Hadjisavvas hosted a reception on the occasion of his country's 57th anniversary of the Independence Day and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Kuwait. First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, senior officials, diplomats and media persons attended the event, which took place at Sheraton Hotel Sunday night. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

Local

# Cabinet reiterates Kuwait's appeal for global peace

## Premier briefs ministers on his participation in UNGA session

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chaired the Cabinet's regular weekly session yesterday, and briefed ministers about his address to the United Nations General Assembly, where he called for backing the international organization in its tasks to achieve global peace and stability.

Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, who was greeted at start of the session by the ministers after his recent comeback following successful medical checkups, shed light on his participation in the UNGA's 72nd session, during which he called for cooperation with the UN to achieve global, peace, security and combat terrorism. His Highness the Prime Minister, in his statement at the UNGA session in New York, had stressed on peaceful co-existence among peoples, affirming Kuwait's determination to attain such targets, as well as support efforts for realizing development for nations of the globe. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, read the Cabinet statement following the session, held at Seif Palace.



### Ministers examine study on projects' execution

#### Projects

The ministers examined a recommendation by the public services committee with respect of a study forwarded by the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, execution of a number of projects namely the power station in Al-Abdaliah, the laborers' town in South Al-Jahraa, the government program project, the development scheme for the ministry of education, the

services and entertainment center in Al-Agailah and Kabad plant for treating hard waste. The Cabinet tasked its General Secretariat with examining execution schedules of these projects. Moreover, the ministers reviewed a recommendation by the committee of economic affairs with respect of a request by the ministry of finance on procurement rationing by government departments.

#### Terror attacks

Meanwhile, the Cabinet decried a recent terrorist attack that targeted a security checkpoint of the Saudi Royal Guards in Jeddah. The Cabinet lauded measures, taken by the Kingdom to abort terrorist plots and combat terrorism, affirming the State of Kuwait support for any such effort that would help in finishing off this peril. The ministers wished the Kingdom ever-lasting prosperity, progress and stability, under the sagacious leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. A gunman armed with a Kalashnikov rifle and three Molotov bombs killed two Royal guards and wounded three others in an attack on a checkpoint at the western gate of Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah early on Saturday. The Cabinet denounced a terrorist blast in Manama, Bahrain, where a police officer was killed and several others were wounded, affirming solidarity with the Kingdom and expressing condolences to the martyr's family. Also, the Cabinet mourned the late Kurdish leader, Jalal Talabani, who passed away last week. The ministers eulogized the ex-president of Iraq and prayed for his soul. — KUNA



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

## Iranian cargo ship runs aground without injuries

**KUWAIT:** An Iranian cargo ship sank near the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad causeway, a cable-stayed bridge pending construction, but there were no reported casualties, Kuwaiti authorities said yesterday.

The Doha port-bound cargo ship coming from Iran was completely submerged but all six Iranian sailors onboard the vessel emerged unscathed, Kuwait's Fire Service Directorate public relations Director-General Lt Khalil Al-Amir noted. The sailors were saved and handed over to the Kuwaiti coastguard, he added. — KUNA



## Court rejects Abdali Cell defendants' petition

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The court of cassation yesterday rejected a petition by the lawyers of the defendants in the Abdali Cell case to annul their imprisonment. Meanwhile, the court of appeal yesterday adjourned a case filed against 70 citizens over charges of breaking into the National Assembly, and set a hearing on Nov 27 to pass its verdict. Notably, the criminal court had acquitted all the defendants. Separately, the comprehensive court reviewed a case demanding that the government declare Hezbollah a terrorist organization. The government's attorneys attended the hearings and demanded dismissing the case on grounds that the demands put forward are part of the government's sovereign actions.

#### Fake certificates

Director of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr Ahmad Al-Athari canceled the appointment of four recently-hired teaching staff members and referred them to the prosecution for using fake documents and certificates.

#### Land plots

The government will distribute 1,000 land plots to citizens who had applied to get land for industrial purposes by the first quarter of 2018, well-informed governmental sources said. "Kuwait has never distributed such a large number of industrial land plots since independence in 1961," the sources said, pointing out that the land plots would provide hundreds of job opportunities, as 25 workers would be registered per plot, in addition to creating



The Palace of Justice

more job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth in the private sector. The sources said the government will distribute gas stations to entrepreneurs next year and that every station will include 10 commercial activities operated by 5-10 workers per activity.

#### Services to entrepreneurs

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Development Hind Al-Sabeeh said the number of government bodies providing services to entrepreneurs at the Siddiq Center has increased to 12.

Speaking while touring the Siddiq Center for Small Projects along with Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan, Sabeeh highly praised the number of Kuwaiti volunteers who started the center.

Sabeeh said the center was developing daily to help young entrepreneurs start their own businesses. Responding to a question about monitoring small projects to prevent manipulating them, Sabeeh said control teams had so far found 25 small projects had been misused and that legal action will be taken against those responsible. Roudhan said that it was one of the government's goals to facilitate the business environment through teamwork and integration amongst various ministries.

#### Boeing lease

Well-informed sources said that Kuwait Airways (KAC) signed a deal with the Aviation Lease and Finance Company (ALAFCO) in August to lease four Boeing aircrafts (B777-300ER) for 12 years effective from 2017 at a total value of \$753 million. The sources explained that the annual lease value per plane will be \$15.7 million, ie \$63 million annually for the four planes. Notably, ALAFCO had announced winning a bid offered by KAC to purchase four planes at a total value of \$1.3 billion to be leased by KAC after conducting several economic feasibility studies and after the board of directors decided leasing the planes instead of buying them to ensure profitability in the long run.

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## Local

# Customs' new app improves control at checkpoints

## Govt looks forward to similar achievements at other institutions: Minister

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The General Administration of Customs (GAC) launched a new application to improve control at checkpoints at ports and borders. The launch ceremony of this application was held on Sunday at the customs headquarters in Shuwaikh. "This is a new phase of achievement of GAC. The electronic services provided by GAC improve customs work, and we look forward to similar achievements at other public institutions," said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh.

Director General of Customs Jamal Al-Jalawi said 2018 will be the year of economic and security achievements. "Our strategy is based on attracting suppliers and simplifying their procedures, storing their goods, and easy release of their goods. This will result in increasing customs income without increasing the fees paid by citizens. As more services will be provided, more goods will arrive, so customs income will increase," he noted.

GAC launched a package of new electronic services during the ceremony. "These services will cause a quantum leap in customs work. It includes a new website on the latest international standard that includes all related information and activities, in addition to laws. It will allow individuals and companies to get their customs work done online. Furthermore, we also finished work on the control room, which provides support to all customs centers with inspection, security, customs information and easy communication with field teams and other public authorities," added Jalawi.

The control room will operate 24/7 through monitoring cameras at the land, sea and air customs ports. "This room is one of the main pillars of customs work in Kuwait, which deals quickly with all complaints and calls received in order to maintain the safety of our country," he explained.

### More electronic services

'Masdar' is a new application for smartphones that allows fast communication with the public, answering their questions and providing information. In order to protect information, we also launched a disaster recovery center, which will ensure protection of all informa-



Director General of Customs Jamal Al-Jalawi speaks during the ceremony.

tion and data in case of natural disasters," concluded Jalawi. Deputy Chairman and CEO of Global Clearing House Systems Tareq Al-Sultan noted that the biggest challenge facing the government and the private sector is how to change the work environment and trade over borders into an attractive component for foreign and local investors. The government has taken many important decisions within the past few months and I believe that their positive results will be seen soon," he pointed out.

"Global Clearing House Systems' future plans focus on improving the performance of work environment and simplifying trade through borders. This is done by depending on the latest technology, which will change logistics work in general in Kuwait to support economic interests," he added. Talal Al-Eidan from GAC

explained the professional and accurate work of the control room. "It is connected to 160 cameras at all ports of Kuwait. All ports are monitored and the system tracks all trucks, ships and airplanes after leaving the port. We cooperate with various authorities including the minister of interior, which we contact immediately if any truck changes its route, for instance. We also have plans to install 65 more cameras at the Nuwaiseeb and Salmi borders," he noted.

“2018 to be year of economic and security achievements”

## Autonomous vehicles to be available in Kuwait: Official

**DUBAI:** Kuwait will be capable of hosting self-driving vehicles thanks to an advanced road scanning system set to be launched by Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) for the first time in the Gulf region. PACI Deputy Director General for information systems and technology Mansour Al-Metthen said that PACI has recently complemented the implementation of Lidar, a highly accurate road and street scanning system, inside Kuwait.

In remarks to KUNA at the 37th GITEX Technology Week Exhibition in Dubai, he said the system also allows the inspection of the length, width and height of surrounding buildings to allow for the future usage of autonomous cars. The new system depends on field scanning, using specialized vehicles, that roam the streets to specify all of its dimensions, as well as a 360 degree photographic survey of all the country's roads, he added.

This will give Kuwait a "distinguished status" in developed transporting technology, he said. This system is a brand new one in the region and is still under primary examination before being officially introduced by the end of this year, including developed tools that allows all for the state's institutions and ministries to benefit, especially the Municipality, Interior Ministry, and Ministry of Public Works, he said PACI is also working on "Kuwait Finder" project that works on inspecting the traffic jam updates, side by side with the "Lider System" which offers high definition photos of Kuwait's streets from all directions. This will lay a solid base for launching the self-driving cars, he said.

PACI will also launch a new project during the upcoming weeks regarding the statistical information, as they will be reachable by public through smart phones and tablets, Metthen added. The statistical information system will offer accurate numbers of the population, and the most populous areas, along with social status information, and all this info would be easily accessed through smart phones and tablets as well, he said. PACI has lately offered an electronic signing service that connects between the civil ID and the official signature of the users, which allows them to conduct commercial and banking transactions electronically. The Authority signed with the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) a memorandum of understanding last September, that allows PACI to be a pioneer in initiating such service. — KUNA



DUBAI: PACI Deputy Director General for information systems and technology Mansour Al-Metthen poses with other officials at the 37th GITEX. — KUNA

## Conference highlights int'l maritime law

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The international convention on the law of the sea and coastal and maritime surveillance is the main theme of the Offshore Patrol Vessel's Middle East Conference being held from Oct 9-11, 2017 at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa. This is the 6th edition of this conference that is supported by Kuwait's ministry of defense and the Kuwaiti naval force.

Maj Gen Khalid Abdullah, Commander and Chief of Kuwait Naval Force, said the Arabian Gulf has an important strategic location for its countries and the rest of the world, as it's one of the most important routes connecting Asia, Europe and Africa. "Gulf oil and gas passes through it to the rest of the world. GCC countries along with Iran and Iraq have 45 percent of the world's oil reserves," he said during the opening ceremony of the conference yesterday.

### Epicenter of wars

This region is also an epicenter of wars and conflicts. "The wars that took place in this area had a great economic impact on the entire world. The main reason for these wars was breaking the international law of the sea by these countries, especially the identification of territory and waters of these countries. Also, some conflicts are still going on due to security crimes committed in the seas, especially maritime piracy and trafficking of



KUWAIT: Senior state officials attend a ceremony hosted by the General Administration of Customs (GAC) to launch their new application. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Talal Al-Eidan from the General Administration of Customs gives a demonstration about the features of the new application.



KUWAIT: Maj Gen Khalid Abdullah, Commander and Chief of Kuwait Naval Force (left) speaks during the conference. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodhr listens to an explanation while touring an exhibition held as part of the conference.

drugs, weapons and humans. All these crimes have a negative effect of the security and economy of these countries," added Abdullah. The correct application of the international law of the sea will prevent the GCC region from witnessing more conflicts. "Understanding the law and applying it will strengthen stability in our region, and all countries should adopt this idea by forcing the application of the law and the international treaties of the United Nations, especially the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We invite experts from the field to share their opinions about this law," he said.

### More successful

Rear Admiral Ahmed Al-Teneiji, Former Chief of Naval

Staff, UAE Navy and Chairman OPV Middle East, noted that this conference is getting more successful every year, and this year there are around 30 companies participating. "We have chosen the main subject of this year's conference the international law of the sea due to its importance for countries and individuals. There are many small fishing and tours boats that are not aware of this law, so they get in trouble in territorial waters. Some countries also arrest them as they exploit fishermen's lack of knowledge of the laws," explained Teneiji. Lectures and discussion panels presented by experts from the field from different countries are on the conference's agenda, along with an exhibition by participating companies.

## Korea Navy Cruise Training Task Group visits Kuwait for the first time

**KUWAIT:** On the occasion of 38th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) Cruise Training Task Group (CTTG) is set to visit Kuwait for the first time. Republic of Korea Ship (ROKS) Kang Gam Chan DDH (Destroyer Drop Helicopter) and Hwacheon AOE (Auxiliary Oiler Expanded) are set to enter Shuwaikh port on Oct 15th.

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the State of Kuwait Yoo Yeonchul commented on the visits by saying, "I am quite pleased to see that the two Korean military ships, Destroyer Kang Gam Chan accompanied by the support military vessel Hwanchun, will visit the Shuwaikh port of Kuwait from October 15th to 18th this year."

The visit is the first of its kind in the history of Kuwait-Korea bilateral relations since the establishment of the diplomatic relations in 1979. Therefore, this will set a new horizon of our two countries' cooperation in the field of defense, enhancing our bilateral relations to a new level. So far, every year, two Korean military officers have been joining the advanced command and staff course at the Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College of the State of Kuwait.

Furthermore, in April this year, Brigadier General Adil



Ghanem Al-Roujaib, Commander of the Kuwait Military Police, visited the Republic of Korea to discuss ways and means for military cooperation for the first time since the establishment of the diplomatic relations in 1979.

During their four-day visit to Kuwait, there will be a wide range of events such as onboard reception, cultural performance, a defense exhibition promoting Korea's cutting-edge defense technology, and so on. "Taking this opportunity, it is my wish that the most advanced military technology of South Korea will be well introduced to Kuwait, which will lead to further military cooperation between our two countries," the ambassador said.

In relation to this, International Tri-Service Defense Exhibition in Kuwait will be held from December 12th to 14th this year. The Korean side will participate in this event, promoting further way for more military coopera-

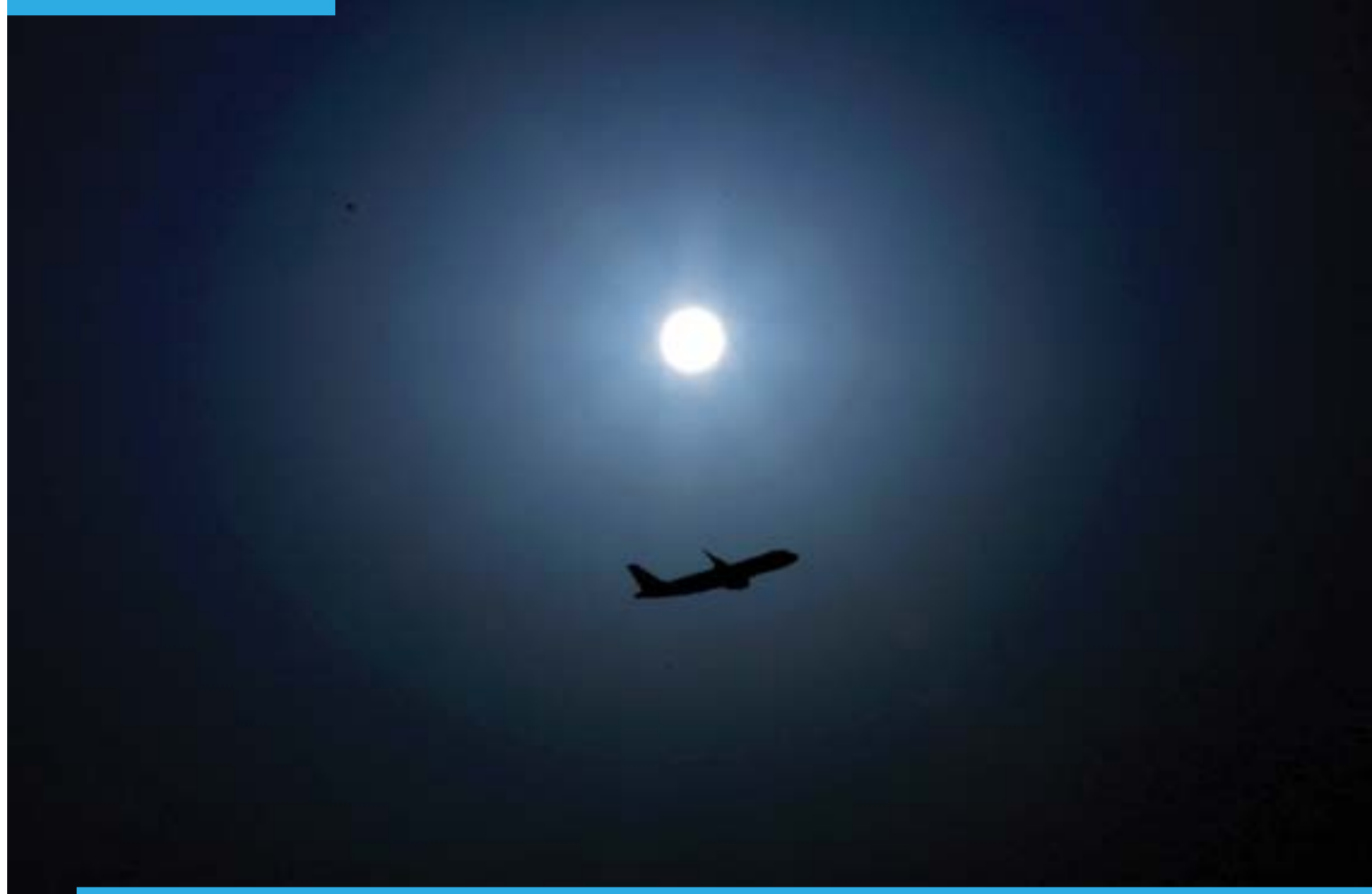
tion between our two countries. "I expect that cultural performance at Jaber Al-Ahmad Culture's Concert Hall is also exciting event during the Korean Navy Ships' visit to Kuwait," the envoy said.

The soccer match between Korean midshipmen and Kuwaiti servicemen will be another event to deepen the friendship among military men between our two countries. There will be a special event for the award in our appreciation to Korean War Veteran, James Craigs, residing in Kuwait now, who served the United Kingdom's army and joined the United Nations forces from 1950 to 1951 during the Korean War.

"As the saying goes 'friendship is the only unsinkable ship,' our friendship between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Korea will be more strengthened and forever through this opportunity of the Korean Navy ships' visit to Kuwait," the ambassador concluded.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A plane takes off during sunset from Kuwait International Airport yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Alghanim Industries donates towards children's education

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, has recently supported the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) in the 'Educate for a Brighter Kuwait' campaign aimed to provide educational opportunities to all non-Kuwaiti children living in the country. This is Alghanim Industries' second year partnering with KRCS on children's education in Kuwait. In 2015, the number of children whose families cannot afford to pay for their tuition and have applied for assistance reached 13,000.

Commenting on the donation, Chairman of Alghanim Industries, Kutayba Yusuf Alghanim said: "Every child has the right to an education. The right to a brighter future, with options and choices that only an education can provide. At Alghanim Industries, we strive towards impacting and improving our society, whenever the opportunity arises - especially where it concerns underprivileged youth. We are proud to take part in educational campaigns driven by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. Their various initiatives continue to contribute to the betterment of our nation." Commenting on the campaign, Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Dr Hilal Al Sayer said: "We are extremely happy to continue strengthen-

ing our long-standing relationship with Alghanim Industries across a multitude of charity campaigns and initiatives at the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. This is our third year hosting the education campaign in an ongoing effort to improve the quality of life and opportunities presented to the children in Kuwait. We would like to thank Alghanim Industries and its Chairman, Kutayba Alghanim, for once again working with us to make this a successful campaign."



Kutayba Yusuf Alghanim

Alghanim Industries is committed to its strategy of giving back to the community by empowering underprivileged people, supporting education and encouraging entrepreneurship as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility program.

In 2015, the company was named 'Diamond Partner' by Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) in recognition of its efforts to support KRCS by facilitating treatment for needy patients in Kuwait, and by helping Nurture and Educate Students Today (NEST), which aims to raise awareness and support education of underprivileged children, both locally and internationally. The company also covered the expenses of restoring houses for the Children's Home - an orphanage launched by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Social Welfare Sector for all orphans in Kuwait.

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KUWAIT: Waleed Al-Khashti, Zain Kuwait's Corporate Communications and Relations Director (center right) attends the press conference.

## Zain strategic partner of sixth Youth Empowerment Symposium

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its strategic partnership of the Youth Empowerment Symposium for the sixth consecutive year. The event, which comes under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, will be held this year at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. Zain's strategic partnership of the Youth Empowerment Symposium since its inception six years ago comes in line with the company's long term strategy of providing the necessary support to national initiatives aimed at uplifting the capabilities and skills of Kuwaiti youth. Waleed Al-Khashti, Zain Kuwait's Corporate Communications and Relations Director, said during the press conference: "Zain is proud to announce its strategic partnership of the Youth Empowerment Symposium for the sixth consecutive year. Zain has always been a main supporter of this national and academic initiative since its inception, and this is our responsibility towards this vibrant segment of the community."

Khashti added: "The Youth Empowerment Symposium is considered one of the biggest academic programs that cater to the youth in Kuwait and even the GCC region. Every year, the symposium excels at inviting local and international experts, professionals, and pioneers in the fields of business, information technology, economics, and social media from all around the world to share their personal and professional experiences with the Kuwaiti youth who anxiously look forward to learning from them every year."

The Youth Empowerment Symposium, to be held 23-25 October, provides local youth with an ideal opportunity to gain valuable insights from a number of internationally and locally renowned industry pioneers, academics, and experts. This year's speakers include Patrick Pichette, Former

Vice President and CFO in Google Inc, Mike Tattersfield, Chairman of Caribou Coffee, Sam Chamberlain, COO of Five Guys Group, Simon Ainslie, Former Global Vice President in Nokia, Victoria Grace, Founder and CEO of Colle Capital - USA, as well as a number of prominent local speakers.

Zain's presence in this national event showcases the company's dedication to empowering the entrepreneurial skills of youth in Kuwait. The symposium delivers outstanding knowledge to talented young people to be able to progress in their fields of interest as well as to spark the light of enthusiasm within them.

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by Alghanim Electronics

# International

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017



Britain and European Union partners clash

## Despite abuses, expelled Ethiopians still eye Saudi

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BARCELONA: Spanish police vans are decorated with Spanish and Catalan flags by protesters during a demonstration called by 'Societat Civil Catalana' (Catalan Civil Society) to support the unity of Spain. —AFP

# Catalonia crisis goes down to the wire; protests but no talks

## Catalan leader could declare independence today

**BARCELONA:** The Spanish government and its Catalonia region showed no signs of compromise yesterday, a day after hundreds of thousands of pro-Spain unionists protested in Barcelona against Catalan leaders' plans to declare independence as early as this week. Spain fears the Catalan parliament could declare independence today, when the regional government's leader is due to speak to the assembly in the wake of a banned referendum on Oct 1. Catalan officials say people voted overwhelmingly for secession. However, on the eve of Tuesday's parliamentary session, neither Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy nor Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont showed signs of entering into talks, with each buoyed by large protests on both sides of the independence divide.

The Catalan crisis has presented Spain with its biggest political challenge since it became a democracy four decades ago. Losing Catalonia, which has its own language and culture, is almost unthinkable for Madrid. It would deprive Spain of a fifth of its economic output and more than a quarter of its exports. A stream of Catalonia-based firms, including its two largest banks, have moved their legal bases outside the region.

There is widespread opposition to a Catalan breakaway among people in the rest of the country and also among a large section of the Catalan population. The majority of the region's unionists boycotted the Oct 1 referendum, which was banned by Madrid

and disrupted by a violent police crackdown. The European Union has also shown no interest in an independent Catalonia, despite an appeal by Puigdemont for Brussels to mediate in the crisis. France, which borders Catalonia, said yesterday it would not recognize a unilateral independence declaration.

On Sunday, a crowd estimated by local police to number 350,000, took to the streets of the Catalan capital Barcelona, waving Spanish and Catalan flags and carrying banners saying "Catalonia is Spain" and "Together we are stronger". The show of support for Madrid helped calm Spanish markets on Monday, along with comments on Friday from credit rating agencies Moody's and DBRS that they expected Spain to remain united. Spanish borrowing costs fell to a one-week low and the main share index touched a week high.

### Protests, no talks

With Puigdemont under pressure to back down, there is speculation he may balk at moving an independence motion on Tuesday, or that he might call

snap regional polls, turning them into a de facto, legal referendum on independence. Spanish Prime Minister Rajoy has not ruled out removing Catalonia's government and calling fresh regional elections himself if the region claims independence. He says he could also suspend the region's existing autonomous status. The Catalan authorities say more than 90 percent of those

who voted backed secession, but opinion polls on the issue suggest the region is more closely divided. A turnout for the referendum was 43 percent.

Sunday's anti-independence demonstration, which included Catalans and people from other parts of Spain, underlined how the dispute has riven the region itself. A month

ago, a million people rallied in the city to support independence. "We feel both Catalan and Spanish," Araceli Ponze, 72, said during Sunday's rally. "We are facing a tremendous unknown. We will see what happens this week but we have to speak out very loudly so they know what we want." Puigdemont will address the Catalan parliament at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) on

Tuesday on "the current political situation" amid speculation he could ask the assembly to declare independence.

Puigdemont said in an interview broadcast on Catalan television on Sunday that a law passed by the Catalan parliament preparing the way for the referendum called for a declaration of independence in the event of a "yes" vote. "We will apply what the law says," he said, according to a partial transcript released by TV3. Puigdemont said he had not been in contact with the Madrid government for some time because Spain refused to discuss independence. "What is happening in Catalonia is real, whether they like it or not. Millions of people have voted, who want to decide. We have to talk about this," he said. Rajoy has said repeatedly he will not talk to the Catalan leaders unless they drop their plans to declare independence.

Madrid sent thousands of national police to the region to prevent the vote. About 900 people were injured when officers used rubber bullets and batons against voters in scenes that shocked Spain and the world, and escalated the dispute. The political standoff has pushed banks and companies to move their legal headquarters outside Catalonia. The boards of Catalonia-based infrastructure firm Abertis, telecoms company Cellnex and property group Inmobiliaria Colonial will meet on Monday to discuss moving, sources said. Major lenders Caixabank and Sabadell have already resolved to leave the region.—Reuters



## France says won't recognize unilateral independence

Trump called Iran "a corrupt dictatorship", and the nuclear deal negotiated by his predecessor Barack Obama "an embarrassment". The deal, which was also supported by Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, saw Iran agree to curbs on its nuclear program in return for the lifting of international sanctions that had damaged its economy.

The Kremlin said yesterday that any US withdrawal from the nuclear deal would have "negative consequences." British Prime Minister Theresa May, who supports the nuclear deal, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who opposes it, agreed in a phone call yesterday that they need to be "clear-eyed" about the threat Iran poses to the Middle East. "They agreed that ... the international community should continue working together to push back against Iran's destabilizing regional activity," US's spokesman said in a statement.

Washington still maintains its own more limited sanctions on Iran over its missile program and over accusations Tehran supports terrorism. The Trump administration is seeking to put more pressure on the IRGC, especially over recent ballistic missile tests and what Washington has called its "malign activities" across the Middle East. US sanctions on the IRGC could affect conflicts in Iraq and Syria, where Tehran and Washington both support warring parties that oppose the Islamic State militant group (IS).

The US government imposed sanctions in July on 18 entities and people for supporting the IRGC in

## Iran promises 'crushing' response if US designates Guards terrorist group

**LONDON:** Iran promised yesterday to give a "crushing" response if the United States designated its elite Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist group. The pledge came a week before President Donald Trump announces final decision on how he wants to contain Tehran. He is expected on Oct 15 to "decertify" a landmark 2015 international deal to curb Iran's nuclear program, a step that by itself stops short of pulling out of the agreement but gives Congress 60 days to decide whether to reimpose sanctions.

Trump is also expected to designate Iran's most powerful security force, the Revolutionary Guards Corp (IRGC) as a terrorist organization, as he rolls out a broader US strategy on Iran. "We are hopeful that the United States does not make this strategic mistake," foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi was quoted as saying by the state news agency IRNA at a news conference. "If they do, Iran's reaction would be firm, decisive and crushing and the United States should bear all its consequences," he added. Individuals and entities associated with the IRGC are already on the US list of foreign terrorist organizations, but the organization as a whole is not.

IRGC commander Mohammad Ali Jafari said on Sunday "if the news is correct about the stupidity of the American government in considering the Revolutionary Guards a terrorist group, then the Revolutionary Guards will consider the American army to be like Islamic State all around the world." Jafari also said that additional sanctions would end the chances for future dialogue with the United States and that the Americans would have to move their regional bases outside the 2,000 km (1,250 mile) range of IRGC's missiles.

### 'Malign activities'

The foreign ministry spokesman Qasemi also denied US accusations that Iran had cooperated with North Korea. In an interview that was aired on Saturday night, Trump accused Iran of "funding North Korea" and "doing things with North Korea that are totally inappropriate." Qasemi called the accusations "baseless".

"Israel and some specific countries are raising these accusations to create Iranophobia." In his first speech to the UN General Assembly in September



TEHRAN: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani gives a speech during a ceremony at Tehran University marking the beginning of new Iranian academic year. —AFP

developing drones and military equipment. In August, the US Congress overwhelmingly approved the "Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act" which imposed new sanctions on Iran for its ballistic missiles program. The act, signed by Trump, also imposed sanctions on North Korea for its nuclear weapons development and on Russia for its alleged efforts to interfere in the 2016 US election.—Reuters

## International

# NATO launches Black Sea force; message to Russia

## Russia's Crimea annexation puts focus on Black Sea

**BUCHAREST:** NATO yesterday launched a new multinational force in Romania to counter Russia along its eastern flank and to check a growing Russian presence in the Black Sea following the Kremlin's 2014 seizure of Crimea. Initially a small force relying on troops from 10 NATO countries including Italy, Canada as well as Romania, the land, air and sea deployments will complement about 900 US troops already in place. "Our purpose is peace, not war," Romanian President Klaus Iohannis told the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Bucharest.

"We are not a threat for Russia. But we need dialogue from a strong position of defense and discouragement." Russia accuses NATO of trying to encircle it and threatening stability in Eastern Europe, which NATO denies. Around the Black Sea, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey are NATO members while Georgia and Ukraine aspire to join.

The NATO force aims to develop its allied presence in the Black Sea region, rich in oil and gas, without escalating tensions, as it seeks to counter Russia's own plans to create what military analysts say is a "buffer zone". The 2008 Russian operation to put troops in Georgia's South Ossetia's region, its support for separatists in eastern Ukraine since 2014 and its annexation of Crimea have raised the stakes, with all sides warning of a new, Cold-War style scenario.

Details of the new force size were unclear. Based inland at a base near the southern Romanian city of Craiova, the land component of the force involves a brigade-size multinational NATO force, typically some 3,000 to 4,000 troops, but the contribution of non-Romanian troops is modest. Aside from Romania, Poland is the biggest troop

contributor. Bulgaria, Italy and Portugal will train regularly with the force in Craiova, and Germany is also expected to contribute.

In addition to existing NATO Black Sea naval patrols, a maritime presence will include more allied visits to Romanian and Bulgarian ports, training and exercises. NATO air forces will also be limited at first but Britain is deploying fighter planes to Romania. Canada is already patrolling Romanian air space along with national pilots. Italy is patrolling Bulgarian air space. "It sends a signal of NATO's resolve," said NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who will visit the troops later on Monday, stressing that NATO also had a 40,000-strong response force in case of a conflict.



### Zapad raised concerns about Russia capacities

lyst at the Polish Casimir Pulaski Foundation, referring to the US-built system. NATO says the system is to intercept any Iranian rockets.

As in the Baltics and Poland, where the US-led alliance has some 4,000 troops, NATO says the relatively light multinational model recalls allied support for West Berlin in the 1950s, when British, French and US forces ensured the Soviet Union could not control all Berlin. Under NATO's founding treaty, an attack on one ally is an attack on all, meaning all 28 NATO nations would be required to respond in the case of any potential Russian aggression. While months in planning, the establishment of the force

### 'West Berlin' Model

Some Eastern Europeans want NATO's new ballistic missile defense shield, which includes a site in Romania, to be part of NATO's eastern posture vis-a-vis Russia. "The Aegis Ashore system would add another level of deterrence," said Maciej Kowalski, an ana-



**BUCHAREST:** NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (left) delivers a speech in front of NATO's Parliamentary Assembly at the Romanian Parliament in Bucharest yesterday. —AFP

comes as Russia winds down its biggest war games since 2013. The Zapad, or West, games were a show of its latest weaponry and its ability to quickly mass soldiers on NATO's borders.

The enhanced NATO presence in Romania and Bulgaria marks a diplomatic success for Bucharest, which gained greater persuasive power because it is set to reach a NATO goal of spending 2 percent of economic output on defense this year, a priority for US President Donald

Trump. Romania pushed for bigger NATO naval presence on the Black Sea for over a year, but found its neighbor Bulgaria wary of provoking Russia. Turkey only supports limited NATO reinforcements, concerned about breaking international rules limiting the scale of patrols in the Black Sea. Turkey has played down the extent of Russia's militarization of Crimea, which NATO says involves a laying of surface-to-air missiles and communications jamming equipment.—Reuters

## Clashes threaten Ethiopia's delicate ethnic balance

**ADAMA:** She was not one of them, but Saada Youssef had lived alongside the Somali people of eastern Ethiopia for years. Then came the day local officials told her to leave or die. "Even on the truck, people were throwing stones at us," Saada said, recalling her escape in a vehicle sent to rescue people of Oromo ethnicity living in the Somali region where tit-for-tat ethnic violence killed hundreds last month. Saada found refuge in a collection of abandoned buildings in Adama, a city far from her home in the eastern town of Wachale, one of several areas in Ethiopia's Oromia and Somali regions that have seen fighting between two of the country's largest ethnic groups.

