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# Bahraini monarch honors Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO

## Bader Al-Kharafi praises efforts to promote tolerance, dialogue and peaceful coexistence

### Is Kuwait facing a serious talent crisis?

By Manaf Abdulaziz Alhajeri  
CEO, Kuwait Financial Centre - Markaz

Before his demise a year ago, Dr George Abouna - a world pioneer in organ transplantation - had another sad, albeit earthly departure from Kuwait in 1990. He had to rush out of Kuwait, contract term unfinished, presumably due to his Iraqi origins and after setting up in Kuwait an organ transplantation unit that was the first of its kind in the Middle East then. The departure of Abouna was probably a leading indicator of a serious and burgeoning national policy failure to attract world-class talent. The invasion of Kuwait indeed marked a decline - if not erosion - of the position this country enjoyed for three decades as an international hub for talent.

This worked to the advantage of the more ambitious GCC countries in their hunt for talent in most fields. The sojourn of senior expatriates in Kuwait is becoming increasingly short and full of residency, contractual and red tape challenges. The recent rhetoric to indigenize the national workforce is not helping either, leading to an existentially uneasy atmosphere for expatriates.

This sharp decline in Kuwait's attractiveness for talent is not due to security concerns, because Kuwait became more secure after liberation, as it reaffirmed its sovereignty following its liberation in 1991. Worse, Kuwait saw also an exponential growth in unskilled labor, causing a serious capacity bottleneck in both quality and quantity. According to Amer Al-Tamimi (Al-Qabas - Sept 15, 2011) there are 129,653 illiterates in the country, of which 106,153 are expatriates, representing 82 percent of the total illiterate population in the country. This unskilled labor - many now observed straying on the streets - needs to be seriously addressed through a definitive solution to chronic labor trafficking, contracting policies and rules penalizing low-skilled labor and more mechanized technologies.

Replacing a highly-qualified expatriate with a citizen who may not have the qualifications does not benefit development in the long term, due to two reasons. First, real development is about job creation, only be achievable in a free, meritocratic, knowledge-friendly and democratic environment providing equal opportunities to all. Second, we are in the knowledge age, necessitating a clear policy to nurture talent in view of building capacity in our institutions and raising competitiveness of the economy.

Sadly, I know a growing number of highly-qualified expatriates who have left, are leaving to other Gulf states, or sending their families back to their countries of origin. Recruiters consistently report that neighboring markets have a much better success rates in attracting senior finance executives, Western teachers and doctors to name a few.

This trend has led to a decline in the competitiveness of our economy, both in the public and private sectors.

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MANAMA: King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa honors Zain's Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi.

MANAMA/KUWAIT: At an honorary ceremony held at the Sakhr palace in Bahrain last week, King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain honored Zain's Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi in a ceremony expressing the kingdom's appreciation of Zain Group's efforts to spread the culture of tolerance, dialogue and peace.

King Hamad also acknowledged and praised Zain Group's support and participation in the 'This is Bahrain' event that was held in Sept 2017 in Los Angeles. 'This is Bahrain' was held on the sidelines of the international launch of the Bahrain Declaration and

the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence patronized by the king.

During the reception in Manama, King Hamad praised and thanked many regional dignitaries and delegations that supported the "This is Bahrain" campaign, acknowledging the positive proactive efforts and results achieved by this international event, including the launch of the King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence to be established in Bahrain soon.

The center will launch projects aimed at promoting cultural rapprochement between religions and cultures, reflective of King Hamad's efforts to achieve

peace and prosperity for all humanity. Additionally, the reception saw the establishment of The Kingdom of Bahrain Declaration as a global document to promote religious freedom with the aim to confront extremism and terrorism.

King Hamad praised the efforts of his son Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, as the representative at this event, for his contribution in clarifying his country's firm position on the protection of religious freedoms and respect for pluralism and intellectual, cultural and religious diversity.

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### Trump speech sparks war of words between US, Iran

TEHRAN/WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's refusal to certify the Iran nuclear deal has sparked a new war of words between the Islamic Republic and America, fueling growing mistrust and a sense of nationalism among Iranians. The speech has also served to unite Iranians across the political spectrum - from Trump's declining to call the Arabian Gulf, the waterway through which a third of all oil traded by sea passes, as the Persian Gulf, to undercutting those trying to change Iran's clerically overseen government from within.

That is also likely to strengthen the hand of hardliners within Iran, who long have insisted that the United States remains the same "Great Satan" denounced in the 1979 Islamic Revolution. "Under the deal, it was supposed to be that we get concessions, not that we give more concessions," the hardline Kayhan newspaper raged. Iranian officials and media outlets yesterday uniformly condemned Trump's comments that angrily accused Iran of violating the spirit of the 2015 accord and demanded Congress toughen the law governing US participation. Trump said he was not ready to pull out of the deal but warned he would do so if it were not improved.

Trump defended his decision to "decertify" Iran's compliance in a speech Friday that evoked US grievances dating back to the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump speaks about the Iran deal on Friday. — AFP



TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani reacts in a speech on Friday. — AFP

railed against the "Iranian dictatorship, its sponsorship of terrorism, and its continuing aggression in the Middle East and all around the world". And he warned he could rip up the 2015 agreement curbing Iran's nuclear program "at any time," saying it had failed to address Iranian subversion in its region and its illegal missile program.

Reaction to the US move came fast and furious, with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani declaring the United States was "more than ever against the Iranian people". Former US secretary of state John Kerry, who negotiated the nuclear deal, accused Trump of "creating an international crisis" and called on the US Congress to stand in the president's way. "It endangers America's national security interests and those of our closest allies," Kerry said. In a cautious but unmistakable rebuke, the leaders of Britain, France and Germany said the deal remained in "our shared national security

interest". "We encourage the US administration and Congress to consider the implications to the security of the US and its allies before taking any steps that might undermine" the deal.

French President Emmanuel Macron later said he was considering visiting Iran after speaking by phone with his Iranian counterpart. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which was awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize, also denounced the move, saying it makes proliferation more likely.

In a televised speech shortly after Trump made his announcement, Rouhani said his country would remain in the deal, but criticized Trump's words, referring to them as "cursing and futile accusations". Rouhani also said Iran would continue to build and test ballistic missiles, something allowed under the nuclear deal though Americans believe it violates the accord's spirit.

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### MoI busts bid to smuggle in large amount of drugs

KUWAIT: Ministry of Interior personnel detained a six-person gang trafficking drugs and amphetamine pills from a European country, foiling a plot to smuggle in up to two million Captagon pills. The ministry's information department said in a statement yesterday that the criminal sector, namely the Anti-Narcotics General Directorate, succeeded in aborting a bid to smuggle into the country two million narcotic pills by these persons, including custom and civil aviation employees.

An informant notified the department about a plot by a person to traffic a large amount of narcotic and amphetamine pills, including Captagon, to the country by air with help of a group of people of diverse nationalities. The suspect was apprehended at a hotel in Fahaheel with an amount of the narcotics in his possession. The trafficker, during interrogations, disclosed that an operation was underway to smuggle another amount of drugs via the airport with the involvement of two citizens, one of whom works in the customs department. The pair was detained and 30,000 pills of Captagon were found in one of the two men's farm.

The duo confessed to trying to smuggle the banned materials with



The confiscated packs of narcotics are displayed. — KUNA

help of others and revealed that a shipment was still at the air cargo facility. Inspectors searched the building and found a luggage packed with two million pills of Captagon. The traffickers have been referred to the competent authorities pending legal proceedings against them. — KUNA

### IMF: Kuwait 'successful' in 1st phase of reforms

WASHINGTON: Kuwait has been successful in implementing the first phase of its economic and financial reforms, which are set to balance and develop the economy of the country, Jihad Azour, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department, said yesterday. Speaking to KUNA, Azour said that Kuwait

must continue on this route to transform its financial status from an oil-based economy to nation with vast resources and income.

The private sector should be given more space to get involved in shaping the national economy, said the IMF official, who lauded Kuwait for taking several initiatives since 2016 to reform its financial sector. He indicated that Kuwait's eagerness to follow up on global financial protocols will have a positive impact, adding that the IMF will provide assistance and guidelines to enable Kuwaitis to pursue their bright future.

Changing the way in which the country approaches the budget and transforming the financial

Continued on Page 11

## Special Report

# The case of the disabled in Kuwait

## Over 45,000 people in Kuwait considered legally disabled

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

**KUWAIT:** A 9-year-old girl in Kuwait was treated differently by her mother and her younger sister's friends. They thought she was mentally challenged, so they avoided playing with her. All she could do was sit and watch them playing. The girl's family later discovered that she suffers from a slow learning disorder. Her childhood would have been happier if they had found out earlier about her debility.

It is difficult for parents to realize that their child is suffering from a disability, which may take several years to be discovered, either because the type of disability is apparent only after a certain age, or because diagnosis is delayed. Sometimes a child is born normal, but he or she has an accident or disease that causes permanent disability.

### Different needs

At each age level, the needs of the disabled are different from the psychological, health and service aspects. Kuwait has undertaken to share responsibility with the family of the disabled, providing them with health, psychological, educational and professional care in accordance with law no. 8 of 2010. The law consists of 70 articles, the first of which specifies the persons to whom the provisions of the law apply - those with a lack of physical, mental or sensory abilities that may prevent them from securing the necessities of life or participating fully and effectively in society on an equal basis with others.

The General Authority for Disability Affairs is responsible for the follow-up of people with disabilities in Kuwait. There are more than 45,000 people in Kuwait who are considered legally disabled. Under the law, the government must contribute to the support of their housing, social, psychological and educational needs, as well as sports, entertainment and

the law are not enforced on the ground. Afrah, a member of the Kuwait Society for the Follow-up of the Issues of the Disabled, said salaries of disabled people are not enough, and many of them have been deprived of their financial allocations after a reassessment of their health status by the medical committee and reduction of the level of disability from severe to moderate.

"Consider the cost of expensive housing rent and the modification of some rooms and bathrooms for the disabled. It is required to verify the condition of the disabled, but there must be an assessment of housing to ensure an appropriate environment and fill shortcomings," she said.

### Allowances

Allowances for Kuwait's disabled vary according to how the government classifies the disability. Citizens under 21 years of age, according to article 29 of the eighth law of 2010, receive a direct allowance from the government. A child with a minor disability gets KD 2,220 per year - around KD 184 per month - along with a onetime grant of KD 5,000.

A child with moderate disabilities receives an allowance of KD 2,700 per year - about KD 225 per month - and a KD 10,000 onetime grant. Those with disabilities classified as 'severe' will receive an annual allowance of KD 3,324 (KD 277 per month) plus a KD 10,000 onetime grant.

However, once the child becomes an adult at the age of 21, the allowance will be stopped. Then the Public Institution for Social Security takes over, determining the needs of the disabled person, including allowances as well as other benefits, such as medical equipment, wheelchairs and nurse, driver or personal caretaker allowance based on the type and severity of the disability.

Here comes the role of the Kuwait Society for Follow-up of the Issues of the Disabled, which was explained to Kuwait Times by Ali Al-Thuwaini, Secretary of the Association, which investigates complaints and works with concerned authorities through the submission of proposals and solutions. "We do not make a quick reaction, but rather study the cases and examine their credibility. We then transfer the claims formally to the competent authority, all of which call for the activation of all articles of the eighth law of 2010," he explained. "Disabled people do get financial benefits, but they face a lot of complications until they receive them."

Under the previous administration of the disabled authority, it was reported that files were subject to loss and manipulation because they were not archived digitally. After a new management commenced administrative work, the body is working to place all files in a digital archive and automate the procedures. "In



KUWAIT: The General Authority for Disability Affairs.

order for us to obtain state funds and have access to the beneficiaries, we have to be purposeful in this process. First-time requests are made online through our official website, then a notice is sent to inform the concerned person that a response will be made within 30 days via SMS," Thuwaini explained.

"There are those with moderate disability, but their guardians insist that the impairment of their child is severe, contrary to what is stated in the medical report issued by the ministry of health, as if they wish to curse their children in anticipation of the allocations of the disabled, unfortunately," he rued.