The bloody clashes threaten to upset the delicate ethnic balance of Africa's second most populous country, where the all-powerful ruling party last year declared a state of emergency to end months of sometimes deadly anti-government protests spearheaded by the Oromos. The unrest raises questions about the future of Ethiopia's "ethnic federalism" system of governance, which is supposed to offer a degree of self-determination to the country's diverse peoples but which critics say is often overruled by the federal government.

### A permanent rupture?

What triggered September's violence is unclear, but its results are not. A government spokesman said hundreds of people have been killed in recent weeks and a local official in the eastern city of Harar said that more than 67,800 Oromos alone have fled, not to mention the Somalis who have moved in the opposite direction. Survivors of the ethnic fighting blamed the government for not doing more to stop the bloodshed. They are worried it might lead to a permanent rift between the country's Somali and Oromo communities.

"This could be ethnic cleansing," said Molu Wario, an Oromo who fled fighting in Moyale in the south along the border of the Somali and Oromia regions, after a land dispute turned ugly. "It has led to hostility, and the relationship between us will never be the same as before," he said. The logic of ethnic federalism sees different commu-



**ADAMA, Ethiopia:** An Oromo girl looks on as she walks past a laundry line at a temporary camp for displaced people outside Adama, Ethiopia. — AFP

nities running their own affairs, so Somalis are in charge of the Somali region while Oromos run Oromia, but communities mix in all nine of Ethiopia's regions and squabbles over land and resources are common, though not always so violent.

This time, Somali and Oromo leaders alike allege atrocities committed by the other to justify their attacks. Somalis point to a clash in Awaday, a town in Oromia, where they claim Oromos killed 18 Somali traders who were selling khat, a leafy plant that is a mild stimulant when chewed and is hugely popular in Ethiopia. They also claim Oromos burned eight children to death in a district along the shared regional border and murdered patients in a hospital. The claims could not be independently verified, though a diplomat in the capital Addis Ababa said the Oromia region's police force took part in the clashes. Whatever the truth of the allegations, the retribution they have spurred is real.

### 'I have nothing left'

Fleeing Oromos say the Somalis who chased them away from their homes with knives and guns cited the attack in Awaday. Abdel Jabbar Ahmed, who escaped from Wachale, said he was told: "The Oromos killed 20 Somalis in Awaday, so we are going to take all the Oromos inside Somali region out." Other dispossessed Oromos said their Somali friends and neighbors sheltered them when violence broke out, but that the regional security force known as the Liyu police and repeatedly criticized by rights groups—was responsible for the worst of the excesses. Ayub Abdullah, an Oromo day laborer who lived for 15 years in the Somali regional capital Jigjiga, said he was confronted by a mob at work, who demanded to know his ethnicity. Then, four Liyu police attacked him and throttled him with a rope. Afterwards Ayub fled to a camp for displaced Oromos on the outskirts of Harar, a walled city near the border between the two regions. —AFP

## Trapped in Raqqa, civilians become IS human shields

**HAWI AL-HAWA:** As fighters from the Islamic State group retreat into a shrinking part of Syria's Raqqa, they are dragging along terrified civilians for cover against a ferocious US-backed onslaught. Locals who managed to flee describe being herded into apartments in buildings used by jihadists as makeshift military bases, and serving as human shields for fighters as they collect water. Civilians say the tactic-used elsewhere by the group to slow its opponents—is increasingly putting them in the cross hairs of US air power and allied fighters as they battle IS in densely populated districts near Raqqa's center. Raqqa resident Umm Alaa and her family were twice forced to provide cover to IS jihadists, she said, hours after her escape from the city.

"Weeks ago, an Iraqi (IS) fighter came to our house in Al-Barid and told us it had become a military zone," she said, sitting on

a plastic chair outside a mosque in Hawi Al-Hawa, a western suburb of Raqqa controlled by the US-backed force. IS moved her with her husband, their son Alaa and two-year-old grandson Hassan into a nearby building and refused their pleas to return home. Three days later, jihadists displaced them again, this time to a damaged building with other families in the battle-ravaged district of Al-Badu. "They were holding us as human shields.

"They were keeping us there to protect themselves," said her husband Abu Alaa, a thick leather belt holding up the oversized trousers hanging off his bony frame. "Daesh told us, 'If you leave Raqqa, they are going to destroy the whole city over our heads,'" he said, using the Arabic acronym for IS. The whole family escaped on foot with other civilians on Friday, and like all the civilians who spoke to AFP, they declined to give their full names for fear of retribution against friends and relatives still stuck inside the city.

### Human shields at water wells

The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces broke into Raqqa in June, and has since captured around 90 percent of the city, with the help of heavy US-led air strikes. Tens of thou-



**RAQQA:** A member of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), backed by US Special Forces, monitors the area on the western frontline in Raqqa. —AFP

sands of civilians have fled, but with fighting and air strikes concentrated on a shrinking IS-held section of the city, the exodus has slowed to a trickle. As its options dwindle, jihadists are taking up positions inside residential buildings, said Mohannad, a fair-skinned woman with pale green eyes who also escaped Al-Badu with her four children. "They tried to move into the basement or the first floor of our buildings because it protect-

ed them from air strikes," she said. IS fighters sought out apartments left behind by fleeing families, so Mohannad began putting out clothes and blankets on the balconies of empty ones to trick jihadists into thinking they were occupied. She and her children were forced to move four times, and when they were moved into Al-Badu there was little to eat. They were not allowed to leave except to draw water from nearby boreholes. —AFP

## Despite abuses, expelled Ethiopians still eye Saudi

**ADDIS ABABA:** Ethiopian maid Zenit Ali has post-traumatic stress disorder after being mistreated by her Saudi Arabian employer and deported in a government crackdown, but she still hopes to return to the Middle East. The 27-year-old is among some 70,000 illegal Ethiopian migrants expelled from the Gulf kingdom since March, as it seeks to reduce its reliance on millions of migrant laborers.

"I'm not happy," she anxiously told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, while staying in a shelter for trafficked women run by a local charity Agar Ethiopia. "I have no job here in Ethiopia. I want to build my home but I can't because my family has used all the money. I need to go back." The number of Ethiopians being smuggled and trafficked to the Middle East has surged in recent years, as brokers lure the poor and unemployed with promises of a better life.

Most women work as maids, often for more than 20 hours a day, with few legal rights. Many do not have enough food or sleep, have their phones and passports confiscated and endure physical and sexual abuse, rights groups say. The controversial "kafala" sponsorship system, used across the Gulf, requires foreign workers to get their employer's consent to change jobs or leave the country. Saudi Arabia has publicly said it will deport or jail an additional 400,000 or so Ethiopians it believes live there illegally, following the August expiry of an amnesty allowing them to leave without punishment.

During a 2013 crackdown, many of 160,000 Ethiopians who were expelled were first detained, beaten and held in squalid conditions, Human Rights Watch said. Others were dumped in the desert near the Yemen border, it said. Despite these risks, most migrants choose not to leave. "People may prefer to stay there even with the threat of imprisonment," Abebaw Minyaw, a psychology professor at Addis Ababa University, said in an interview in his office. "The original factors that pushed them there in the first place - poverty, above all - have not changed." An Ethiopian government spokesman did not respond to requests for comment.

### A dog and a slave

In interviews with more than 1,000 returnees in 2014, the professor found the majority had been abused - yet they still wanted to return to the Gulf. Most said they were not given any time off work or allowed to meet friends outside their employers' homes. More than a quarter had mental health problems, he found, attributing this to violations, like rape, beating, overwork and being called a dog and a slave. Experts say Ethiopians are likely to keep risking their lives as migrants because they lack opportunities at home. "They are imbued with a very strong sense of responsibility for the economic welfare of their families, which propels them to seek opportunities outside Ethiopia," said Bina Fernandez, a migration expert at the University of Melbourne.

Back-to-back droughts have left 8.5 million people in Africa's second most populous country in need of food aid. Most migrants use illegal channels because it is cheaper and faster, according to Kenya-based Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) think tank. A record 117,000 Ethiopians arrived in Yemen last year, it said. Organized criminal networks traffic people between Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen, which is the gateway to the Middle East, the United Nations migration agency says. —Reuters

## International

# Ball is in your court - UK, EU clash over next Brexit move

## Weakened UK leader faces party infighting

LONDON: Britain and its European Union partners clashed yesterday over which side should make the next move to unblock Brexit talks, despite concerns they will miss a deadline for a divorce deal and that London is heading for a chaotic departure. Prime Minister Theresa May made clear in speech she was to deliver to parliament that she hoped her EU partners would make proposals at a new round of talks opening the way to the next stage of negotiations, saying "the ball is in their court".

But even before she had delivered the speech, an EU spokesman hit back in Brussels, saying "the ball is entirely in the UK court for the rest to happen". May is desperate to try to regain some of her authority and refocus on talks to unravel more than 40 years of union after a speech at her party conference last week, marred by a repetitive cough, a prankster and a stage malfunction, left her weaker than ever.

She has so far fought off attempts to unseat her by critics already angry over an ill-judged election when she lost her governing Conservatives' majority, but her weakness has opened the door for many in her party to challenge her Brexit strategy with just 18 months to go before Britain leaves the EU. With Brussels quietly preparing for a collapse in the talks and Britain getting ready for what May calls "all eventualities", some officials and business chiefs worry the country will crash out of the EU without a deal. Speaking in parliament later, May will say she is determined to secure a new partnership with the other 27 members of the wealthy political and trade bloc.

"Achieving that partnership will require leadership and flexibility, not just from us but from our friends, the 27 nations of the EU," she will say, according to excerpts of her

speech. "And as we look forward to the next stage, the ball is in their court. But I am optimistic we will receive a positive response." But the EU was clear: "There is a clear sequencing to these talks and there has been so far no solution found on step one, which is the divorce proceedings," European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas told a regular briefing. "So the ball is entirely in the UK court for the rest to happen."

### 'See what happens'

May, who will host businesses later to listen to their Brexit concerns, is keen to push the talks beyond a discussion of the

divorce to try to offer firms some certainty about future trading conditions. A report that aerospace manufacturer BAE Systems is planning to cut more than 1,000 jobs can only add pressure for May to press her case for the EU to move beyond talks on the divorce settlement, the rights of expatriates and the border with EU-member Ireland.

EU negotiators say that while they see no big

breakthrough at the summit next week, they may offer May a hand by offering some hope of a shift at the next scheduled meeting in mid-December. Aides to May have signaled that the prime minister has accepted that her October deadline will not be met despite a speech in Italy last month which attempted to reset the tone of the difficult negotiations.

Her spokesman told reporters: "Let's see what happens in the next round of talks". But some pro-Brexit campaigners are calling on the prime minister to get ready to step away from the talks - underlining the deep divisions in the Conservative Party. Those differences were aired again yesterday with negative briefings in the local media against finance minister Philip Hammond, who supports prolonging



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May reacts as she arrives in Downing Street in central London yesterday.— AFP

the status quo with the EU for as long as possible, and foreign minister Boris Johnson, who angered some Conservatives for setting his own Brexit red lines.

Some have suggested that May will reshuffle her cabinet, but yesterday her spokesman said she had full confidence in both ministers. "We are fast reaching the point

when the prime minister should assert the authority of her office over the negotiations and call time," Bernard Jenkin, a Conservative lawmaker, wrote in the Guardian newspaper. Asked whether he meant Britain should walk away if there was no progress at the October summit, Jenkin told Reuters: "Yes".— Reuters



## EU negotiators see no imminent breakthrough

breakthrough at the summit next week, they may offer May a hand by offering some hope of a shift at the next scheduled meeting in mid-December. Aides to May have signaled that the prime minister has accepted that her October deadline will not be met despite a speech in Italy last month which attempted to reset the tone of the difficult negotiations.

Her spokesman told reporters: "Let's see what happens in the next round of talks". But some pro-Brexit campaigners are calling on the prime minister to get ready to step away from the talks - underlining the deep divisions in the Conservative Party. Those differences were aired again yesterday with negative briefings in the local media against finance minister Philip Hammond, who supports prolonging

### News in brief

#### Boats collide; 8 dead

TUNIS: At least eight people drowned yesterday when a boat carrying dozens of mostly Tunisian migrants collided with a navy vessel off the country's southeast coast, its defense ministry said. According to testimony from survivors, there were between 70 and 80 people on board. International Organization for Migration (IOM) spokesman Flavio Di Giacomo said. He said at least 20 people were missing and some 40, almost all Tunisians, had been rescued. The ministry said eight bodies had been recovered after the collision with the Tunisian navy boat, which occurred 54km off the coast. Italian news agency ANSA said the migrant vessel had sunk. Libya has long been the busiest country of departure for a steady flow of migrants trying to reach the European Union from North Africa. But activity on that route has declined since July as Libya's coast guard and an armed group in the smuggling hub of Sabratha tightened controls.

#### Fire near plane

HONG KONG: A fire broke out on the tarmac of Hong Kong's international airport yesterday, with black smoke seen billowing near the belly of an American Airlines plane. The blaze began around 5:30 pm in one of the parking berths and one person was injured, police said. "When a loading vehicle was loading cargo onto the plane it caught on fire," a police spokeswoman said, adding that it was an empty American Airlines flight. Photos on social media showed the fire blazing, with black smoke rising near the belly of the plane in between the right wing and tail wing. Hong Kong Airport Authority said the fire, which occurred at ground level, had been extinguished and they were investigating its cause. The plane was bound for Los Angeles, according to the airport website.

#### Taiwan logo gaffe

MANILA: The Philippines apologized to China yesterday, days after embarrassingly using the logo of rival Taiwan at an official defense ministry ceremony to accept a Chinese donation of rifles and ammunition. A banner with the logos of the Philippine and Taiwanese defense ministries hung above the stage Thursday as Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Chinese ambassador Zhao Jianhua sat together to witness the weapons turnover. "Military assistance gratis from the Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China," read the banner, with the wrong logo apparently not attracting attention at the time. "The Department of National Defense committed a grievous but purely unintentional mistake of using a different logo on a banner to represent the Ministry of Defense of the People's Republic of China," said a Philippine defense ministry statement. "We have issued an official apology to the government and the people of the People's Republic of China," it said, adding that Philippine defense authorities and the military "strictly adhere" to Manila's "One China Policy".

#### Kenya police kill 37

NAIROBI: Thirty-seven people were killed after Kenya's August elections, and all but two of the cases were caused by "excessive" force by police, a human rights watchdog said yesterday. Previous tolls from the disputed elections—since annulled by the Supreme Court—had not exceeded 24, and until now there were few details into how the deaths occurred. In a 262-page report, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) said 35 of 37 deaths it documented between August 9-15, were due to "excessive use of force by police". The remaining two were due to "civilian aggression". The August 8 presidential poll has been cancelled by Kenya's paramount court, which cited widespread "illegalities and irregularities." New elections are scheduled for October 26.

## In shooting chaos, Las Vegas airport became safe haven

LAS VEGAS: As bullets began flying into a crowd of country music fans, a pack of 300-plus people ran about a mile to the Las Vegas airport, where they kicked down chain-link fences, hobbled over razor wire and were briefly mistaken by security officials for being attackers instead of shooting victims. Once they pushed past the fence at McCarran International Airport, some of them ran onto the tarmac as helicopters beamed searchlights toward people they assumed were intruders. Airport authorities found people who were shot, bloodied and hysterical. Officials immediately halted air traffic, diverted two dozen flights to Phoenix and other cities and shut off some runway lights.

"I'm thinking to myself, I don't know if the airport police know what's going on yet," said Mark Gay, who was near the front of the crowd as it ran to the airport. "We were running, running out of the dark. If the cops were on that side, they don't know who we are. So it was: 'Put your arms out when you're coming in.'" The large-scale airport breach highlighted the chaos that ensued after gunman Stephen Paddock opened fire on Oct 1 from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay casino-hotel on a country music festival down below, killing 58 people and wounding hundreds.

The breach also raised questions about the security of the McCarran International's perimeter as people were able to barge their way through the fences of one of the nation's busiest airports. "I don't know that we ran across any breach that was comparable to this," said Jenny Grover of the Government Accountability Office, which audits the Transportation Security Administration and reviews the agency's security data. "Because of the uniqueness of the situation, I'm not really sure when it changed from a breach to a relief effort."

McCarran has had a large number of perimeter breaches in recent years. An Associated Press investigation found that McCarran had 30 known perimeter security breaches



LAS VEGAS: Some of the casinos along the Las Vegas Strip dim their marquee signs for about 10 minutes in Las Vegas, to pay tribute to the victims who spent that much time under fire in the Las Vegas shooting.—AP

between 2004 and 2016, making it the second-most breached major airport in the country by AP's count. Unlike other cities where the airport is on the outskirts, McCarran is located in the heart of Las Vegas. It's only a few hundred feet from Las Vegas Strip properties like the Mandalay Bay and Luxor. In the chaos of the massacre, some panicked concert-goers headed to the airport in the belief that it provided the best opportunity for safety, even if they had to force their way through the perimeter.

At the time of the shooting, rumors were flying around about active shooters and bomb threats at a number of Las Vegas casinos, so they chose to get to the airport. "We

were making the decision - we're headed to the airport. The airport seems like the most secure, safe place," said Fred Rowbotham, an off-duty police officer from the San Diego area who was in the crowd that went to McCarran. As it became clear that the crowd on the McCarran tarmac was fleeing gunfire, the airport repositioned workers to help with the evacuation and shepherded hundreds of the victims into secure facilities.

For hours, they tended to the wounded and offered food, water, blankets, phone chargers and reassurance. Airport shuttle buses later took them to a central evacuation center.—AP

## Split within a split: Catalan valley sticking with Spain

VIELHA: If Catalonia declares independence from Spain this week, one community in the region's mountainous north might declare independence from Catalonia. Most people in the picturesque Aran Valley - a semi-autonomous community nestled among the Pyrenees - want to stay with Spain, and the area has the right to self-determination under a law passed in 2015 by the Catalan parliament. "We're a little spot on the map and often we're not taken into account," said Maria Verges Perez, the deputy mayor of Aran's capital, Vielha, a cluster of stone-and-slate houses on the valley floor ringed by autumnal forests.

"But we will exercise our right to decide our future," Catalan President Carles Puigdemont is expected to declare independence today in Spain's worst constitutional crisis since the return of democracy in the 1970s. The roughly 10,000 people of Aran, on the border with France, have a language and culture distinct from the rest of Catalonia, which itself differs from the rest of Spain. The valley's economy is heavily dependent on winter sports tourists from Spain and the EU.

Their politicians say the 2015 law gives them the right to vote on whether they want to break away with Catalonia - something which Catalan officials do not dispute. The Spanish government has vowed to prevent Catalonia seceding. Losing the region would deprive the country of 16 percent of its people and a fifth of its economic output. But while Madrid insists Spain is indivisible under its constitution, the Aran Valley underlines the complex nature of nationhood in such a culturally diverse country.



## Mountain community has its own culture and language

away from what is going on in Barcelona," said Carlos Barrera, head of the Aran government, at a rural festival in Salardu village where locals judged stocky Pyrenean horses and handed out racks of blood sausages.

### Crown of aragon

The valley had the lowest voter turnout by far in

Catalonia's Oct 1 independence referendum, which had been declared illegal by Spain's constitutional court. Across Catalonia there was a 43 percent turnout, with most people who wanted to remain in Spain staying home, and 90 percent of those who voted backed secession. In Aran, just 24 percent voted, with 84 percent of those backing independence.

The valley traces its political allegiances back to pacts drawn up in the 13th century with the Crown of Aragon, a monarchy that would join with the Crown of Castile two centuries later to form what became Spain. Many locals speak Aranese, a dialect of the Occitan language still spoken in pockets of the Pyrenees and southern France. Two years ago, the Catalan parliament approved the "Law on Aran's Special Status", giving it control over its culture, language and administration and recognizing "the right of the Aranese people to decide their future". A Catalan government spokesman said Catalonia would respect the Aranese people's decision in any future referendum.

A Spanish government spokesman declined to comment on whether Aran could remain part of Spain, saying Catalonia would never become independent. Aran's residents are some of the sternest critics of the Catalan government which they say is ignoring those people who want to stay in Spain and charging towards independence at any cost. In Vielha, a lone red and yellow Catalan independence flag hanging from an apartment block was the only evidence last Saturday of the separatist fever sweeping many parts of the region, where cities convulse with protests triggered by Madrid's violent crackdown on the referendum.

Many people in Aran fear Catalan independence would destroy its tourism economy which revolves around Baqueira-Beret, Spain's most popular ski resort. About two-thirds of the population in Aran depend on the ski resort for jobs. In the winter, the population triples with the influx of skiers drawn to the same slopes used by Spain's royal family.—Reuters



## International

# Kim Jong Un sister promoted to top decision-making body

## Kim Yo Jong named as alternate in politburo

SEOUL: The promotion of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's 28-year-old sister to the country's top decision-making body is a sign he is strengthening his position by drawing his most important people closer to the centre of power, experts and officials say. Kim Yo Jong was named as an alternate member of the politburo within the ruling Workers' Party of Korea - the opaque, all-powerful party organ where top state affairs are decided, the North's official media said on Sunday.

It makes her only the second woman in patriarchal North Korea to join the exclusive club after Kim Kyong Hui, who held powerful roles when her brother Kim Jong Il ruled the country. "Since she is a female, Kim Jong Un likely does not see her as a threat and a challenge to his leadership," said Moon Hong-sik, research fellow at the Institute for National Security Strategy. "As the saying goes 'blood is thicker than water,' Kim Jong Un thinks Kim Yo Jong can be trusted."

Unlike her aunt, who was promoted to the politburo in 2012 after serving more than three decades in the party, Kim Yo Jong has risen to power at an unprecedented pace. Kim Kyong Hui has not been seen since her husband, Jang Song Thaek, once regarded as the No 2 leader in Pyongyang, was executed in 2013. South Korea's spy agency believes she is now in a secluded place near Pyongyang undergoing a treatment for an unidentified disease, according to an August briefing to parliament.

Jang and his wife are not the only relatives to fall from Kim Jong Un's favor. Kim Jong Un's estranged half-brother, Kim Jong Nam, was killed with a toxic nerve agent at a Malaysian airport in February. Two women are on trial for the murder, which South Korean

and US officials believe Kim Jong Un's regime was behind. Kim Jong Nam, who lived in exile in Macau, had criticized his family's dynastic rule and his brother had issued a standing order for his execution, according to some South Korean lawmakers.

### Ponytail, black suits

The smartly dressed Kim Yo Jong, her hair usually pulled back in a ponytail and mostly seen in black suits and black-heeled shoes, made her first debut on state media in December 2011, seen standing tearfully next to Kim Jong Un at the funeral of their father. Since then, Kim has made several appearances with her brother, giggling at concerts, riding a white horse, smiling as she receives flowers on his behalf at state functions.

Her youth and bubbly personality seen in state media are in stark contrast to the usually glum generals and ageing party cadres who follow Kim Jong Un on official duties. Having previously only occasionally appeared in the background, the young heiress has moved to the front and centre of media photos more recently, assisting her brother at numerous high-profile state events. At a massive military parade in April to mark the 105th birth anniversary of founding father Kim Il Sung, she was seen rushing out from behind pillars to bring paperwork to her brother as he prepared to give an address.

The same month, she stood alongside him during the unveiling ceremony of a construction project in Pyongyang. In March 2016, she accompanied Kim Jong Un to a field guidance for nuclear scientists, where he claimed successful miniaturization of nuclear warheads. "Kim Yo Jong's official inclusion in the 30-strong exclu-



PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (center) attends the Second Plenum of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) in Pyongyang. —AFP

sive club of North Korea's chief policy makers means her role within the regime will be expanded further," Cheong Seong-chang, senior fellow at the Sejong Institute south of Seoul.

### Behind the veil

Apart from her age, little is known about Kim Yo Jong. She was publicly identified for the first time in February 2011 when a South Korean TV station caught

her at an Eric Clapton concert in Singapore with her other brother, Kim Jong Chol. The three, who all reportedly went to school in Switzerland, are full blood siblings, born to Kim Jong Il's fourth partner, Ko Yong Hui. Kim Jong Chol, the oldest of Kim Jong Il's sons, does not involve himself in politics, leading a quiet life in Pyongyang where he plays guitar in a band, according to Thae Yong Ho, North Korea's former deputy ambassador in London who defected to the South. —Reuters



## Little known about the UN-blacklisted Clapton's fan

## Transgender couple finds acceptance in rural Nepal

DADELHDHURA: Born and raised as a boy in rural Nepal, Monika Shahi Nath never dreamed that one day she would be a bride, adored and accepted as a wife and daughter-in-law. But the 40-year-old has made history, becoming Nepal's first transgender person to be issued with a marriage certificate by district officials, even though the country has no formal laws for such unions.

Nath, who married 22-year-old Ramesh Nath Yogi in May, initially feared that her in-laws would not welcome her—a transgender woman—into their family but the couple have found rare acceptance in Nepal. Many transgender people in the country still struggle to be open about their identity despite progressive laws that include a third gender option on identity cards and passports.

"We are happy and feel accepted as husband and wife," said Nath, who was the first Nepali to get a passport with the 'O' for 'other' gender designation in 2015. "I never dreamed that one day I would be someone's wife, that I would be loved as a daughter-in-law," she said. Nath grew up in a remote village in western Nepal as a boy called Manoj, and said she always felt different. "At school, I wanted to sit with the girls and was fascinated with women's clothing," she said.

In her early twenties she started experimenting with dressing as a woman, stealing her sister's clothes and running away for days at a time to the closest city. "Away



DADELHDHURA, Nepal: Nepali transgender person Monika Shahi Nath Yogi and her husband Ramesh Nath Yogi ride a motorbike in Kain Pani village in Nepal's Dadeldhura district. — AFP

from my home, I would secretly become a woman. It would make me very happy, but I was afraid to tell my family, I felt I would shame them," she said. Despite her work as an activist, Nath's new identity was not talked about within her family. When she came home with her new husband, wearing a short red dress and a wedding ring, it was one of her first visits as a woman. "But my marriage has made it easier. They truly see me as a woman now," she said.

Yogi's family—who live in a village a six hour drive away—was also initially resistant to the marriage, but the community has now accepted the couple. "Her relationship with the family and with the people in the community is very good. We think it is okay," said neighbor Laxmi Nath

Bista. "The idea of third gender is very new to people around here, many people don't understand what it means. But her behavior is good with everyone, so they are accepting of her."

Despite the changes, some activists say members of the LGBTI community continue to live in the shadows of society. A bill to legalize same-sex marriage was proposed two years ago, but has not progressed, and it is not clear what legal standing Nath's marriage has. The couple could also face allegations of polygamy—which is illegal in Nepal, though not uncommon—as Yogi was already married with two children. Nath said: "I am blessed to be someone's wife, but the government needs to make the legal changes so people can easily marry the person they love." —AFP

## Philippine president popularity dips

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has suffered his first major drop in popularity, an independent pollster found, after the deaths of two Manila teenagers in his controversial anti-crime crackdown triggered mass protests. The decline in support shown by the Social Weather Stations survey—down to 67 percent from 78 percent in June who said they were "satisfied" with Duterte's performance as president—came amid growing public outrage over drug war killings in the Philippines. Duterte assumed office in June last year vowing to eradicate illegal drugs in society by killing up to 100,000 traffickers and addicts. In the 15 months since he came to power police have reported killing more 3,850 people in anti-drug operations.

Thousands of other people have been murdered in unexplained circumstances that rights groups partly attribute to vigilante death squads. Although Duterte's drug war remains largely popular among a citizenry fed up with high crime, growing unease with the killings resulted in August and September in large street protests over the deaths of two Manila teenagers. The Manila-based pollster, which has been

regularly running the quarterly surveys since 1986, did not explain the drop shown in Sunday's figures.

But analysts told AFP it was likely linked to growing public concern over the drug war killings. "It may likely reflect growing concerns over the direction of (the) war on drugs, particularly the death of minors and discipline within ranks of the law enforcement agencies," political analyst Richard Heydarian said. State prosecutors are studying the possible filing of murder charges against four anti-drugs officers over the August 16 shooting death of Manila student Kian delos Santos, 17.

Several other officers are under investigation after they killed alleged robbery suspect Carl Angelo Arnaiz, 19, the following night. His neighbor Reynaldo de Guzman, 14, was later found murdered by unknown suspects in the northern Philippines. "It's the first significant slide since the president was inaugurated," said Victor Andres Manhit, chief executive of Manila-based political consultancy Stratbase ADR Institute, of the survey.

Duterte's aides largely shrugged off the new numbers. "The love is still there," Duterte spokesman Ernesto Abella told reporters, adding the poll numbers were consistent with the pattern of previous Filipino presidents who saw dips in their popularity after their first year in office. Heydarian, who has recently published a book titled "Rise of Duterte", said the lower poll numbers still left the president with "relatively high approval ratings and enough momentum" to pursue his political agenda. —AFP

## Newly-retired 'living goddess' begins school

KATHMANDU: Matina Shakya was only three when she was taken away from her parents to be worshipped as a "living goddess" in Nepal's historic capital. Yesterday she finally started school after puberty ended her nine-year reign. Dressed in a green uniform and stripped of the heavy make-up she used to wear, Shakya, 12, looked like any other student as she walked into the Green Peace Co-ed School in Kathmandu. Fellow students and teachers had gathered outside to welcome her, playing music and waving flags—a small reminder of the huge crowds she used to draw as Kathmandu's Kumari, or living goddess.

"We are excited to have her with us, and we are discussing how to ease her and help her adjust in the new environment," said the principal Pema Yonjan. The Kumari is a pre-pubescent girl who lives in a temple palace in the heart of Kathmandu as part of a centuries-old tradition and is considered the embodiment of the Hindu goddess Taleju. She only leaves the temple 13 times a year on special feast days, when huge crowds of wor-

shippers gather to see her. That means the Kumaris cannot attend school, and most have struggled to reintegrate into society after they retire.

But Shakya received private tuition following a 2008 Supreme Court ruling that the living goddesses should be educated. Her father Pratap Man Shakya said she had attended nursery at the school and he was confident she would be able to adapt to her new life. "We hope now that she is going to school in a good environment she will become an even better student," he said. Shakya was anointed as the Kumari in 2008, leaving her home to be cared for by specially-appointed guardians, and only retired last month as she neared puberty.

The tradition of the Kumari, originating from a word meaning princess in Sanskrit, comes from the Newar community indigenous to the Kathmandu Valley. It blends elements of Hinduism and Buddhism and the most important Kumaris represent each of the three former royal kingdoms of the valley: Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur. The tradition was once closely linked to the royal family, but has continued despite the end of Nepal's Hindu monarchy in 2008. It has drawn criticism from child rights activists who say the Kumaris are denied a childhood and their isolation from society hinders their education and development. Shakya was replaced by three-year-old Trishna Shakya last month. —AFP

## News in brief

### Pesticide kills 20 farmers

MUMBAI: Twenty Indian farmers have died and hundreds of others are in hospital after inhaling poisonous pesticides while spraying crops, officials said yesterday, highlighting lax safety standards in the country. The farmers in the western state of Maharashtra, one of India's most important agricultural regions, died after using the dangerous pesticides without wearing protective gear. "Twenty farmers are dead and hundreds are undergoing medical treatment. Fifty are critical with damage to their eyesight," Kishore Tewari, the spokesman for a state government task force that helps farmers in distress said. The first death was reported in August and the number of fatalities increased throughout September, according to local news reports. They occurred in the Yavatmal region, around 670 kilometers from the financial capital Mumbai. Activists blame a lack of regulations covering pesticides and a failure to provide poor farmers with proper safety equipment.

### India bans firecrackers

NEW DELHI: India's top court yesterday temporarily banned the sale of firecrackers in and around the capital ahead of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, as it looks to prevent a repeat of severe air pollution that forced school closures last year. New Delhi's air quality has already hit "very unhealthy" levels, US embassy data shows. This is often blamed on burning of unwanted vegetation on farms in neighboring states usual at this time of year, worsened by fumes from fireworks. The ban takes effect immediately and will run until Nov 1, said a panel of Supreme Court judges headed by Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri, adding that its impact on the region's air quality would have to be examined after the festival. "All temporary licenses to sell firecrackers stand cancelled," said Haripriya Padmanabhan, a lawyer representing the group that sought the ban. "People who had already purchased crackers will be able to burst them. Hopefully they won't do that," she told Asian News International, a partner of Reuters Television.

### Militant leader killed

SRINAGAR: Indian forces said they shot dead a top leader of the Kashmir militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad in a clash in the disputed territory yesterday. The Pakistani national known only as Khalid was trapped in a house after throwing a grenade at a police checkpoint in the northern village of Ladoora. Khalid has been accused of organizing a string of suicide attacks across Indian-administered Kashmir, which Pakistan also claims. "He was one of the most wanted militants and the chief operational commander of JeM," Kashmir inspector-general of police, Muneer Ahmed Khan said. "He threw a grenade at the checkpoint which failed to explode. He then fired a pistol and took refuge in a nearby house where he was killed." Police said Khalid had planned suicide attacks in Muslim-majority Kashmir, including one on a paramilitary camp near Srinagar airport on October 3 in which one soldier and three attackers were killed.

### 11 Muslims sentenced

AHMEDABAD: An Indian court yesterday commuted the death sentences of 11 men convicted of causing a 2002 train fire that sparked anti-Muslim riots in which more than 1,000 people were killed. The 11 men, all Muslims, will instead face life in jail for causing the fire that killed 59 Hindu passengers and set off some of the worst religious violence to hit independent India. They were among 31 men convicted in 2011 who lodged an appeal at the High Court in the western state of Gujarat, where the violence occurred. "The court has commuted the death sentences for 11 convicted to life imprisonment," public prosecutor Eknath Ahuja said after the appeal hearing.

## Analysis

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## FOCUS

## Sierra Leone's husband schools take on violence

Jobless and jealous of his working wife, Brimah Kanu's short, fiery temper flared every time she paid their bills or put food on the table for their five children in northern Sierra Leone. The beatings he dished out made him a familiar face to the police in his hometown in the lush and leafy region of Bombali. One particularly vicious assault - delivered with his fists and belt - left Kanu's wife of 18 years with bloodied eyes.

"I was totally wicked", Kanu, 52, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, sitting in a chair in a small meeting room, while his wife Aminata crouched nearby. "If any of our five children misbehaved and I beat them, she would come to question me about it, and I beat her too," Kanu said. "She was provoking me because she pays the bills by selling the potatoes and groundnuts she grows. I had no job."

Persuaded by a social worker to stop beating his wife, and determined to be a better husband, Kanu took an unusual step. He decided to go to school. Kanu is one of more than 10,000 men in Sierra Leone to have enrolled at 'husband schools' - where they attend monthly classes to learn about gender equality, domestic violence, sexual and reproductive health and female genital mutilation.

### From War to Ebola

While domestic violence is a global scourge, women in Africa put up with being beaten - for arguing, refusing to have sex, going out without permission - far more than those in the rest of the developing world, said a 2016 report from the World Bank. One in two African women say they accept domestic violence, while about a third have suffered such abuse, the report found.

Domestic violence is widespread across the continent because men tend to see women as their property, while enduring a bad marriage is seen by society as a sign of a woman's strength, said Ayodeji Owosobi, executive director of Stand to End Rape. "That belief does something to a man's psyche," said Owosobi, head of the Nigeria-based civil society group. "It tells him that regardless of what he does, the woman will stay so violence has become normalised," Owosobi added. "So, children see abuse in the family as a standard of masculinity, and a necessary correctional measure in the home."

Struggling to get by in a country haunted by civil war and devastated by the world's worst Ebola outbreak, which infected 14,000 people and killed about 4,000 in Sierra Leone between 2014 and 2016, many men are lashing out against their wives. "Some men are still traumatized by the way they lost their families to Ebola", said Lois Roberts Simche, psychosocial lead officer of the ministry for social welfare, women and children. "There is an increase in gender-based violence because most men can't afford to take care of themselves and their families."

### 'No More Beatings'

At the three husband schools in Sierra Leone - which opened in 2012 after starting out in Niger - men not only learn about women's health, but are also actively encouraged to accompany their wives and families for services such as family planning. The schools collect data on the men and their families to track their visits to health centers relating to antenatal care, sexually transmitted infections, and gender-based violence.

"All we do with the husband schools is all about improving health of the family as a unit," said Betty Alpha, program coordinator at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which runs the schools with support from a local civil society group. Community chiefs ensure that the husbands do not shirk their responsibilities, by enforcing the schools' resolutions as law. "If a woman goes for antenatal care without her husband, she will not be seen until the husband goes, and that brings shame to him," said 66-year-old Moiwa Bailey, a village chief in the southern district of Bo, who is also a member of the school.

The husband schools are paired with another initiative, the 'pamama program', which sees men put into practice the lessons they have learned alongside their wives, and discuss issues such as the sharing of household tasks and the use of birth control. At one of the sessions, 35-year old Saidu Lamine, who used to regularly beat his wife, Fati, and deny her money for food, said the school had changed his life, and made him a 'good man'. Listening to her husband, Fati could not contain her joy. "He has changed - no more beatings," she said as Lamine held their baby boy. "He is now a good father and a good husband."

### Old Habits Die Hard

While the husband schools strive to change the attitudes and behaviors of their students towards women, victims of domestic violence in Sierra Leone often lack support, and knowledge of their rights and how to seek justice, women's rights groups say. The West African nation passed a domestic violence law in 2007, punishing abuse by up to two years in jail and putting in place entitlements for survivors such as free medical care.

Yet the law is rarely enforced, as victims pursuing justice must pay a doctor to produce a medical report to present to the police, and sometimes cover the cost of a lawyer, Simche said. —Reuters



## Venezuelan govt, foes battle for votes

Tirelessly traversing the lethargic plains of Venezuela, a brother of former leader Hugo Chavez and an ally of a famous opposition detainee vie for votes. The governorship race in Barinas state - the Chavez family's stronghold - is the most emblematic of state elections taking place nationwide on Sunday just weeks after opposition-led protests that shook Venezuela and claimed at least 125 lives.

"At every rally, Hugo Chavez is out front, showing us the way," enthuses Argenis Chavez, 59, an electrical engineer and incumbent governor, jumping on a bike and evoking his late elder brother at every campaign stop. "In Barinas, defeating the government means defeating the Chavez family who have wielded power at whim for 18 years," counters opposition rival Freddy Superlano, 41, wearing a shirt with the image of his arrested party leader Leopoldo Lopez.

This year's prolonged protests failed to bring down the government of President Nicolas Maduro, but they hardened global opinion against the ruling socialists and led to US sanctions. Now, opposition leaders want their demoralized supporters to turn out en masse at the gubernatorial polls to overturn Maduro's majority in 20 of Venezuela's 23 states. The government, in turn, wants to minimize seemingly inevitable losses, and trumpet the election as proof against accusations of autocracy in Venezuela.

"Look at our 'dictatorship' then: an election where most candidates are from the opposition!" Chavez ironically told Reuters, as red-shirted supporters danced around him at a rally. With voters angry over a crushing economic crisis, polls show the opposition coalition would win handily in normal circumstances. One recent survey gave the coalition, which aspires to win 18 governorships, 44.7 percent of voter intentions versus 21.1 percent for the government.

### Skewed Playing Field?

Circumstances are far from normal in Venezuela, however, and the government has threatened to ban any candidates linked to violence in protests. Furthermore, as in past

elections during the ruling "Chavismo" movement's 18-year grip on Venezuela, state resources are being mobilized heavily for official candidates. Distribution of subsidized food at government rallies is commonplace, state-run companies lend transport for the events, and state media give Maduro's candidates unfettered air-time. One opposition candidate's brother has been arrested for alleged car theft in what the coalition says is an attempt to

skirts of Barinas city, Superlano told Reuters government candidates were using helicopters to campaign while he and other opposition aspirants spent hours on the road to reach remote communities. The government was also exploiting Venezuelans' hunger, during a period of unprecedented scarcity, by handing out food bags in return for promises of votes, he said. "It's a macabre plan," said Superlano, a lawmaker from Lopez's Popular Will party who won the opposition primary in Barinas. "Even with all that, they are losing!"

Having dealt a hugely symbolic blow to "Chavismo" by winning five of six congress seats for Barinas in 2015 elections, the opposition now wants to end 18 years of nearly unbroken control of the governorship by Chavez family members. While there is widespread discontent over food shortages, idle land and rising malnutrition in a fertile region that should be Venezuela's bread basket, the government is running a rigorous campaign and painting Superlano as "the candidate of the violence" in reference to this year's protests.

Maduro supporters say the opposition, backed by Venezuela's elite and the US government, is intent on taking power by force to seize control of the nation's oil riches. "They want war for Venezuela. We want peace," said 65-year-old retiree Ramon Alvarran, proudly wearing a red T-shirt depicting the eyes of Hugo Chavez at a rally for his brother.

Elsewhere though, resentment against Maduro is palpable. "My kids don't have a crumb in their stomachs yet today," said Daris Gonzalez, 36, whose three children had not eaten by lunchtime. Like many in her poor and once staunchly "Chavista" neighborhood, Gonzalez is now leaning toward the opposition. "There has to be change. We cannot go on like this."

Offsetting such sentiment, many young grassroots opposition supporters feel their leaders have sold out - and betrayed the memory of slain protesters - by entering an election on an unfair playing field. Abstentions could hurt their numbers. —AFP

“ Chavez is out front, showing us the way ”

intimidate its ranks. Perhaps the biggest disadvantage for the opposition is the electronic ballot sheet itself. Despite primaries to choose a single opposition candidate per state from the plethora of parties within the Democratic Unity coalition, the pro-Maduro election board is declining to modify the ballot list to narrow it down to one name. All initial candidates from before the primaries are listed on the ballot instead, something that could confuse opposition supporters and dilute their vote, benefiting the ruling Socialist Party's candidates. Further stoking opposition supporters' skepticism, the election board is using a new vote machine provider after long-term partner Smartmatic accused it of inflating numbers in July's controversial election of a Constituent Assembly super-body.

### 'Opposition Wants War'

On a walkabout in an unpaved shantytown on the out-

## Sex attacks leave Rohingya children fearful in camps

Adjida kicked and screamed when the rough and dirty hands of the masked soldier moved up her legs and ripped off her clothes. The 13-year-old pleaded with him to stop when he climbed on top of her, a gun in one hand, removed his pants with the other, and raped her. Just minutes before, Adjida had watched her parents being shot dead from her hiding place under a wooden table in a village in Myanmar's western state of Rakhine. She tried to run into the surrounding jungle, but was captured by a soldier.

"I felt the pain when he penetrated me and all I could think about was my lost virginity. I am no longer pure. I am an outcast now and will never find a husband," said the teenager, a Rohingya Muslim. Her home was torched in the attack in Kawarbil village six weeks ago by Myanmar army soldiers, she said, and she and her sister fled with other villagers across the border to Bangladesh.

But the threat of sexual violence for children like Adjida has not diminished since reaching the sprawling refugee camps near Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar - home to hundreds of thousands of newly arrived Rohingya who have fled violence in Myanmar. More than 800 incidents of gender-based violence have been reported by Rohingya refugees since the recent influx, said UNICEF's head of child protection Jean Lieby. Over half of these cases are sexual assaults, according to the UN agency.

Some 515,000 Rohingya have arrived in Bangladesh in an unrelenting movement of

people that began after the Myanmar army responded to Rohingya militant attacks with a brutal crackdown. The United Nations has denounced the Myanmar military offensive as ethnic cleansing but Myanmar insists its forces are fighting "terrorists" who have killed civilians.

About 60 percent of the new arrivals are children. Adjida arrived with her 15-year-old sister Minara a month ago. The sole survivors of their family, they live by themselves in a tent made of bamboo and plastic sheeting in Kutupalong camp. They don't feel safe. "Our parents and two older sisters were killed and they can't take care of us anymore. Here in the camp, we have already heard of other girls who were raped in the last days, that's why we try to stay in our tent most of the time," Minara said.

### Trauma

The girls agreed to speak to the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an empty classroom of one of the camp's school buildings, but asked for windows to be closed and that they not be identified by their full names. The girls covered their faces with their headscarves and asked for assurances no men would be allowed into the room. "I'm ashamed of what happened. I had many dreams for the future, but they are lost with my purity," said Minara, who was also raped as she tried to escape from her village. "I don't have enough clothes to fully cover, but it's what I want to do now," she said, nervously fidgeting with the embroidered black dress she had borrowed from a neighbor.



Rohingya refugees wait after crossing the Naf river from Myanmar into Bangladesh in Whaikhyang yesterday. — AFP

Aid agencies have set up safe spaces in Kutupalong camp - colorful rooms or outside areas - where women and children who are victims of sexual assault can find counselling and support. "They feel comfortable and understood here and it's often the first time they open up and talk about their trauma," said UNFPA spokeswoman Veronica Pedrosa.

But there is not enough help for the overwhelming numbers who have arrived in such a short time. "We just had a month of unprecedented refugee influx and it's nothing like Bangladesh has seen before. Almost half a million people arrived," said Lieby of UNICEF. "We are now working hard to scale-up and meet the needs of refugee children. We especially ... want to change the stigma that comes with rape."

### Stigma

Even with counselling services available, many girls still opt not to report that they have been raped, said aid workers in the camp. "In an environment like this, girls are often scared of the stigma attached to sexual violence. They also fear their family's opinion," Rebecca Duskin, a nurse focusing on sexual violence told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in Kutupalong.

Working for the health charity Medical Teams International, she has come to the camp to set up a disease prevention clinic. "This is often the first sexual encounter for the victims and they need a safe place to turn to now," she said. "They have experienced violent rape in a conflict zone and often in public, which increases trauma." —Reuters

News

## Turkey urges US to reverse visa halt, summons staffer

**ANKARA:** Turkey yesterday urged the United States to reverse a decision to halt the issuing of all regular visas at American consulates in the country, as prosecutors summoned another Istanbul mission staffer in an escalating crisis. The dispute, which analysts have described as the worst between the NATO allies in half a century, erupted when Turkey jailed a Turkish employee working at the American consulate in Istanbul.

Ankara hit back at the US suspension of the issuing of non-immigrant visas - a move described by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as "very, very saddening" - with a tit-for-tat response against American citizens, even sarcastically imitating the language used in the US announcement in its own statement. The Turkish foreign ministry summoned the US embassy's deputy chief of mission yesterday, urging Washington to reverse its visa decision. Ministry officials told the diplomat the move was creating "unnecessary escalation and victimization", the state-run Anadolu news agency reported.

Justice Minister Abdulhamit Gul said that if Washington had serious security concerns about its missions in Turkey, steps would be taken to address them. "But if it's an issue regarding the arrest of the consulate employee, then this is a decision the Turkish judiciary has made," Gul told A Haber television. "Trying a Turkish citizen for a crime committed in Turkey is our right."

The US embassy in Ankara said Sunday that it would suspend issuing visas for tourism, medical treatment, business, temporary work or study, after the arrest last week. "Above all, this decision is very, very saddening," Erdogan said in his first reaction to the decision, at a news conference with his Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko in

Kiev. "For the (US) ambassador in Ankara to take a decision like this, to put it into practice, is saddening," he added.

Last week an Istanbul court remanded in custody the consulate employee over accusations of links to the group of US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara blames for the failed 2016 coup aimed at unseating Erdogan. He has been formally charged with espionage and seeking to overthrow the Turkish government, accusations the US embassy rejected as "wholly without merit". Yesterday, Turkish prosecutors summoned another local employee working at the American consulate in Istanbul. Anadolu said. Turkish television, including the private NTV channel, said earlier that an arrest warrant had been issued for the employee, though this was not confirmed in the Anadolu report. But the employee's wife and child, whose age was not given, have been detained in the Anatolian city of Amasya on suspicion of being key members of Gulen's group, it said.

The Hurriyet daily reported that the individual wanted by prosecutors has taken sanctuary at the US consulate in Istanbul. "It's definitely a historic low in ties, at least in recent memory," said Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkish Research Program at the Washington Institute, adding that the last such dispute of this magnitude was after the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus. "Neither side is willing to step back," he said.

The developments also came after a Turkish employee at the US consulate in the southern city of Adana was arrested in March on charges of supporting the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Turkish officials had expressed hope of a new page in Ankara-Washington relations under President Donald Trump, and had pressed Washington for the extradition of the Pennsylvania-based Gulen, who denies any link to the coup bid. The lack of movement on the issue has further strained ties already fraying over Washington's support for a Syrian Kurdish militia Ankara deems a terror group.

Meanwhile, members of Erdogan's security detail were indicted by US authorities after clashes with protesters during an official visit this year, infuriating the Turkish



A picture taken yesterday shows a general view of US consulate in Istanbul. —AFP

president. American pastor Andrew Brunson, who ran a church in the western city of Izmir, has been held by Turkish authorities since October 2016 on charges of being a member of Gulen's group. Erdogan suggested last month that Turkey could release him in exchange for Gulen but Washington showed little interest in the proposal. "It will be hard for relations to be restored any time soon to what they used to be," Cagaptay said.

Turkey's influential Industrialists' and Businessman's Association (TUSIAD) described the move by the US as "most unfortunate", saying it risked hurting citizens who

had nothing to do with the row. Flag carrier Turkish Airlines offered refunds or exchanges to passengers with Turkish passports flying to the US and vice versa. Its shares were hit heavily by the row, falling 9.26 percent to \$8.43 a share.

The tensions put pressure on the Turkish lira, which lost 3.0 percent against the US dollar to trade at 3.72 lira while, the Borsa Istanbul 100 index was down 2.7 percent at 101,298 points. Seeking to reassure markets, the Turkish deputy central bank governor Murat Uysal said: "There could be a temporary impact because of geopolitical concerns, we are watching closely." — Agencies

## Rohingya boat sinks, 14 dead

Continued from Page 1

"We set off at around 6 pm. We did not have any choice but to leave our village," he said, telling how the overloaded boat overturned when it hit a shoal and sank in rough water. "They (security forces) have restricted our movements. Many are starving as we could not even go to shop or market to buy food," said the 30-year-old Rohingya farmhand, who lived in a village east of

Myanmar's Buthidaung township.

Hossain's mother, his pregnant wife and two children were all still missing. The International Organisation for Migration said some children on board had lost their entire families in the disaster and were now alone in a strange country.

Jashim Uddin, a teacher at the local madrassa, said he received a call from the coastguards at 5:00 am to tell him that bodies had been found on the beach. As tracking their relatives down is impossible, the victims are routinely taken to the madrassa to perform their last rites. Late last month more than 60 refugees are feared to have died when the boat carrying them from Myanmar capsized in rough weather in the Bay of Bengal. — AFP

## MP: New health fees should not...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, Minister of Justice and State Minister for National Assembly Affairs Faleh Al-Azab yesterday denied reports that an imminent Cabinet reshuffle will take place. The minister said that the government is continuing with its work and constitutional obligations in carrying out its national duties and "nothing is changing". The reports came amid threats by a large

number of lawmakers to grill ministers over a variety of allegations. The first grilling was filed on Sunday against State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

Two opposition lawmakers, Riyadh Al-Adasani and Abdulkarim Al-Kandari, filed the grilling over a series of allegations of financial and administrative violations. The grilling appears to have split the opposition, with Islamist opposition MP Jamaan Al-Harbash criticizing the grilling and alleging that certain quarters are behind the grilling with the aim to jeopardize parliamentary life. Adasani yesterday responded for the second day in a row, strongly lashing out at Harbash and his Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) and charging that Harbash defends the government.

## Khalfan: Giving up World Cup ...

Continued from Page 1

He added: "The cost to return is more than what the Hamadein have planned for," likely referring to Qatar's former ruling emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and former foreign minister Hamad bin Jassim Al-Thani. Some

believe both still wield influence within Qatar's current government now ruled by the former emir's son, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Khalfan, who previously has written controversy-catching tweets about Israel and President Donald Trump, also wrote that Qatar "is no longer our concern", suggesting media in the boycotting countries dial back their coverage of the dispute. By yesterday night, Khalfan returned to Twitter to write that his tweets were his "personal analysis". "I said Qatar is faking a crisis and claims it's besieged so it could get away from the burdens of building expensive sports facilities for the World Cup," he tweeted. "That's why Qatar isn't ready and can't host the next World Cup," he added. — AP

## From flying taxis to robocops, Dubai...

Continued from Page 1

will be "out of the way of commercial flights". The Dubai police, which already uses robots to direct tourists, presented several innovations that would have been equally at home in a "Batman" or "Robocop" movie.

Huda Hussein, a female police officer, beamed at the cameras as she demonstrated a Japanese-made high-tech motorcycle. "The motorcycle is equipped with eight cameras that detect all kinds of traffic violations. It is driven by an officer, but we are working to make it autonomous and ready for service by 2020," Hussein told AFP. Another futuristic machine presented at GITEX was a hybrid drone-motorcycle, with rotors instead of wheels that allow it to fly.

Russian-made, the machine, which can fly at an altitude of five metres for up to 25 minutes, is being tested to determine its future potential use. "We could use it

to access hard-to-reach places, like traffic jams," said a second police officer, Ali Ahmed Mohamed. Yet another innovation, this one intended to cut time and human energy at airports, was a 15-second security and customs portal.

Customs and border agents would be replaced by a tunnel that would automatically scan and collect the biometric data of passengers. They would already have their boarding passes in hand, having entered their data in a special electric taxi en route. This would be especially useful at Dubai International Airport, which retained its position as the world's busiest hub for international passengers in 2016, handling 83.6 million travellers.

Unlike its fellow members of the United Arab Emirates, Dubai is not dependent on revenues from oil and gas, with an economy that is the most diversified in the Gulf. For the launch of this year's GITEX, Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum made clear he sees the emirate's future in technology. "We are embarking on a technological revolution in our work, in our lives and in our services," he said on Twitter. "Robots, artificial intelligence and the Internet are the things that promise us smarter cities and easier lives." — AFP

## Ban hails action against N Korea...

Continued from Page 1

Ban also made a reference to an 'irresponsible statement' by US President Donald Trump threatening withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement. "I was disappointed when the president of the United States threatened to withdraw from the Paris agreement. Politically speaking, his statement was shortsighted; economically speaking, it's very irresponsible; and scientifically, the argument was wrong," he pointed out.

In 2016, Foreign Policy named Ban as one of the Top 100 Global Thinkers for his achievement of making the Paris agreement a legally-binding treaty less than a year after it was adopted. "We are witnessing stronger and frequent hurricanes, which is connected to climate change. Adjust your way of living and energy consumption instead

of wasting energy and resources - these are the issues we agreed upon at the climate summit in Paris in September 2015," he said. Ban noted that in his 10-year stint as secretary general of the United Nations, he spent most of his time and energy urging people around the world to unite for the Paris agreement.

Earlier, HHH the Amir Sheikh Sabah held talks at Seif Palace with Ban. This is the former UN chief's first visit to an Arab nation after relinquishing his post as UN secretary general. Ban said he was "honored to have met His Highness the Amir of Kuwait", adding that "very important issues were discussed," both at regional and international levels. He applauded the Amir's earnest efforts as a mediator in the ongoing Gulf crisis involving Qatar and a quartet of Arab nations, saying he was hopeful that tensions will defuse soon.

He also appreciated HHH the Amir's "continuing compassionate leadership" to assist nations embroiled in conflict, naming Yemen and Syria as examples. Ban congratulated Kuwait on winning a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council, which he said was a testament to the country's growing presence on the international stage.

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## Sports

## Ronaldo back in lineup for Portugal

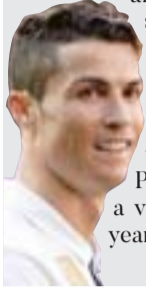
LISBON: Cristiano Ronaldo is set to return to Portugal's lineup for the decisive World Cup qualifier against Switzerland today. Ronaldo did not start in the 2-0 win at Andorra last week because he was not fully fit, but he came off the bench in the second half to score the team's first goal and help set up the second by Andre Silva. The Real Madrid forward practiced normally along with the rest of Portugal's squad yesterday ahead of the showdown against the Swiss at the Stadium of Light. Portugal coach Fernando Santos kept Ronaldo on the bench against Andorra because he didn't feel the forward was 100 percent fit when he reported to the national team's training camp. He said he also didn't want to risk an injury to the team's most important player considering the match was played on artificial turf. Portugal is three points behind Switzerland in Group B and needs a victory to secure first place and the automatic spot for next year's World Cup in Russia. —AP

## Only one athlete positive in Vancouver Games re-tests

BERLIN: Re-testing of more than a thousand samples from the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics uncovered only one athlete to have taken banned substances, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said yesterday. The IOC said it had conducted re-tests of 1,195 urine samples, including those of all medalists from the winter Games seven years ago as well as of all Russian athletes. "Three adverse analytical findings, all coming from one athlete, are being taken forward for results management," the IOC said in a statement. It did provide any details of the athlete in question, nor of his or her sport or nationality. The low number of positive re-tests from Vancouver is in stark contrast with the results from samples from the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Olympics. More than 100 athletes tested positive in total in those re-tests and some 75 medals had to be reallocated. More than 80 percent of those cases involved the sports of weightlifting and athletics. —Reuters

## Hardaker suspended over failed drug test

LONDON: Castleford Tigers fullback Zak Hardaker has been ruled out of England's rugby league World Cup squad after failing a drugs test, the Rugby Football League (RFL) said in a statement yesterday. The 25-year-old, a key player for his club, has been provisionally suspended from all competition after failing the test following a Super 8s game between Castleford and Leeds Rhinos on Sept 8. The RFL did not name the banned substance but media reports said it was cocaine. England were due to announce on Monday their squad for the World Cup starting in Australia at the end of this month, and Hardaker had been expected to feature in it. The player, who faces a potential two-year ban, apologised for his "enormous error of judgement" to his team mates, club and fans in a statement on the Tigers' website (www.castlefordtigers.com). "I would like to make it clear that in no way did I, nor would I, ever take a substance with the intention of enhancing my performance," added Hardaker, who did not play in Saturday's 24-6 Super League Grand Final defeat by Leeds. — Reuters



# South Africa coach Gibson adjusts sights to World Cup

## Gibson looking forward to meeting AB de Villiers

BLOEMFONTEIN: With a 2-0 Test series victory over Bangladesh out of the way, new South Africa head coach Ottis Gibson has started planning for the 2019 Cricket World Cup. After winning the second Test with two days to spare, the first of three one-day internationals against Bangladesh is set for Kimberley on Sunday and it will mark the first stage on a long road to the showpiece in England.

Former West Indies all-rounder Gibson has been charged with ending South Africa's failure to win a major global event. After South Africa's innings win against Bangladesh, he said he and captain Faf du Plessis have already started working towards the tournament.

"We've got about 30 to 35 one-day games between now and 2019," said Gibson. "The idea between Faf and myself and the selectors is to have a look at players, to give opportunities to players who might be on the fringes, so that in a year's time we narrow that pool down. "At the moment we need a wide pool of players to look at so we can start to see who we might need, also bearing in mind the conditions. "We'll be playing in England, so we'll be looking at the type of players we might need for those conditions, to give them opportunities in the next year." Gibson said that in the year leading up to the World Cup, he hoped to have a good idea of which players to take. "The last year is to try to nail down 15 or 16 names we can pencil in. But it's still a long way between now and then," he said.

“At the moment we need a wide pool of players”

### AB DE VILLIERS RETURN

Gibson has had talks with fast bowler Morne Morkel, who reportedly is thinking of accepting a county contract in England if he doesn't get assurances that he will be part of the World Cup plans.

"That's not my understanding," said Gibson. "I absolutely didn't tell him anything about the World Cup because it is so far away. I encouraged him to enjoy his cricket, which he was doing last week until he pulled up (with an injury)."

Gibson is looking forward to meeting star batsman AB de Villiers, who was not available for the Tests, but

is currently playing in a first-class match for his franchise, the Titans. De Villiers will also play for a South African Invitation XI in a warm-up match for Bangladesh in Bloemfontein on Thursday, ahead of the one-day internationals.

"We're all looking forward to seeing AB in the next week," said Gibson. "I've had a few conversations with him, but we

haven't had a face-to-face yet." Gibson said he was pleased with the way the Test team had performed in a one-sided series against Bangladesh.

"At the start of the season everyone said 'easy series', but you still have to go and play cricket. "We're very happy with the cricket we played. I said to the players, if you believe the opposition isn't that good, you must play to a standard and we've played to a very high standard." —AFP



Ottis Gibson

## Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur asks board to decide future

DHAKA: Mushfiqur Rahim has declined to step down as captain after Bangladesh's demoralising 2-0 test series defeat in South Africa, instead leaving it to the country's cricket board to decide on his future.

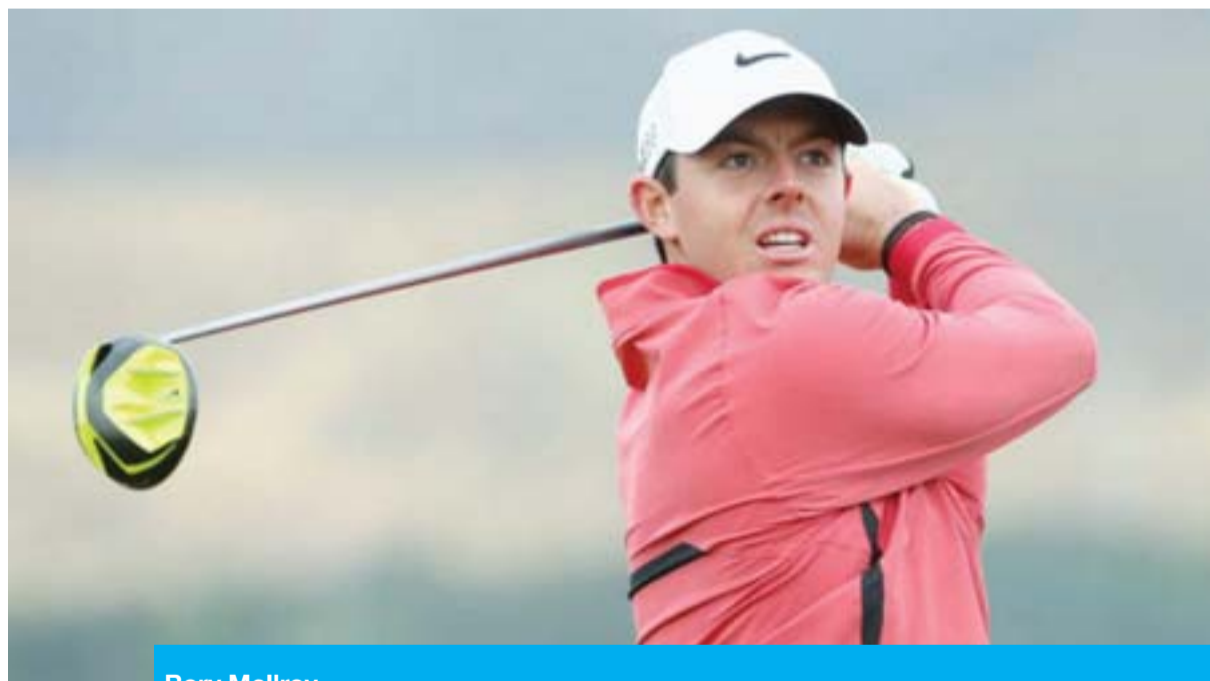
The long-serving Bangladesh skipper has come under heavy criticism for the two heavy losses with critics questioning his decision to field first on batting-friendly pitches in both Potchefstroom and Bloemfontein.

"When the team does really well, all the credit goes to the management and when we are not doing well, all the blame comes to the captain. I can take it," Mushfiqur told reporters after South Africa won the second test by an innings and 254 runs on Sunday.

"Obviously all the blame comes to me being the captain. The board will decide about me, since there's a lot of time before the next test series. "It is not about what I want. I can't decide to stay as captain, neither can I leave it. The board has to take the decision and I am sure they will take a good one for the team. Country comes first, not the individual."

The 30-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman has captained Bangladesh in 34 tests since 2011. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan was another to express surprise at Mushfiqur's decision to field after winning both tosses, with the skipper saying he had always tried to lead the team from the front. "Captaincy is always challenging, more so in a team like ours. We are ranked number nine or 10 always, so there's a lot of pressure playing against top sides," Mushfiqur added. "The last two tests didn't go as the last couple of years have gone. "The blame is coming at me, because I decided to field first in both tests. Maybe I haven't been leading properly and that's why the team isn't doing well."

"This is why I am saying that I should be given opportunity to correct my mistakes." Bangladesh are currently ranked ninth but have emerged as a strong force at home, picking up maiden test victories against England and Australia in the last 12 months. Mushfiqur also led the side to a test victory away to Sri Lanka in March. — Reuters



Rory McIlroy

## Rory McIlroy sets sights high after a winless year

KINGSBARN: Rory McIlroy has set himself three challenging career goals—including becoming the best "international" player ever—as he plots his comeback in 2018 following an injury-hit and trophyless year.

The four-time Major champion, who has been dogged by a rib injury, finished in a disappointing tie for 63rd at the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship on Sunday, meaning a first season without a title since 2008. His immediate goal arrives at the Masters in April, when he will attempt to become only the sixth player to complete the career Grand Slam of all four Major titles.

Also on his career list is overhauling Nick Faldo to become the most successful European golfer ever and perhaps most ambitious of all—he wants to surpass South African great Gary Player's haul of nine Majors that make him the leading "international" golfer of all time. "The Grand Slam is the next reasonable goal on the agenda and then my goal is to become the best European Tour golfer ever and try and surpass Nick Faldo in that," said McIlroy, aiming to return to competition early in the New Year.

"Then, and if had a career goal, it would be the best international golfer ever as Gary Player has nine Majors so I would like to think I can get close to that tally."

"Clearly, the Americans have dominated the world of golf for the last 100 years with Jack Nicklaus and Tiger (Woods) and Walter Hagen and all those guys but the next big goal is winning the Masters for the Grand Slam and then becoming the best European ever."

The Northern Irishman has won 13 European Tour titles but is still 17 wins shy of Nick Faldo's mark (Faldo won six Majors) and needs to win six more Majors to surpass Player. McIlroy, 28, has seen younger rivals such as Jordan Spieth, who has three Majors to his name—steal the lime-light since he won the 2014 PGA Championship.

"I just feel with the experience I have now, I'm definitely a better player I feel than the player that won some of those tournaments and some of those Majors," said the world number six.

"I see no reason why I can't better that in the next 10 years and that's why I feel like these three months are very important for me to put some really good things in place and step away and just reassess everything and reassess where I'm at and where I need to be."