## Government must support disabled citizens' needs

### Real disabilities

So what is the fault of people with real disabilities? Both Salem Al-Hafiti's son and daughter suffer from hearing impairments. He told Kuwait Times the Salem Al-Ali Center for Hearing and Speech is a prestigious center "which we are proud of," but wished the doctors there are monitored and evaluated by officials all the time, because he doesn't want what happened with his daughter to be repeated when he went to return cochlear implants. He said he is now forced to travel monthly to a Gulf country and incur travel expenses and the cost of programming and rehabilitation of up to KD 500.

Abdullatif Safar, a father of two children, one with reactive mobility and the other suffering from slow learning, complained there are not enough schools and classrooms in the governorates to accept students with disabilities. "I have to take my children to three separate schools, each in a different area, in the midst of heavy traffic," he said, adding "each governorate has only two to three government schools, each with only four classes and five to seven students."

However, Thuwaini said those with motor, hearing and visual impairments can be absorbed in nearby schools. However, education does not guarantee all factors of success, both in terms of curriculum, number of teachers and the facilities at the school for disabled students. A disabled student may also be exposed to lack of empathy by his healthy peers as a result of lack of awareness, which makes the student feel isolated and makes him prefer to attend a school for disabled where students look like him.

"To be fair, the Ministry of Education has a successful program, which needs to be expanded and developed. We are patients, and in my opinion, walking like a turtle to win the race is better than running like a rabbit and not getting there!" he said.

### One-eye disability

The commission accepted disability in one eye until May 2010, when it canceled its status as a worthy disability case, like developed countries that do not recognize disability in one eye. But this sudden decision hurt many, as officials did not take into account the family and economic considerations of the families of affected people. "Who is responsible for this?" said Amin Saeed, a one-eye disability supervisor at the society.



vocational rehabilitation. It should also uphold their public rights and oblige concerned authorities to integrate them into society, in addition to other benefits and exemptions.

However, some voices are complaining about the unfairness of the law's enforcement, claiming that the rights of the disabled are merely on paper and most of the 70 articles of



Kuwait Society for the Follow-up of the Issues of the Disabled.

"The problem is that the disabled person and his family think that the disabled are equal in rights, exemptions and privileges, but not every motor handicap deserves a car parking card, and not every average disability requires a driver's allowance," said an official who declined to be identified.

Talk about the General Authority for Disability Affairs suffering from chaos and corruption is true in some cases. Some previous staff have been referred to the prosecution, while some got fired. Under the new administration, the commission is moving to correct and organize errors in order to safeguard state funds and the public welfare of the disabled. The Department of Care Services, the Disabled Care Department, the Rehabilitation Medical Center and the Vocational Rehabilitation Department will soon be incorporated under the umbrella of the authority.

Dr Ali Hassan, Head of the Scientific Committee at the Kuwait Society for the Follow-up of the Issues of the Disabled, said that the disabled person is in transition from the family and school to the workplace. Each stage has its own needs. "I do not have a disabled person in the family and I am not disabled, but I was a lazy person. When I saw the activity and effectiveness of Ali Dashti, the public relations director of the society and member Mona Al-Azmi, who are disabled, and their passion for work for our community, I was ashamed of myself. The disabled person can create and innovate in all practical areas if given the opportunity. Therefore, the country must take advantage of these energies and talents by integrating them fully into society," he concluded.



Local

# Demographic imbalance can be fixed in 3-4 years: Hashem

## Tabtabaei demands more control on expats' licenses

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** MP Safa Al-Hashem criticized the government for saying that solving the state's demographic imbalance problem would take 20 years, and stressed that this statement is unacceptable. "The time we need to solve the problem is three or four years, and we will never allow it to remain for 20 years, as we do have the minds capable of fixing the problem," she said, wondering about the role of the Supreme Planning Council, especially with the reservations made about the appointment of some of its members, including a former female minister and another member who had been reappointed although he had been a member of the council for decades. Hashem praised the actual implementation of the health fee hikes on expats, saying that it resulted in much comfort for citizens at public hospitals. Hashem also demanded discussing the fuel price

increases in parliament, especially since it is a public issue, calling for more pressure to be put on the government to give fuel coupons to citizens with limited and medium income.

### Driver's licenses

Meanwhile, MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei called for regulating and having more control on the issuance of driving licenses to non-Kuwaitis to make sure they match conditions and regulations. Tabtabaei suggested establishing a special committee to supervise the process of issuing and renewing non-Kuwaitis' licenses, exempting drivers included in article 20 of the ministerial decision number 640/1987 (family drivers). On another concern, Tabtabaei announced filing a parliamentary inquiry against Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan pertaining Kuwaiti compa-

nies listed on the stock exchange.

### State dues

The Cabinet urged 11 ministers to report to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh concerning the measures they had taken to collect overdue state dues and the schedule followed to do so, especially since the sum adds up to around KD 1 billion. Informed sources said that Saleh is supposed to have already received these reports as the Cabinet had asked to do so within two weeks effective Sept 18. The sources added that the Cabinet's decision came following the finance ministry's reports that it had repeatedly contacted various ministries in this regard without any response.

### Promotions

The Ministry of Electricity and Water's (MEW) 2017-2018 budget showed promotions and incentives increased by KD 20,759,000, as the current sum allocated would be KD 241,954,000 compared to KD 221,195,000 in 2016-2017.

### Helicopters

Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) decided to sign two contracts with a total value of KD 72.5 million to charter helicopters and build a huge oil pipeline at Burgan oil field. Informed sources explained that the pipeline will cost



MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei



MP Safa Al-Hashem

KD 56.6 million and that the project would be executed by the Mechanical Engineering and Contracting Company as part of a package of projects the company is executing at Burgan field to develop its capacity to 4 million barrels by 2020. The sources added that the second contract with a total value of KD 15.9 million was signed with Falcon Aviation Company to rent 2017 model helicopters for five years to be used in ferrying KOC employees to various sites within Kuwait.

**Iraqi gas**  
Iraqi Oil Minister Jabbar Al-Luaibi said negotiations with Kuwait to export Iraqi gas instead of paying compensations for the Iraqi invasion are in the final stages. Luaibi added that the project goes back to the 1990s when both countries had an agreement to export 200 million cubic feet a day. He added that prices were still needed to be agreed upon and that Iraq had offered its prices and was still waiting for Kuwait's response.

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## One dead, 20 rescued from Salwa house blaze

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** One person was killed, while firemen rescued 20 people from a fire that broke out in a three-storey house in Salwa, South Salmiya, Mishref and technical rescue responded to fight the blaze. Six persons were treated onsite by paramedics, while others were taken to hospital.

### Murder

Criminal detectives unraveled the circumstances of a murder that took place in Sulaihiya, during which a bedoon (stateless) man was killed. The crime took place on Oct 5, when a call about a shooting was received by police, who responded and found a man dead from bullet wounds. Police found the murderer's vehicle in Firdous and the murder weapon in it. The suspect, a citizen, was arrested in a Salmi camp.

### Accident

A citizen was killed when his vehicle flipped over in Bayan. Salmiya firemen rushed to the area and discovered the driver was dead. The body was handed to police to be sent to the forensics department.

### Campaign

Acting Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Maj Gen Fahd Al-Shuwaie supervised a campaign around Kuwait, resulting in issuing 2,928 citations, 132 vehicles were impounded, 55 people were detained while two were sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

### Abducting

Hawally police arrested an Arab woman reported abducting - they also found 17 illicit



KUWAIT: A fireman uses a ladder to rescue a person from a house where a fire was reported in Salwa.

tablets on her. Meanwhile, Ahmadi police arrested a girl in Abu Halifa after she became nervous when she saw police and was found to be under the influence of drugs. The girl had a hashish joint as well as two bags of chemical. The girl was found wanted on several theft cases, as well as a KD 2,500 debt. Meanwhile, Farwaniya police arrested a European woman who was with a citizen and both were in intoxicated. Both had seven Laryca tablets. Police arrested a citizen in Bayan with a hashish joint, three tablets and KD 247. All those arrested were sent to concerned authorities.

### Fights

An Egyptian man was beaten by a Palestinian man in Sabah Al-Ahmad residential area due to work differences. The victim went to the hospital, brought a medical report and lodged a complaint against the offender. Meanwhile, an Egyptian man was beaten by a driver of a black vehicle in Mahboula. The man lodged a complaint at Riqqa police station and gave them the license plate number of the car. Separately, two citizens who work at Shuaiba power station had a fight and exchanged blows, before being sep-

arated by colleagues. Both went to Shuaiba police station and a case was recorded.

### Custody

A woman lost custody of her children for "torturing" them along with her boyfriend. The criminal court sentenced the woman and her friend to five years in jail for torturing the children with a knife and nail clipper. The woman's mother went to the family court to take custody of the children and was granted the request in the interest of the children.

### Threats

An Egyptian family lived through moments of horror in Ishbelia after a citizen, under the influence of drugs, threatened to kill himself, then got hysterical and set fire to their apartment. A woman and her daughter suffered smoke inhalation and were taken to hospital. The suspect was taken to the police station.

### Theft

An Egyptian man told Fahaheel police that electric cables were stolen from Maqwa worth KD 900. Detectives are working on the case.

## Kuwait campaigns to enlist Rohingya in ILO's conference

**SAINT PETERSBURG:** Kuwait has played a pivotal role in enlisting the Rohingya's crisis as an emergency item on the agenda of the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference held in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation played an effective role to reach consensus during sideline meetings by the Arab and Islamic groups on enlisting the Rohingya crisis as an urgent topic on the agenda of ILO's conference, said the Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.

Seven States, including Kuwait, have requested that the Muslim Rohingya plight be listed on the agenda as an urgent matter, he added. The parliamentarians representing the Arab and Islamic states have also reached an understanding on other topics, namely need to support nominee for the chairmanship; supportive of Arab and Islamic causes, and backing modifications to ILO's constituent law where violators must face penalties. Ghanem said in his statement as he emerged from the coordination talks.

Ghanem said the Arab and Islamic legislators agreed to meet the Mexican and Uruguayan candidates and determine whether they are committed to the Arab and Islamic issues. "We will choose the one with stronger support for the Arab and Islamic causes," he said. On amending the charter, Ghanem said the Arab and Islamic groups agreed to a Kuwaiti proposal to address ILO's charter amendment in the next session in Geneva. He indicated that such a move was necessary to restrain the Israeli Knesset, which repeatedly breached ILO's regulations.

Delegations of the Arab parliamentary group met earlier yesterday to discuss topics on the agenda of the IPU conference. The main topic



SAINT PETERSBURG: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali-Ghanem speaks during the conference. — KUNA

discussed in the meeting was having a unified stance on supporting a candidate in the union's elections, head of the Tunisian delegation Lutfi Al-Nabli said.

The participants also discussed developments in Syria, Yemen, Sudan and Myanmar and means of ending conflict and aiding those in need in these countries, he added. Moreover, he noted that the delegations are set to present a request to recognize the Arabic language as an official language in the union, and establish an Arabic version of its website. The conference is held with the presence of delegations from over 150 countries. — KUNA

## Local

# Union of Russian artists display works at the embassy

## More than 100 artworks were exhibited

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** For the first time in Kuwait, an exhibition of the Union of Russian Artists was held on Wednesday at the Russian Embassy compound. It was attended by dignitaries and various art lovers in Kuwait. The Union of Russian Artists was founded in 1903. In Kuwait, more than 100 artworks were exhibited in various forms and materials such as landscapes, portraits, oil and watercolours. In the first day of the exhibition, half of the exhibited products were sold. In a speech, the Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexey Solomatin said that such event is very important to bringing Russian and Kuwaiti people together. "We are glad to hosting this arts exhibit in Kuwait. It is held for the first time and we have the best artists who are here today to display their works. Such exhibitions will help strengthen our people-to-people contact and in learning more about Russian culture and traditions," he said.



**KUWAIT:** (From left) Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan is welcomed by Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexey Solomatin and his wife. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A general view of people in attendance at the exhibition.



Paintings displayed at the exhibition.



Artists participating in the event pose for a group picture.