"Also, the landscape of the game has changed a bit since I started to win Majors. You've got young, hungry guys now that are fearless, basically, and they are playing the game how I basically came out and played a few years ago. "It's just about trying to gain an advantage here or there, so just reassessing everything and making sure I'm sort of not leaving any stone unturned and do everything I can to get back to the best player in the world." — AFP

## ICC to approve Test championship this week

WELLINGTON: The International Cricket Council (ICC) is set to approve plans for its long-awaited World Test Championship at a meeting in New Zealand this week, it was reported yesterday. The sport's governing body has argued for years that a Test championship is needed to boost the five-day format's popularity as crowds and television viewers flock to the big-hitting Twenty20 version of the game. But squabbling over formats and fears that some nations will be disadvantaged have twice stymied efforts to launch a league structure since 2010. The Sydney Morning Herald reported that plans for a nine-nation Test championship were now well advanced and the ICC was set to give the concept a green light on Friday at a meeting in Auckland.

It said the first edition of the competition would run over a two-year cycle beginning in 2019, culminating in a final between the top two teams at Lord's. Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said the league competition would give Test series a broader international "context", making them more than stand-alone bilateral contests.

"You're also creating structure in such a way that you no longer have games without meaning. They are all part of a league championship," he told the Herald. Purists view Test cricket as the pinnacle of the sport but it has struggled, particularly in Asia, as lucrative T20 competitions such as the Indian Premier League have caught the public's imagination. A recent innovation designed to reverse the trend is the introduction of day-night Test matches, which moves playing sessions to more spectator-friendly hours.

The idea of four-day Test matches has also been floated, although traditionalists oppose the move. The Herald reported that the ICC will also look at a major shake-up of one-day international fixtures at the Auckland meeting. It said a 13-nation ODI league was being considered, which would operate on a three-year cycle with results affecting World Cup qualification. Under the plans, the number of ODIs in a series would be capped at three, ending the lengthy five-match series that are currently part of the international fixture list. — AFP

## Sports

# Skjei, Zibanejad and Lundqvist lead Rangers past Canadiens

## Montreal had two goals disallowed earlier in opening period

### NHL result/standings

NY Rangers 2 Montreal 0

	Western Conference					
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Chicago	2	0	0	15	2	4
St. Louis	2	0	0	9	6	4
Colorado	1	1	0	5	6	2
Minnesota	0	1	1	6	9	1
Dallas	0	2	0	3	6	0
Nashville	0	2	0	3	8	0
Winnipeg	0	2	0	5	13	0
	Pacific Division					
Los Angeles	2	0	0	6	1	4
Las Vegas	2	0	0	4	2	4
Anaheim	1	0	1	7	7	3
Vancouver	1	0	0	3	2	2
Edmonton	1	1	0	5	3	2
Calgary	1	1	0	6	6	2
Arizona	0	1	1	5	7	1
San Jose	0	2	0	4	9	0

	Eastern Conference					
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Toronto	2	0	0	15	7	4
Detroit	2	0	0	6	3	4
Boston	1	0	0	4	3	2
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	9	8	2
Florida	1	1	0	8	9	2
Ottawa	0	0	2	5	7	2
Montreal	1	2	0	4	10	2
Buffalo	0	1	1	5	9	1
	Metropolitan Division					
Washington	2	0	0	11	5	4
Philadelphia	2	1	0	8	7	4
Pittsburgh	1	1	1	9	15	3
New Jersey	1	0	0	4	1	2
Carolina	1	0	0	5	4	2
Columbus	1	1	0	6	5	2
NY Islanders	1	1	0	6	8	2
NY Rangers	1	2	0	9	12	2

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



NEW YORK: Phillip Danault #24 of the Montreal Canadiens and Henrik Lundqvist #30 of the New York Rangers battle for the puck during the third period at Madison Square Garden on Sunday. — AFP

**NEW YORK:** Henrik Lundqvist bounced back after getting roughed up the previous night and helped the New York Rangers get their first win of the season. The veteran goalie stopped 34 shots for his 62nd career shutout to lead the Rangers to a 2-0 win over the Montreal Canadiens on Sunday night.

Lundqvist was stellar in getting his 406th career win one night after getting pulled after giving up five goals in the first period of an 8-5 loss at Toronto. He is now one away from tying Glenn Hall for ninth place on the NHL's career wins list.

"I felt like we played more our style where it's more in control and we use our speed when there's an opportunity for it," Lundqvist said. "And for me, every period a couple extra saves were enough. It was not like I needed to make eight, nine big ones. It was a couple extra here and there, and the rest, the guys took care of it. It was a great team win here tonight and a great bounce back for us."

Brady Skjei scored on a fortunate bounce in the first period and Mika Zibanejad got his fourth of the season in the third to help the Rangers improve to

41-12-4 in games following a loss dating back to Dec. 22, 2015.

"When we made some mistakes, Hank came up with the right saves at the right time," Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said. "That's what we need from our goaltender, that's what we needed from our team."

Montreal had two goals disallowed earlier in the opening period. The first was taken away after a video review when officials determined forward Andrew Shaw kicked the puck into the net 6:24 into the game. Just more than 2 1/2 minutes later, Vigneault challenged another Montreal score for goaltender interference and officials determined Canadiens captain Max Pacioretty made contact with Lundqvist on the play.

“We spent a lot of time in the other team’s zone”

"The positive thing is we had chances," Montreal's Tomas Plekanec said. "We had some pressure going. We have to find ways to get results. We have to keep working at it." Skjei tossed the puck to the front of the net and it deflected off Montreal defenseman Shea Weber's skate and in with 2:35 left in the first period, giving the Rangers a lead for the first time this season.

Zibanejad scored for the third straight game near the midpoint of the third period to double the Rangers' lead. Pavel Buchnevich and Chris Kreider assisted on the play, giving New York's top line four goals and five assists through three games this season.

"I try to shoot and the puck seems to go in right now," Zibanejad said. "I just am trying to place myself in a good spot out there and the guys are finding me

and the puck seems to be going in. That's just the mentality. You just have to keep shooting when you are hot, I guess."

Vigneault was all praises for the way Zibanejad - signed to a five-year, \$26.75 million deal in the offseason - has been playing at the start of the season. "There is no doubt that Mika knew that we put a lot of faith into his play, we signed him to a long-term deal and we expected him to be an impact player on our team," the coach said. "The way he started is the way he has to continue. He has to continue to be a force on the ice, a difference-maker."

Carey Price finished with 23 saves for the Canadiens, who have lost two straight after a shootout win at Buffalo in their opener. "We felt we played well," Montreal's coach Claude Julien said. "We need to find ways to finish better. We spent a lot of time in the other team's zone. Our next step is to find ways to capitalize on opportunities."

The teams were meeting for the first time since the Rangers eliminated the Canadiens in six games in the first round of the playoffs in April. — AP

## Battling Stosur '100 percent' fit after injury-hit year

**HONG KONG:** Former US Open champion Sam Stosur declared she felt "100 percent" again after she battled into the second round of the WTA Hong Kong Open in three sets yesterday. Stosur, who is on the comeback trail after suffering a stress fracture of her right hand in June when in tip-top form, appeared to be cruising at a set and 3-1 up against the unheralded Lee Ya-hsuan of Taiwan. But the Australian dropped five of the next six games with a string of unforced errors to let the world number 303 take the set 6-4. Stosur, 33, drew on all her experience to race through the third set, cutting out the sloppy mistakes to progress 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 in a hard-fought hour and 57 minutes at Victoria Park.

"I was really happy with the third set, the way I came out and finished that off really quickly," Stosur said. "I really stepped it up, served better and was able to hit some winners. And once I got that lead I was able to keep it, unlike the second set," added the Australian world number 43.

A resurgent Stosur earlier this year had looked to be approaching the form that took her to the US Open crown in 2011, winning the WTA title in Strasbourg this May. She followed up in June by reaching the last 16 of the French Open where she was only edged out in a three-set epic by the eventual champion Jelena Ostapenko.

But soon after X-rays revealed the damage to her troublesome right hand was a bone fracture and she had to take a complete break. "After the French Open I really came to a sudden halt and I didn't hit a ball for about eight weeks which is the longest time I can ever remember not playing," said Stosur.

The enforced rest meant she missed Wimbledon and the US Open, returning to action only last month at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo. "I was really disappointed not to make it back for the US Open and miss that whole US summer which is a time I feel like I can do well," Stosur said. "It felt like it took forever. But I feel like it's pretty much 100 percent now."

"Even when I first started in Tokyo and Guangzhou I was still really tentative with trying to hit my forehand. But now I feel like I can go out and practise and not think about it." The only seeded player in action on day one in Hong Kong, China's number two Zhang Shuai, wasted little time and energy in crushing her Japanese opponent Kurumi Nara with a "double bagel" 6-0, 6-0.

The number eight seed, ranked 31 in the world, had too much power, accuracy and guile for the hapless world number 101 and raced past Nara in a dominant 48 minutes on centre court. — AFP

## Red Sox, Yankees stay alive with home wins

**NEW YORK:** The Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees kept their Major League Baseball playoff bids going on Sunday with the Red Sox offence coming alive and Yankees winning a pitching duel. Boston exploded for six runs in the seventh inning for a 10-3 win over the Houston Astros, while the Yankees held on for a 1-0 shutout of the Cleveland Indians after dropping the first two games in their best-of-five American League series. The Red Sox more than doubled the four runs they scored over the course of the first two games on the road with the help of home runs from Rafael Devers and Jackie Bradley. Boston, still trailing 2-1 in the series, will try to pull level when they host game four today.

Devers smacked a two-run homer in the third inning to put Boston up 4-3, their first lead of the series. The 20-year-old became the youngest Red Sox player ever to homer in a playoff game and just the sixth player in major league play in history to do so in the post-season before turning 21. "He's an extremely talented kid, and I think we marvel at the fact that he's 20 years of age," Red Sox manager John Farrell said. Bradley's three-run home run-his first career post-season homer-was part of the six-run seventh.

Seventh Ramirez went four-for-four with three runs-batted-in and Sand Leon drive in another run for the Red Sox. "We don't give up," he said. "We were in the post-season last year and unfortunately we couldn't do the job," added Ramirez, recalling that the Red Sox were swept in the first round last season.

"I told everybody it's not going to happen two years in a row." After the Red Sox fell into an early hole-with

## Cancer victim gives Kyrgios 'higher purpose'

**SYDNEY:** Troubled Australian tennis star Nick Kyrgios says he has finally found a purpose in life and will build a facility for disadvantaged kids after being struck by the death of a young boy from cancer.

The combustible but talented 22-year-old, who had another meltdown in losing the China Open final to Rafael Nadal on Sunday, has long struggled with his demons, repeatedly losing focus mid-match and arguing with umpires and fans. He has made no bones about not taking tennis seriously enough, and on Monday said it was down to feeling like he had no real purpose in life. Now he has one. "You've no doubt noticed that I'm not all that good at hiding the fact I'd rather be somewhere



BOSTON: Boston Red Sox's Rafael Devers watches his RBI single to left field during the seventh inning of Game 3 of baseball's American League Division Series against the Houston Astros. — AP

Carlos Correa hitting a two-run homer and Josh Reddick driving in a run for the Astros in the first inning-Boston relief pitcher David Price produced four shutout innings with four strikeouts. "Monster," Ramirez said of Price's performance. "Great heart, great competitor." The winner of the series will take on either the Yankees or Cleveland for a World Series berth. In New York, Greg Bird led off the bottom of the seventh inning with a homer, and Aroldis Chapman posted a five-out save as the Yankees staved off elimination. Bird helped the Yankees force game four on Monday when he lifted a fastball on a 1-1 count from left-hander Andrew Miller into the second deck in right field. It was only the second homer allowed by Miller to a left-handed hitter this season.

### 'GRINDED IT OUT'

"He is one of best," Bird said of Miller. "I was just trying

else a lot of the time. So, what have I been doing it for?" he wrote in [www.playersvoice.com.au](http://www.playersvoice.com.au), a website for sportspeople to air their views.

"You hear people talk about being motivated for their kids, or a cause, or something more than just themselves. "It's inspiration, pure and simple, and it gives them focus when times are tough. There's a reason underpinning everything. It's a higher purpose than just collecting a pay cheque. "I haven't had that and I've always been envious of those who did. I think I've found my purpose in the last couple of months. I'm building something." The world number 19 revealed he had a vision several years ago to create somewhere for disadvantaged and underprivileged kids to "hang out, be safe and feel like they were part of a family". There would be tennis courts, basketball courts, a gym, a sports field to kick a football, food and beds. "It's all I've been thinking about outside of tennis since then," he said, adding that he and his family were scoping out land in Melbourne and looking for organisations to partner with. The plan is to have it underway by the Australian Open in January. His dream came into focus after he had a hit-up with a little boy with terminal brain cancer called Piotr before a match at the Australian Open this year. — AFP



Nick Kyrgios

Sports

# Australia aims to halt Syria's World Cup charge in Sydney

## Home fans will clamor for an Australian victory

**SYDNEY:** While local support will be firmly behind Australia's Socceroos, wider sentiment may spur the team from war-torn Syria to keep its World Cup dream alive when the teams meet today in a winner-takes-all qualifier.

The outcome of the match will decide which team progresses to an inter-continental playoff against the fourth-place team from CONCACAF - the North and Central American and Caribbean confederation - for a spot at the World Cup in Russia next year.

Syria kept its hopes alive with a late penalty which allowed it to snatch a 1-1 draw with Australia in its "home" leg of the two-leg playoff on neutral in Malaysia last week. But it now must overcome Australia's home advantage to continue to lift the spirits of fans in a country riven by war. Syria coach Aymin Al-Hakim said playing Australia in Sydney was just another of the obstacles his team has had to overcome in its astonishing qualifying campaign. "I say to our fans what we have achieved so far is not only an achievement, but a miracle," he said. "We will push with all our force to continue our journey on the path of achieving our dream."

His team has nothing to lose. Syria has never qualified for the World Cup, but now is potentially only three games from making it to soccer's grandest show.

Syria left back Mouaiad Al-Ajjan said his team would have to make the most of its chances in Sydney, particularly after a slow first half in Malacca, Malaysia last week and needing an 85th-minute penalty to equalize.

"We are content with the result," he said after the draw, "but we promise the fans we will up our game in

the second leg to bring them joy and qualify to the inter-confederation playoff." Australia has qualified for the last three World Cups and narrowly missed a direct spot again, finishing just out of the top two in its group on goal difference. That pushed the Socceroos into the difficult playoff route to Russia, a pathway they were more familiar with when Australia was part of the Oceania confederation.

Today's match will be played on the ground where Australia beat Uruguay in an intercontinental playoff to qualify for the 2006 World Cup and where it won the Asian Cup in 2015. Home fans will clamor for an Australian victory which will propel the Socceroos a step closer to Russia.

But there will be additional tension as defeat will spell not only the end of the Socceroos' World Cup ambitions but possibly coach Ange Postecoglou's tenure with the national team. Postecoglou acknowledged that possibility but said he wouldn't allow it to rule his approach to the match.

"I'd be a fool if I didn't live the way I preach," Postecoglou said. "I try to live every game like it's the last one. 'I won't be going into it with a different mindset because it's an absolute privilege and honor to coach your country.'" Postecoglou said he was looking for nothing less than a win today.

"For us the objective is clear," he said. "What we know is if we win tomorrow night we'll be through to the next round. Our objective is to play our football. We want to be aggressive, attacking, take it to the opposition and test them and that's what we'll do."

Postecoglou will likely recall Celtic midfielder Tom



**SYDNEY:** Syria's player Tamer Hag Mohd (C) shares a light moment with teammates during a training session in Sydney yesterday, on the eve of their 2018 World Cup football qualifying match against Australia. — AFP

Rogic for the match and has hinted he might start veteran Tim Cahill. Mark Milligan, who led the Australia lineup last week, said the players' confidence is "very strong." "Looking back on Thursday night ... our shortcomings in the last 30 minutes showed when we do

things right, we get the right results for it," he said. "If any doubt does creep in we're fortunate we can look at recent performances and we're right on track. 'We'll hold strong in what we believe and bring our best to the table.'" — AP

## Germany win historic 10th WCup qualifier

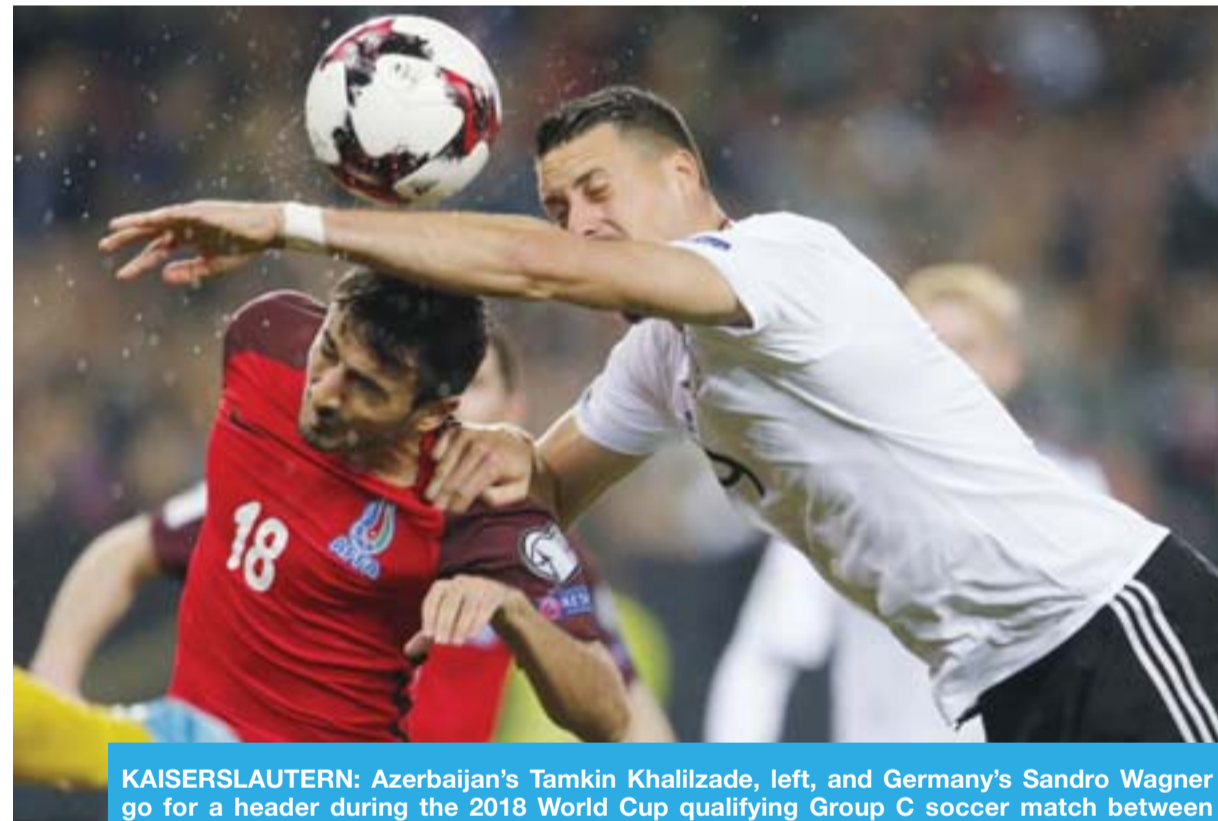
**BERLIN:** Midfielder Leon Goretzka netted twice as Germany routed Azerbaijan 5-1 on Sunday to make history with a perfect World Cup qualifying record of 10 wins in as many games. The reigning world champions had already sealed their ticket to Russia last Thursday with a 3-1 win over Northern Ireland, and finished their qualifying campaign in Kaiserslautern with a 10th straight victory. This is the first time Germany have qualified for a World Cup finals with a perfect record.

Joachim Loew's side are only the second team to achieve the feat in a European qualifying campaign after Spain managed it on their way to winning the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

However, the comfortable win came at the cost of two centre-backs, as Bayern Munich's Niklas Sule and Arsenal's Shkodran Mustafi both limped off with first-half injuries. Schalke midfielder Goretzka gave Germany an early lead with a superb back-heeled goal before Azerbaijan striker Ramil Sheydaev stunned the hosts by equalising before half-time.

Second-half strikes from Hoffenheim striker Sandro Wagner and Chelsea defender Antonio Ruediger, before Goretzka added his second, saw Germany pull away.

Liverpool midfielder Emre Can added the fifth when he smashed home his first international goal with a powerful shot from outside the area. The World Cup holders lost Julian Draxler before kick-off as the Paris Saint-Germain midfielder dropped out with flu, after Real Madrid star Toni Kroos had already been ruled out with a rib injury. The hosts got off to a dream start when Goretzka showed great technique by turning the ball into the net on eight minutes. Then came Germany's injury blows. Sule limped off on 22 minutes to be replaced by Chelsea's Ruediger



**KAISERSLAUTERN:** Azerbaijan's Tamkin Khalizade, left, and Germany's Sandro Wagner go for a header during the 2018 World Cup qualifying Group C soccer match between Germany and Azerbaijan in Kaiserslautern, Germany, Sunday. — AP

before Mustafi went down in the build-up to the equaliser. The Germans should have doubled their lead with half an hour gone when Wagner hit the post.

Azerbaijan deservedly levelled on 34 minutes when Sheydaev sprinted clear of Mustafi—who pulled up with a leg injury.

Sheydaev then wrong-footed Ruediger and fired past Germany goalkeeper Bernd Leno to stun the hosts. It stayed 1-1 at the break, but Wagner put Germany back in the lead on 54 minutes thanks to Hawk-Eye.

Wagner's header was cleared in a scramble, but goal-line technology showed the ball had crossed the line for his fifth international goal in as many games. At 2-1 up, the floodgates opened when Ruediger hammered his header past Azerbaijani goalkeeper Kamran Agayev on 64 minutes. Goretzka grabbed Germany's fourth just two minutes later when he fired home Leroy Sane's pass after some good work by the Manchester City winger. The 23-year-old Can completed the scoring in style when he rifled a 30-yard strike into the roof of the net.—AFP

## US and Pulisic poised to seal World Cup berth

**MIAMI:** United States coach Bruce Arena has challenged his team to finish the job and seal World Cup qualification against Trinidad & Tobago today after an emphatic rout of Panama which has transformed American fortunes.

Friday's exhilarating attacking display against Panama, where Borussia Dortmund star Christian Pulisic excelled in a 4-0 thrashing of Los Canaleros, has left Arena's side on the brink of a place in next year's finals in Russia. Heading into the final round of games, the US sit third in the standings with 12 points, two points clear of Panama and Honduras, their only rivals for the final automatic qualifying berth from CONCACAF. A win over Trinidad today would guarantee that the US extend a proud record of qualifying for every World Cup since 1990. And with a sizeable advantage in goal difference of plus five, compared to Panama (-2) and Honduras (-7), a draw at Trinidad's tiny 10,000-seater Ato Boldon Stadium in Couva will almost certainly be enough. Nevertheless, Arena has warned his team to be ready for a stern physical challenge against Trinidad, even though the Caribbean nation are already eliminated and have little



**COUVA:** US national soccer team player DeAndre Yedlin is carried by trainer Luis Ramirez through water around the practice field during training in Couva, Trinidad, yesterday. Team USA plays against Trinidad & Tobago today. — AP

but pride to play for.

"The game in Trinidad won't be easy but we are in a good position now," Arena said. "It will be challenging. We faced challenging conditions in Honduras and Panama so we will be ready. Trinidad are out but will be a handful. 'We are moving along well, our goal difference is better and now we need to finish it off.'"

History suggests the US should comfortably achieve qualification on Tuesday. In 25 meetings between the two sides since 1982, the US have won 18, drawn four and lost

only three occasions. The last of those defeats came nearly a decade ago, in a 2-1 loss in 2008.

More recently, Arena's side won 2-0 at home in June and also recorded a 4-0 win in an earlier round of qualifying in 2016.

The US will seek to extend that record of dominance with an attack spearheaded by Pulisic and Jozy Altidore, who scored twice against Panama. "The job's not done yet," said Altidore. "We need a result and we know it's going to be a tough place to play." — AFP

## Moment of truth as Argentina seek World Cup berth

**MONTEVIDEO:** The once unfathomable prospect of a World Cup without Lionel Messi and Argentina could become reality today as South America's thrilling 2018 qualification battle reaches its climax. Two years after Argentina kicked off their troubled campaign with a 2-0 defeat at home to Ecuador, Jorge Sampaoli's side travel to Quito to face La Tri once more with their hopes hanging precariously. The two-time World Cup-winners head into the final round of games in sixth place overall, outside the top four positions which grant automatic qualification and trailing fifth-placed Peru, who occupy the playoff spot, on goal difference.

Yet with only two points separating third-placed Chile (26 points) with seventh-placed Paraguay (24), any number of permutations are possible. Argentina can simplify the equation for their fans, however, if they manage to take all three points.

A victory would guarantee they finish no worse than fifth place, putting them into a two-legged play-off against New Zealand they would be expected to win. But achieving victory in the thin air of Quito, which is 2,850 metres (9,350 feet) above sea level, may be easier said than done. The Argentinians have an abysmal record in away games against Ecuador, with their last victory in Quito coming in 2001.

Since then in World Cup qualifying games, they have been beaten twice, in 2005 and 2009, before scraping a 1-1 draw in 2013. Moreover, Argentina face their moment of truth after a series of uninspiring performances that has left the rest of the footballing world scratching its head at how a squad bristling with so much attacking talent has found scoring so difficult.

### 'HANGING ON'

Despite being able to call upon Messi, Sergio Aguero, Gonzalo Higuain, Paulo Dybala, Mauro Icardi and Angel Di Maria throughout the campaign, Argentina have only scored 16 times in 17 games. Last Thursday's 0-0 stalemate with Peru in Buenos Aires was Argentina's third consecutive draw. The Albiceleste have now scored only once in their past four qualifying games.

Sampaoli attempted to break that cycle last week with the surprise selection of Dario Benedetto in attack, a gamble that failed to pay off after the Boca Juniors striker missed a string of chances. It is unclear whether Sampaoli will persist with Benedetto again on Tuesday. While Messi and his team-mates attempt to adjust to the lung-busting challenge of playing at altitude, millions of compatriots will be holding their breath.

The sense of anxiety was reflected by La Nacion newspaper. "Argentina is not on the edge of the precipice - it is hanging on the cornice vertically," the paper commented. Elsewhere today, Chile could seal their qualification with victory over Brazil in Sao Paulo. Brazil have already qualified for the finals and are guaranteed top spot.—AFP

**13** Rory McIlroy sets sights high after a winless year



**14** Cancer victim gives Kyrgios 'higher purpose'



**15** Germany win historic 10th WCup qualifier



ARLINGTON: Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott (21) stretches out for extra yardage as Green Bay Packers defensive end Dean Lowry (94) defends in the first half of an NFL football game, in Arlington, Texas. — AP

## Colts celebrate Manning's return

### Rodgers comes up clutch, Chiefs remain unbeaten

**INDIANAPOLIS:** After blowing a 14-point lead in the final eight minutes of regulation and surviving an interception in scoring position in overtime, Marlon Mack's 35-yard run set up Adam Vinatieri for a 51-yard field goal as the Indianapolis Colts beat the San Francisco 49ers 26-23 on Sunday. Vinatieri made four field goals to move into second on the NFL's career list, one ahead of Gary Anderson (538). Mack and Jacoby Brissett each scored on TD runs for the Colts (2-3), who have won both games against winless teams. San Francisco (0-5) is one of three teams that still has not won this season. The Browns and Giants are the others. In many ways, the mistake-prone game became a sideshow for what happened around it. While many showed up to thank Manning, who played his final home game in Indy on Jan. 8, 2011, most didn't anticipate becoming part of another political statement.

#### PACKERS 35, COWBOYS 31

Aaron Rodgers threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Davante Adams with 11 seconds remaining, lifting Green Bay over the Dallas Cowboys in another thriller nine months after the Packers' divisional playoff win on the same field. Rodgers capped a 75-yard drive in just 1:02, going toward the same end zone as in the playoff game. Adams, active 10 days after leaving the field on a stretcher on a helmet-to-helmet hit that resulted in a suspension for Chicago linebacker Danny Trevathan, had seven catches for 66 yards and two touchdowns. Dak Prescott had given Cowboys the lead on an 11-yard touchdown run with 1:13 remaining to cap a 17-play drive that lasted almost nine minutes. Dallas (2-3) has already matched the number of losses from the magical rookie season for Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott. The Packers (4-1) had gone ahead earlier on Damarius Randall's 21-yard interception return for a touchdown, the third of five lead changes in the fourth quarter. Green Bay rallied from 15 points down in the first half.

#### CHIEFS 42, TEXANS 34

Alex Smith threw for 324 yards and three touchdowns to help Kansas City remain undefeated in a game where Houston star J.J. Watt broke his left leg. Deshaun Watson's 48-yard touchdown pass got the Texans within six early in the fourth quarter before Smith extended the lead for Kansas City (5-0) to 32-20 on a 10-yard pass to De'Anthony Thomas with about 9 minutes left. Tyreek Hill padded the lead when he returned a punt 82 yards for a touchdown. Watson threw for 261 yards and five touchdowns, but the Texans (2-3) failed to recreate the magic they found last week when they scored a franchise-record

57 points in a victory over Tennessee. Watt, the three-time Defensive Player of the Year, was injured in the first quarter and the team announced that he sustained a tibial plateau fracture, but didn't provide any details on how long he'll be out.

#### CHARGERS 27, GIANTS 22

Philip Rivers threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Melvin Gordon with 2:58 to play and the Chargers rallied to beat the Giants in a game worthy of two teams that started the season 0-4. The touchdown pass was Rivers' third of the game and came three plays after Kyle Emanuel had a sack, forced fumble and recovery against Eli Manning at the Giants 11-yard line. It also came four plays after Odell Beckham Jr. hurt an ankle and become the fourth Giants receiver knocked out of the game. Rivers also hit Gordon on a 6-yard TD pass in the second quarter and had a 25-yarder to tight end Hunter Henry in the third as the Chargers ended a nine-game losing streak dating to late November. Manning had given the Giants a 22-17 lead early in the fourth quarter with a 48-yard TD pass to a wide-open Beckham. New York missed the 2-point conversion attempt after being hit with a delay of game penalty.

#### JAGUARS 31, STEELERS 9

Telvin Smith and Barry Church returned a pair of Ben Roethlisberger's interceptions for touchdowns and Jacksonville stunned Pittsburgh. Jacksonville (3-2) beat the Steelers for the first time in a decade by relying heavily on the NFL's top-ranked pass defense. The Jaguars picked off Roethlisberger five times in all and sacked him twice. Rookie Leonard Fournette ran for 181 yards and two touchdowns for the Jaguars, who are over .500 after five games for the first time since 2010 and have already matched their victory total from 2016. Roethlisberger completed 33 of 55 for 312 yards and his career-high five interceptions, the most by a Pittsburgh quarterback since Mark Malone threw five against Cleveland in 1987.

#### EAGLES 34, CARDINALS 7

Carson Wentz threw a career-best four touchdown

passes and the Eagles continued their impressive start. Wentz tossed three scoring passes in the first quarter, including 59 yards to Torrey Smith, 11 yards to Zach Ertz and 15 yards to Trey Burton. He connected with Nelson Agholor for a 72-yard TD in the third quarter that left six-time Pro Bowl cornerback Patrick Peterson shouting on the sideline. The Eagles (4-1) have won three straight games. Carson Palmer and Arizona's one-dimensional offense were held to 279 yards. The Cardinals (2-3) have alternated losses and wins since Week 1. Wentz torched a secondary that features Peterson and Tyrann Mathieu, finishing 21 of 30 for 304 yards. Peterson held Alshon Jeffery to three catches for 31 yards, but Wentz spread the ball around.

#### DOLPHINS 16, TITANS 10

Jay Cutler finally silenced the boobirds with a fourth-quarter touchdown pass, and the Dolphins overcame another dismal offensive showing. The jeters started in the first quarter of the Dolphins' home debut, and soon the crowd was chanting for backup quarterback Matt Moore. But coach Adam Gase stuck with Cutler, who capped a 58-yard drive with a 6-yard touchdown pass to Jarvis Landry for the tiebreaking score. The Titans (2-3) played without quarterback Marcus Mariota, who was inactive because of a left hamstring injury suffered a week ago. Replacement Matt Cassel went 21 for 32 for 141 yards and was sacked six times.

#### PANTHERS 27, LIONS 24

Cam Newton showed he was very focused on football, throwing three touchdowns to help the Panthers build a lead big enough to hold off the Lions. The Panthers (4-1) scored 24 straight points after trailing 10-3 early in the second quarter. Detroit rallied, but could not stop Newton on his last drive to get the ball back. Newton came under fire for making sexist comments to a female reporter this week. He apologized after losing an endorsement deal and getting criticized by the NFL. He was 26 of 33 for a season-high 335 yards. On perhaps the game's key play, he converted a third-and-19 from the Carolina 24 with a sharp, 17-yard pass to Kelvin Benjamin with 2:00 left while clinging to a three-point lead against a team out of timeouts.

#### BENGALS 20, BILLS 16

A.J. Green had a hand in three turnovers that kept it close, but the receiver also pulled off a 77-yard touchdown and another long catch that set up a score. After losing their first three games, the Bengals (2-3) have salvaged their season by getting the ball to their playmakers at decisive moments. Green's 47-yard catch set up a 5-yard touchdown run by Joe Mixon that put Cincinnati ahead to stay in the fourth quarter. The Bills (3-2) got off to an encouraging start by relying heavily on kicker Stephen Hauschka and a defense that led the league, allowing only 13.5 points per game in the first four. The combination wasn't enough this time. Buffalo's depleted offense couldn't take advantage of Cincinnati's three turnovers.

#### JETS 17, BROWNS 14

Josh McCown came back to Cleveland and beat the team that cut him, throwing two touchdown passes and leading the surprising Jets over the winless Browns, who benched rookie quarterback DeShone Kizer and fell to 1-20 under coach Hue Jackson. McCown went 1-10 in two seasons as a starter for the Browns, who released him on Feb. 7 in a cost-cutting move. The 38-year-old wasn't seeking revenge, but he got it with two second-half scoring tosses. McCown threw a 2-yard TD pass to Austin Seferian-Jenkins in the third quarter and a 24-yarder to Jermaine Kearse in the fourth to give the Jets (3-2) a 17-7 lead en route to their third straight victory. Kearse's TD capped a 97-yard drive after Jackson decided not to try a potential tying field goal - rookie kicker Zane Gonzalez missed two attempts in the first half - and went for it on fourth down.

#### RAVENS 30, RAIDERS 17

Joe Flacco hit Mike Wallace on two deep passes to spark Baltimore's struggling offense, and the Ravens got a fumble return for a touchdown by Jimmy Smith to beat short-handed Oakland. Flacco had struggled to get the ball downfield in losing the past two weeks. He changed that on the opening drive of the game for the Ravens (3-2) when he connected on a 52-yard pass to Wallace that set up an early touchdown and established the tone for the day. The Raiders (2-3), playing without injured star quarterback Derek Carr and two key cornerbacks, played from behind all game as Smith returned Jared Cook's fumble 47 yards for a touchdown that made it 14-0 just 3:50 in. Backup quarterback E.J. Manuel, making his fourth start in the past three seasons, threw a 41-yard touchdown pass to Michael Crabtree and led another TD drive that ended in Marshawn Lynch's 3-yard run. He finished 13 for 26 for 159 yards.— AP



**Touchdown pass was Rivers' third of the game**



# Business

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017

**18** US economist Thaler wins Nobel Prize for Economics



**21** GAC Motor retains position as highest ranking Chinese brand



**22** Discover the world, do bigger things at Samsung Galaxy Studio



## NBK reports KD 238.4m net profits for 9M

### Al-Sayer: Net operating income grew at 11.7% in 2017

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) reported net profits of KD 238.4 million (\$788.9 million) for the first nine months of 2017 compared with KD 219.3 million (\$725.7 million) for the same period in 2016. NBK's profits during the first nine months of 2017 grew by 8.7 percent compared to the same period last year.

NBK's 3Q 2017 net profits reached KD 73.7 million (\$243.8 million), compared to KD 68.6 million (\$227.2 million) for the same period in 2016 recording an increase of 7.3 percent YoY.

Net operating income grew at 11.7 percent year on year to reach KD 609.9 million (\$2,018.5 million). As of end of September 2017, NBK's total assets grew by 3.4 percent on annual basis, to reach KD 25.6 billion (\$84.8 billion), while total shareholders' equity increased by 1.0 percent to KD 3.0 billion (\$9.8 billion). Customer loans and advances, as of end of September 2017, have also grown by 4.2 percent compared to the same period last year, to reach KD 14.5 billion (\$47.9 billion) while customers' deposits grew by 4.6 percent to reach KD 13.3 billion (\$44.2 billion).

Non-performing Loans (NPLs) reached 1.42 percent as of end of September 2017, while coverage ratio reached to 323 percent. Capital adequacy ratio remained at 17.5 percent as of end of September 2017 ahead of all regulatory requirements.

NBK's Chairman Nasser MUSAED Al-Sayer, said: "NBK's performance during the 9M 2017 is a reflection of the Bank's capacity to generate recurring revenues and yet another evidence and confirmation of the strength and soundness of the Bank's financial position and its prudent operational vision and successful strategy which the Bank has consistently adopted."

Al-Sayer reiterated that NBK's results in the 9M 2017 reflect the solid growth of the real banking activities, indicating the increase in the net operating income by 11.7 percent YoY, which asserts the strong position of the bank in all its markets, capitalizing on emerging opportunities domestically, and regionally.

Al-Sayer highlighted that growth in Kuwait's economic activity is improving, supported by healthy project implementation. He added that Kuwait has substantial buffers and thus its fiscal position is better than most of peers in the region despite some pressure on the government's budget as a result of deterioration in oil prices. This has allowed the government to remain committed to capital spending plans which has increased credit growth and created positive sentiment towards private sector.

Al-Sayer added that in recognition of the Bank's strong funding base, strong deposit franchise and healthy liquidity profile: NBK has been

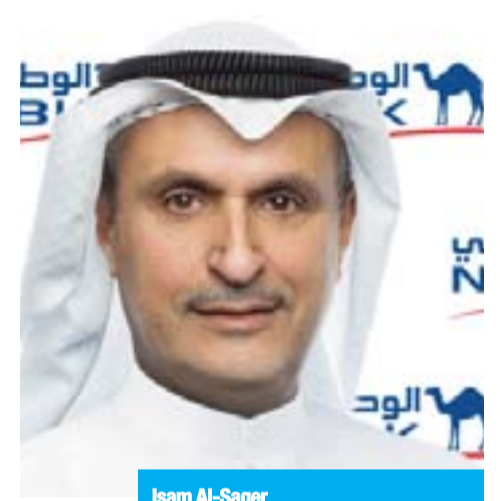
and will continue to be at the forefront of this project financing market as the largest and most capable institution in Kuwait in structuring and underwriting such large transactions for mega infrastructure projects. On the other hand, NBK Group CEO Isam Al-Sager emphasized that NBK is very well positioned to play a key role in financing the government infrastructure development plan. This is mainly due to the size of the Group's balance sheet, its expertise in structuring large and complex transactions as well as its international reach; placing the bank in a unique position to be the prime partner for companies' expansionary plans domestically, regionally and globally.

In addition, Al-Sager praised that diversification of assets, funding and sources of income are key pillars of NBK's strategy. NBK remains focused on continuous improvements and enhancements to strengthen the Bank's position domestically and regionally through developing product and service offerings to clients. Domestically, NBK maintained its high market share and continued to build diversified regional and international operations, with non-Kuwaiti business generating 29 percent of profits during the 9M 2017. This is a testimony to the success of the Bank's diversification strategy in its income, product offering and client base.

NBK continues to enjoy collectively one of the



Nasser MUSAED Al-Sayer



Isam Al-Sager

highest ratings among all banks in the Middle East from the three international rating agencies Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team. NBK was also named among Global Finance's list of the 50 safest banks in the world

for twelve consecutive times and was awarded as the Best Bank in Kuwait in 2016 by the Banker, Euromoney and Global Finance.

NBK enjoys the widest banking presence with a local and international network reaching 4 continents. NBK's international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centers including New York, Europe, GCC, Middle East, Singapore as well as China (Shanghai).

# 238.4

## Million KD Net Profit for the 9 Months, 2017

30/09/2017

Net Profit

**238.4**  
Million KD

Net Operating Income

**609.9**  
Million KD

Shareholders' Equity

**3.0**  
Billion KD

Total Assets

**25.6**  
Billion KD

Moody's  
Aa3

FitchRatings  
AA-

Standard & Poor's  
A+

Business

# US economist Thaler wins Nobel for 'making economics more human'

## 'A pioneer on integrating economics and psychology'

**STOCKHOLM:** US economist Richard Thaler won the Nobel Economics prize yesterday for showing that economic and financial decision-makers are not always rational, but mostly deeply human. Bridging the gap between economics and psychology, Thaler's research focuses on behavioral economics which explores the impact of psychological and social factors on decisions by individuals or groups in the economy and financial markets. "He's made economics more human," the Nobel jury said, calling Thaler "a pioneer" on integrating economics and psychology.

Thaler is well-known for co-founding the "nudge" theory, which demonstrates how people can be persuaded to make decisions that leave them healthier and happier. "By exploring the consequences of limited rationality, social preferences, and lack of self-control, he has shown how these human traits systematically affect individual decisions as well as market outcomes," the jury's statement said.



### Research focuses on behavioral economics

#### 'Nudge unit'

Thaler is a professor at the University of Chicago—a school popular with the Nobel economics committee. Of 79 laureates so far, more than a third have been affiliated with the university's school of economics. One of the founders of behavioral finance, which studies how cognitive limitations influence financial markets, Thaler developed a model for explaining how people tend to focus on the narrow impact rather than the overall effect of each decision they make, which is called limited rationality.

This includes the study of how people's loathing of losses can explain why they value the same things more when they own them as opposed to when they don't, which is called the endowment effect.

Thaler illustrated that New Year's resolutions can be hard to keep as short-term temptations disrupt people's plans to save for their old age or rainy days. "In his applied work, Thaler demonstrated how nudging—a term he coined may help people exercise better self-control

#### In 'The Big Short' with Gosling

"His empirical findings and theoretical insights have been instrumental in creating the new and rapidly expanding field of behavioral economics, which has had a profound impact on many areas of economic research and policy." He has advised several governments, including in Denmark and France, and former British prime minister David Cameron set up a team in 2010 nicknamed the "nudge unit" to reshape a swathe of policies to gently prod Britons to make the right decisions to make them healthier and happier.

His work even earned him a glamorous foray into the movie business when he made a cameo appearance, alongside Christian Bale, Steve Carell and Ryan Gosling,

in the 2015 movie "The Big Short" about the credit and housing bubble collapse that led to the 2008 global financial crisis.

Thaler told the Nobel committee by teleconference he was "pleased" by the award. "I no longer will have to call my colleague Eugene Fama 'Professor Fama' on the golf course," he joked, referring to his University of Chicago colleague who won the prize in 2013.

"I think the most important recognition is that economic agents are human, and economic models have to incorporate that," he said. The 72-year-old takes home the nine million kronor (944,000 euros, \$1.1 million) prize sum, which he jokingly said he would "try to spend as irrationally as possible".



**CHICAGO:** This photo courtesy of Anne Ryan/University of Chicago Richard Thaler gets ready for an interview with University of Chicago videographer Derek Henkle after winning the Nobel Prize yesterday at his home in Chicago, Illinois. —AFP

when saving for a pension, as well in other contexts," the Nobel jury said.

Thaler and his US counterpart Cass Sunstein turned "nudge" into a political buzzword with their 2008 book of the same name. In a 2008 column, the duo mentioned that an economist's idea to etch a black house fly onto Amsterdam Airport Schiphol's urinals caused spillage to decline by 80 percent. "It turns out that, if you give men a target, they can't help but aim at it," Thaler and Sunstein wrote in the US-based magazine New Republic.

#### 'The dictator game'

Influential in theoretical and experimental research on fairness, Thaler showed "how consumers' fairness concerns may stop firms from raising prices in periods of high demand, but not in times of rising costs", the Nobel economics committee said in a statement.

Thaler and his colleagues created a tool called "the dictator game" that was used in several studies to measure attitudes to fairness among people from around the world. Designed to assess how individuals respond to situations where self-interest and equality clash, the experiment gives one of the participants, known as "the dictator", money while the "receiver" is given nothing.

The economics prize is unique among the Nobel awards in that it was created by the Swedish central bank in 1968 — the others were all set up through the 1895 will of Swedish inventor and philanthropist Alfred Nobel. It wraps up the 2017 season which saw no woman take a prize in any of the categories.

The laureates will receive their prizes at ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo on December 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel. —AFP

## 'Capital of poverty': A record number of Londoners are poor

**LONDON:** More than one in four Londoners, many of them in work, live in poverty due to stagnant wages and rapidly rising rents, according to a report released yesterday. In the British capital, 2.3 million people live in poverty with a record 1.3 million of them in jobs, according to London's Poverty Profile, which uses official data to measure poverty. The report said a single adult in poverty earns less than 144 pounds (\$189) a week after taxes and housing costs are deducted, and the average family of four has less than 347 pounds to spend on all other costs of living.

"Despite its glaring prosperity and privilege, London remains the capital of English poverty, due mainly to the high rents paid by the half of all households who rent their homes," said Adam Tinson from New Policy Institute, a British research organization that produced the report. London housing costs are among the highest in the world, with average rents now more than 1,800 pounds (\$2,400) a month, according to property lender Landbay.

While families who rent from private landlords have long endured high costs, families living in social housing — built by government or charities to protect the poorest — are now seeing the fastest rent increases, Tinson said in a statement. Rents for local government housing have increased by around 30 percent in the last five years, even faster than private rents, which have risen a fifth, the report found. The proportion of Londoners living in poverty — defined as earning less than 60 percent of the median income — has fallen to 27 percent from 29 percent over the last six years. —Reuters



**(3rd left):** Major General Khaled Saied, Governor of Sharqia with Ali Marafi, ABK - Egypt Chairman (2nd left) and Khaled El Salawy, ABK - Egypt CEO ( 3rd right) and senior ABK management during a group photo session.



**Ali Marafi, Chairman of ABK Egypt and Major General Khaled Saied, Governor of Sharqia, during the ribbon-cutting ceremony**

## Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Egypt inaugurates its new branch in Zagazig

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait - Egypt (ABK-Egypt) celebrated the inauguration of its latest branch in Zagazig, Sharqia which officially opened on October 3. The ribbon-cutting ceremony held to celebrate the

occasion was attended by the Governor of Sharqia - Major General Khaled Saied, ABK (Egypt) Chairman - Ali Marafi, CEO & Managing Director (Egypt) - Khaled El Salawy, representatives from ABK - Egypt Senior Management and clients.

In his welcoming remarks, Ali Marafi stated, "ABK is strengthening its presence in the Egyptian market following an ambitious plan that allows the Bank to attract and serve a wider range of clientele. In the upcoming period, we aim at enhancing our competitive position through premium banking solutions and superior service levels.

"ABK will continue to grow, ensuring utmost convenience and proximity of our services to clients wherever they are, as part of our efforts to support

the Egyptian economy in general and the banking sector in particular."

According to Khaled El Salawy, "ABK has recorded an outstanding performance over the course of 2017, which comes in full accordance with our long-term strategy of endorsing our brand in Egypt, as well as enriching our products and services range and upgrading the skills of our people. We have launched a number of new products and services to cater to our clients' needs in response to the recent economic developments."

The new location in Zagazig will offer state of the art services to large corporates as well as SME's, in addition to innovative retail banking services for individuals.

## EXCHANGE RATES

### Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.692
Indian Rupees	4.635
Pakistani Rupees	2.872
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.974
Nepali Rupees	2.907
Singapore Dollar	223.030
Hongkong Dollar	38.842
Bangladesh Taka	3.702
Philippine Peso	5.910
Thai Baht	9.088

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.881
Qatari Riyal	83.304
Omani Riyal	787.682
Bahraini Dinar	805.370
UAE Dirham	82.577

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.850
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.136
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.217
Tunisian Dinar	124.730
Jordanian Dinar	427.810
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.021
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.487

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.100

Euro	357.050
Sterling Pound	398.880
Canadian dollar	242.770
Turkish lira	82.590
Swiss Franc	311.510
Australian Dollar	237.020
US Dollar Buying	301.900

GOLD	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

### Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.500
Canadian Dollar	242.905
Sterling Pound	405.935
Euro	357.720
Swiss Frank	295.145
Bahrain Dinar	802.860
UAE Dirhams	82.750
Qatari Riyals	83.575
Saudi Riyals	81.525
Jordanian Dinar	427.940
Egyptian Pound	17.180
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.976
Indian Rupees	4.635
Pakistani Rupees	2.871
Bangladesh Taka	3.716
Philippine Peso	5.929
Cyprus pound	17.998

Japanese Yen	3.680
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.906
Malaysian Ringgit	72.420
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.000
Thai Bhat	10.050
Turkish Lira	85.125

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.390280	0.400280
Czech Korune	0.005707	0.017707
Danish Krone	0.043670	0.048670
Euro	0.349897	0.358897
Georgian Lari	0.121886	0.121886
Norwegian Krone	0.033835	0.039035
Romanian Leu	0.077531	0.077531
Russian ruble	0.005197	0.005197
Slovakia	0.009039	0.019039
Swedish Krona	0.033244	0.038244
Swiss Franc	0.303171	0.314171
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.226904	0.238904
New Zealand Dollar	0.208008	0.217508
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.236235	0.245235
US Dollars	0.299000	0.303420
US Dollars Mint	0.299500	0.303420

Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003250	0.003834
Chinese Yuan	0.044180	0.047680
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036745	0.039495
Indian Rupee	0.004204	0.004892
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002606	0.002786
Korean Won	0.000254	0.000269
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068000	0.074000
Nepalese Rupee	0.003024	0.003194
Pakistani Rupee	0.002749	0.003039
Philippine Peso	0.005840	0.006140
Singapore Dollar	0.216677	0.226677
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001607	0.002187
Taiwan	0.009851	0.010031
Thai Baht	0.008725	0.009275
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796878	0.805378
Egyptian Pound	0.014228	0.020136
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000195	0.000255
Jordanian Dinar	0.422896	0.431896
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021231	0.045231
Omani Riyal	0.780853	0.786533
Qatar Riyal	0.078964	0.083904
Saudi Riyal	0.079740	0.081040
Syrian Pound	0.001285	0.001505
Tunisian Dinar	0.118808	0.126808
Turkish Lira	0.077049	0.087349
UAE Dirhams	0.081098	0.082798
Yemeni Riyal	0.000985	0.001065

## Business

# Surge in German factory output points to solid GDP growth in Q3

## Car manufacturers main driver behind overall increase

**BERLIN:** German industrial output posted its biggest monthly rise in more than six years in August, data showed yesterday. It suggested the economy is firing on all cylinders again and set for solid growth in the third quarter, although a question about the makeup of the new government could add uncertainty. The combined production of manufacturing, construction and energy increased by 2.6 percent on the month after edging down by 0.1 percent in July, data from the Economy Ministry showed.

That was the strongest monthly gain since July 2011 and easily beat expectations in a Reuters poll for a 0.7 percent rise, surpassing even the most optimistic estimate. "These figures are very good," Commerzbank economist Ralph Solveen said. He pointed to special factors such as plant holidays falling in July in some regions this year, meaning output was likely to come in weaker next month.

"Overall, we expect solid (GDP) growth in the third quarter. Our estimate is roughly 0.6 percent on the quarter," Solveen said. Manufacturing output rose by 3.2 percent, its biggest rise since March 2010, as factories churned out more intermediate goods, capital goods and consumer goods in August. Energy output also rose while construction activity fell. Manufacturers of cars and other vehicles were the main driver behind the overall surge, the ministry said, also pointing to earlier plant holidays. The ministry said industrial production had gained momentum since the start of the year.

"The good business morale and the positive develop-

ment in industrial orders point to a continuation of the solid industrial upswing," it said. Data published on Friday showed that strong foreign demand, especially from clients outside the euro zone, drove a bigger-than-expected jump in industrial orders in August.

ING Bank chief economist Carsten Brzeski said the strong production data provided further evidence that the economy had left its summer lull behind and returned to maximum speed. "With the expected investment program of the new government, the current cycle should be extended by another couple of years," Brzeski added. The

German economy grew 0.7 percent on the quarter in the first three months of the year and 0.6 percent from April to June, driven by increased household and state spending as well as higher investment in buildings and machinery.

Leading economic institutes have raised their growth forecast for the German economy to 1.9 percent in 2017 and 2.0 percent in 2018. The German government will present its updated projections for GDP growth, employment and inflation tomorrow.

"The outlook further ahead is positive too, with domestic demand supported by low unemployment and still loose monetary policy and the global environment supportive," Capital Economics analyst Jennifer McKeown said. The economy might even benefit from a small post-election fiscal boost, McKeown said, adding she expected German GDP to rise by an even stronger rate of 2.3 percent this year.

“Economy is firing on all cylinders again”



**LUXEMBOURG:** German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble (Front left) shakes hand with Spain's Economy Minister Luis de Guindos during a Eurozone Finance ministers meeting in Luxembourg yesterday. — AFP

The biggest risks to Germany's upswing come from the outside, Brzeski said, pointing to geopolitical risks, the stronger euro and a possible slowdown of the U.S. economy as a result of further absence of tax relief or investment

programs. Other risks include a slowdown of the British economy due to the continuing Brexit uncertainty and China's transition from an important export destination to a serious competitor, he added. — Reuters

## Turkmen leader pledges investment for troubled economy

**ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan:** Turkmenistan's autocrat leader yesterday pledged tens of billions of dollars towards the country's flagship oil and gas sector, which has been battered by low global prices and collapsing demand from Russia. Speaking at a meeting of the Council of the Elders—an unelected consultative body that offers no real check on Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov's vast powers—the strongman pledged to pour 159 billion manats into the sector over seven years.

At the official exchange rate that would equal some \$45 billion (38 billion euros) but the sum would only fetch around half that amount on the black market, which is thought to better reflect the real value of the tightly controlled currency. "In the next seven years we will make investments (in the economy) of 240 billion manats. In the oil and gas complex we will invest 159 billion manats," Berdimukhamedov said. Turkmenistan, which sits on the world's fourth largest gas reserves, has grown strongly dependent on sales to China after Russia ceased purchases of Turkmen gas at the beginning of 2016. Falling global prices have seen the government impose tight restrictions on currency exchange and led to a spike in the



**ASHGABAT:** Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov (left) addresses participants at a meeting of the Council of the Elders outside Ashgabat yesterday. — AFP

cost of imported goods. But Berdimukhamedov struck an upbeat tone at the Monday meeting of the council, where he was regularly applauded and serenaded with chants of "hail the protector". The strongman, who is honoured with a golden statue in the capital Ashgabat, promised to begin production of electric vehicles to help diversify the hydrocarbon-dependent economy. Berdimukhamedov also

vowed to carry out an earlier pledge to slash generous state subsidies introduced under totalitarian predecessor Saparmurat Niyazov in order to boost government revenues. Berdimukhamedov said "the time has come to save and use state funds effectively." The popular subsidies introduced in the 1990s had effectively granted citizens of the repressive ex-Soviet republic free gas, water and electricity. — AFP

## Spain's 10-year bond yield hits 1-week low as Catalonia fears ebb

**LONDON:** Spanish borrowing costs fell to a one-week low yesterday, narrowing the gap over top-rated Germany on hopes that Catalonia would this week take a step back from unilateral declaration of independence from Spain. Bigger-than-expected demonstrations in Barcelona on Sunday called for Catalonia to remain part of Spain, raising pressure on the regional government to back away from a declaration it could make as soon as today.

Moves by local companies to relocate their headquarters elsewhere are also putting pressure on the region's pro-independence leader Carles Puigdemont to back down.

Puigdemont will address the Catalan parliament at 6 pm (1600 GMT) today on "the current political situation" amid speculation he could ask the assembly to declare independence.

The Catalan region's head of foreign affairs, Raul Romeva, told the BBC on Friday that the Catalan parliament intended to make a decision on independence, without specifying when. Madrid on Friday meanwhile apologized for the first time for police use of violence in trying to hinder a weekend referendum it had declared illegal, soothing financial market jitters.

"Some of the uncertainty has been reduced—the tone from Puigdemont has become more conciliatory and (Spain's Prime Minister Mariano) Rajoy has also stepped back," said Peter Chatwell, head of euro rates strategy at Mizuho.

"It is expected that Puigdemont will

on Tuesday say an independence bid in the future will be considered, which is a dramatic step back from expectations last week that a deceleration of independence is imminent." Spain's 10-year bond yield tumbled 8 basis points to a 1-week low of 1.64 percent, down 17 bps from more than six-month highs hit last week. That narrowed the gap over Germany's 10-year bond yield to a one-week low around 118 basis points—having stretched out to 136 bps last week at the height of worries about a conflict between Catalonia and the central government in Madrid.

Spanish stocks rallied 0.7 percent yesterday, outperforming broader European share markets, while the euro

was a tad firmer. There was also some relief after DBRS ratings agency late on Friday confirmed Spain's rating at A (low), following concerns that the tensions in Catalonia could hurt Spain's ratings outlook.

"DBRS's central scenario is that Spain remains united. This reflects legal and institutional safeguards that make a unilateral secession highly unlikely," the agency said in a note.

"However, uncertainty over Catalonia will continue in the near to medium term. A period of prolonged and elevated tension in Catalonia or political uncertainty in Spain at large could weigh negatively on the economy and public finances." — Reuters



**BARCELONA:** The headquarters of the Spanish major highway operator Abertis in Barcelona. — AFP

## China Sept FX reserves rise for 8th straight month in boost to Xi

**BEIJING:** China's foreign exchange reserves rose modestly in September for an eighth straight month, and by slightly more than markets had expected, as tighter regulations and a stronger yuan continued to discourage capital outflows. A dramatic slowdown in capital flight — which had been seen as one of the biggest risks to China — has helped boost confidence in the world's second-largest economy ahead of a key Communist Party meeting this month, at which President Xi Jinping is expected to consolidate his grip on power.

Forex reserves rose \$17 billion in September to \$3.109 trillion, compared with an increase of \$10.5 billion in August, central bank data showed yesterday. Economists polled by Reuters had expected reserves to rise by \$8 billion. It was the first time that China's reserves have climbed for eight months in a row since June 2014, and brought its stockpile — the world's largest — to the highest since October last year.

The consistent rise has led some analysts to believe the People's Bank of China (PBOC) may have become a net buyer of foreign exchange for the first time in nearly two years. "But we believe any such purchases reflect a desire to create uncertainty over the short-run trajectory of the currency rather than resisting medium-term appreciation," Julian Evans-Pritchard, China Economist at Capital Economics, wrote in a note. China has tightened rules on moving capital outside the country since late last year as it scrambled to support the yuan CNY and stem a slide in its forex reserves.

Beijing burned through nearly \$320 billion of reserves last year and the yuan still fell about 6.5 percent against the surging dollar, its biggest annual drop since 1994. However, the yuan has seen a sharp rebound so far this year, thanks to a reversal in the dollar and a further widening of Beijing's forex controls, including a clampdown on some overseas acquisitions by Chinese firms which some suspected were



**BEIJING:** This photo shows customers choosing items at Shiji Tianle Market, the biggest section of Beijing Zoo wholesale Market, in Beijing. — AFP

really being used to channel money offshore. The yuan had gained 7.5 percent against the dollar through early September, but authorities have allowed it to backtrack a bit in recent weeks, possibly due to concerns that its rapid run-up would start to hurt China's exports. The dollar's recent resurgence has also pressured the yuan of late, though few China watchers believe Beijing will allow it to retreat much further and risk rekindling outflows. Taken together, the regulatory measures, exchange rate forces and a stronger trade surplus may have brought China's capital flows roughly into balance for the first time in years.

"We believe that Chinese officials view the outflows as a critical threat, as they deplete China's FX reserves and invoke unpleasant memories of the Asian Financial Crisis," economists at ANZ said in a recent note. "Therefore, we think the authorities will prefer stability more than anything else in the near term, particularly as the 19th Communist Party Congress approaches in mid-October."

The country's outbound non-financial investment (ODI) slumped 41.8 percent in January-August from a year earlier, as authorities kept a tight grip on outflows for what they call "irrational" overseas projects. The state council said in August that China will limit overseas investment in property, hotels, entertainment, sports clubs and film industries.

The value of gold reserves fell to \$76.005 billion at the end of September, from \$77.702 billion at end-August, data published on the People's Bank of China website also showed. — Reuters

## Fifty-one eurozone banks vulnerable to rate shocks: ECB

**FRANKFURT:** Fifty-one large eurozone banks are leaving themselves exposed to a sudden change in interest rates and may need to aside more capital against that risk, the European Central Bank said yesterday. The ECB is preparing to start dialling back its monetary stimulus after years of ultra-low interest rates and massive bond purchases, paving the ground for rate hikes further down the line.

After simulating scenarios ranging from a sudden monetary tightening to the kind of lending freeze that followed Lehman Brothers' collapse, the ECB found that most of the 111 eurozone banks it tested are well prepared for interest rates shocks. But it cautioned it needed "intense discussions" with 51 of them after finding they may be making themselves vulnerable via large bets on derivative instruments and overly aggressive models for calculating risk.

A hike in interest rates could mean the banks suddenly need more capital. "What we need to do is have intense discussions and check with the banks if they're aware of the... risk and if they have enough capital if

things go wrong," Korbinian Ibel, a senior supervisor at the ECB, said. Results of the test, which started in February, are incorporated into the ECB's guidance on how much capital each lender on its watch should hold. Ibel said the 51 banks may, in principle, see their capital demands rise by up to 25 basis points, although any decision would depend on the individual circumstances of each firm. Similarly, the remaining 60 banks could see their guidance reduced by the same amount. The ECB's supervisory arm, which oversees the euro zone's largest banks and carried out the exercise, is formally separated from its monetary policy function.

### Income and deposits

On aggregate, the ECB found that an increase of 200 basis points in interest rates would lead to a rise in net interest income of 4.1 percent in 2017 and of 10.5 percent by 2019 for the banks tested.

But when rates move, the net value of assets and liabilities of a bank also change. The economic value of the banks' equity would, however, decrease on aggregate by 2.7 percent, the ECB said. Banks, particularly in richer countries such as Germany, have long complained that the ECB's ultra-low interest rates have squeezed the margins they make on loans. Indeed, the ECB found that, should interest rates stay at their end-2016 level and absent any credit growth, the aggregate net interest income would decrease by 7.5 percent. Finally, the ECB warned that banks may be taking much of their customer deposits for granted based on recent years and failed to account for the rise of online banks and higher rates. "One could assume that if interest rates rise, the share of stable deposits decreases, but this is not done by most of the banks," Ibel said. — Reuters

Business

Wall Street flat, European stocks diverge

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks were flat early yesterday ahead of key economic and earnings reports...

Friday that it is delaying the planned launch of its electric transport truck. The news comes as the electric car maker also contends with production challenges...

rumors of a plot to oust May as Conservative party leader amid bitter divisions over how the UK should plan its EU departure.

Geopolitical tensions Nevertheless, geopolitical tensions returned with another feared North Korea long-range missile test reported in the planning and US President Donald Trump suggesting that talking to Kim Jong-Un's regime was a waste of time...

"US stocks are ticking higher in early action, on the heels of last week's continued record high run on upbeat global economic data, showing some resiliency in the face of last week's noisy labor report..."

General Electric fell 1.8 percent as it announced that it added Ed Garden of the activist fund Trian Fund Management to its board of directors and named Jamie Miller as chief financial officer...

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Monday 09 October 2017. Table with columns for Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, Volume, Value (KWD), Number of Trades, and various stock categories like Oil & Gas, Consumer Goods, etc.

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

Business



# GAC Motor retains position as highest ranking Chinese brand

## JD Power Asia Pacific 2017's China Initial Quality Study



**KUWAIT:** GAC MOTOR, China's fastest growing automaker, has consolidated its position of dominance in the auto industry by retaining its position as the highest ranking Chinese brand in J.D. Power Asia Pacific's 2017 China Initial Quality Study (IQS) for the fifth consecutive year. GAC MOTOR's best-selling SUV GS4 ranked third in the compact SUV category, 122nd GAC MOTOR ranked No. 1 in J.D. Power IQS among Chinese brands for the fifth consecutive years.

J.D. Power's annual report recognizes top-performing automobile brands and products by capturing the opinions and perceptions of millions of consumers. The extensive automotive surveys conducted on customer satisfaction and product quality have made the index one of the most trustworthy industry-wide.

"J.D. Power has recognized GAC MOTOR's quality-centric strategy. Our company has forged a new path that is directed to the high-end market, guaranteed by top quality and driven by innovation, it's the

spirit of genuine craftsmanship that has motivated us to engineer every model to the highest standards," said Yu Jun, president of GAC MOTOR.

Yu Jun, president of GAC MOTOR, noted the company has forged a new path that is directed to the high-end market, guaranteed by top quality and driven by innovation.

Since the beginning, GAC MOTOR has created a full life circle management system that guarantees product quality in all four links of vehicle production from research & development, manufacturing to supply chain and sales & services, which ensures that the company achieve multi-year, cross-platform and cross-model

quality consistency. To guarantee product quality and safety, GAC MOTOR has established the very strict "6520" quality control system that sets the goal of "zero

flaws" and improves product quality standards through six management activities, five inspections and examinations and two major flow control system.

"We have exceptionally low defective rate of supplier parts and components: the 22ppm in 2016 was far lower than the industry average, and this year we aim to achieve 10ppm, which means only 650 defectives are allowed for every 650 million supplier parts. This shows GAC MOTOR's confidence in its product quality control system," said Yu.

Excelling at safety performances in particular, GAC MOTOR' has received top ranking on the China New Car Assessment Program (C-NCAP). And in the 2017 China Automobile After-sales Customer Satisfaction (CAACS) report released on September 20, GAC MOTOR ranked No.1 among all independent brands with a score of 87.74. The company's quality first, customer-oriented strategy has led to global success. GAC MOTOR has sold 330,000 vehicles from January to August this year, with a 50.5 percent year-on-year increase. The GA6 sells over 16000, a 194.2 percent year-on-year increase while its premium midsize sedan GA8 has kept being one of the best sellers among Chinese brands. GAC MOTOR's GS4 ranked No.1 in J.D. Power IQS among Chinese brands in Compact SUV

"Our long-term goal is to improve our systems, strengthen institutional mechanism and drive innovation," said Yu. "Through elevating our brand in all perspectives from products to branding and services, we aim to become a world-class Chinese auto brand and globalized enterprise."



### Recognition for fifth year in a row

## KUFPEC commences production from Wheatstone LNG project in Australia

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company k.s.c.c. ("KUFPEC") announced yesterday that its first investment in international liquefied natural gas (LNG) production through the Wheatstone LNG Project in Australia has now commenced production.

KUFPEC was a foundation partner in the 2008 exploration success that discovered the significant offshore gas reserves allowing for the Wheatstone LNG Project to be realized. With 13.4 percent of the Project, KUFPEC is the second-largest partner in the project behind the operator, Chevron Australia.

At full capacity, the Wheatstone Project's two-train LNG facility will supply customers 8.9 MTPA (metric tons per annum) of LNG, some of which will be made available for import to Kuwait. KUFPEC's share of production is expected to approach 40,000 boe/d once the facility reaches full capacity.



Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah

Commenting on the achievement of this milestone, Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water, Chairman of the Board of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Essam Al-Marzouq said: "Exploration, development and acquisition success such as this affirms the role of KUFPEC in securing an international presence for Kuwait's hydrocarbon industry, and in providing energy solutions and diversification for the State of Kuwait."

KUFPEC Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Nawaf Saud Nasir Al-Sabah commented: "This is a landmark moment for KUFPEC as we deliver on our strategy. The Wheatstone Project will provide us large-scale, stable production and strong cashflows for the next two decades."

KUFPEC was established by its parent company Kuwait Petroleum Corporation in 1981 to engage in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas outside the State of Kuwait. It is currently active in 14 countries with 54 assets in the international upstream sector. KUFPEC is headquartered in Kuwait City, Kuwait and has additional offices in Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Norway and Pakistan.

## Warba Bank participates in annual meeting of IMF

**WASHINGTON:** Represented by a senior delegation chaired by the CEO, Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanim, Warba Bank will be participating in the annual conference of the IMF to be held in Washington DC/ USA from October 9-15, 2017.

Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanim, the Chief Executive Officer of Warba Bank said: "Warba Bank has been able to achieve great success recently, in particular major expansion has been made in both investment and financing portfolios. Given this and in light of the global trend towards the Islamic banking sector that has established remarkable success, Warba Bank



Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanim

believes that participating in this important international conference is an opportunity to gain more experience, and to identify potential international strategic partners that can help deep root the Bank's pioneering position in the Islamic banking sector.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) conference provides a platform for global policy dialogue among high-level decision-makers, including central banks governors and ministers, regulators and stakeholders in addition to executive heads of major private and public financial institutions, to set traditional and Islamic financing standards. They will be formulating a vision for the continued growth of the financial sector and establishing a framework for sustained action in this area for achieving positive results and overcoming the difficulties that may be faced.

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

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 8 October 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 1 October - 5 October 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners are:  
(Sunday 1/10): Abdullah Ali Nahabah Hamadah, Ebrahim Khalil Hjjaj  
(Monday 2 /10): Hasan Ali Mosa, Yahya Saud Hussain Al-Ajmi, (Tuesday 3/10): Mohammed Eidan Ali Helaiel, Ghanim Hamad Abdulrahman Al-Najjar, (Wednesday 4/10): Bader Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Muhareb, Mahmoud Mohammad Sayed Behbehani, (Thursday 5/10): Madeena Ghloom Abas, Wasan Yousef Mohammed Al-Jasmy

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al-Danah's final draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately



from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking.

- Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the Best:**
- Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million and the largest international bank prize according to Guinness World Records
  - Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
  - Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
  - The most chances to win
  - Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year

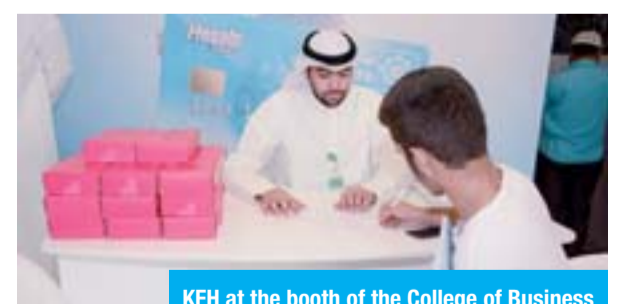
## KFH demonstrates products and services at College of Business Administration

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) demonstrated its products and services at the College of Business Administration as part of its efforts to educate students on the bank's comprehensive products and services, while improving customer communication.

A specialized team from the Direct Sales was available at KFH booth. The team provided students with sufficient information about the products and services, not to mention replied to their queries and listened to their suggestions.

The students were briefed on Hesabi account designed to meet the needs of youth from 15 to 21 years old and to go in line with their active life style. Hesabi program offers a plethora of exclusive privileges and a wide range of characteristics including Hesabi ATM card with a unique design, eligibility to issue Hesabi prepaid card (as per credit regulations of KFH), distinguished offers and discounts etc.

Also, students were educated on the bank's products such as bank accounts, deposits, financing products, banking cards, investment plans in addition to the exclusive discounts offered to KFH



KFH at the booth of the College of Business Administration.

customers. KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

## Technology

# Discover the world and do bigger things at Samsung Galaxy Studio

## Visit The Avenues Mall before Oct 16 to experience Galaxy Note 8

**KUWAIT:** Get down to the Samsung Galaxy Studio at The Avenues Mall - Dome 2, between October 3rd to 16th and experience doing bigger things with the Galaxy Note 8. At the stand, customers take a special Samsung boarding pass, collect stamps at each activation, see first-hand what features the Galaxy Note 8 offers, and be in with a chance of winning a luxurious trip for two to the Seychelles.

“We are excited to be launching our interactive Galaxy Studio in Kuwait. Visitors will be able to get the full 360 experience of doing bigger things with the Galaxy Note 8, and get a chance of winning a luxurious trip. The Galaxy Note 8 is for the doers; the people who believe their big ideas can make a difference in the world. We invite everyone to come down to our one of a kind stand at The Avenues Mall in Kuwait and experience it for themselves,” said Tarek Sabbagh, Head of IT and Mobile division at Samsung Gulf Electronics.

At the Samsung Galaxy Note 8 Studio, visitors will be introduced to a series of tasks and the latest features of the Note 8. Customers will start their Journey using Note 8 and Dex to find a Seychelles map on the monitor screen, followed by using the Note 8 Dual Camera feature to take a picture of the miniature Seychelles island, and on the picture, visitors

can write the name of the person they want to go to Seychelles with using the S Pen, and the last stage is a translation using the S Pen translate feature. All these steps need to be completed on the boarding pass given to customers, which can then be entered into the raffle draw. The lucky winner will be selected during the raffle draw on 22 October, and he will win a once in a lifetime holiday package for two to Seychelles, for 4 nights at a luxurious 5-star hotel. Furthermore, customers that share their GIF, Live Message, or experience at the Galaxy Studio on their social media using the hashtag #GalaxyStudioKuwait will also be given a free beach bag. And during weekends, a talented caricature will be at the stand drawing customers using the Note 8 and its S Pen.

The latest Samsung Galaxy Note 8 empowers people to do bigger things, and takes them beyond the thinking stage and into the planning, executing, and doing stages where they can do it all with Samsung. Samsung inspires the world and shapes the future with transformative ideas and technologies. The company is redefining the worlds of TVs, smartphones, wearable devices, tablets, digital appliances, network systems, and memory, system LSI and LED solutions.



“**Chance for winning a trip to Seychelles**”

## Buyer's remorse be gone, Walmart puts returns in fast lane

**NEW YORK:** Online sales have divided retailers into two camps: the quick and the dead. To that end, Walmart is altering its policies to speed returns, even it means that nothing is returned at all in some cases. Starting next month through Walmart's app, customers will be able to scan goods they no longer want with their own smartphone and drop it off at a customer service desk.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said Monday that by

using the app, returns will take 35 seconds or less. Returns right now are about quadruple that time, not including any wait in line.

Retailers believe that the costs of accommodating customers with easy returns will be offset by increased volume. Amazon.com Inc. recently partnered with Kohl's so that customers in Los Angeles and Chicago can drop off goods bought through Amazon at Kohl's stores, where employees, pack and ship those items back at no cost.

Making it easy for customers is so important to the Bentonville, Arkansas, retailer that in December, some items no longer wanted will not even have to be returned. That includes goods that Walmart would discard anyway, like opened makeup, bruised perishable goods, or perhaps a bottle of floor cleaner damaged during delivery. Through Walmart's app, you will be able to scan the item with a smartphone for an instant refund. New technology can detect those who are trying to game the system, Walmart said. —AP



DALLAS: In this file photo, people walk in and out of a Walmart store, in Dallas. — AP

## Google uncovers ads by Russian operatives

**NEW YORK:** Russian operatives spent tens of thousands of dollars on ads across Google products, including YouTube and Google search, according to reports. The Washington

Post is reporting that the technology behemoth uncovered the Russian-backed disinformation campaign as it considers whether to testify before Congress next month. Social media companies Facebook and Twitter have already agreed to testify. The report said the company discovered the Russian presence by siphoning data from Twitter. The Washington Post report is based on anonymous sources familiar with the investigation.

In a statement, Google said it has a “set of strict ads policies including limits on political ad targeting and prohibitions on targeting based on race and religion.” “We are taking a deeper look to investigate attempts to abuse our systems, working with researchers and other companies, and will provide assistance to ongoing inquiries,” the statement continued. — AP

## Japan scientists grow drugs in chicken eggs

**TOKYO:** Japanese researchers have genetically engineered hens whose eggs contain drugs that can fight serious diseases including cancer, in a bid to dramatically reduce the cost of treatment, a report said yesterday.

If the scientists are able to safely produce “interferon beta”, a type of protein used to treat illnesses including multiple sclerosis and hepatitis, by rearing the hens, the price of the drug—currently up to 100,000 yen (\$888) for a few micrograms—could fall significantly, said the English edition of the Yomiuri Shimbun.

Researchers at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) in the Kansai region kicked off the

process by introducing genes that produce interferon beta into cells which are precursors of chicken sperm, the newspaper reported.

They then used these cells to fertilize eggs and create hens which inherited those genes, meaning the birds were able to lay eggs containing the disease-fighting agent.

The scientists now have three hens whose eggs contain the drug, with the birds laying eggs almost daily, the report said. The researchers plan to sell the drug to pharmaceutical companies, halving its price, so the firms can use it first as a research material, the newspaper said.

Consumers may have to wait a while, as Japan has strict regulations concerning the introduction of new or foreign pharmaceutical products, with screening processes that routinely take years to complete. But the team hopes that the technological breakthrough will eventually help drive down the cost of the drug to 10 percent of its current price, the newspaper reported. Officials at the institute could not be reached for comment. — AFP

## SpaceX launches 10 satellites for Iridium mobile network

**LOS ANGELES:** SpaceX yesterday launched its Falcon 9 rocket carrying 10 satellites to bolster the global data communications network for Virginia-based company, Iridium. The white rocket blasted off before sunrise from Vandenberg Air Force base in California at 5:37 am (1237 GMT). About seven minutes

after launch, the tall portion of the Falcon 9, known as the first stage, returned to Earth for an upright landing.

The rocket fired its engines and made a controlled landing on a floating platform in the Pacific Ocean. “A successful landing of the first stage,” a SpaceX commentator said on the

company's live webcast, as applause erupted at SpaceX mission control in Hawthorne, California. Grainy video showed the rocket standing upright in the predawn darkness on the dronship, named “Just Read the Instructions.” The landing was the latest in SpaceX's ongoing effort to re-use expensive rocket parts instead of jettisoning them into the ocean after launch. In total SpaceX, which is headed by billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, is launching a series of 75 satellites for Iridium's satellite constellation, Iridium NEXT by 2018. Monday's launch was the third of eight planned for Iridium, as part of a \$3 billion project to upgrade the company's global communications network. — AFP

## British spy boss says cyber security as important as fighting terrorism

**LONDON:** Protecting Britain from cyber-crime is as important as defending it against terrorism, the head of Britain's GCHQ spy agency said yesterday.

Britain has suffered a number of high-profile cyberattacks this year, including one in May on the state-run National Health Service which crippled some computer systems and caused huge disruption, and another on parliament in June. Writing in the Daily Telegraph newspaper, Jeremy Fleming, said the speed of

technological advances, whilst providing great opportunities for businesses, individuals and countries, was also giving enemies new means to threaten the nation's security.

“If GCHQ is to continue to help keep the country safe, then protecting the digital homeland—keeping our citizens safe and free online—must become and remain as much part of our mission as our global intelligence reach and our round-the-clock efforts against terrorism.” The National Cyber Security Centre,

which is part of GCHQ, said last week it had dealt with almost 600 significant incidents which required a nationwide, coordinated response. In July, Fleming's predecessor at GCHQ, Robert Hannigan, said Russia was causing cyberspace mayhem and should face retaliation if it continued to undermine democratic institutions in the West.

Fleming said that Britons benefited greatly from the ease and speed of connections and from the security provided by default encryption. “Hostile states, terrorists and criminals use those same features...to undermine our national security, attack our interests and, increasingly, commit crime,” he said.

Traditionally Britain's security chiefs rarely spoke in public but increasingly the head of the three intelligence agencies—GCHQ, MI5 and MI6 — have become more open in explaining their work and countering criticism. — Reuters

## Facebook begins ‘human review’ of potentially sensitive ads

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Facebook says it will begin manually reviewing advertisements that target certain groups and address politics, religion, ethnicity and social issues.

The company has informed some advertisers about the new “human review” requirement, warning them that it might cause delays before their ads can appear on the social media platform.

Facebook has had to apologize amid recent revelations of rampant abuse of its

automated advertising process to broadcast false news or promote divisive and hateful messages, such as ads aimed at people who've expressed anti-Semitic views.

The company is also under increasing congressional scrutiny after revealing that ads linked to a Russian internet agency were seen by an estimated 10 million people before and after the 2016 election. Axios first reported on the written notice to advertisers. Facebook confirmed it Saturday. — AP



DUBAI: An Emirati police officer stands next to a motorcycle at the Gitex 2017 exhibition at the Dubai World Trade Center in Dubai on Sunday. — AFP

Health

# Armenians urged to value their women as abortions of girls skew population

## Armenians see sons as a way to ensure financial stability

**GAVAR:** When Karina Aghalaryan discovered she was going to be the mother of a baby girl, the 35-year-old Armenian was ecstatic. Her family was altogether more lukewarm. Talk swiftly turned to what the baby clearly wasn't: a boy. When Petrosyan got pregnant with a second girl the following year, there were no celebrations. Instead, her mother-in-law marched her to the doctor for an abortion. "My husband and my mother-in-law forced me to figure out if it was a boy or a girl."

When they found out it was a girl, they made me have an abortion," said Aghalaryan, whose name was changed to avoid being stigmatized in her community. "I had no words to say in that situation," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in Gavar, 100 km from the Armenian capital, Yerevan. For Armenian families, giving birth to at least one boy is a must, to continue the family line and carry forward the surname in a society where daughters often marry and move away.

As the economy worsens - nearly a third of the country lives below the poverty line - Armenians see sons as a way to ensure financial stability in old age but aborting girls is causing a potential shortage of women that authorities want to address. "People think that for a boy it's easier to earn money and become more economically sustainable than a girl," said Armine Hovakimyan, president of the Goris Women's Resource Center. "That has a very big impact especially in remote areas, they want to have boys more than girls." Typical of many Armenian towns, Gavar is a ramshackle, industrial city in decline. Its Soviet-era factories have faded along with the rest of a once-robust economy, which stalled when the small Caucasian country won independence in 1991.

**Missing women**

Some new industries are taking root, seeking to replace

the old, highly centralized economy, but unemployment remains high. Because of the high numbers of unemployed women, and a widespread belief that women should stay home and take care of family, Armenian women on average earn half of what the men do. Therefore, women who get pregnant with girls face a dilemma: giving birth to enough children that one of them will end up being a boy - or having abortions until one of them is male.

Worldwide, biologically 102 to 106 boys are born for every 100 girls on average, according to the United Nations. In 2012-2013, 114 boys were born in Armenia for every 100 girls, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) this is the third highest sex-selective abortion rate in the world after China and neighboring Azerbaijan. As a result, UNFPA estimates that in Armenia, nearly 93,000 women will be missing by 2060 if the country's high pre-natal sex selection rate remains unchanged, driving young, single men to leave the country in search of a partner.

But for now, a lack of opportunities has caused thousands of young, educated men to move out of the country in search of better-paid jobs, according to the United Nations - and the "brain drain" has balanced out the female shortfall. In a bid to curb the gender imbalance, the government outlawed sex-selective abortions last year as part of a wider crackdown on abortions. Abortion has been legal in the ex-Soviet republic since 1955 and a woman can have an abortion up to 12 weeks of pregnancy.

**Cultural change**

A lack of widely available, affordable contraceptives and a common fear that contraceptives might cause health problems means abortion remains the main method of family planning in the country, researchers say. Almost 40 percent of Armenian women have had at least one abortion, according to UNFPA. Women's rights campaigners say some of the women they work with have two or three abortions in one

**For Armenian families, giving birth to at least one boy is a must**



ARENI, Armenia: Young women in traditional attire dance during the Areni Festival, some 120 km from Yerevan. —AFP

year alone.

Under the new law, aimed at reducing the rate at which women are aborting girls, patients must leave three days of "reflection" between their initial bid for abortion and the procedure and attend a counseling session. Doctors can be fined for performing sex-selective abortions, but it is unclear how many have been prosecuted. Government officials told the Thomson Reuters Foundation it was difficult to measure the impact of the law alone on the declining rate of sex-selective abortions but the legal change alongside awareness raising campaigns played a big part.

"It takes a long time to change mindsets," Gayane Avagyan, head of the maternal health division at the Armenian ministry of health, said in an email. "I think there is a change because huge work has been done to raise the level of public awareness." But aid groups and campaigners say cracking down on aborting female fetuses does not address

one of the main drivers behind the crisis: a deep-seated gender inequality in the country. "Only by changing legislation, it will not be possible to change the attitude and perception toward the problem," Garik Hayrapetyan, the head of UNFPA in Armenia said. "(Changing) the value of the girl, and women's equal status in society is the key to overcome this harmful practice."

Many aid groups have launched programs aimed at tackling domestic violence and dismantling cultural views about the role women should have in society - with the ultimate goal of getting families to embrace having daughters. "You can see the difference in communities in how the girls are raised and how the boys are raised," Sevan Petrosyan, who manages a project aimed at tackling gender inequality for World Vision in Armenia, said in an interview in the capital. "The way they are raised to be mothers, and how boys are raised to be fearless and powerful." —Reuters

## Dove apologizes over advert branded racist

**LONDON:** Personal care brand Dove has apologized for a body wash advert that showed a black woman removing a top to reveal a white woman underneath, following accusations of racism. The three-second video clip appeared in the United States on the social networking site Facebook. Dove said on Twitter that it had "missed the mark in representing women of color thoughtfully" and deeply regretted any offence caused.

The ad showed a black woman removing her top, revealing a white woman underneath. She then took off her t-shirt, showing a third woman with a darker skin tone underneath. "Ready for a Dove shower? Sulfate free with 100 percent gentle cleansers, our

body wash gets top marks from dermatologists," the advert said. The Dove brand, owned by Rotterdam-based food and consumer products giant Unilever, which is listed on the London and Amsterdam stock exchanges, apologized after several people on social media deemed the advert racist.

"As a part of a campaign for Dove body wash, a three-second video clip was posted to the US Facebook page," a statement said. "This did not represent the diversity of real beauty which is something Dove is passionate about and is core to our beliefs, and it should not have happened. We have removed the post and have not published any other related content. We apologize deeply and sincerely for the offence that it has caused."

**Social media storm**

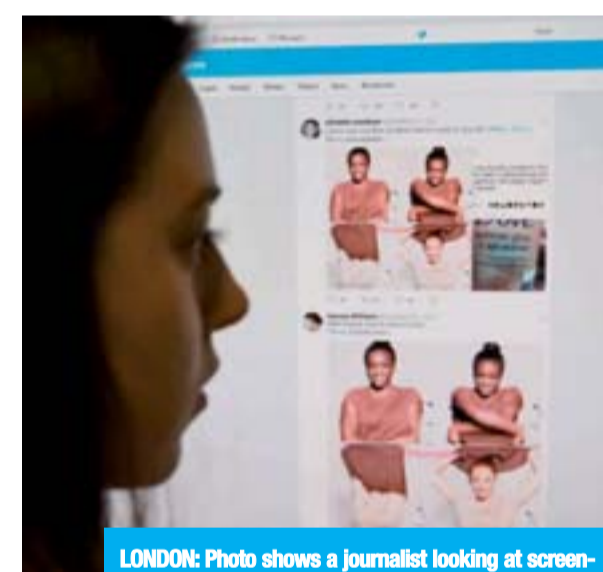
The advert on Facebook triggered a storm of outrage on social media. Oscar-nominated US film director Ava DuVernay said on Twitter: "You can do better than 'missed the mark.' Flip and diminishing. Deepens your offense. You do good work. Have been for years. Do better here." Social media users

posted a previous Dove advert featuring a black woman standing in front of a "before" close-up of dry skin and a white woman standing in front of an "after" picture.

They also re-posted pictures of a Dove self-tanning lotion labeled "for normal to dark skin". Twitter user African Child said: "Don't these brands know that it's 2017 now."

People are woke people have a say and people are allowed to boycott products." Meanwhile Toya M Jones said on Twitter: "Don't buy Dove soap, shower gel or lotion. Perhaps if we #BoycottDove and all Unilever products they will learn to RESPECT #blackwomen."

Unilever was slightly down in a stable market at the opening of the London stock exchange yesterday. The Dove page on Unilever's website begins: "Dove believes that beauty is not one dimensional; it is not defined by your age, the shape or size of your body, the color of your skin or your hair. We will continue to use ad campaigns as an opportunity to redefine beauty, challenge stereotypes and celebrate what makes women unique," it said. —AFP



LONDON: Photo shows a journalist looking at screenshots retweeted by Twitter users of a video-clip used in an online advert by Dove that originally appeared on social networking website Facebook. —AFP

CLINIC

PAGE

248 33 199

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## What's on

# GUST students successfully complete Public Institution for Social Security's IT workshop



Seven Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) students successfully completed a 10-day intensive workshop with Public Institution for Social Security's IT Department. The workshop mainly focused on networks and communication.

The training was headed by Systems Engineer Trainer, Wasan Al-Khateeb, and Engineer Mariam Boshahri, from the institution, in coordination with GUST's Head of the Computer Science Department, Dr Taher Ali, and Networks professor, Dr Israa Omran. By the end of the course, students were able to seamlessly install Windows, servers, and workstations, as well as create domains, usernames, passwords, sharing folders, restricting access, policies to retract USBs and other devices, printer queues, and how to build a trust between two domains.

GUST College of Arts and Sciences Dean, Dr Ali Ansari, said, "It is evident that the training immensely improved the skills of our students, and gave them a practical demonstration on how to apply the knowledge they acquire here into the real world."

GUST continuously aims to encourage capable, well-rounded graduates, with hands-on experience. Well done to the students who completed the workshop: Ibrahim Al-Rishidi, Mohammed Sharawi, Karim Al-Maghrabi, Dalal Al-Salem, Bedour Al-Otaibi, Zahraa Bojabarah, and Munera Tawfiqi.



## Women Techmakers Kuwait hosts inaugural event

The Women Techmakers (WTM) group held its inaugural event on the 4th of Oct 2017 at Kuwait University Khaldiya campus, and was attended by over 60 students, academics, and IT professionals mainly from the University and more that joined in via YouTube Live streaming.

The event started with an introduction of the Women Techmakers / Google and Google Developer Group by Dr Zainab Al-Meraj and Sundus Al-Faresi. WTM Kuwait group lead organizers, followed by a discussion on the importance of empowering women in technology through creating a community, and promoting visibility and resources. The introduction was made complete by a call in from Lebanon WTM and GDG Lead Developer Rayan Al-Zahab who answered questions and shared her experiences with WTM the audience and answered multiple questions.

Women Techmakers mission is to drive developer success and contribute towards a healthy tech ecosystem in Kuwait. The target technologies involved include Google tech from Android, Chrome, Drive, Google Cloud platforms and APIs like Cast API, Maps API, and YouTube API. Dr Meraj then highlighted that by becoming a member both women and men have access to multiple Google and Udacity scholarships and certifications. The yearlong events by WTM were then listed and included two programming training workshops (Android App building and website building), and an International Women's Day conference event on the 8th of March 2018. Dr Meraj stressed the importance of diversity and equal representation of women in higher-level tech positions to drive performance and innovation.



The highlight of the event features a website security workshop that was presented by Engr. Mohammad Aldoob. The agenda revolved around three questions with practical implementations • Why should we secure the Web? • What are defensible applications and • Security in the cloud. The audience left with a better understanding of Web Attacks, Web Infrastructure, and attacks on Cloud Computing as well as how to avoid them. The workshop involved live demos of attacks on website databases, user targeted attacks and how to avoid them through code examples. Aldoob is a specialist and certified trainer in information security, an avid volunteer and the leader of the Open Web Application Security Project for Web Applications in Kuwait.

The WTM Kuwait workshop ended with some networking and a call to join as a member. WTM Kuwait is open to everyone interested to learn and to help others. Everyone is free to propose events and to drive workshops.

# FSHN announces 7th Runkuwait event



Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN) is pleased to announce the return of the most prominent charity activity of the year, Runkuwait. Organized by FSHN and with the support of the Founding Partner, Agility, the event will take place on Saturday, November 11th, where participants will gather at The Scientific Center marking the beginning of the run.

Runkuwait had successfully organized six seasons of the marathon since 2010 to support multiple community initiatives. Since 2013, Runkuwait dedicated all its efforts to raise money and awareness towards the rehabilitative treatment of vulnerable children with disability, where all registration proceeds are channeled directly towards the non-profit Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC), founded by FSHN. Last year's event successfully contributed towards free treatment of 20% of the children at CERC, while 60% of the children were able to receive subsidized treatment.

"As a non-profit organization we continually seek new approaches to connect with the community and Runkuwait this year returns with a new name and strengthened goal of

providing specialized treatment to the children at CERC. Contributing to the treatment process of children with disabilities is at the heart of what we do and we continuously count on the enormous support of our participants, partners and sponsors, whose generous spirit and commitment along with our team's efforts can change the lives of the children," commented Dr Elham Hamdan, medical director at Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network.

Also commenting on this, Henadi Al-Saleh, Agility Chairperson said: "Not only does the Runkuwait initiative promote a healthier lifestyle, but its fundraising mission helps give children with disabilities a chance to receive much-needed support and services. Agility is in its seventh year of partnering with Runkuwait, and we anticipate even more participants in this year's race."

The event hosts a 5 km and 10 km fun run or walk, where the entire family is encouraged to support this noble cause. Continuous supporters of Runkuwait, interested athletes and sports enthusiasts can now register on [runkuwait.org](http://runkuwait.org) prior to November 4th in order to receive their timing chips and join

the race. Early bird registration at a discounted fee is currently available until October 31st.

Runkuwait is supported with generous contributions from the following sponsors: Agility as a Founding Partner, The Promenade Mall as a Platinum sponsor, The Scientific Center as venue partner, ASAR Legal and INTERSPORT as Gold sponsors, KDD as Silver sponsor, Fitness First as Bronze sponsor, IKEA, Porsche Centre Kuwait, Behbehani Motors Company, and Zain as Friend sponsors, Gotap as payment sponsor. The media sponsors for the Runkuwait initiative this year are Al Anba newspaper, Kuwait Times newspaper and 248am blog as the exclusive social media sponsor.

The event is targeting yet another successful season with an increased record of funds raised and continues to welcome generous company sponsorships and contributions to the run. Interested participants can register through the [Runkuwait.org](http://Runkuwait.org) website. Additional information or queries about the race can be channeled through the Runkuwait official social media channels, @Runkuwait on Instagram and Facebook.

## Al-Jahra Copthorne Hotel organizes annual beach cleaning campaign

Al-Jahra Copthorne Hotel and Resort recently organized its annual campaign to clean the beach in the region of Shuwaikh with the participation of a number of its employees as part of its continuous efforts to promote community awareness of the importance and preservation of the local marine environment. The campaign was launched from the Jahra area with the participation of a number of administrators and various staff members in the management of the hotel where gloves, t-shirts, garbage bags and vacuum cleaners were distributed. The Shuwaikh Beach cleaning campaign included a number of activities

of recycling and its positive effects on the environment.

Al-Jahra Copthorne Hotel and Resort's Director of Sales Mahmoud Hussein said "The success of this campaign, and attracting a large number of participants, reflects the commitment of the staff of the Copthorne Al-Jahra Hotel and Resort to their marine environment, Pollution on the marine environment and on marine organisms, and therefore on society as a whole". He added, "These activities are sure to enhance the individual's awareness of the need to take responsibility for his environment, even if it is simple in his view, but it will leave behind positive changes throughout the community."

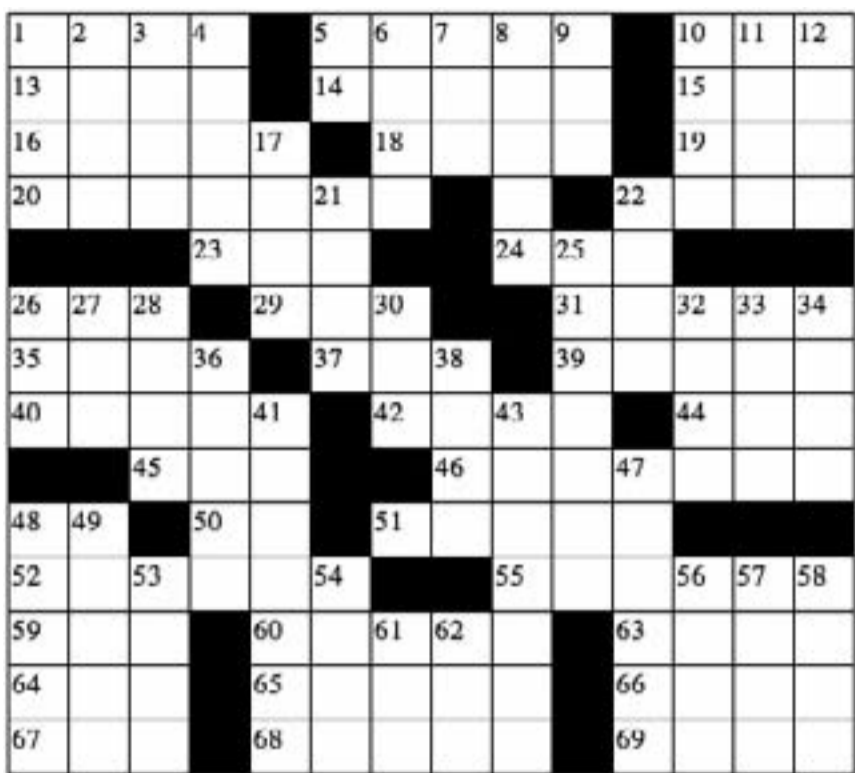






Stars

CROSSWORD 1731



ACROSS

1. Money in the form of bills or coins.
5. Lower in esteem.
10. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
13. Chocolate cookie with white cream filling.
14. Obvious and dull.
15. The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.
16. Of inferior or mixed breed.
18. (criminal law) Money that must be forfeited by the bondsman if an accused person fails to appear in court for trial.
19. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
20. Indian nun and missionary (born in Albania) dedicated to helping the poor in India (1910-1997).
23. An enclosed space.
24. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
26. The upper side of the thighs of a seated person.
29. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
31. An iconic mental representation.
35. By bad luck.
37. (used of animals especially a horse) Of a moderate reddish-brown color n l.
39. Marked by excessive enthusiasm for and intense devotion to a cause or idea.
40. Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
42. Flightless New Zealand rail of thievery disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.
44. Late time of life.
45. (Babylonian) The sky god.
46. (informal) Used as intensifiers, as in "terribly interesting!".
48. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
50. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
51. A line that forms the length of an arrow pointer.
52. A tributary of the Ohio River.
55. An embroidered rug made from a coarse Indian felt.
59. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
60. A yellow quartz.
63. Containing an unusual amount of grease or oil.
64. Any of various long-tailed rodents similar to but larger than a mouse.
65. Jordan's port.
66. The act of scanning.
67. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
68. West Indian evergreen with medium to long leaves.
69. Any of several weedy vetches grown for forage.