# Kuwait Times

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## KFAED signs loan agreements with Mali, Senegal

**KUWAIT:** A loan agreement, totaling KD 9.5 million (\$32 million), was signed between Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the Republic of Mali to finance a drinking water project in the Bamako capital district. According to a statement by KFAED yesterday, the loan will also help improve social development and economy in the area, through providing adequate amounts of water as a source from Niger River to needed areas due to increase demand of water.

The project consists mainly of civil and electromechanical works to expand the Bamako water project, as a first phase through the construction of a new water treatment plant and the laying of conveyor lines, as well as the construction of reser-

voirs, pumping stations, distribution networks, household connections and water taps. The project also includes the provision of consultancy services for the preparation of detailed designs, tender documents, and supervision of implementation, institutional support and project management.

KFAED had announced on Friday signing a loan agreement worth KD 12 million (\$40.8 million) with Senegal. According to KFAED, the loan will be geared towards developing a highway project in Senegal. The 105 kilometers road will develop transportation, commerce, and cargo services in Senegal, stated KFAED.

This is the 30th loan by KFAED to the African country. The total amount of KFAED loans to Senegal have reached KD 110 million (\$374 million). The Kuwaiti fund has offered three technical loans worth KD 582 million (\$1.9 million). KFAED was founded in December 31, 1961 as an entity aimed at providing assistance and support to world countries within the development domain. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Chairman of Union of Workers at the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) Suleiman Al-Dousary said the union continues its preparations for next season with new services and activities. He announced semiweekly draws for many prizes including airline tickets and jewelry sets. He invited MPW employees to register at the union to benefit from all services the union offers.

Local

# Ali Najm: Voice with light-speed success



Ali Najm at his book's signing at the Book Fair.



By Mohamad Bassam Al-Husseini

I have always wanted to write about a star named Ali Najm who has achieved with his voice a light-speed success. Yet I have always hesitated, not because of the lack of information or words, never ... but because I tried hard to find a better correlative in the spacious world of information, in the hope of making a meaningful addition so that my words are more than the customary praise.

Among the factors that prompted me to think of that correlative was the very long queue of young males and females waiting patiently to have him sign their copy of his first book "ZahmatHaki" (Talk Rush) in the Book Fair during the days of this annual cultural event. I was also equally driven by the immense interaction with his social media writings or his talks on radio which he preserves as a successful and living citadel at a time when most citadels have become traditional historical relics and, ruins of the past and nostalgia.

Since my early days, I loved the laws of mathematics and their equations which produce accurate logical results. So what factors have combined to give us the result as personified in Ali Najm and to offer us an explanation?

Before writing these words I had watched him closely. One of the reasons that encouraged me to join him in

a radio talk on "Marina FM" last June was the chance to have an exploratory face-to-face encounter with him. The interview was not a duel. I was asked realistic, practical, sequenced and purposeful questions without any prior discussion or preparation. They were geared towards giving some piece of information or analysis and not meant to be provocative. Until this day, I still think about that encounter which pleased me and proved to be a victory to radio as a platform and space for expression, and the continuity of its influential role and active presence when it has the proper and studied content.

I also followed Ali's appearance in the Ramadan drama Al-Yaum Al-Aswad in which he raised, through two appearances at the beginning and the end, wide reactions.

I was present at the signing of his book "ZahmatHaki" which later topped, with its simple style and the easy flow of its thoughts, the bestseller lists of

all book fairs it participated in. The book is not built on an exceptional language or super tales, but rather on conveying with uncompromising realism human situations that are direct and spontaneous.

It was then that I wondered about what made a work of such simplicity achieve that degree of success.

And why does the same person repeat the same success in writing, in the drama and on radio, thus utterly refuting the hypothesis of chance and luck?

There must be, behind such a level of excellence, a great deal of intelligence and commitment which make the difficult easy and the impossible possible. Ali ran his media course in

the style of an election campaign with the aim of winning votes and numbers. Winning votes is predicated on the ability to persuade voters. Winning them to your side requires understanding them, what they need, what they miss, providing them continuously with what they like to hear, see and read, all in their

own feelings and language and through their own perspectives.

Instead of the path of tradition, Ali Najm chose with perseverance and insistence on perfect preparation the path of comprehension and understanding which led him a majority he called the "Silent Majority" which began to express itself through him, to have trust in him and to defend his logic and style. He made that majority talk: we do not want your complications, your philosophizing, your tiring deep or clever analysis. We want his simple, meaningful and understanding talk even if his talk is devoid of politics, sports, economics and the topics that occupy 90 percent of public debates. In reality, 10 percent of the issues he focuses on concern and touch the 100 percent. That is why Ali won a seat among the majority.

We might have different views on disputed issues, on the other hand we all share in humanity, love, human relations, the need to talk about betrayal and faithfulness, rebellion and submission, strength and weakness, remembrance and forgetfulness, pain and hope ... and all that Ali Najm writes and continues to write about.

In the realm of the media, theoretically and practically, what is needed is charisma, intelligence, "true understanding" of others and persistence through any available modern or traditional platforms, and the 10 percent will be at least 50 percent+1.



10% of the issues he focuses on concern and touch the 100%

## Alghanim Industries announces strategic sponsorship of Tmkeen



KUWAIT: Tmkeen announces speakers at the press conference.

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, announced its strategic sponsorship of the 6th annual Tmkeen Youth Symposium, which will be held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on 23 to 25 October 2017. Registration for this year's conference is expected to open on 15 October.

The organizers of the event held a press conference that was attended by the company sponsors, during which the guest speakers of the event were formally announced. The speakers include Patrick Pichette, former Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Google Inc.; Mike Tattersfield, Chairman of Caribou Coffee; Sam Chamberlain, Chief Operating Officer of Five Guys Group; Simon Ainslie, former Global Vice President at Nokia; and Victoria Grace, Founding Partner and CEO of Colle Capital - USA.

Commenting on their strategic sponsorship, Head of Corporate Communications at Alghanim Industries, Abdullateef Abdulaziz Al-Sharikh, said: "We are excited to sponsor the Tmkeen Youth Symposium. Tmkeen's vision and commitment to youth has been exemplary. Through their annual conference and their various initiatives, Tmkeen has hosted some of the most inspiring

business leaders and entrepreneurs across the globe."

He added: "At Alghanim Industries, we view the support of initiatives such as these as our natural role, as well as a social and national responsibility. We strive to continuously support our youth and facilitate learning opportunities that enable them to own their future success and become active contributors to developing the economy. We look forward to this year's insightful conference."

Chairman of the Tmkeen conference, Ali Al-Ibrahim, said: "This marks our second partnership with Alghanim Industries, a company that shares our same passion for youth entrepreneurship and for creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem in our nation. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Alghanim Industries, and its CEO, Omar Kutayba Alghanim, who has been an avid supporter of our initiatives. Tmkeen works hand in hand with Kuwait's private sector - which has been a key factor in our success and longevity. We look to continue our cooperation and partnership with Alghanim Industries in the years to come."

This initiative comes as part of Alghanim Industries' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, which is committed to giving back to the community, supporting education and encouraging entrepreneurship.

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Manal Al-Sharif, driving change for Saudi women

## Turks seeking US visas left reeling by diplomatic row

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CALIFORNIA: The Journey's End mobile home park is seen at sunset in Santa Rosa, California. Thirty five people have died in wildfires that have burned tens of thousands of acres and destroyed over 3,500 homes and businesses in several Northern California counties. — AFP

# Death and destruction, hope and heroism in California wildfires

## California fire toll rises to 35, winds cause concern

**SAN FRANCISCO:** The death toll from California's wildfires rose to 35 yesterday as firefighters made some progress in containing the infernos but said intensifying winds were a concern. "We're not out of this emergency, not even close," said Mark Ghilarducci, director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. "But we are seeing some progress in areas the fires have impacted," Ghilarducci told a news conference. "We'll get ahead of these flames."

California fire Chief Ken Pimlott said more than 9,000 firefighters were battling 17 large fires that have consumed a total of 221,754 acres since Sunday. An estimated 5,700 structures have been destroyed by the wildfires, up from 3,500 reported on Wednesday, CAL FIRE said on its Twitter account. The death toll rose to 33 with a 14-year-old boy's body reportedly being recovered in Mendocino county near his family's home. "It appears he was attempting to evacuate the area on foot when he was overtaken by the fire," the Mendocino County Sheriff's office told the Ukiah Daily Journal. Sonoma County officials earlier Friday reported another death, which had brought the total to 35.

Even as an unprecedented toll of death and destruction kept mounting, California communities were getting glimpses of heroism, humanity and hope as wildfires burned around them. Firefighters made major gains

against most of the blazes on Friday, a lucky few of the nearly 100,000 people who fled their homes got to return, and examples of charity were everywhere, along with a sign that began popping up in more and more places: "The love in the air is thicker than the smoke."

Astonishing video released from the fire's hellish first night showed the soldiers' courage of the deputies and firefighters working amid the flames. "Go! Go! Go! Go! Go!" the unidentified Sonoma County deputy can be heard yelling in the body-camera video released by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office as he tries to get hesitant drivers to speed out of a town that was already being devoured by flames. He is shown lifting a disabled woman out of her wheelchair and into an SUV to rush her out of town. And he drives through walls of flame looking for more people to help.

"And that's just one person," Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano said after showing the video at a news conference. The tragic bottom line remained. There were

35 dead, and 5,700 homes and businesses destroyed. Those numbers make this the most deadly and destructive series of fires California has ever seen. Evacuees at an RV evacuation site at Sonoma Raceway counted their blessings, trying not to think about what they've lost and what they might lose still. The mood at sunset Friday was

upbeat, even cheerful as children and dogs scampered in the twilight. More than 100 campers were parked by the side of a highway.

There were portable bathrooms and tables groaning from donated water bottles, stuffed animals and food. Ron Vitt, 75, and Ellen Brantley, 65, sat in chairs watching the cars go by, a small table between them holding drinks: Gin with cocktail onions for

him and gin with lime for her. They joked as their dog bounced about happily. "There is a sun that's going to set. There's a dog who is really happy," Vitts said. "So you gotta bring some sanity into this whole thing." At Sonoma Valley High School, the parking lot was packed with cars and vans. Middle school principal Will Deeths supervised

volunteers and made sure people had plenty of water and a filter mask. He said a little more than 100 people spent Thursday night at the school, which has been converted into a shelter.

He said community response has been phenomenal. Hairdressers from Oakland came to fix people's hair and a young man played guitar to entertain families, he said. They even had a birthday party for a 5-year-old boy, complete with a donated cake from a local bakery. "Two days ago we were in need of size 5 diapers," he said. "Someone put it on Facebook and within an hour, four or five cars pulled up, two or three boxes, boom boom boom, here you go."

In all, 17 large fires still burned across the northern part of the state, with more than 9,000 firefighters attacking the flames using air tankers, helicopters and more than 1,000 fire engines. "The emergency is not over, and we continue to work at it, but we are seeing some great progress," said the state's emergency operations director, Mark Ghilarducci. Two of the largest fires in Napa and Sonoma counties were at least 25 percent contained by Friday, which marked "significant progress," said state fire Chief Ken Pimlott. But he cautioned that crews would face more gusty winds, low humidity and higher temperatures. Those conditions were expected to take hold later Friday and persist into the weekend. — AP

“The love in the air is thicker than the smoke”

## Trump puts America first, but risks 'America alone'

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump has gambled with US diplomatic credibility by attacking an Iran nuclear deal that his European allies cherish as a benchmark for international cooperation. And in doing so the US president has underlined the risk that his "America First" foreign policy will translate to one of "America Alone" as he confronts future crises.

Between nationalist speeches, protectionist gestures and high-octane Twitter outbursts, observers have struggled to identify a coherent strategy behind Trump's decisions. But one thread does stand out as he pulls out of trade deals, provokes allies and tears up international accords—he seems determined that no international ties will bind him. The United States emerged as the indispensable superpower in the wake of World War II in part through its leadership in a global rules-based system of treaties and alliances.