DOWN

1. The total spent for goods or services including money and time and labor.
2. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
3. (used especially of vegetation) Having lost all moisture.
4. A period of time assigned for work.
5. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
6. A small cake leavened with yeast.
7. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
8. The main city of ancient Phoenicia.
9. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
10. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
11. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
12. Port city that is the capital and largest city of Latvia.
17. A signal transmitted along a narrow path.
21. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
22. Fallow deer.
25. Type genus of the Giraffidae.
27. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
28. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
30. The sound made by corvine birds.
32. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
33. A British imperial capacity unit (liquid or dry) equal to 5 fluid ounces or 142.066 cubic centimeters.
34. Founder of Christian Science in 1866 (1821-1910).
36. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
38. Not only so, but.
41. Stay too long.
42. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
43. A festival featuring African-American culture.
44. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
47. Of the greatest possible degree or extent or intensity.
49. Hungarian choreographer who developed Labanotation (1879-1958).
50. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
53. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
54. A member of a North American Indian people speaking one of the Hokan languages.
56. Any of various minerals consisting of hydrous silicates of aluminum or potassium etc. that crystallize in forms that allow perfect cleavage into very thin leaves.
57. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
58. A unit of force equal to the force that imparts an acceleration of 1 cm/sec/sec to a mass of 1 gram.
61. Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
62. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Your career could assume a much more determined and solid form—a firm foundation. Making your mark on the world has special significance for you. Achievement, ambition and authority are things that take on greater importance. Organizing and administering people and projects will become central to your lifestyle. Speculative ventures fare well at this time. You may finally see some results from an investment you have held for some time. A relationship will improve as the evening moves along; you can help your loved one to relax with a massage. A massage could also be shared. Home is where the heart is this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

At the workplace today there is a sense of emotional coolness or detachment at the personal level. Although you may wonder what in the heck happened, you could find this a good setting for working and accomplishing much. It is ideas that count for you now, more than narrowly personal concerns—and you may have little tolerance for people who do not operate at this level. You value what is honest and straightforward and have a particular dislike of what is secret, intense and private. The new, unusual and at times, the whimsical are the things that instinctively appeal to you, particularly this day when you can add something special to a work project. A social event this evening will find you at your most elegant. Tonight is for laughter and fun.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You must be open to the opportunities around you. Exert the initiative it takes to use each moment to the benefit of your progress. This is an active day. If you feel that there is more stress in your day than you would prefer, help your physical wellbeing by softening your diet. At home this evening, you enjoy the communication between friends and family. There is an appreciation for ideas and thoughts that are innovative. Many times you have been pressed for time, yet you know that your interaction with family and friends requires special attention. You are wise to take time to be with loved ones. It is easy for you to love and be compassionate and to value what life offers. You have a sense of unity and brotherhood that will stay with you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Satisfying days make up for all the stress that comes with the challenging days. This is a rewarding day; you can grab the attention and the benefits. Work is easy to complete. Travel and adventure are compelling temptations as you dare to stretch your horizons. You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others just now and are in a good position to communicate concerning groups and society. You may be able to bring a group together with words or ideas that transport others. Poetry and art may bring a fun pastime to your waiting moments. Creative endeavors may bring monetary rewards—praises for the depth of your imagination and creativity are overflowing. Movies, books and all forms of escape are enjoyed.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Although you shy away from challenges, you cannot escape facing a few of them. Challenges are what help us grow—teaching us about our capabilities. Challenges also help us to improve our problem-solving skills—today may be challenging. An irresistible force meets an immovable object—proceed with caution! There are appropriate times to express your feelings. Today your problem-solving skills may be more directed toward learning how to stay out of a sticky situation. There is a lot of energy available for whatever is needed. The secret to a successful day is a good meal and breaks where you can really enjoy some quiet time, which may include a walk or some exercise routine. Water, music and an animal are forms of relaxation this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This morning you are up early and in the mood to clean and clear away any clutter, whether it be inside or outside your living area. You are in a determined mood to make things look neat and to clear away the cobwebs, so to speak. Clear thinking is important just now. Today you could be teaching or attending a lecture. Your words and ideas can transport and enchant listeners, carrying them beyond the world as they know it and into the world as they wish it could be. You may decide that this afternoon is the time to put your energies toward some environmental concerns. You may help to organize some benefit for the kids in your town. Children certainly have your attention as you want very much to help them have a good start in life.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Contracts signed now through the end of this month will have positive results. High-tech gambles could pay off in big ways. Superiors seem to demand more than usual today. Making this a harmonious day may depend on your willingness to tend to someone else's needs. Turnabout-is-fair-play will happen for you soon, but for now a patient attitude will be most important. Unconventional hobbies and other forms of self-expression that break from the norm play a bigger part in your life. A child or lover may be rebellious—or perhaps simply ahead of his or her time. Romance and recreation take on an unusual character, out of step with ordinary expectations. You may find that you have intuitive abilities that you had never noticed before.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

If professional advice is needed, this week is the most productive time to seek that advice. Stresses and blocks that previously were in your way, now seem to be fading. You want to gain the advantage over life's stresses and use them to your best advantage so you want to learn how. Faith untested is not worth bothering with: that's the lesson that takes center stage in your life now. Legal, political or educational experiences require serious thought and planning. This afternoon you could be plotting your next move to success. You could have some fun times with young people later today. You are very imaginative when it comes to other people and relationships of all kinds. A most relaxed evening is unfolding.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may have trouble getting moving, but once rolling, others better move aside. This is an excellent time to be in school, or to work at a job. You will benefit from logical insights, getting to the heart of things. After you have given some time for thought and focus, negotiations during this time can be quite positive. If you take it easy and do a bit of research, you will find yourself in a good position to resolve or finalize plans. You may have a wonderful opportunity to socialize this evening. This could be in a restaurant or at a community get-together. Networking at this time, with people who share your interests, provides both support and feedback for future achievements. This is a great time for you to plan a new diet.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may be helping people that find difficulty in listening or grasping what is told to them. Try not to personalize the situation and repeat yourself in several different ways. Sometimes people need to hear an explanation in a different sort of presentation or explanation. Much is accomplished this day. This could mean that some form of teaching, lecturing, conference or research work is accomplished. Your mind is very clear and your thoughts are brought to a sharp focus. It is easy to organize your thoughts and communication of all kinds is furthered. Write that book—take that course. Your thoughts count—so use your mind and communicate. You may have sudden insights, and you will have an unexpected boost in the way you express yourself.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Today is a big communication day. Continue with ongoing negotiations and expect positive end results. There are good results as you dare to take risks. You will prosper through new insights and an independent point of view—do not hold back. You plan to do some entertaining in your home and may decide that now is the time to shop for more updated furniture. You could find some good sales that will help you make decisions on what you want. You must realize that some furniture stores may not have the furniture ready as quickly as you would like; a planning attitude may be the best attitude for now. Measure the furniture you are ordering and when you get home you will know exactly how it will fit. Consider home delivery for food this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Examine and reorganize your workplace to reflect an environment that will increase productivity. Speculative ventures have tremendous promise. Retirement planning also can be especially fortunate. This is a good time to promote your talents or to make proposals. Your discipline and focus in creative endeavors help you to be creative in the way you make your presentations. You tend to take everything with great passion. Your drive to get at the heart and truth of things is constantly invoked and serves as a common theme in your life. You may find that your personal growth depends upon how you can handle some very sensitive subjects this afternoon—patience. You make the right choices when you give yourself time to think before you speak.

Wordsearch Puzzle

USA State Capitals

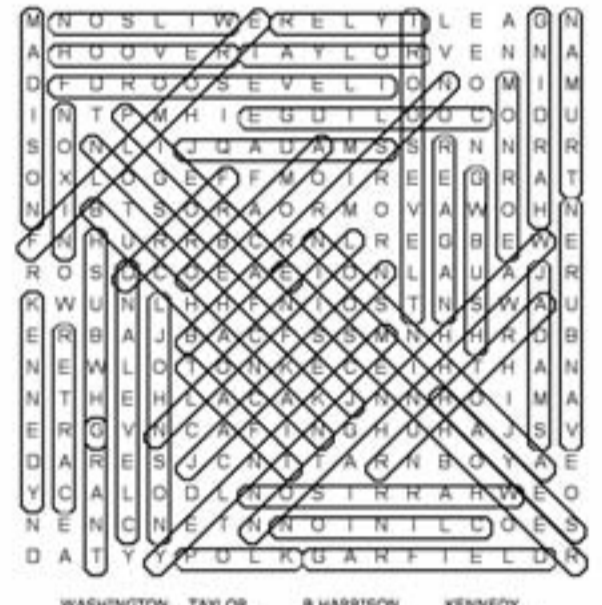
Find and circle all of the USA State Capitals that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Bill Vaughan quotation.



- ALBANY (New York)
- ANNAPOLIS (Maryland)
- ATLANTA (Georgia)
- AUGUSTA (Maine)
- AUSTIN (Texas)
- BATON ROUGE (Louisiana)
- BISMARCK (North Dakota)
- BOISE (Idaho)
- BOSTON (Massachusetts)
- CARSON CITY (Nevada)
- CHARLESTON (West Virginia)
- CHEYENNE (Wyoming)
- COLUMBIA (South Carolina)
- COLUMBUS (Ohio)
- CONCORD (New Hampshire)
- DENVER (Colorado)
- DES MOINES (Iowa)
- DOVER (Delaware)
- FRANKFORT (Kentucky)
- HARRISBURG (Pennsylvania)
- HARTFORD (Connecticut)
- HELENA (Montana)
- HONOLULU (Hawaii)
- INDIANAPOLIS (Indiana)
- JACKSON (Mississippi)
- JEFFERSON CITY (Missouri)
- JUNEAU (Alaska)
- LANSING (Michigan)
- LINCOLN (Nebraska)
- LITTLE ROCK (Arkansas)
- LONDON (Ontario)
- MONTGOMERY (Alabama)
- MONTPELIER (Vermont)
- NASHVILLE (Tennessee)
- OKLAHOMA CITY (Oklahoma)
- OLYMPIA (Washington)
- RHODES (Arizona)
- PERRIE (South Dakota)
- PROVIDENCE (Rhode Island)
- RALEIGH (North Carolina)
- RICHMOND (Virginia)
- SACRAMENTO (California)
- SALEM (Oregon)
- SALT LAKE CITY (Utah)
- SANTA FE (New Mexico)
- SPRINGFIELD (Illinois)
- ST. PAUL (Minnesota)
- TALLAHASSEE (Florida)
- TOPEKA (Kansas)
- TRENTON (New Jersey)

Yesterday's Solution

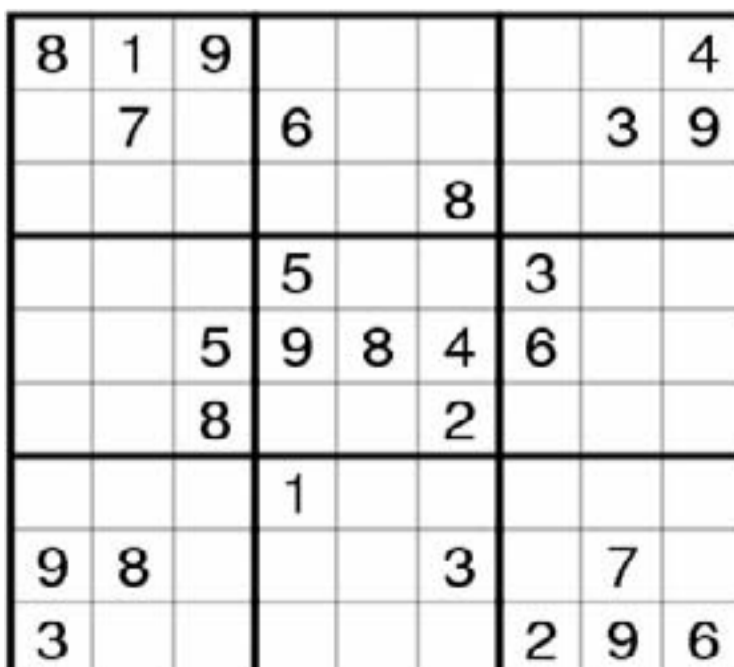
USA Presidents



- WASHINGTON
- J ADAMS
- JEFFERSON
- MADISON
- MONROE
- J Q ADAMS
- JACKSON
- VAN BUREN
- W HARRISON
- TYLER
- POLK
- TAYLOR
- FILLMORE
- PIERCE
- BUCHANAN
- LINCOLN
- A JOHNSON
- GRANT
- HAYES
- GARFIELD
- ARTHUR
- CLEVELAND
- B HARRISON
- MCKINLEY
- T ROOSEVELT
- TAFT
- WILSON
- HARDING
- COOLIDGE
- HOOVER
- F D ROOSEVELT
- TRUMAN
- ESSENHOWER
- KENNEDY
- L JOHNSON
- NIXON
- FORD
- CARTER
- REAGAN
- G H W BUSH
- CLINTON
- G W BUSH
- OBAMA

The hidden sentence is: LEAVE NOTHING FOR TOMORROW WHICH CAN BE DONE TODAY

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Kuwait Times Classifieds

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

**Kuwait Times**  
 Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
 Fax: (+965) 24348714  
[www.met.gov.kw](http://www.met.gov.kw)



**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**  
 Issued 09/10/2017-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

**MIN Temperature 20 °C**

**By Night** : Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

**By Day** : Hot and with light to moderate south easterly wind to variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .



**Four-Day Forecast**

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	Hot	Hot	Hot causing rising dust over open areas	Hot
Min Temp °C	20	22	21	20
Max Temp °C	39	41	38	40
Wind Direction	south easterly to variable	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly to northerly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 26	15 - 35	15 - 42	12 - 38

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

**Warnings & Weather Watches**

no warnings or weather watches

**Kuwait Forecast**

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	27	38
KUWAIT AIRPORT	20	38
ABDALY	21	38
BUBYAN	21	33
JAHRA	22	39
FALAKA ISLAND	25	37
SALMIYAH	28	35
AHMADI	29	31
JAL ALIYAH	22	39
QAROH ISLAND	29	35
UMH AL-MARADEH	28	34
NUWAISIB	23	36
WAFRA	22	38
SALMIY	22	38
MUTRIBA	22	40

**Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport**

Max Temp (°C)	39
Min Temp (°C)	24
Max Rel Hum (%)	69
Min Rel Hum (%)	12
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	25 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:47
Sunset	17:23

**Tomorrow Prayer Times**

Fajr	04:28
Sunrise	05:47
Zuhr	11:35
Aar	14:54
Sunset	17:23
Isha	18:39

**EMERGENCY 112**

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

**Required DRIVER**

For a Shipping Company with valid Transferable Visa

Contact: 24919796 97239948

**REQUIRE LADY SECRETARY**

Looking for an Experienced Executive Secretary with good command over English, having excellent communication skills, proficient in administration & computer literate (Word, Excel & Internet Operations).

Should be able to correspond independently & also handle Foreign Purchase.

**REQUIRE ACCOUNTANT**

- Experience: 3 years
- Must have Kuwait Driving License and Car

Email: [positechq8@mail.com](mailto:positechq8@mail.com)

**AIRLINES**

American Airlines	22087425
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044

**Supermarket**  
 Required following Employees

- Salesmen & Salesladies
- Cashiers
- Branch Managers
- Drivers

[karaz.kw@hotmail.com](mailto:karaz.kw@hotmail.com)  
 99991526 - 22217517

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

**Flight Schedule**

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 10/10/2017				Departure Flights on Tuesday 10/10/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	JZR	324	Al Najaf	12:50
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	PAL	669	Manila	13:10
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	FEG	938	Sohag	13:55
RJA	642	Amman	00:45	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	102	London	00:55	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	QTR	8512	Doha	15:15
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:30
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	513	Tehran	16:30
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	RIA	641	Amman	16:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
RBG	559	Alexandria	04:05	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
ATG	6690	Sharjah	04:30	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
FEG	937	Sohag	05:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	05:20	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
BAW	157	London	06:05	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
JZR	563	Sohag	06:30	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	505	Luxor	06:45	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	531	Asyut	06:45	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
WAN	342	Sohag	07:40	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:15
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:50	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	1443	Doha	11:10	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	ICV	675	Hong Kong	22:55
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	795	Madinah	23:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	776	Jeddah	23:10
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
				KAC	411	Bangkok	23:35



## Kim Kardashian wants to hire more security

The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star admits to still suffering from anxiety after she was robbed at gunpoint in Paris last year and is considering increasing the number of people on her security team to help her get a better night's sleep. She said: "I just have anxiety, are you sure it's safe here? Ever since Paris I just go through this worst case scenario thing in my head. I think for my own piece of mind I'm going to fly out like four more security - just to like stay outside my room when I'm sleeping, I know it sounds crazy but I just can't sleep at night." And the 36-year-old television personality admits her anxiety has stopped her even wanting to go out for dinner with her husband Kanye West. Speaking on the family's E! reality show, she added: "I have such anxiety just going places. I just don't want to be in the

mix like I used to ... Kanye's like, 'Let's go out to dinner' and I'm like, 'I can't, I can't enjoy myself.' "I think I have to get out of my shell but I don't want to, I like living this more chill life. I've become socially awkward for sure ... I am so afraid of everything, anxiety, pressure." And Kim had previously blamed her social media activity for causing the Paris robbery as she believes it gave the burglars the information that she was home alone. She said at the time: "What I think happened now, after like thinking about it so much, is that there was probably a group of guys that were following us the entire trip. I was Snapchatting that I was home and that everyone was going out."

## Crawford 'more concerned' about daughter driving



The 51-year-old supermodel has defended her daughter's decision to begin her modeling career at 16-years-old but admits she wishes she could have "pushed it off" for a year or two. Speaking to reporters at a charity event in Detroit, she said: "My daughter just got her driver's license. I'm a lot more concerned about her driving by herself than her entering the world of modeling. The great thing for my kids is that I know a lot about that world. I feel like, who better to help guide them than me? ... In some ways, I wish I could have pushed it off a year or two. But she's 16. That's how old I was when I started, which is young, but in fashion that's kind of the normal age when people start." Cindy and Kaia walked during the Versace's Spring/Summer 2018 fashion show but they refused to do so together. Cindy revealed: "I was booked before Kaia - I don't think Donatella [Versace] even knew that Kaia was doing shows and we had been talking for months about how many of us could get there for that tribute to [her brother] Gianni. "When Kaia got the part she said, 'Wait, are we going out together?' I said, 'I hope not, I don't want to stand next to you, I want to stand with the women my age.'" However, Cindy - who also has son Presley Gerber with her husband Rande Gerber - was honored to walk in the same show as Kaia as she doesn't think it will happen again. She added: "It was pretty cool, that probably won't happen again, to be in the same show."

## Charlie Puth turned down 'overwhelming' American Idol

The 'We Don't Talk Anymore' hitmaker was "honored" to be asked to be a judge on the talent show but admits he had to turn it down when "life got crazy". He told Entertainment Tonight: "The schedule got too overwhelming. It's nothing to do with [the network] ... ABC is wonderful and I told them I would love to be in business with them in the future. [I was in talks] and then things in my life got crazy. "I can't wait to watch it. It's a huge honour that they asked me. The fact that they would even ask me to be a part of it is just beyond flattering because it's a show I grew up watching and I know it's going to be amazing without me." It comes after Katy Perry - who will be a judge on 'American Idol' - championed Charlie and Lionel Richie, who has been given the job, to

take up the remaining seat. She shared: "I'm really pulling for Lionel, because I think Lionel Richie is an icon ... If you've ever seen or met Lionel, he just knows how to charm the whole room. His presence brightens the whole room. Charlie Puth is somewhat new to the general public of America. He has his own big fanbase, but I think he's really talented and Attention is one of my favorite things. He's young, fresh, cool, hip." And Katy - who is joined by Luke Bryan on the judging panel - will not be listening to any "sob stories" from the show's contestants. She said: "Sob stories come second for me. I just want to give constructive criticism - if you don't got the goods, you don't got the goods."



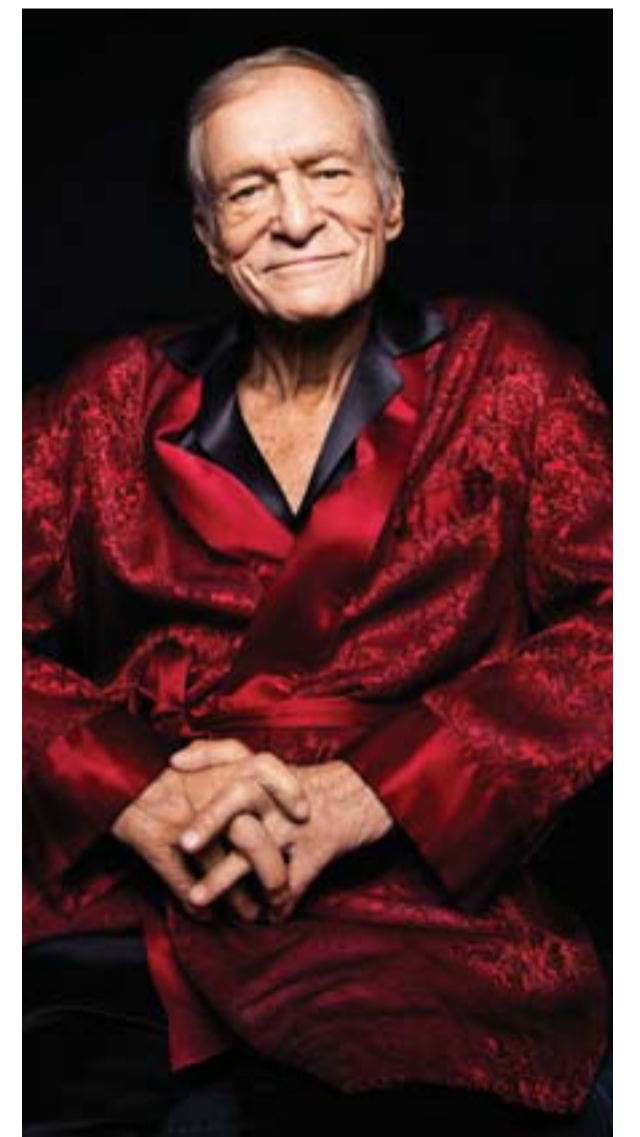
## Dolly Parton always takes 'crazy glue' with her



The 71-year-old singer is known for her extravagant fashion sense, and the music icon has revealed she has a selection of cosmetic products she makes sure she has on her in case of a beauty emergency. Speaking about her backstage beauty essentials, the busty blonde said: "Tissue and some crazy glue in case I flip a fingernail, a little flat mirror in case I have to fix an eyelash or something, and a few cosmetic things for if I have to take a little break." Although the '9 to 5' hitmaker has "a few" cosmetics on hand when she is performing, she still believes she is "low maintenance" because she spends an "hour and a half" getting ready prior to gracing the stage. When asked if she is high maintenance, the 'Jolene' artist said: "Yeah, I actually am to be honest. I spend my hour and a half getting ready for the show, doing the make-up, the hair, the glitter and all that, but for the most part, I'm pretty low maintenance." And Dolly has admitted even when she is in the privacy of her own home she will still make an effort with her appearance because she doesn't want to look like a "hag" for her husband of over 50 years Carl Thomas Dean. Speaking about her style when she is at home, she said: "Everybody has their comfy clothes. But I always try when I'm around the house. The whole world sees me all glamorized and I don't want to go home and just look like a hag for my husband, so I always put on my make-up and fix my hair."

## Hugh Hefner's life will be honored at a memorial

The late Playboy magazine founder - who passed away last month at the age of 91 - will have his life celebrated by his good friends at the service next month at the Playboy Mansion. Several celebrities and former Playboy models are expected to attend, RadarOnline.com reports. It comes after it was revealed Hugh's extended family and friends are planning to hold a memorial to remember him. A source said at the time: "The funeral on Saturday was so top-secret and his friends did not get to say goodbye. So they are gathering this week to have their own sort of memorial service. His extended family and friends are hoping to have the memorial at the Playboy mansion, but nothing is set in stone yet." Hugh's widow Crystal recently broke her silence on her husband's death, where she spoke of his "kind and humble soul". In a statement, she said: "I haven't been able to bring myself to write most people back to thank them for their condolences. I am heartbroken. I am still in disbelief. "He was an American hero. A pioneer. A kind and humble soul who opened up his life and home to the world. I felt how much he loved me. I loved him so much. "I am so grateful. He gave me life. He gave me direction. He taught me kindness. I will feel eternally grateful to have been by his side, holding his hand, and telling him how much I love him." Hugh was laid to rest last month at Los Angeles' Westwood Village Memorial Park, where he was buried next to Marilyn Monroe, a space which he is reported to have purchased for \$75,000 in 1992.



## Washington desperate to take home 'Scandal' Prada bags

The 40-year-old actress has portrayed the role of Olivia Pope in the popular ABC program since it first aired in 2012 and the star has admitted she is keen to get her hands on the "20 purses" her character - who is the former White House Director of Communications - adorns on the show because the accessories "mean a lot" to her. Speaking about the items she would love to get her hands on, on 'Late Night with Seth Meyers', the brunette beauty said: "She is a very well-dressed character. Well, I can't tell you on national television because then when the Prada bags are missing. "It's not one purse. It's like 20 purses in various colors to match every outfit. They mean a lot to me, these bags." And the star has revealed she has "seven years" worth of memories attached to each bag, which is why she wants to keep them

when filming wraps up. The 'Django Unchained' star added: "Seven years of memories in every single beautiful bag." And Kerry says it is "fun to keep calibrating the difference" between herself and Olivia Pope. Speaking previously about the production, Kerry - who has 12-month-old son Caleb and three-year-old daughter Isabelle with her husband Nnamdi Asomugha - said: "I'm not the same person I was five or six years ago - but neither is Olivia. So, it's fun to keep calibrating the difference between who she is and who I am." While Kerry has starred in the American thriller series for almost 10 years, she doesn't feel the project has been "restricting" for her.





# Gigi set to launch her own make-up line

The 22-year-old model has been the face of the cosmetics giant for two years since she partnered with the Maybelline label in 2015, and the star is set to take her role with the company further by designing her own collection named Gigi x Maybelline. The blonde-haired beauty teased the news of her latest venture on social media, as she shared a photograph of her posing in front of an array of beauty products to her Instagram Story, which lasts on the photo-sharing site for 24 hours. The catwalk icon captioned the image: "A year in the making #GIGIXMAYBELLING COMING SOON @maybelline (sic)." And the style muse has revealed her upcoming collection will drop in just under two weeks. Gigi - who is currently dating former One Direction band member Zayn Malik - went on to post a countdown to when her range will be available to buy. Alongside an image of the website, Gigi wrote: "GIGI x MAYBELLINE 13 days 16 hours 11 minutes (sic)." And Gigi has encouraged her fans to sign up to the site to stay up to date

with the big unveil. And Gigi has also posted a permanent picture declaring the news to her site. The post read: "A year in the making .. #GIGIXMAYBELLINE COMING SOON. @maybelline (sic)." Maybelline has also taken to social media to broadcast the news as the company has posted a string of three images to their own Instagram page. Alongside the trio of teaser clips, which give a sneaky glimpse of the products and Gigi applying the different cosmetic items, it simply read: "#gigixmaybelline (sic)." Although the details of Gigi's cosmetics line have yet to be confirmed, it is believed the capsule will include over 15 lipsticks, which range from nude shades to a variety of red and berry hues, a large palette, which are believed to include a vast selection of eyeshadow products and eye liners.

## Sam Smith feels 'a bit behind' in his relationships



The 'Too Good At Goodbyes' star - who was recently seen smooching '13 Reasons Why' star Brandon Flynn - wishes he could have had a long term relationship by now as he feels it would have made him an "emotionally richer" person. He shared: "I do feel I'm a bit behind in my relationships. I wish I'd been in a long-term relationship by this age. But then, I didn't move to London until I was 19. "I'd grown up in an area where I was the only gay guy in school, the only gay guy in my village. I'd definitely be emotionally richer now if I'd had a long-term relationship, but if it wasn't easy while I was growing up, it's hardly going to be any easier for me now, is it?" And the 25-year-old singer has ambitions for his love life in the future. He added to Billboard: "I want to be healthy and I want to live as long as possible. I want kids, and I want to open a florist. If a boyfriend comes into that mix somewhere, I'll be happy. But if it doesn't happen, I'll be fine with the flowers." Sam was spotted kissing Brandon last week as they walked along the streets of New York City and grabbed dinner together at Catch NYC. The pair held hands as they enjoyed the sunshine and took in the sights and sounds of Greenwich Village. Meanwhile, Sam had previously revealed he was "insanely single". Speaking last month, he shared: "I think I'm even more single than I was when I released 'In the Lonely Hour', so I'm insanely single." But Sam believes all his past heartaches have made him a stronger person. He revealed: "What I've been through relationship-wise the last year has made me a lot stronger and I feel like I've learned some lessons from it."

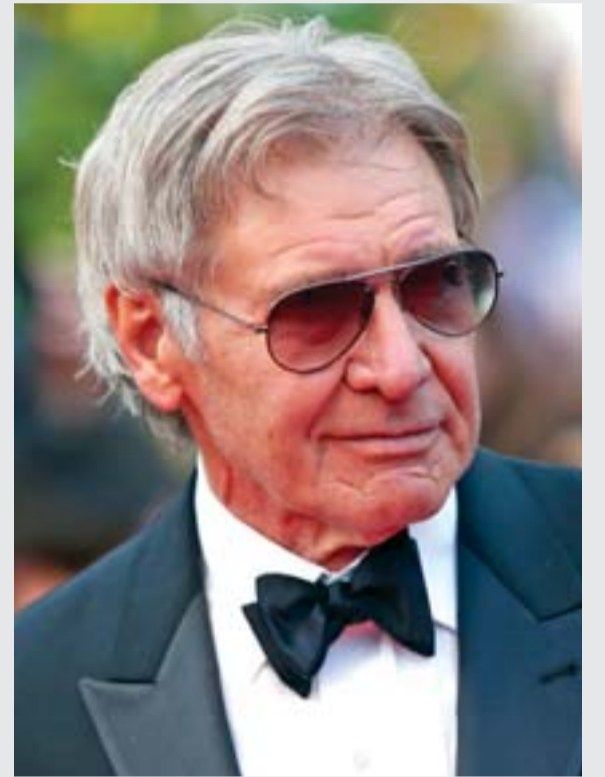
## Zara Larsson isn't a fan of 'crazy parties'

The 19-year-old singer has said that despite being a "night owl", she'd much rather spend her evenings curled up in bed, rather than hitting the town until the early hours. She said: "I don't have crazy parties until the early hours. I wish I could say I did! But, despite being a night owl, I'm very sensible with my sleep. I need it to feel and sound good on stage. Sleeping on tour is hard because it's bumpy on the road at night and the beds aren't too comfy, but I try to nod off by midnight. The wildest thing we've probably done is stay up late watching a film and eating sweets!" And even though she tries to get to bed at a reasonable time, the 'Lush Life' singer admits she sometimes won't wake up until almost midday. She added: "I'm really lazy. If I'm on tour the I'll wake up on the bus at 11am. It's a bit like camping because I have a bunk bed! I'm not a huge breakfast person. I can never be bothered to cook anything in the morning, so usually my tour manager will make me a superfruit smoothie, which will kick-start my day." The 'Never Forget You' hitmaker isn't always so lazy though, as she admits she loves to "go exploring" around new places whenever she's on tour. Speaking to Fabulous magazine, she said: "At midday I'll go exploring. Touring is great fun because the band, dancers and crew members are like my best friends. During the day we'll wander around the city we're in, then head back to the tour bus to chill for a couple of hours. We're good at entertaining ourselves by watching films, mucking about, or just relaxing." - Bangshowbiz



## Ford insists crash could never have put him off flying

The 'Blade Runner 2049' actor broke his pelvis and ankle when his aircraft suffered engine failure and made an emergency landing in March 2015, but the scary incident didn't stop him from getting back into the cockpit because it is a "big part" of who he is. He said: "It was one time - and I didn't crash, the plane crashed. I didn't get right out of it, but I'm fine now, it took a while." Asked if it had put him off flying, he added: "No, it's a big part of who I am." The 75-year-old actor admitted he prefers to fly himself to his movie sets, unless he's travelling a long distance and needs to catch up on some rest. He told talk show host Ellen DeGeneres: "Usually I fly myself, [but] if I've got a really tight schedule and I've got to fly across the ocean, I don't do it, because I can sleep." During filming of 'Blade Runner 2049', Harrison accidentally punched co-star Ryan Gosling in the face, and while the pair have joked about the incident a number of times in recent weeks, the screen legend has finally apologized. He said: "He was probably more shocked than I was. I didn't want to punch him in the face, I wanted to miss. "If you see him [Gosling], tell him I'm sorry, [I'm] really sorry." Despite his advancing years, the 'Star Wars' star - who raises son



Liam, 16, with wife Calista Flockhart, and also has four adult children from previous marriages - is in "pretty good" shape and still works out regularly. He said: "I feel pretty good...I do all kinds of things, a little gym, weights, wheels, I'm an old school guy."



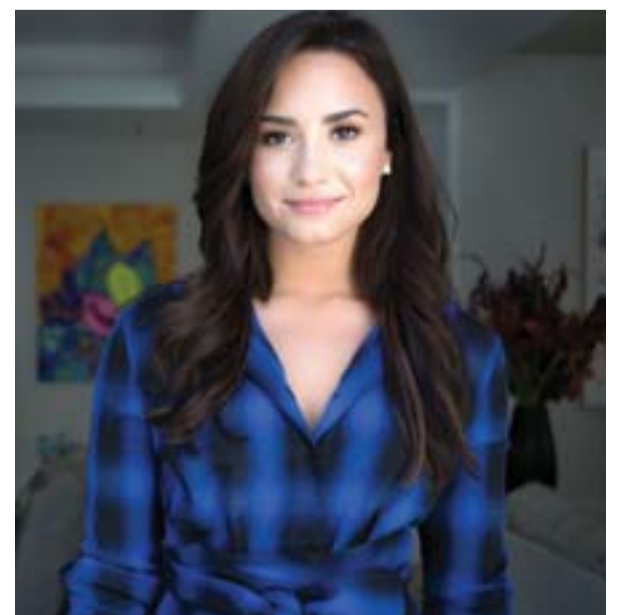
## Jason Aldean has returned to Las Vegas to visit victims

The 40-year-old singer was performing at the festival last Sunday when a gunman opened fire and killed at least 58 people, leaving over 500 injured, and the 'Dirt Road Anthem' hitmaker and his wife Brittany Kerr began the "healing process" by taking time to see a number of those still in hospital on Sunday. Brittany - who is pregnant - shared a photo of herself and her husband outside the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, where the shocking tragedy took place, on Instagram and wrote: "Feels surreal being back in Vegas today. Visiting some of the strongest people we have ever met... fighting the toughest battle of them all... for their lives. "You have helped us try to begin to start the healing process by seeing the strength each one of you have. Thank you for today. We will never forget." According to E! News, the couple visited patients at both the University Medical Center and Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center. The day before

flying to Las Vegas, Jason made a surprise appearance on 'Saturday Night Live', where he paid an emotional tribute to the victims of the shooting before performing 'Won't Back Down' by the late Tom Petty, who passed away last Monday (02.10.17). He said: "This week we witnessed one of the worst tragedies in American history. Like everyone I am struggling to understand what happened that night and how to pick up the pieces and start to heal. So many people are hurting. "There are children, parents, brothers, sisters, friend. They are all part of our family. So I want to say to them: We hurt for you and we hurt with you. You can be sure we are going to walk through these tough times together, every step of the way. "When America is at its best, our bond and our spirit is unbreakable."