### 'Withdrawal doctrine'

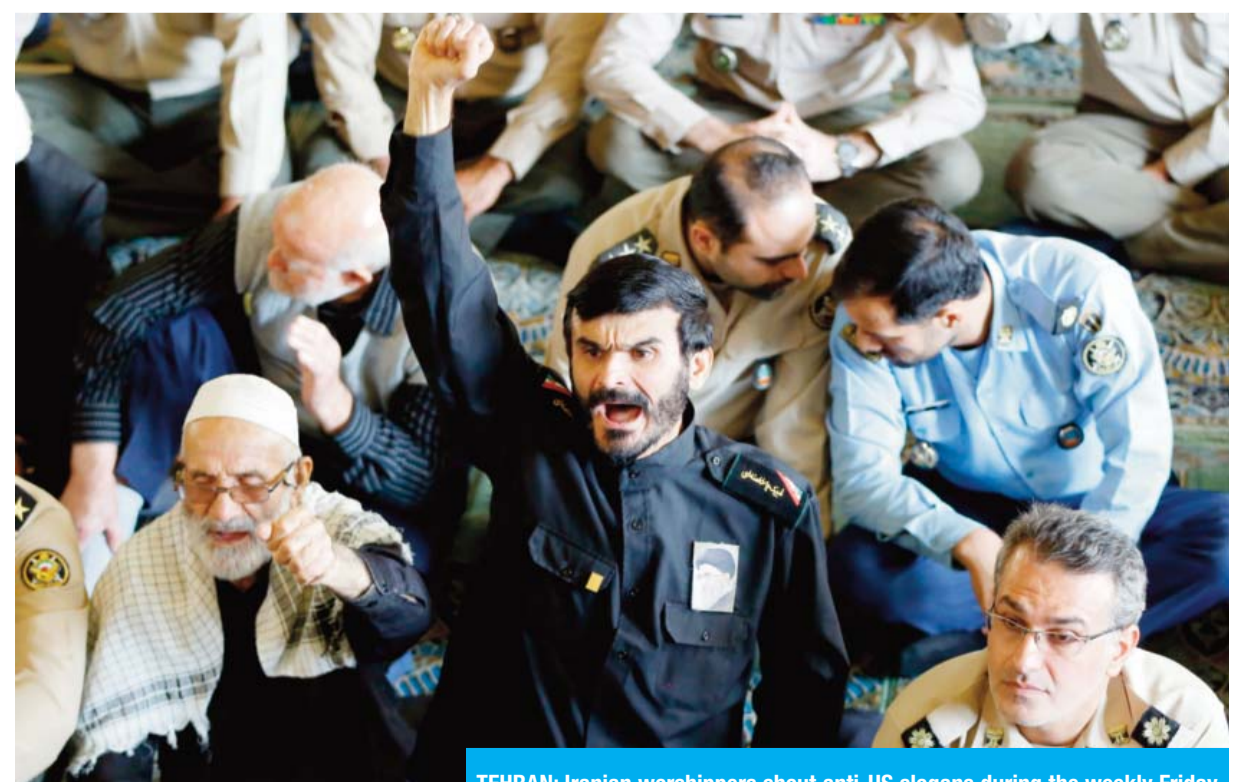
But, as Trump made clear last month in a speech to the UN General Assembly, his vision is of a world where America is just the most powerful in a network of sover-

eign nations. "Trump foreign policy has found its theme: 'The Withdrawal Doctrine,'" quipped Richard Haass, influential president of the Council on Foreign Relations. Trump has not yet withdrawn from the Iran deal, although he made it clear that he is ready to do so if Congress and skeptical US allies do not agree to new sanctions. He did quit the UN cultural organization, this week. He has collapsed the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal and appears to be poised to destroy the bigger NAFTA treaty. Time and again his bluster has put in question America's commitment to its NATO allies, and time and again he has ordered reviews into the utility of remaining in UN agencies.

He has even declared that America will drop out of the biggest—and arguably most important—accord in world history, the 196-member Paris climate deal. As might be expected, former members of president Barack Obama's administration are furious and bewildered at what they see as an abdication of US leadership. "Once again, Trump is throwing into question the ability of the US to keep its commitment to international agreements," former top aide Ben Rhodes said. "Other nations will not want to enter into agreements with the United States," he warned.

### Ego and ideology

Former secretary of state John Kerry, who negotiated the Iran deal, called Trump's decision a "reckless abandonment of facts in favor of ego and ideology." "Trump, he said, "weakens our hand, alienates us from our allies, empowers Iranian hardliners, makes it harder to resolve North Korea and risks moving us closer to military conflict." — AFP



TEHRAN: Iranian worshippers shout anti-US slogans during the weekly Friday prayer in Tehran. — AFP

International

# IS faces imminent defeat in Raqa; campaign focuses on Deir Al-Zor

## 100 IS fighters surrender in 24 hours

**AIN ISSA:** Islamic State is on the verge of defeat in Syria's Raqa and the city may finally be cleared of the jihadists today, the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia said yesterday. The US-led coalition against Islamic State said around 100 of the jihadist group's fighters had surrendered in Raqa in the last 24 hours and had been "removed from the city", but it still expected difficult fighting "in the days ahead". It did not say how they had been removed or where the fighters had been taken.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said remaining Islamic State fighters were being transported out of Raqa by bus under a deal between Islamic State, the US-led coalition and the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which is dominated by the YPG. There was no immediate comment on that report from the coalition or the SDF. The SDF, backed by coalition air strikes and special forces, has been battling since June to oust Islamic State from Raqa city, formerly its de facto capital in Syria and a base of operations where it planned attacks against the West.

The final defeat of Islamic State at Raqa will be a major milestone in efforts to roll back the group's self-declared "caliphate" in Syria and Iraq, where earlier this year the group was driven from the city of Mosul. "The battles are continuing in Raqa city. Daesh (Islamic State) is on the verge of being finished. Today or tomorrow the city may be liberated," YPG spokesman Nouri Mahmoud told Reuters by telephone. In emailed comments to Reuters, coalition spokesman Ryan Dillon said around 100 Islamic State fighters had surrendered in Raqa in the last 24 hours and were "removed from the city", without giving further details.

"We still expect difficult fighting in the days ahead and

will not set a time for when we think (Islamic State) will be completely defeated in Raqa," he said, adding that around 85 percent of Raqa had been liberated as of Oct 13. Around 1,500 civilians had been able to safely make it to SDF lines within the last week, he added. Omar Alloush, a member of a civilian council set up to run Raqa, told Reuters late on Friday that efforts were under way to secure the release of civilians and "a possible way to expel terrorist elements from Raqa province", without giving further details.

An activist group that reports on Raqa, Raqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently, said on its Facebook page on Saturday that dozens of buses had entered Raqa city overnight, having travelled from the northern Raqa countryside. The Observatory said Syrian Islamic State fighters and their families had already left the city, and buses had arrived to evacuate

remaining foreign fighters and their families. It did not say where they would be taken to.

### Deir Al-Zor campaign

During the more than six-year Syrian war, the arrival of buses in a conflict zone has often signaled an evacuation of combatants and civilians. The campaign against Islamic State in Syria is now focused on its last major foothold in the country, the eastern province of Deir Al-Zor which neighbors Iraq. Islamic State is facing separate offensives in Deir Al-Zor by the SDF on one hand, and Syrian government forces supported by Iranian-backed militia and Russian air strikes on the other.

In August, Islamic State fighters agreed to be evacuated from a Lebanon-Syria border area, the first time the militants had publicly agreed to a forced evacuation from



**RAQA, Syria:** Photo shows the damage near the central hospital of the embattled northern Syrian city of Raqa. —AFP

territory they held in Syria. Civilians have been making perilous journeys to escape Islamic State-held areas as SDF forces advance.

The SDF says it helps transport them away from the fighting after they flee. The offensive to drive Islamic State out of Raqa, its de facto Syrian capital which it seized in 2014, has long outlasted initial predictions by SDF officials who said ahead of an assault in June that it could take just weeks.

The battle for Raqa has taken a severe toll on civilians. Those inside the city for months have endured miserable conditions, lacking water, power, food and healthcare. Rights group Amnesty International, the Observatory and monitoring group Airwars say hundreds have been killed by air strikes, fighting and Islamic State snipers and mines. The coalition says it takes great pains to avoid causing civilian casualties and investigates all reports that it has done so.—Reuters

## Kurdish forces beef up, move back defense line around oil-rich Kirkuk

**BAGHDAD:** Kurdish authorities said on Friday they had sent thousands more troops to Kirkuk to confront "threats" of Iraqi military attack, but also slightly pulled back defense lines around the disputed oil-producing area to ease tensions. The Baghdad central government has taken a series of steps to isolate the autonomous Kurdish region since its overwhelming vote for independence in a Sept. 25 referendum, including banning international flights from going there.

Baghdad's tough line, ruling out talks sought by the Kurds unless they renounce the break-away move, is backed by neighbors Turkey and Iran - both with their own sizable Kurdish minorities, and in Turkey's case, a long-running Kurdish insurgency. Tens of thousands of Kurdish Peshmerga soldiers have been stationed in and around Kirkuk for some time and another 6,000 have arrived since Thursday. Kosrat Rasul, vice president in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), said. In Washington, US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Friday the situation had the full attention of the United States, which was working to ensure it does not escalate.

"We can't turn on each other right now. We don't want this to go to a shooting situation," Mattis said. "These are issues that are long-standing in some cases ... We're going to have to recalibrate and move these back to a way (in which) we solve them politically and work them out with compromised solutions." The KRG's Security Council expressed alarm late on Thursday at what it called a significant Iraqi military buildup south of Kirkuk, "including tanks, artillery, Humvees and mortars." "These forces are approximately 3 km from Peshmerga forces. Intelligence shows intentions to take over nearby oilfields, airport and



**KIRKUK, Iraq:** Iraqi forces sit on a river bank across from Kurdish Peshmerga positions yesterday, on the southern outskirts of Kirkuk. —AFP

military base," it said in a statement. Kurdish security sources later said that the Peshmerga had shifted their defense lines by 3 km to 10 km south of Kirkuk to reduce the risk of clashes with Iraqi forces, which then moved into some of the vacated positions without incident. The area from which the Peshmerga withdrew is populated mainly by Shiite Muslim Turkmen, many of whom are loyal to the Shiite led-government in Baghdad and affiliated with Iranian-backed political parties and paramilitary groups. An Iraqi military spokesman said military movements near Kirkuk aimed only to "inspect and secure" the nearby region of Hawija recaptured from Islamic State militants a week ago.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi has repeatedly denied any plans to go further and actually attack the territory. Kirkuk, a city of more than one million people, lies just outside KRG territory but Peshmerga forces deployed

there in 2014 when Iraqi security forces collapsed in the face of an Islamic State onslaught. The Peshmerga deployment prevented Kirkuk's oilfields from falling into jihadist hands. KRG Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani urged the United States, the European Union and the UN Security Council "to rapidly intervene to prevent a new war."

Germany, which traditionally has good relations with both Baghdad and the KRG, called for measures to defuse tensions. "We would like to ask them to meet those responsibilities and not to escalate the conflict," German government spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters in Berlin. President Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman said on Thursday Ankara would gradually close border crossings with northern Iraq in coordination with the central Iraqi government and Iran. Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim is expected in Baghdad for talks with Abadi.—Reuters

These are the essential priorities," Hassan said most building material would likely be imported from the neighboring Kurdish region of Iraq, although he did not rule out supplies coming in from Syrian government-held areas in Aleppo or Damascus.