## Demi Lovato 'proud' to be bipolar

The 25-year-old singer is glad she is able to speak about her mood disorder and use her voice to help others. She said: "I'm not sick of it. If anything, I'm proud to be bipolar and speak about it. Bipolar is a mood disorder. "I deal with mood swings, I deal with episodes of mania, and bipolar-depression phases as well. But I've used my voice to help others, and I feel proud that I've been able to do that." And the 'Cool for the Summer' hitmaker has been open about her battle with addiction, her eating disorder and mental health issues in the past but she is working hard to not let her previous addiction affect her life too much. She added: "It's not so much about avoiding drugs and alcohol, because I don't necessarily put myself in those situations. I don't go to clubs. It shapes my life in a sense that I do inventories all the time. If I want to flip somebody the bird while driving, I check with myself, like, 'Why do I want to do that? Why am I impatient right now?'" Last year, Demi said she was going to take time away from the music industry and has now revealed she did so because she had "gotten to a place where she let her insecurities win". Explaining her thought process behind it, she told Rolling Stone magazine: "I think I cared too much about what people thought of me. I had gotten to a place where I let my insecurities win - I wanted everyone to love me, and I was getting backlash from interviews that were misconstrued and tweets that people read too much into. Now, I just don't care. I don't focus so much on people liking me as much as I just want to do my thing and be a musician."



# Decades in the making, Weinstein's fall comes swiftly



In this March 2, 2014 file photo, Harvey Weinstein arrives at the Oscars in Los Angeles. — AP/AFP photos



In this March 18, 2014, file photo, Ashley Judd arrives at the world premiere of "Divergent" at the Westwood Regency Village Theater in Los Angeles.

The allegations against Harvey Weinstein spanned three decades. His downfall came in three days. That was all it took to topple one of Hollywood's most high-profile and sharp-elbowed moguls - a combative power player who, like few ever have, regularly dominated the Academy Awards. But it was the all-powerful Weinstein who was ousted Sunday night from the company he co-founded and that bears his name. Following a devastating New York Times expose that detailed years of sexual harassment allegations against Weinstein, the Weinstein Co co-chairman was unceremoniously fired by his brother, Bob, and three other directors on the film company's board.

"In light of new information about misconduct by Harvey Weinstein that has emerged in the past few days, the directors of The Weinstein Company ... have determined, and have informed Harvey Weinstein, that his employment with The Weinstein Company is terminated, effective immediately," the company board said in a statement Sunday night. For a domineering studio head long known for intervening in the edit room, this is very likely the final cut. His career in Hollywood, many in the industry believe, is finished.

## 'Open secret'

Of course, it took much longer than three days for Weinstein's fall. The reporting took months, and followed years of previous efforts by other journalists to nail down details of the behavior that was roundly considered "an open secret" in Hollywood. And it took years for the alleged victims, including actress Ashley Judd, to work up the courage to go on the record. Not everyone was applauding the firing for its swiftness.

Actress Lena Dunham tweeted Sunday night, "Easy to think Weinstein company took swift action but this has actually been the slowest action because they always always knew." Weinstein had previously taken an indefinite leave of absence following a New York Times expose chronicling decades of allegations of sexual harassment by the Oscar winner. The board on Friday endorsed that decision and

announced an investigation into the allegations, saying it would determine the co-chairman's future with the company.

But The Weinstein Co board went further on Sunday, firing the executive who has always been its primary operator, public face and studio chief. Under his leadership, the company has been a dominant force at the Oscars, including the rare feat of winning back-to-back best picture Academy Awards with "The King's Speech" and "The Artist." In recent years, however, Weinstein's status has diminished because of money shortages, disappointing box-office returns and executive departures.

## Business as usual

The company has attempted to continue with business as usual, including a promotional event Sunday night for its 2017 awards hopeful, the indie hit thriller "Wind River." While it has a handful of films scheduled for release in the coming months, much of the company's business has recently angled toward television, producing shows like "Project Runway." An attorney for Weinstein didn't immediately return messages Sunday. But Weinstein will surely be heard from soon.

On Thursday he issued a lengthy statement that acknowledged causing "a lot of pain." He also asked for "a second chance." But Weinstein and his lawyers also criticized The New York Times' report in statements and interviews, and vowed an aggressive response. The New York Times said it was "confident in the accuracy of our reporting." The Times article chronicled sexual harassment settlements Weinstein made with actresses and former employees at both The Weinstein Co. and Weinstein's former company, Miramax.

Weinstein made his name with Miramax, the company he founded with his brother in 1979. They sold it to Disney in 1993 for \$60 million. The company was a fixture of the 1990s independent film movement, launching the careers of filmmakers Quentin Tarantino, Kevin Smith and Steven Soderbergh, and winning best picture with "Shakespeare in Love" and "The English Patient."

The allegations triggered cascading chaos at the Weinstein Co. A third of the all-male board has stepped



This file photo taken on May 16, 2016 shows US producer Harvey Weinstein and his wife British fashion designer and actress Georgina Chapman arriving for the screening of the film "Hands of Stone" at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes.

down since Thursday. The prominent attorney Lisa Bloom, daughter of well-known Los Angeles women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, on Saturday withdrew from representing Weinstein, as did another adviser, Lanny Davis. A spokesperson for The Weinstein Co declined to provide further details on the firing. Messages left for attorney John Keirman, who had been appointed to lead an investigation, weren't immediately returned Sunday. — AP

## Speedboat fetches \$75K at Kennedy-era memorabilia auction

A mahogany speedboat that belonged to John F. Kennedy sold for \$75,000, and a flight suit that belonged to CIA operative Francis Gary Powers sold for \$2,750 Saturday at a New York auction of Kennedy-era memorabilia. The sale at Guernsey's included a wide array of Camelot-era lots, including documents, photos, stationery and even inscribed sterling silver baby toothbrushes.

A rocking chair that Kennedy used in the White House, specially made for him because of a back injury, sold for \$30,000. A second rocking chair used by both Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, who served after Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, sold for \$10,000. Among the more romantic items was the 17-foot (5-meter) speedboat, a 1961 Century Resorter. Kennedy used the vessel when he was at home in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

The nautical history starts with family patriarch Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., who had a boat named "Tenovus," a reference to the number of Kennedy family members at the time: ten of us." Later, when he won the speedboat in a church raffle, it got the name "Restofus," a nod to the "rest of us" in the expanding family. That became JFK's personal boat. After the nation's 35th president died, the boat went to his brother, Edward M. Kennedy, and then to other owners.

A blue bathing suit that belonged to first lady Jacqueline Kennedy sold for \$1,800, and two pairs of swimming trunks owned by President Kennedy sold for \$3,500 and \$1,800. The core of the sale came from the collections of Henry Hirschy, who was a Navy aide in the White House during the Kennedy administration; Mary Gallagher, who was Jacqueline Kennedy's personal secretary, and Powers. In one of the landmark episodes of the Cold War, Powers was captured in the Soviet Union after his spy plane was shot down in 1960. The US initially tried to cover it up, inventing a story about a NASA weather plane going off course, and was embarrassed when the Soviets produced Powers alive. — AP



In this undated file photo provided by Guernsey's, is John F. Kennedy's speedboat, Restofus. — AP



## Blade Runner 2049 pulls in older guys but few others

"Blade Runner 2049" had the pedigree, the stars and the stellar reviews. But even though the highly touted sequel had seemingly everything going for it, something didn't click with audiences. The big-budget, handsomely crafted sequel to the 1982 sci-fi classic opened surprisingly weak at the North American box office. According to studio estimates Sunday, "2049" grossed \$31.5 million, a poor start for a movie that cost at least \$150 million to make. The problem "Blade Runner 2049" ran into is clear from opening-weekend data. The audience was overwhelmingly male (71 percent) and over the age of 25 (86 percent). The movie, starring Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford, simply failed to pull in moviegoers beyond fans of the 1982 original.

The opening was a blow most of all to Alcon Entertainment, the production company that split the film's cost with Sony Pictures. Warner Bros., which released the original and maintained rights for any follow-ups, distributed domestically. Sony released the film internationally, where it performed better with \$50.2 million in overseas ticket sales over the weekend.

The 20-year-old Alcon, backed by FedEx founder Fred Smith, has been behind some notable successes with Warner Bros. ("The Blind Side," "Prisoners.") But its blockbuster ambitions - which include flops like "Point Break" and "Transcendence" - have gone rockier. Co-founder Andrew

Kosove previously called the ambitious "Blade Runner 2049" "a chips-in-the-center-of-the-table exercise."

And Alcon - a 45 employee company - seemingly did everything right, turning in a glowingly reviewed film, directed by the sought-after Denis Villeneuve ("Arrival") and produced by Ridley Scott (who directed the original.) Audiences liked the movie, too, giving it an A- CinemaScore. Representatives for Alcon Entertainment didn't respond to messages Sunday. "I'm disappointed we didn't have a larger result this weekend on behalf of the owners of the film, Alcon," said Jeff Goldstein, president of domestic distribution for Warner Bros. "We had bigger expectations for the weekend. The tracking and the advance sales indicated that there would be a stronger number."

## 'Intellectually charged'

The Kate Winslet-Idris Elba adventure romance "The Mountain Between Us" debuted in second place with \$10.1 million. The 20th Century Fox film, which cost \$35 million to make, chronicles the budding affection between two strangers whose charter plane crash lands in the mountains. The horror hit "It" followed in third place with \$9.7 million in its fifth week. The Stephen King adaptation has made \$603.7 million worldwide.

"My Little Pony: The Movie" opened with \$8.8 million for

Lionsgate. But even it managed broader gender appeal than "Blade Runner 2049." It drew a 59 percent female audience. But most were wondering what went wrong with "Blade Runner 2049." Working against it was a lengthy 163-minute runtime. (Villeneuve attempted to lessen the blow by promoting the credit-less runtime of 152 minutes.) Alcon took the lead on the marketing, which went to great lengths to keep much of the film mysterious.

"It's an intellectually charged, apocalyptic sci-fi story. It's not a 'Close Encounters,' it's not 'Star Wars.' It's a challenging film. To me, those are the best type of films," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at comScore. "But does it make it the most commercial? No." "It was creatively and thematically perfectly executed," Dergarabedian said. "But it didn't play to the numbers everyone thought."

In a way, that makes "Blade Runner 2049" the perfect heir to the original film. It, too, was a box-office disappointment. Though a cult would gradually emerge over the years, propelled partly by a DVD release of a more acclaimed director's cut, "Blade Runner" in 1982 debuted with \$6.2 million - or about \$16 million in 2017 dollars. So "2049" can claim one thing many recent sequels can't: Better box office than the original. — AP

## Robert Plant radiantly returns with rootsy, achy CD

Robert Plant, "Carry Fire" (Nonesuch/Warner Bros.) One of the weirder chapters in rock history happened in 2014. That's when Led Zeppelin won a Grammy for best rock album for a seven-year-old concert recording while the band's former frontman Robert Plant somehow didn't even scrounge up a nomination for easily one of the best albums of the year.

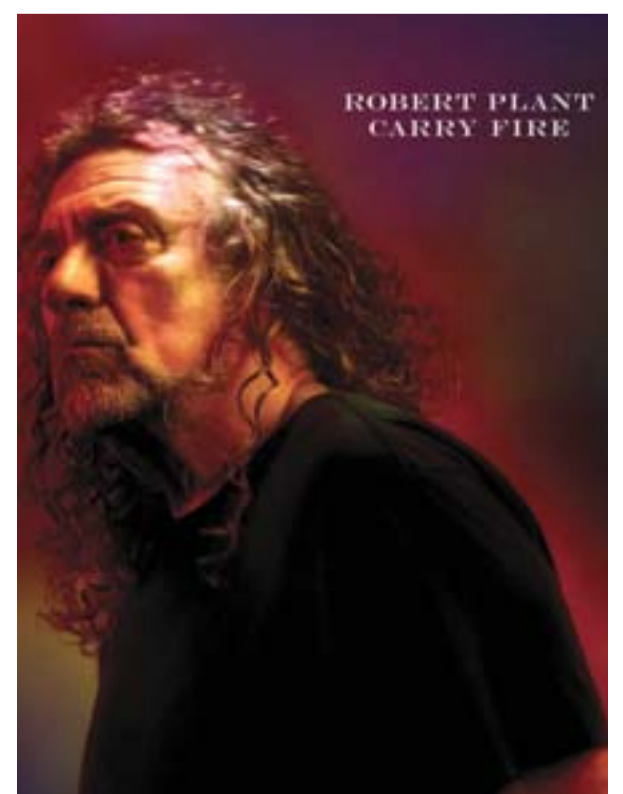
Three years later, let's hope the future doesn't again get overshadowed by the past. The 11-track "Carry Fire" finds Plant backed by his talented band, the Sensational Space Shifters, and thrillingly exploring the same fascinating terrain of rootsy folk and aching blues. If 2014's "lullaby and... The Ceaseless Roar" seemed very personal and soaked in heartbreak, the new album has Plant in a somewhat happier place and looking to the horizon, perhaps becoming more political.

"New World" is a bitter look at the way we treat immigrants. "Carving Up the World Again" mocks border walls and "Bones of a Saint" coolly dispatches religious fervor. He pushes deeper than ever into Middle Eastern sounds with the outstanding oud-filled title track, an exhilarating multicultural triumph. Of course, no one does love like Plant - mature, earthy and world-weary. Here, he seems to have found a new spark -

"Lay down in sweet surrender/ Your love so warm and tender," he sings in the opening song. On another, the standout "A Way With Words," he sings: "Coming from the cold/ Reaching for your sweet embrace."

As with his last album, there are coy nods to his past, like the title of the first song, the strummy anthem "May Queen," which Zeppelin fans will instantly recognize from "Stairway to Heaven." He sings about "dancing days" here, which is also the title of a song on 1973's "Houses of the Holy." There's an intimacy to Plant's weathered voice throughout, so intimate in fact that it sometimes feels as if we're intruding on a very personal moment. He's also using more modern technology to create an album that seamlessly mixes cello, bendir and Moog synthesizer, backed by the accomplished musicians John Baggott, Justin Adams, Dave Smith and Liam "Skin" Tyson.

If anyone still needs proof of the skills on offer here, look no further than the cover of Ersel Hickey's "Bluebirds Over the Mountain," a rockabilly ditty from the '50s of no special importance. Plant and his band - joined by Chrissie Hynde - give it a dark synth texture and menacing guitar, making it closer to a David Bowie tune. — AP



# French president inaugurates major Picasso exhibition



French President Emmanuel Macron has inaugurated a major Picasso exhibition in Paris, focusing on one key year in the Spanish master's art and life. After visiting the show for an hour and a half with his wife Brigitte, Macron said he likes in Picasso's paintings a "great sensuality" and at the same time a "political meaning" especially in the years leading up to World War II.

The "Picasso 1932. Erotic Year" show displays many portraits of Picasso mistress Marie-Therese Walter, including a famous masterpiece, "The Dream," and a "Girl Before a Mirror," a treasure of the Museum of Modern Art in New York that rarely travels. Macron, an art and literature lover, enjoyed the visit in the presence of members of Picasso's family, including Maya Widmaier-Picasso, the daughter the master had with Walter.

The exhibition displays colorful, surreal paintings inspired by Picasso's young lover, but also many documents, archives and photos. Macron noted Picasso could "live up to three or four lives at the same time," sharing his time between his wife, Olga Khokhlova, and his mistress, "which

wasn't going without some kind of violence for everyone."

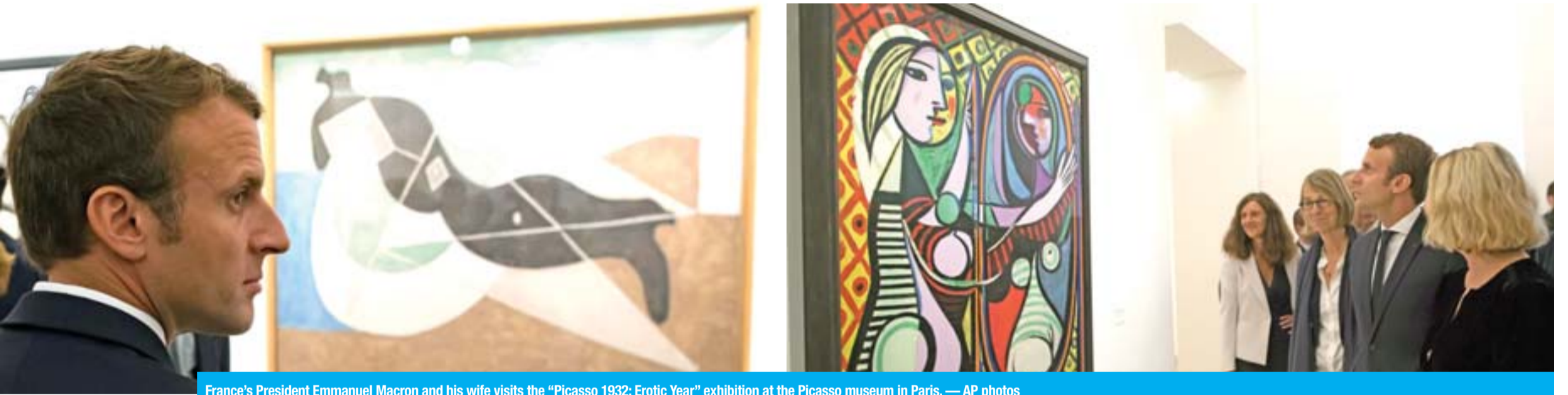
Macron said he has a very strong personal memory of discovering Picasso's paintings for the first time in a museum in his hometown of Amiens in northern France, at the age of 12 or 13. "I can tell you that for the young teenager I was ... this was an event. I do remember it very well. I was moved, hit," he told reporters. Macron said that it would be "great" if a Picasso painting could be displayed at the Elysee presidential palace.

## Includes masterpieces "The Dream," "Girl Before a Mirror"



"I would like, indeed, open the Elysee to modern, contemporary painters and other artists. This is a project," he said. The curator of the exhibition, Laurence Madeline, said that 1932 was "decisive" for Picasso who turned 51 that year - "an important moment in the middle of his existence, and the year of his first retrospective including 30 years of artwork since his youth."

The exhibition "Picasso 1932. Erotic Year" at the Picasso National Museum in Paris runs from Oct 10 to Feb 11. It is then scheduled to open at the Tate Modern in London, which co-organized the show, from March 8 to Sept 9. — AP



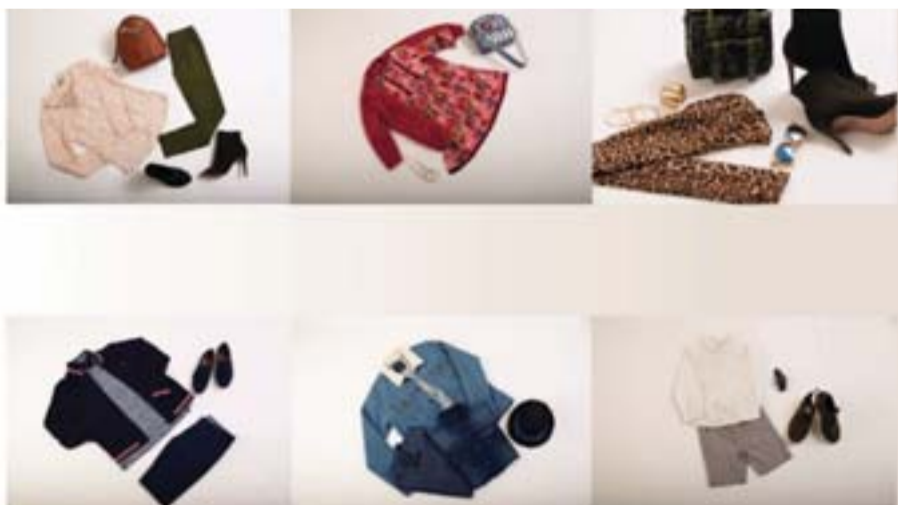
France's President Emmanuel Macron and his wife visits the "Picasso 1932: Erotic Year" exhibition at the Picasso museum in Paris. — AP photos

# Centrepoin's Autumn Winter Collection has you covered for every occasion

Centrepoin, the Middle East's largest fashion retailer, has launched its Autumn/Winter '17 collection - with hundreds of fresh new clothing and lifestyle accessories to give everyone's wardrobe their most fashionable revamp of the year.

### Trendy autumn winter looks for women

Centrepoin's A/W women's wear 2017 collection is largely inspired by the 90s- from grunge through to cosmo aesthetics with staple silhouettes. The collection comes equipped with a variety of different pieces that will keep you on-trend during the cooler months. The Splash collection features new textured clothing including popular camo, prairie and gingham prints, which have been combined with the key details of the season such as embroidery, ruffles and pleats.



The collection's color palette is a combination of earthy and natural colors from rusty oranges and blush tones through to fuchsias and burgundy. There is also a focus on green with a spectrum of shades including washed khaki hues and army green. Shoe Mart covers a range of fashionable female footwear styles. There is a nod to the 90s with gothic and grunge inspired designs, alongside a wide selection for those looking for something sleeker and minimalist. The collection also offers ankle-length boots and high-heeled sandals in earth tones, leisure sneakers and chunky platforms to complement the more rugged styling of the season.

### Stylish autumn winter looks for men

Grunge luxe, sports nostalgia and extreme utility trends remain at the forefront for men this A/W '17. Bright colors and rich darks have also taken over this season with steel grey and uniform blue anchoring this season's collection. Splash makes a splash with its color choices this season, from bold red, to ripe orange and hazard yellow, autumn doesn't all have to be dulled out colors. Quieter shades such as olives, camels, baked pinks, and rust tones contrast nicely with the other brighter colors.

Exaggerated details, oversized proportions, and wash silks with their military reference are heavy trends that feature throughout the collection. Eastern styling also remains an essential this winter with subtle references such as kimono necklines worked into shirting, long line jackets and muted blue and denim palettes.

In Shoe Mart, purple haze and saddle brown work as richer base colors, whilst white bright chartreuse and even a bold lilac adds a fresh modern edge. The earthier tones ground the modern design of the shoes giving the collection a seasonal feel.

### Stylish autumn winter looks for children

Boys and girls from two years to tweens can find all their autumn essentials at Centrepoin. There are collections to appeal to girls of all ages from Preppy Street and Floral Dreams to Hello Kitty and Barbie for younger fans. Whilst Babyshop has boys covered with their Urban Geek, Grunge Rewind and Midtown Manhattan ranges. For tween boys between 8-14 years, the Underground collection is a smartened-up take on punk with tartans, photo-print and traces of metallic that also offer a dose of futurism.

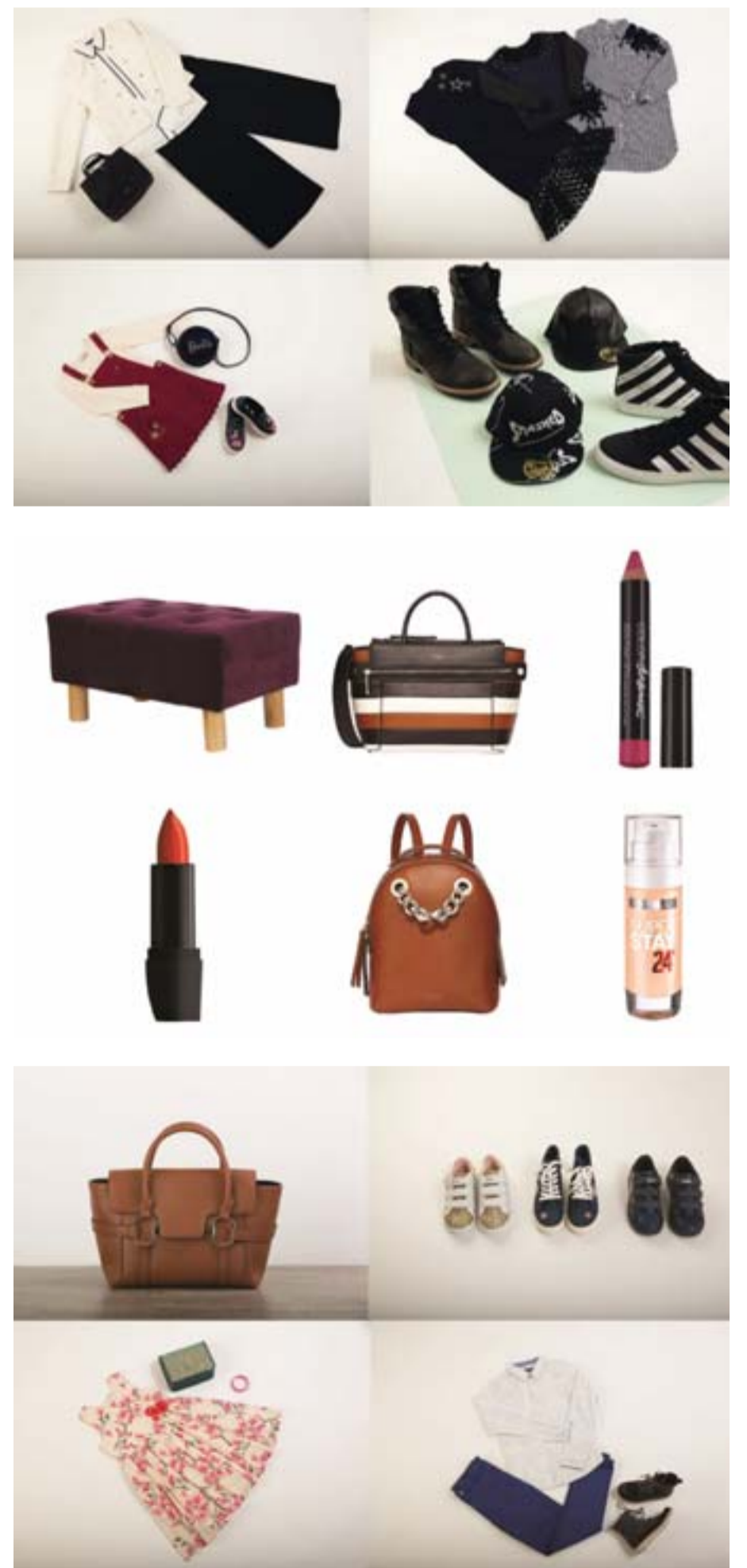
Whether in school or prepping for the season's festivities, elevate kids' style and finish off their new outfits by dressing them in this season's trendiest shoes from Shoe Mart. The new selection features classic designs with twists, color blocking and soft urban palettes to achieve the look - be it retro geek or sophisticated chic.

### Lifestyle

Lifestyle has a wide range of new accessories to accompany every new fashion look. With new launches from Charlotte Reid and Fiorelli - those coveting a new bag will be delighted with the range of designs from prints, through to monochrome in an assortment of flattering shades.

For the beauty fans, Centrepoin will be stocking several new haircare brands - Bedhead, Tigi, Big Sexy Hair and Toni and Guy - just in time for those late-night parties! Whilst for make-up, this season offers the paradox of glossy lip prints and nude lip mattes - so something for every occasion! With color correcting palettes, also a focus in-store and new exotic fragrances from Heart & Home, Apsley and Millefiori Milano. Finally, for those looking to give their homes a seasonal revamp - there will be a range of home accessories available including the launch of a new brand V1969, whilst younger shoppers can get their hands on a wide range of funky and themed stationery and merchandise.

Get your hands on the Autumn/Winter '17 Collection; do visit any of the stores located at Al Rai, Avenues, Salmiya, Fintas, Jahra, Fahaheel, Sulaibikhat, Kuwait City, Khaitan and Hawally.



# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017



Thousands of people enjoy a concert by Latin music stars to benefit victims of Mexico's September 19 earthquake, at the Zocalo Square in Mexico City on October 8, 2017. — AFP

## Iraqi animal lovers go online to help Baghdad's strays

The welfare of stray cats and dogs roaming Iraq's capital Baghdad is far from a priority for most residents after years of bloodshed and insecurity. Homeless animals typically face cruelty or even extermination on the streets of the city, but now some pet lovers are looking to use social media to change attitudes and find loving owners for the four-legged friends.

Agricultural college student Assan Attallah, 22, has just helped get six dogs adopted after they were found in the impoverished Sadr City neighborhood and is looking for homes for five more. The successes are the latest since she and a friend launched the "Animal adoption" Facebook page three months back after growing upset over the fate of Baghdad's stray animals.

"I started this project because I saw animals were being mistreated and people would go as far as poisoning and killing them," Attallah told AFP as she played with some puppies in an animal shelter. "Many people buy pets at very high prices so why not bring in these animals, take them to the vet and clean them up so people can adopt them?"

### Machine-gun cull

So far Attallah has managed to find homes for some 25 animals after posting their pictures online. But trying to convince many locals to care about stray animals is a big challenge. Some 10 years

ago, the authorities resorted to gunning down thousands of stray dogs with automatic rifles after claiming they were overrunning Baghdad.

And, in a country where some 400,000 people have been killed since the 2003 US invasion and millions have been displaced since the start in 2014 of a battle against Islamic State group jihadists, Attallah's focus on helping animals is often met with incomprehension. "We've also been getting negative feedback," she explained. "People say: 'Why are you helping animals? They don't have feelings, they don't understand. It's not that important. You should focus on helping people.'"

In a veterinary clinic in the north of Baghdad, Ahmad Al-Qaissy, 29, and his colleague Yaarub Al-Shimmary, 30, are busy taking care of ginger cat Mishmish-whose name means "apricot" in Arabic-after he was dropped off by an owner who did not want him. The two men head the Iraqi Association for Animal Welfare and have had to treat their fair share of strays in terrible condition. "Most of those that we receive have been abused either by adults or by children," Qaissy said. "They need treatment, operations and vaccines."

After a life spent facing the perils of the street, it often takes a lot to get the dogs or cats into a fit enough state to find a new owner.

"Only when the animal is in good health and is not scared anymore are they ready for adoption," Qaissy said. Like Attallah, the pair use social media to try to find homes for their patients.

"We have 35,000 members on our Facebook page and when people are interested in adoption we ask the candidates some questions to be sure the animals will be treated well," Shimmary said. For those lucky enough to find an owner, their new match can turn out to be just perfect. Marina Jaber, 26, dotes over 11-month-old pet dog Majnoona-which means "crazy" in Arabic-after welcoming her into her home. One of Majnoona's paws was crushed by a car and Jaber's husband is looking into bringing back a prosthetic from abroad. "I feel like we were made for each other," Jaber said of her pet. "I feel responsible for her." — AFP

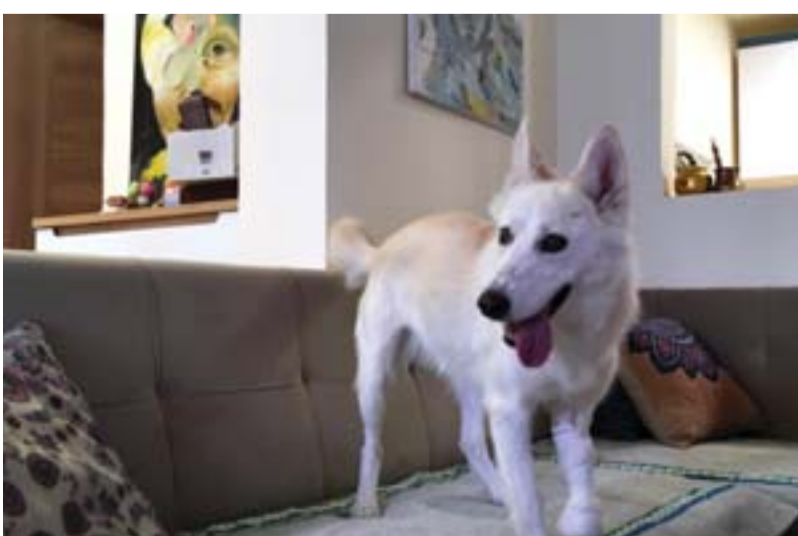
### Homeless animals face cruelty, even extermination



Iraqi Marina Jaber, 26, is seen with her dog Majnoona, which means crazy in Arabic.



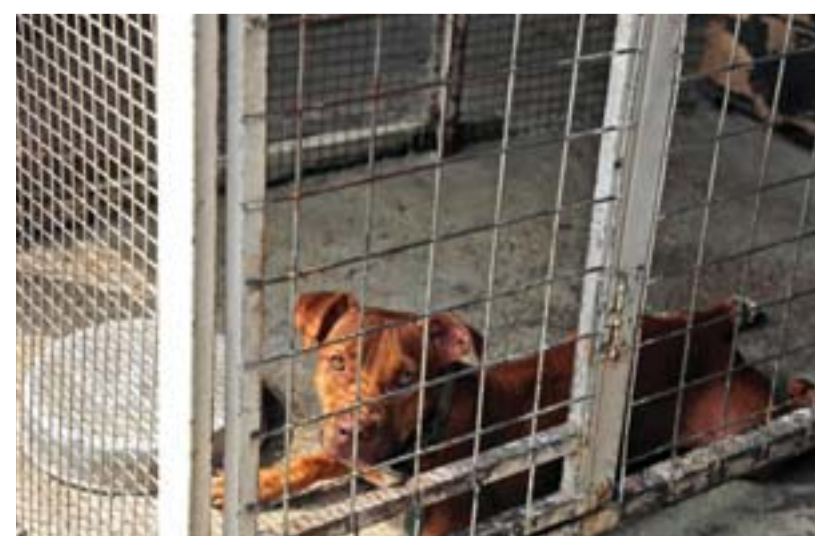
Agricultural college student Assan Attallah, 22, plays with animals at a shelter.



Majnoona, a 11-month-old dog that lost her leg during a car accident, stands in her owners home in the Iraqi capital Baghdad.



Cats are seen at a shelter in Baghdad.



A dog is seen at a shelter in Baghdad. — AFP photos