The bulldozers parked outside, Hassan said, were the first of a total of 56 machines the council is set to receive in the coming weeks as part of a grant from the US State Department. Both the American government and the US-led coalition backing the offensive to recapture Raqa are involved in "short-term, quick impact projects" to bring Raqa back to life, said a US official involved in civilian operations in Syria. They would include supporting de-mining operations in and around critical buildings like schools and hospitals, and providing food and health support once Raqa is recaptured. "But we're not here forever to fix everything. We have no money or desire to spend 20 years here demining the homes," the official said. A second US official involved in emergency aid operations for Syria said the US had helped the RCC "pre-position" more than 900 tons of food-including rice, beans, and wheat-for immediate delivery once the Raqa offensive is over. The operation has also earmarked water tanks, sewage trucks, and hygiene kits for tens of thousands of civilians expected to flood back into the city.—AFP

## Nuclear meltdown: Trump takes aim at the Iran nuke deal

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump sharply criticized Iran and the international agreement aimed at curbing its nuclear program Friday, refusing to certify Tehran's compliance and warning the United States could pull out at any time. These are some key points from his remarks:

### 'Fanatical regime'

Trump denounced the Iranian government as a "fanatical regime" that backs a wide array of militant groups and laid out a long list of US grievances against Tehran to set the stage for his specific remarks on the nuclear deal. He described Tehran as "the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism," saying it backs Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, Hezbollah, Hamas and "other terrorist networks," and warning of "the increasing menace posed by Iran."

### 'Multiple violations'

Trump lambasted the 2015 nuclear deal

struck with Iran, Germany, Britain, China, France and Russia as "one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into."

He accused Iran of "multiple violations of the agreement," but was light on specific examples. The president said Iran had on two occasions exceeded the 130-metric-ton limit on heavy water, and that Tehran had "repeatedly" said it would not allow inspectors onto military sites suspected of having been "part of Iran's clandestine nuclear weapons program." But the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has been monitoring Iran's compliance with the deal, said that "the nuclear-related commitments undertaken by Iran... are being implemented," and that it "has had access to all locations it needed to visit." Trump also cited "many people" who think Tehran "is dealing with North Korea," and said that Iran "continues to fuel conflict, terror, and turmoil throughout the Middle East and beyond." Neither are part of the legal requirements of the nuclear deal.

Trump stopped short of nixing the nuclear deal, instead taking the procedural step of "de-certifying" the agreement and leaving its fate in the hands of the Republican-controlled Congress.—AFP

## Far from front line, volunteers prepare to rebuild Raqa

**AIN ISSA:** As US-backed forces fight to oust the Islamic State group from its last hideouts in Syria's Raqa, a city council-in-exile is already working to bring life back to its devastated home town. From a buzzing headquarters in Ain Issa, 50 kilometers north of Raqa, Syrian engineers and lawyers are setting priorities for rebuilding their battle-scarred city. "We know every inch of Raqa. All we need is the announcement of liberation which we expect to hear in the coming days," said 27-year-old Mohammad Hassan, an engineer and member of the Raqa Civil Council.

He laid out a map of the city, pointing out a pair of water pumping stations requiring restoration and major thoroughfares that will need to be cleared of rubble. "We'll start on the outside and work our way in," Hassan said energetically. Around 90 percent of Raqa has been recaptured

by the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces since June, but much of the city has been reduced to ruins by heavy bombardment that has rendered whole streets unrecognizable.

Almost like a symbol of the RCC's eagerness to get to work, bulldozers for removing debris are parked outside its humble two-storey office building. Founded six months ago by the Syrian Democratic Forces, the Kurdish-Arab alliance fighting for Raqa, the RCC boasts more than 100 volunteers from the city and its outskirts. Men and women of various ages, ethnicities, religious sects, and professional backgrounds, they are divided into 14 committees working on everything from re-opening schools to restoring water and electricity supplies and repairing hospitals and homes.

### First, the mines

The first priority, said the head of the council's reconstruction committee, is removing a sea of explosive devices the jihadists have left in Raqa's streets, public institutions, and even private homes. "This is a huge challenge—we can't do anything else before getting rid of the mines," Ibrahim al-Hassan, a silver-haired engineer with thick-rimmed glasses said as he sat in his sparse office. "The second phase is restoring the water and electricity networks. After all that, we can turn to the schools,

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## International

## Austrian voters concerned about immigration, Islam

## Austria provinces- where sharing power with far right works

VIENNA: Wrapping up a bruising political campaign season, Austrian political parties were counting down to an election today that could turn the country to the right amid voter concerns over immigration and Islam. The vote is coming a year ahead of schedule after squabbles led to the breakup last spring of the coalition government of the Social Democrats and the People's Party. A total of 16 parties are vying for 183 seats in the national parliament and will be chosen by Austria's 6.4 million eligible voters.

But less than a dozen parties have a chance of getting seats. The People's Party, which has shifted from centrist to right-wing positions, is leading in the pre-vote polls after an image make-over by its leader, 31-year-old Sebastian Kurz. Austria's traditionally right-wing, anti-migrant Freedom Party is expected to come in second and the center-left Social Democrats are thought to be trailing in third place. Others that may clear the 4 percent hurdle needed to get into parliament seats are the Greens, the liberal NEOS, and Liste Pilz, led by former Greens politician Peter Pilz.

Favoring the People's and Freedom parties is distrust of migrants and Muslims among many Austrian voters. The 2015 influx of hundreds of thousands of people fleeing the war in Syria and poverty elsewhere into the EU's prosperous heartland left Austria with nearly 100,000 new and mostly Muslim migrants. That has fueled fears Austria's traditional Western and Christian culture is in danger. As a result, voters are receptive to the anti-migrant platforms of both the People's Party and the Freedom Party.

Although the Social Democrats have come either first or second in elections since World War II, voters are now more receptive to calls for tougher migration rules than the party's focus on social justice. "I'm of course pro-migration and that many people can come to us, but at some point we have to stop," student Janine Leitner, 21 said yesterday in Vienna. The Social Democrats are also fighting charges of dirty campaigning after Israeli political adviser Tal Silberstein posted on Facebook suggesting that People's Party head Kurz was anti-Semitic. Silberstein has been fired and insists Social Democratic Chancellor Christian Kern knew nothing about the postings.

Kern says his party will go into the opposition if it does not win today. With a handful of other parties struggling to

just get into parliament, the most likely post-vote scenario is a People's Party-Freedom Party coalition that would shift the government significantly to the right. But other coalitions are possible, depending on the results of today's vote. While Europe's centrist governments could view a rightward shift with some concern, architect Bernhard Egelmüller did not think there would be any major negative international fallout if the Freedom Party does join the next Austrian government.

## Traditional parties

For Verena Dunst, veteran Social Democrat in the government of Austria's Burgenland province, working with the far right for the past two years has not just been business as usual - it has been better. "I have to honestly tell you, now it fits," she said, praising the Freedom Party (FPO) for breaking through the entrenched interests of traditional parties. "I have achieved much more in two years than my predecessors ... in many years."

The Burgenland coalition government of the Social Democrats (SPO) and the FPO has cut the number of tourism associations to around 20 from more than 100, axed an expensive administrative level in its education system and streamlined the management of public hospitals and utilities. There is a similar story from the other side of the centrist spectrum. In Upper Austria, the conservatives rule in coalition with the FPO, suggesting a national coalition with the far right after Sunday's election would be nowhere near unworkable.

Working with the Freedom Party has sped up the decision making processes, said People's Party (OVP) Governor Thomas Stelzer, referring to their two years of coalition partnership and dismissing concerns over its Nazi past. "On the one hand that's because we have a well thought through government program. On the other hand, it works very well on a human level," said Stelzer.

And while of course not all view the prospect so favorably, the FPO has its best chance in a decade of entering national government, either with the OVP or with the Social Democrats after Sunday's parliamentary vote. It has been in power at the national level before, with the Social Democrats from 1983 to 1986 and triggering European Union sanctions against Austria when it went into government with the conservatives in 2000. Both combinations currently exist at the next level down in two of the highly federalized country's nine provinces - partner-



VIENNA: Supporters of the Austrian Chancellor and leader of the Social Democrats (SPÖ) Christian Kern attend the party's last election rally on the eve of the Austrian parliamentary elections yesterday. — AFP

ships which would be unthinkable in any other western European country.

## Collegiate spirit

If those coalition deals are anything to go by, a fresh power-sharing agreement on a national level could be reached in a matter of weeks and without ideological trench warfare, lawmakers in Upper Austria and Burgenland provinces suggest. Upper Austria is one of country's three provinces that introduced a cut in basic social services for newcomers to reduce migration, a move that OVP leader and frontrunner in Sunday's election Sebastian Kurz wants to introduce nationwide.

Burgenland's Dunst said the FPO's independence from certain interest groups has helped to push through reforms, whereas the OVP's strong ties to associations such as the Farmers' Alliance, has stalled projects for fear of alienating

core supporters. "If a wild deer for example feeds on something it shouldn't on nearby farmland, the ranger, in whose area this happens, has to pay up. I wanted to protect the local ranger," Dunst said about changing the law. "With the OVP, the (new) hunting law would not have been decided," she said. "(The FPO) did break open encrusted clientele politics."

Dunst's previous experience of 15 years working with the conservatives has been the pattern in the country: The two parties have dominated Austria's politics for more than half a century, establishing deep-rooted loyalties with business and workers' associations. But the collegiate spirit of working with FPO officials comes up a lot in the Upper Austrian capital Linz and in Eisenstadt - in contrast to unprecedented mudslinging between the two traditional parties ahead of Sunday's vote. "If we have something to moan about, we do it internally, not in public. Otherwise, you can see on the national level where you end up," Governor Stelzer said. — Reuters

## California inmates fight wildfires for a buck an hour

YUCAIPA: Fresh out of prison, Alejandro Rangel longs to keep doing the job he did as an inmate for one dollar an hour: fight forest fires. For more than two years, he worked with one of some 200 crews of inmate-firefighters who in summer and fall spend more time battling blazes in the forests of California than sitting behind bars. This week, for instance, 553 inmates were sent to help take on the blazes ravaging the wine country north of San Francisco.

In prison, these people are prisoners. But outside they are like any other firefighter: no handcuffs, no chains, and no guards to watch over them. Perhaps the only thing that makes them stand out is an orange jumpsuit with the word "inmate" stamped on one of the pant legs. Oh, yes, and then there are the paltry wages they earn. For risking their lives fighting raging infernos, they earn a dollar an hour, compared to the minimum of \$17.70 per hour that a professional makes. Their main job is to keep fires from spreading. They cut down trees and dig ditches around fires so as to contain them.

Rangel, 25, dreams of being a chainsaw operator. "But I'd do any duty, whatever it is. I would join anywhere in California," Rangel said during a training exercise at Oak Glen Camp, a minimum security prison in Yucaipa, about 140 kilometers (80 miles) east of Los Angeles. Team work, discipline and rehabilitation were mantras that inmates who spoke to AFP repeated over and over as a prison guard looked on. Gayle McLaughlin, a politician who wants to run for lieutenant governor of California, has condemned the inmate-firefighter program as cruel exploitation.

"No matter how you may want to dress it up, if you have people working for nothing or almost nothing, you've got slave labor. And it is not acceptable," she said. But the inmates insist they do not feel taken advantage of by working so hard for so little pay, which is actually the highest wage a California prisoner can earn.



CALIFORNIA: Inmate firefighters from Oak Glen Conservation Camp climb a steep hillside near Yucaipa, California. — AFP

The state saves an estimated \$124 million a year with this program, which has existed since 1946. Two prisoners died this year while fighting fires. Alejandro earned \$1,200 this year. "It's hard work, a little bit of money. But it helps build you," he said.

## 'My mother is proud'

The program is strictly voluntary and open to low-risk inmates convicted of non-violent crimes. Most of those taking part are young men in prison for drug offenses or robbery, few of whom like to talk about their past. Rangel was sentenced to eight years in prison after being convicted of robbing a home in his hometown of San Fernando, near Los Angeles. He spent the last two of those years at Oak Glen, which does not look like a regular prison.

There are no prison cells. It has a garden area with trees, and there is plenty of fresh air. It even boasts a gym with weightlifting equipment. Many inmates said their life there is not all that bad. Being a fireman, said Rangel, who is of

Mexican descent, changed his life. He said he had never worked so hard. "When I came in, I had no experience at all in anything," he said. "I enjoyed doing it, enjoyed working, helping others. Hopefully I will pursue my career," he added. The vehicle the inmates travel in has no ladder or fire hose. It is a red bus with bars on the windows. The driver is a professional firefighter and he is separated from the crew.

During the fire season these crews practically live in the bus. From Yucaipa they travel all over California helping the pros fight fires. Last year Rangel's team logged 16,000 kilometers. Derrick Lovell, 25, has six months left to spend at Oak Glen and, like Rangel, he wants to fight forest fires professionally. "My mom is proud. She said 'I always knew you'd become a fireman, even if it is the hard way,'" Lovell said. "This is the first time in a long time my family is proud of me," said a smiling Travis Reeder, 23. He was imprisoned after being convicted of drug dealing. On his second day as a firefighter, he fainted from dehydration. But he wants to go pro, too. — AFP

## 'Breeding ground'

Catalonia's separatist government went ahead with the October 1 vote even though a judge had ordered police to close polling stations and seize ballot boxes to stop it from happening. Images of injured voters-real and fake-then circulated around the world. Many of the people allegedly hurt by police were really pictured from different demonstrations in other places. Some of the misleading images came from a miners' strike in the northern region of Asturias five years ago, according to an investigation by private TV station La Sexta. The emotional debate over Catalonia's push to split from Spain, which has deeply divided the country and the region itself, is the "perfect breeding ground for fake news," said Jimenez. "People see what they want to see and they believe it. — AFP

## Fake news fuels Catalonia crisis

MADRID: Footage from a five-year-old miners' strike, a paralysed young boy and woman's broken fingers: images swarming Spanish social media during the Catalonia independence crisis have one thing in common. They all are fake news. Misleading news reports, often about violence involving police, and partisan media coverage have fueled tensions as each side seeks to influence the outcome of Spain's toxic political crisis. One photo of a woman whose fingers were allegedly broken by police to stop her from voting during a banned independence referendum in

Catalonia on October 1 was widely distributed on social media. She later told Catalan television that doctors had only diagnosed swollen cartilage in her hand. Other widely-circulated reports said that a policeman sent to Catalonia to block the plebiscite had died while on assignment, and that a six-year-old boy had been paralyzed by police brutality. All were false. "We have never seen this in Spain until now," Clara Jimenez, a journalist in charge of a popular Twitter account called "Maldito Buló", or "Damned Hoax", which verifies stories that circulate online said.

She said the flood of fake stories started a few days before the referendum, which was marred by police violence. The bogus reports, shared widely online, form part of the global phenomenon of "fake news", with Russia in particular being blamed for spreading misinformation in a bid to influence politics.

## Spy, temptress and victim? Mata Hari eludes definition

LEEUWARDEN: A century ago, an exotic dancer named Mata Hari was executed by a French firing squad, condemned as a sultry Dutch double agent who supposedly caused the deaths of thousands of soldiers during World War I. Her life and death became fodder almost overnight for one of the greatest spy stories of all time - featuring an alluring temptress who could dance, dazzle and draw secrets from the hapless military men unable to resist her.

Increasingly, though, Mata Hari - the stage name adopted by Margaretha Zelle - is also being reinterpreted as a victim of a

sexually liberated woman with artistic ambitions faced harsh judgment. The irony is not missed on Yves Rocourt, curator of "Mata Hari. The Myth and the Maiden," an exhibit opening this weekend in Leeuwarden, the Dutch town where Zelle was born in 1876.

"Unfortunately, issues like money and having to sleep with someone in a position of power to achieve something are not time-related," Rocourt said. "You cannot help but think about what is going in Hollywood at this very moment," said Julie Wheelwright, author of the biography "The Fatal Lover." "All these allegations that are coming out now and you just wonder, 'But what's changed in 100 years?' Not much." On a canal close to her childhood home, where vicious winds and icy temperatures can freeze the water for months, a statue erected in 1976 shows Mata Hari in her typical stage regalia.

Dressed in little more than pearls and veils, she stands with legs apart and arms outstretched, ready to take on the world. How she got to the glittering salons and theaters of Paris and Berlin before ending up in front of a firing squad was due to desperation as much as boldness. Her comfortable youth was disrupted when her father went broke and her mother died. At age 18, she answered an ad placed by an aristocrat military officer seeking a wife. Soon, she was living in the Dutch East Indies, in what is now Indonesia.

The couple had two children despite her husband's violence and unfaithfulness and Margaretha's own fiery, flirtatious personality. After their son died, the marriage disintegrated and her ex-husband refused to pay alimony. Zelle, facing being a single

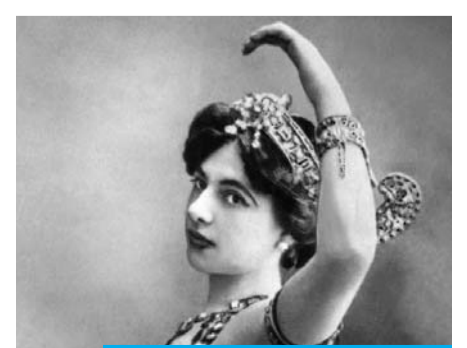
mother without financial support, gave up custody of her daughter and in 1903 left for Paris, where she reinvented herself. "I am tired of struggling against life," she wrote. The choice she saw was to "be a decent mother or live life as it is dazzlingly offered to me here."

Lourens Oldersma, who edited a book of Mata Hari's letters published late last year, said "she evolved from being a flirt into the woman that started living this loose, decadent life." Building a dance repertoire on the sensuous temple dances she had observed in Asia, Mata Hari had her breakthrough performance at the Paris Musee Guimet on March 13, 1905. She soon became a sensation across Europe.

But the brilliant life she envisioned was expensive to maintain, especially as she got older and her popularity as an exotic dancer declined. When World War I broke out, she used her passport from a neutral

country to continue traveling and took wealthy, well-connected lovers from all sides of the conflict. The promise of a steady supply of francs to support herself persuaded Zelle to accept an offer to spy, first for Germany and then for France. "She thought that spying was just another role. It was another kind of performance," Wheelwright said. "She was very naive."

French intelligence eventually intercepted a German telegram discussing the work of an agent codenamed H-21. The details revealed Mata Hari as a double agent two-timing France. She was arrested while having breakfast in her suite at the Elysee Palace Hotel. During 16 interrogation sessions, she cracked and admitted to working for the Germans. At 41, she was shot at a military ground close to Paris at dawn on Oct. 15, 1917. The rest is history - and an awful lot of books and movies, including one starring Greta Garbo. — AFP



PARIS: This Undated file picture shows Dutch dancer and spy Margaretha Geertruida Zelle, better-known as Mata Hari. — AFP



International

# French army-chartered plane crashes off Ivory Coast; 4 die

## 4 Moldovans dead; 4 French crew members injured

**ABIDJAN:** A cargo plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near the international airport in Abidjan, killing four crew members and injuring six others, an Ivory Coast official said yesterday. Ten people were aboard the plane that was approaching from the capital of neighboring Burkina Faso. Lt Issa Sakho, commander of the military fire brigade, said on national television. The dead were four Moldovans, he said, adding that two Moldovans and four French crew members were injured.

The cargo plane was carrying French military cargo, a French military official said. "We have six injured that we have evacuated to the Port-Bouet camp in Abidjan for treatment," the official said. He gave his name only as Lt Villain, citing French protocol. Earlier reports indicated the plane had taken off from Abidjan. Ange Koutaye Ismael, a 19-year-old student, told The Associated Press he saw the four bodies carried out of the airplane, which had been broken in two in the shallow waters.

Ismael said he was at home yesterday morning when he noticed a plane flying low over his neighborhood.

When he heard a plane had crashed on the beach, he ran down to film it. Stormy weather likely played a role in the crash, he said. "There was winds yesterday and I saw how planes seemed to have difficulties in getting up," he said. Christian Kouame, who also lives near the airport, said he was awakened before 7 am by a loud noise. "We thought at the beginning it was the waves of the sea in the rain, but the cries of our neighbors caught our attention," he said. "When we went out we saw the aircraft broken by the beach.

Airport authorities were alerted and rescue workers were immediately sent to help recover those wounded. Hundreds of onlookers gathered at the beach. Rescue workers carried away what appeared to be a corpse in a yellow bag. The tail and propellers of the plane were exposed. Air traffic at the airport in the West African nation appeared to continue after the crash, according to the flight-tracking website FlightRadar24. In February 2000, a Kenya Airways Airbus 310 carrying 179 people destined for Lagos, Nigeria crashed into the ocean after takeoff from Abidjan, leaving only 10 survivors. — AP



**Stormy weather played a role in the deadly crash**



**ABIDJAN:** French Gendarmes walk on the beach of Port-Bouet in Abidjan near the wreckage of a cargo plane that crashed off Ivory Coast, killing four yesterday. — AFP

## Manal Al-Sharif, driving change for Saudi women

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** For Manal Al-Sharif, the self-described "accidental activist" who spearheaded the campaign against the ban on female drivers in Saudi Arabia, the time for women to be silent is over. Overjoyed by a royal decree last month allowing women to finally get behind the wheel in the ultra-conservative kingdom, the eloquent 38-year-old has now set her sights on the next battle: abolishing the system of male guardianship. "There is no time for us to be silent anymore," Sharif told AFP at the Frankfurt book fair, where she presented the German translation of her bestselling memoir "Daring to Drive". "Speak up, that is the only way to bring awareness and change things in Saudi Arabia."

In a country that adheres to strict gender segregation and an austere vision of Islam, the guardianship system requires Saudi women to get permission from a designated male family member on anything from travel to enrolling at university. Like the driving ban, the male guardianship "has stopped a lot of women from pursuing their dreams", said Sharif, who has drawn comparisons with the late US civil rights activist Rosa Parks. To show how serious she is about her new campaign, Sharif rolls back her sleeve to reveal a plastic blue bracelet that reads "I am my own guardian", alongside a picture of a car. "We are not minors. We are capable of driving our own lives," she said, smiling at the pun.

### 'Driving while female'

In her book, Sharif charts her unexpected journey to rebellion, culminating in her arrest after she filmed herself driving and posted the video on YouTube as part of the "Woman2Drive" campaign in 2011. Charged with "driving while female", she spent nine days in jail in a case that sparked global uproar. With unflinching honesty, Sharif recounts the hardships she faced growing up in relative poverty in Saudi Arabia's holiest city Makkah and the struggles she encountered later on as a divorced single mum. She credits her strict parents with pushing her to excel academically, but also expresses anger over the painful female genital mutilation she had to endure as a child and the domestic abuse she suffered at home, as well as at the hands of her first husband.

She admits to succumbing to radicalism in her youth, even burning her brother's Backstreet Boys cassettes in what she calls her "extremist days", because she believed they were "haram" or forbidden under Islam. "In this book I was very open, I tried to break every single taboo that I



**OSLO:** (Left to right) President of the US-based Human Rights Foundation (HRF), Thor Halvorssen, Saudi activist Manal Al-Sharif, Somali psychotherapist and anti-FGM activist Leyla Hussein and Russian dissident Vladimir Kara Murza attend a press conference at the Oslo Freedom Forum. — AFP

could," Sharif said. Her top grades eventually led her to become the first female information security specialist at the Saudi national oil company Aramco, where women are allowed to drive within the firm's compound.

But trying to get around outside as a woman "who had no man in her life" was a constant battle, forcing her to rely on her brother, colleagues or taxi drivers. One day, after failing to find a ride after a doctor's appointment, she decided to walk home alone. But a car followed her along the way, leaving her terrified—and fed up. Emboldened by the Arab Spring sweeping through the region at the time, she decided enough was enough. It was time to drive. "So it was really a personal struggle," Sharif said. "It was really from the fear of being helpless in my own country."

### 'New Saudi Arabia'

The memoir ends before the ban is lifted, but Sharif is more than happy to update the epilogue. "I cried, I was so excited," she said about hearing the news of King Salman's decree. "The first thing I tweeted was 'Saudi Arabia will never be the same again', I call it the new Saudi Arabia for women," said Sharif, a prolific social media user. The decree comes into effect next June, and Sharif is already

looking forward to getting in the driver's seat, legally this time. "I think it will be the most liberating thing," she said.

Her book is due to appear in Arabic in November, and Sharif—who divides her time between Saudi Arabia and Australia, where her new husband works—is bracing for the reaction in her home country. "I know the personal price I will pay for speaking up will be high," she said. "Women in my country are always told to be quiet," she added. "This has led to so many injustices when it comes to women's rights." But the mother-of-two says she has been encouraged by recent changes in the Gulf kingdom.

Men and women danced in the streets of Riyadh last month after they were allowed to celebrate the country's national day together for the first time, and Sharif excitedly talks about the prospect of women being allowed to study engineering soon. The changes, which risk upsetting religious hardliners, come as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is introducing economic and social reforms as part of his "Vision 2030" program aimed at diversifying the kingdom's oil-dependent economy. And that includes getting more women into the work force. "So many things are happening right now that people are saying: 'Has Saudi Arabia been hacked?'" Sharif said with a smile. — AFP

## Turks seeking US visas left reeling by diplomatic row

**ANKARA:** Turkish students, business executives and travel operators have been left reeling by the country's dispute with the United States that has led both to suspend visas. Last year, 313,654 Turks went to the US while 459,493 Americans came to Turkey, according to figures provided by the Turkish Statistical Institute. But the decision to charge a US consulate staffer with links to the American-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, accused of launching last year's failed coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has thrown ties into turmoil.

In response, the US embassy in Ankara said it would suspend non-immigrant visas including those for tourism and work. Turkey then halted all visa services at its US missions for American citizens. "Students and their families are panicking," said Zeynep Sen, a foreign education program coordinator based in Istanbul, who helps students go abroad. One of those affected is Ergun Coskun, a 22-year-old student training to be an English teacher, who planned to go to the United States to develop his English language skills. "All my plans are dead in the water. We're still waiting, there is no end result," Coskun said.

### 26,000 students go to US

Every year around 26,000 Turkish students go to the United States for educational reasons, according to Deniz Akar, managing director of International Education Fairs of Turkey. Some 10,000 go for English-language training, 10,000 for bachelors and masters degrees while 6,000 visit the US for the "Work and Travel" program. The scheme allows university students to live and work in the US during their summer holidays. Applications for 2018 start now but Akar said if the visa suspensions continued, no one would be able to take part next summer.

The US ambassador to Ankara said the restrictions were based on location. "If you want to apply for a visa at another US embassy or consulate outside of Turkey, you are free to do so," John Bass said on Monday. However, Akar said this did not mean that visas would be granted. "We are advising those who are in urgent need to go to other countries but there is no guarantee they will get visas in these countries," he added.

Turkey and the United States are both members of NATO but their relations have more recently been rocked by the coup attempt and numerous foreign policy disagreements. "I don't know what will happen now. Will I be able to go or not, I don't know. We are waiting," 22-year-old student Kubra, who only wished to give her first name, said. Ibrahim Ozdemir, general manager at Vizefix in Ankara which helps people with visa applications, said he had three or four clients who were waiting to see what would happen after applying for a US visa, some of whom had appointments next week. — AFP

## Duterte warns of a 'revolutionary government'

**MANILA:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has warned he is prepared to establish a "revolutionary government" to fend off alleged efforts to oust him, fuelling fears of a looming dictatorship. He issued the warning on state television late Friday as he railed against the press, European lawmakers and other critics of his drug war that has left thousands dead and led rights groups to warn of a crime against humanity. Duterte said he would resort to a revolutionary government, as opposed to martial law that would require congressional approval, if communists and other opponents tried to destabilize his rule.

"If your destabilization is taking place and there is chaos already, I will not hesitate to declare a revolutionary government until the end of my term and I will arrest all of you and we can go to a full-scale war against the reds," Duterte said, in reference to communist rebels who have waged a nearly 50-year insurgency. Duterte alleged the US Central Intelligence Agency was part of a plot to destabilize him, and warned he would jail all of his opponents as well as the communist leaders. "I will declare a revolutionary government, you are all arrested." — AFP

### News in brief

#### Wrongly convicted man

**CHICAGO:** Surrounded by news cameras and supporters, Lamonte McIntyre hugged his mother Friday for the first time as a free man in 23 years. The 41-year-old Kansas native was wrongly convicted of a double murder and finally set free after spending more than half of his life behind bars. He was serving two life sentences. The group Injustice Watch said McIntyre's first words were: "It's nice outside." McIntyre was originally convicted at the age of 17 on the testimony of witnesses who later recanted. Prosecutors presented no physical evidence or motive to tie him to the 1994 murders. A judge was reconsidering the case in court hearings that were scheduled to last into next week, when the new prosecutor in the case said Friday in a news release that new information cast doubt on witness identification of McIntyre as the killer, and that a jury might have not convicted him.

#### Gunmen kill 6 children

**NAIROBI:** Seven people, six of them children, were killed in northern Kenya yesterday when unknown assailants attacked a school, officials said. Cattle rustling and clashes over grazing and farming land are relatively common between communities in the East African country's north, and often escalate into revenge attacks. The region also borders war-torn South Sudan, and arms smuggling is common, with Kenyan police having little control over weaponry crossing the border. In a report, Kenya's KTN television channel said four boys, two girls and a guard were killed during the attack on Lokichogio School, which it said was carried out by assailants whose identities were yet to be determined. "The attack ... is a painful reminder of the state of insecurity along the border," Josphat Nanok, Turkana county's governor, said on Twitter. The region is awash with guns due to its proximity to unstable neighbors including Somalia, where Al-Qaeda-linked militants have been fighting to topple the government.

#### Saudi woman gets top post

**RIYADH:** A princess has been named to head a Saudi multi-sports federation, in a first for women in the conservative Muslim kingdom where men dominate all sports, an official said yesterday. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity said that Princess Rima bint Bandar bin Sultan has become "the first woman to lead a federation" covering sporting activities for men and women. In August 2016, the princess scored another first for women in Saudi Arabia when she was named by the cabinet to a senior post in the kingdom's equivalent of a sports ministry. A daughter of a former Saudi ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, Princess Rima is a graduate in museology from an American university. Saudi Arabia does not allow women to practice sports in the public sphere and even the introduction of private sports centers for women has aroused criticism among religious conservatives in the Gulf state. Although the kingdom announced it will lift a ban on women drivers from next June as part of a reform push, it still retains tight restrictions on women and imposes a strict segregation of the sexes.

#### 60 fighters surrender

**MOZOGO:** Nearly 60 men who said they were captured by the Boko Haram Islamist group and forced to fight for them in Nigeria have surrendered to authorities in northern Cameroon. After spending two years with Boko Haram, the men decided to flee with their families and hand themselves in, according to several men who had surrendered and spoke to journalists at a ceremony in the town of Mozogo on Friday. A total of nearly 400 people originally from Cameroon - 58 men, 86 women and 244 children—said they had been taken hostage by Boko Haram fighters during attacks on their villages and taken to Nigeria, where they were forced to join the jihadist group. The men told reporters they had fought for Boko Haram and were laying down their arms of their own will. They surrendered at the border with Nigeria to a village vigilante group formed to combat the jihadists. The vigilantes then handed them over to the authorities.

## Analysis

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## WASHINGTON WATCH

## The challenge to restore sanity

Dr James J Zogby

Despite the fact that the stock market is at record highs and the unemployment rate, which began its substantial decline during the Obama Administration, is now at record lows, we spend our days haunted by the gnawing sense that life has spun out of control. In recent weeks we've been hit by hurricanes that devastated islands in the Caribbean, parts of Texas and Louisiana, and most of Puerto Rico. Then came the horrific mass murder in Las Vegas. And now monstrous fires are ravaging northern California.

It's always difficult to wrap your brain around any individual tragedy, but when they come by the handful in rapid succession, it becomes impossible to ingest these nightmares upon nightmares. The scenes of burned out blocks in Santa Rosa and reports of the fire's ever-rising death toll, prove only a momentary distraction before our minds switch to what's happening in San Juan where 85 percent of the island of 3.7 million souls are still without electric power or drinkable water. Tragically, Houston has been all but forgotten as it struggles to recover - as if it can ever fully recover - with lives lost, homes gone, and whole areas still uninhabitable.

Las Vegas is another story, entirely. It is a man-made horror. Despite the exceptional magnitude of this massacre, we appear to refuse to come to grips with the reality that mass shootings are a daily affair in the United States. The New York Times recently produced a chart from the Orlando to Las Vegas: 477 days, 521 mass shootings, with 527 killed and 2,156 wounded. With all these horrors being visited upon us - both acts of nature or by man's own hand - a sense of dread has set in. It's as if we wake up each day "waiting for the other shoe to drop."

If all of this weren't bad enough, more often than not, our politics and government also appear to be out of control. Hyper-partisanship has created such dysfunction that Congress simply can't act to address the nation's agenda. Health care remains in limbo, 700,000 Dreamers face an uncertain future. There is no real prospect for comprehensive immigration reform or the long-promised investments to repair our crumbling infrastructure. And, in all likelihood, this session will end with Congress once again failing to pass a budget. For his part, the President appears more obsessed with undoing whatever his predecessor has done with little concern for the consequences of his actions or his words. This week, alone, his administration took executive actions to erase critical Obama-era environmental regulations and make significant changes that severely weaken health insurance guidelines and threaten the well-being of the poor and the disabled.

And then there are his tweets. In past administrations, when we faced unsettling tragedy or saw the world in chaos, presidents would act to bring us together and try to restore our confidence. Past presidents have played the role of comforter-in-chief, helping us heal our divisions or our wounds and restore faith in our national purpose. But not this president. Trump was elected with the promise that he would "shake things up" - and doesn't appear to understand the truth in the old maxim "there's a time and place for everything." And so, when we are already reeling from several calamities, he chooses to unsettle us further with provocative words or actions, the impact of which drive some to the brink of despair. Each morning, I check Twitter to see what new insults or threats the president has hurled at foreign leaders or domestic opponents. This week alone, with gleeful abandon, Trump has threatened North Korea's leader, tried to humiliate the Republican Chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, insulted and threatened leaders in suffering Puerto Rico, and challenged NBC News network's license to broadcast.

### Multiple Crises

Other than North Korea, I haven't mentioned the other multiple crises we face overseas - from the continuing nightmare of Syria, with its hundreds of thousands of dead and millions of refugees, to the humanitarian crisis that is Yemen, and the increasingly insoluble Israel-Palestine conflict. Added to that, there is an emboldened Iran and the unpredictable impact of this Administration's recent threat to upend the nuclear deal: an empowered China flexing its muscles regionally and internationally; an aggressive and emboldened Russia; and our fraying relations with Europe.

In the face of all of this, the Administration appears to have no clear direction or even leadership. It is increasingly difficult to discern exactly where the US stands on any issue, whose voice matters, or how decisions are made. What we are left with are tweets - and that only compounds our sense that we're adrift in troubled waters.

With the world in chaos and feeling out of control, and with our politics and our congress and president only contributing to our national anxiety - it is imperative that we not surrender to despair. We must work to pull ourselves together. We need a revival of national unity by insisting on civil discourse with our opponents and our adversaries. We must develop a national agenda that restores our purpose, cares for our people, and gives hope to those who feel left behind and have lost faith in our ability to live up to the promise of our country. And we must provide clear-headed direction in foreign policy that will guide our relations with other nations.

It will be a heady task, with a long road ahead. But it is a challenge we dare not ignore. Too much, including our collective sanity, is at stake.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute



# Trump embraces turmoil as strategy

Unable or unwilling to completely erase his predecessor's signature initiatives, US President Donald Trump last week turned to another approach: wreaking havoc. Trump's back-to-back body blows against President Barack Obama's healthcare law and nuclear agreement with Iran demonstrated the president's embrace of turmoil as strategy. In both cases, he plunged a pair of policies with broad domestic and international implications into a state of confusion and uncertainty, hoping that the disorder will force Congress to take action.

Trump has long thrived on unpredictability, an attribute he views as a virtue. But to the lawmakers, foreign partners, businesses and consumers now sorting through the implications of his announcements this week, the strategy looks far less appealing. International allies who spent years negotiating the nuclear accord alongside the US are now left waiting to see if Congress will reinstate nuclear sanctions on Tehran, a move certain to jettison the deal. Trump didn't specifically ask for the sanctions to be put back in place. But, in a speech declaring he would no longer certify the deal, he did ask lawmakers to add new, unspecified conditions for US cooperation in the agreement.

On healthcare, millions of Americans face the prospect of higher insurance premiums as a result of Trump's decision to immediately halt payments to insurance companies that provide lower-cost plans to low-income people. Trump calls the payments a bailout to insurance companies and he cited as justification a legal dispute over whether the payments were legally authorized. Trump yanked the money without any plan in place for offsetting cost increases for customers. Insurance companies, too, are at the mercy of lawmakers, who must now decide whether to restore the payments.

"We are going to have to figure out a way to stabilize the situation," said Rep Charlie Dent, a Pennsylvania Republican who dubbed the move "ill-advised". Democrats branded it sabotage. The president was "determined to inject chaos and confusion" into the healthcare system, said Sen Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat.

## Pak hostage rescue hailed, but tensions with US remain

The freeing of a hostage US-Canadian family by Pakistan's army has been hailed by officials as a positive step in mending ties between Washington and Islamabad, but those hoping for a fresh start in their fraught relationship seem likely to be disappointed. Pakistan and the United States have for years been - at best - uneasy allies in the war against the Taliban and other Islamist extremists. US President Donald Trump said the raid that rescued American Caitlan Coleman, her Canadian husband Joshua Boyle and their three young children showed that Pakistan had started to "respect the United States again" in response to his administration's tough-talking tactics.

But the two countries still have conflicting interests - and the Trump administration's vow to apply more diplomatic pressure on Pakistan is unlikely to work, given Islamabad's growing alliance with regional heavyweight China, say analysts. "This is a small occurrence between Pakistan and the US, and it should not be confused with the big issues that separate Pakistan and the US," said Pakistani security analyst Imtiaz Gul.

On Friday, five years after they were kidnapped in Afghanistan, Coleman and Boyle flew home with the three children born while they were captives of the Haqqani network, a feared Taliban sub-group that Washington particularly accuses Pakistan of failing to do enough to fight. Some saw the timing as a goodwill gesture ahead of upcoming visits by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that this hostage release was announced when you have a parade of top Trump administration officials in Islamabad to deliver strongly word-

As a businessman, a candidate and now as president, Trump has gravitated toward chaos. His campaign was rife with bitter internal rivalries, often stoked by the man at the top of the ticket. His West Wing has careened from crisis to crisis and endured more staff upheaval in nine months than some presidents experience in a full term. Still, Trump has made clear he sees unpredictability as an advantage. Indeed, his vague statements - "we'll see," he often says when asked about looming decisions - and seemingly improvisational policy positions can leave his political rivals madden-



### US president has gravitated toward chaos

ingly frustrated. He's vowed to keep international adversaries off balance with diversionary tactics or a simple lack of transparency about US actions - a goal some foreign diplomats say he has indeed fulfilled.

Trump's approach, however, hasn't yet translated into success when it comes to making good on his vows to overhaul some of the cornerstones of Obama's legacy, including the Iran deal and the health care law, that have long loomed as targets for Republicans. As a candidate, he promised to rip up the Iran deal on his first day in office. He boasted that overhauling health care would be "easy". Healthcare has proven to be anything but simple. Even with Republicans in charge on Capitol Hill, the GOP has been unable to muster the votes to muscle through an "Obamacare" replacement package.

ed warnings to Pakistan," said Michael Kugelman, a South Asia specialist at the Woodrow Wilson Center. He added that no one should take the good news as a definite sign that Pakistan would drastically change its behavior towards militants such as the Haqqanis. "Going after hostages is not the same thing as going after the terrorists holding them," he said. The United States has repeatedly accused Pakistan of not doing enough to eliminate militant havens on its territory.

### Cooperation, and Mistrust

For now, officials on both sides are talking up the cooperation on display in Wednesday's rescue operation, when Pakistani troops acting on a US intelligence tip-off swooped on a vehicle carrying the hostages. But tensions remain. Pakistan is still angry at the unilateral US operations on its soil to kill al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in 2011 and last year's drone strike that killed Taliban supreme leader Akhtar Mansour.

United States officials, for their part, suspect both bin Laden and Mansour were able to live in Pakistan with the tacit support of at least some elements of the powerful military. Washington also argues that the Taliban - which has been fighting to re-establish its hardline Islamist regime in Kabul since a 2001 US-backed military intervention - would not have been able to gain so much ground against Afghan government forces in recent years without safe havens in Pakistan.

Trump's administration in August warned aid to Pakistan might be cut and Washington might downgrade its status as a major non-NATO ally, in order to pressure it to do more to help bring about an end to America's longest-running war. Pakistani officials bristle at US claims Islamabad is not doing enough to tackle Islamist militants, particularly the Haqqanis, saying they have cooperated for years and launched military operations to push out militants from its soil. Pakistan also says few appreciate that 17,000 Pakistanis have died fighting militants or in bombings and other attacks since 2001.

### Regional Rivals

Pakistan is less vulnerable to threats of US aid cuts

Lawmakers' impotence has deeply frustrated Trump and left him casting about for ways to undermine the law on his own.

Thursday's announcement halting the subsidies for insurance companies marked Trump's most aggressive move yet to chip away at the law. Eliminating the payments would trigger a spike in premiums for some Americans next year, unless Trump reverses course or Congress authorizes the money, a step that would almost certainly require the kind of bipartisanship that has been absent on Capitol Hill this year.

In a sign of the potential difficulties to come, Trump appeared to pre-emptively blame Democrats if no deal is reached, tweeting that they should "call me to fix!" And Democratic leaders made clear they would turn the blame-game back around on the president. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said she wanted voters to know "what it means in their lives when he goes off on a spiteful, cruel toot to diminish their access to affordable care". Trump also has been angered by his struggle to roll back the Iran nuclear accord Obama vigorously championed. Amid warnings from his advisers about the risks of withdrawing from the accord, he ordered national security advisers to help him find a way to avoid having to certify Iran's compliance with the deal every 90 days.

That plan, which Trump announced from the White House on Friday, still falls short of scrapping the agreement. Instead he asked Congress to toughen the law that governs US participation and fix what he sees as deficiencies in the measure. Trump's half step followed weeks of pleas from allies who argue Trump cannot pull out of a deal that was negotiated alongside Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China. Federica Mogherini, the European Union's foreign policy chief, declared Friday: "The president of the United States has many powers. Not this one."

For allies looking for reassurances that Trump was done threatening to withdraw from the Iran deal, he offered nothing but more uncertainty. "We'll see what happens over the next short period of time," Trump said. —Reuters



This undated still image from video shows hostage Caitlan Coleman of the US and her husband Joshua Boyle of Canada speaking to the camera holding their children in an undisclosed location. —AFP

because Islamabad has been deepening its relationship in recent years with China, which is financing some \$57 billion in infrastructure projects, said Gul. Critics say the Pakistani military nurtures the Taliban and other Islamist factions because they are seen as potentially useful to Pakistan's core confrontation with old rival India. The Trump administration's recent talk of a "regional strategy" for Afghanistan that would include a bigger role for India has deeply upset Pakistan's establishment, said Mosharrar Zaidi, an Islamabad-based commentator and former Pakistan Foreign Ministry adviser.

"It seems like for the US, and President Trump has said so, that India is going to be a big part of the future of Afghanistan, and for Pakistan that's not on the table," Zaidi said. As a nuclear power, Pakistan could also be offended further at Trump's implication that it has bowed to his administration's pressure. "Given that people understand that respect for America is a big deal for Trump and a big deal for the American people, it shouldn't be so hard to understand why Pakistan ... also wants to be respected," said Zaidi. —Reuters



Trees in autumn colors are reflected in the Vltava River near Prague yesterday. — AP

## Trump speech sparks war...

Continued from Page 1

"We have always been determined and today we are more determined," Rouhani said. "We will double our efforts from now on."

The Iranian president also offered a list of moments that showed the United States could not be trusted by the average Iranian, dating back to the 1953 CIA-backed coup that cemented US-backed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's power. Like many others in Iran, Rouhani focused on the fact that Trump used the term "Arabian Gulf" to refer to the Gulf. Some traded online video clips of past American presidents calling it the Persian Gulf, while one semi-official news agency published a photo gallery with the title "Persian Gulf forever". Posts with the hashtag PersianGulf and the Iranian flag circulated on social media.

The name of the body of water has become an emotive issue for Iranians who embrace their country's long history as the Persian Empire, especially as US Gulf Arab allies and the American military now call it the "Arabian Gulf". Rouhani even suggested during his speech that Trump needed to "study geography". "Everyone knew Trump's friendship was for sale to the highest bidder. We now know that his geography is too," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter. Zarif went on, with sarcasm, to mention Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, all hereditarily ruled Gulf nations, saying: "No wonder supporters of Trump's inane Iran speech are those bastions of democracy in the Persian Gulf."

Iran's Education Minister Mohammad Bathai also suggested in a tweet that American teachers allocate more time toward teaching "history and geography" - another dig at Trump. Reformist activist Mostafa Tajzadeh, who spent seven years in prison following the turmoil of the 2009 disputed re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, also urged for a united stance against Trump. "One nation, one message: No to #Trump. We're all in this together," Tajzadeh tweeted.

Recent surveys have shown an increasing majority of

Iranians are skeptical that the US will live up to its obligations in the nuclear deal. Meanwhile, most have yet to see the benefits of the deal itself as Iran's economy still struggles to overcome rampant inflation, few jobs and bad loans to its banks. "Iran has in no way violated the nuclear deal, and as far as we know it has always remained committed to its promises, but it has always been (the Americans) who have broken their promises and have had other options on the table," Tehran resident Hamed Ghassemi said.

The US has also levied new sanctions against Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, whose forces fight the Islamic State group in Iraq, support embattled Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, have tense encounters with US warships in the Gulf and run the country's ballistic missile program. However, the US has balked at adding the Guard's name to a formal State Department list of foreign terrorist organizations. That could have proven problematic, especially with the Guard's vast economic holdings across Iran. "We have considered that there are particular risks and complexities to designating an entire army, so to speak, of a country," US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said.

Gen Masoud Jazayeri, a Guard commander and spokesman for Iran's joint armed forces staff, said late on Friday that the country's military will continue boosting its power and influence. "We tell the corrupt and evil government of the US that we will continue promoting defensive power of the country, more determined and with more motive than before," Jazayeri was quoted as saying by the Guard's news website. "We do not spare a while for defending suppressed people in any point of the world."

Trump stopped short of scrapping the deal outright, however, leaving Congress and US allies some room for maneuver. The Republican-controlled Congress now has 60 days to decide whether to re-impose sanctions on Iran - a step that if taken would almost certainly doom the accord. The US president said he supports efforts in Congress to work on new measures to address the broader threats posed by Iran without immediately torpedoing the nuclear deal. "However, in the event we are not able to reach a solution working with Congress and our allies, then the agreement will be terminated," Trump said, in a televised address from the Diplomatic Room of the White House. — Agencies

to the country, said Azour. He added that Kuwait has the financial capabilities to carrying on its reform policies, hoping that the progress within this realm would be rapid and efficient.

Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh said that the IMF and the WB both encouraged Kuwait to further pursue its ambitious reforms to improve the public budget after the decline in oil prices. The IMF predicted a growth by 3.6 percent in the global economy and Kuwait must take advantage of that, said the minister, who indicated that he had met with senior officials from the IMF and the World Bank to discuss Kuwait's overall development plans. — KUNA

## Bahraini monarch honors Zain...

Continued from Page 1

He noted that such a position is the best way to preserve the uniqueness and status of Bahrain as the home of love and peace.

Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi expressed his pride in the honor bestowed on him: "Being honored by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa is a tribute to all Zain Group personnel and will motivate us to continue participating actively to improve the socioeconomic well-being of communities across our operational footprint and beyond."

Kharafi said: "We appreciate the efforts made by the Kingdom of Bahrain under the leadership of His Majesty the King Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa in highlighting the civilized face of the kingdom and to promote the culture of human interaction across cultures. The Declaration of the Kingdom of Bahrain event held in Los Angeles is proof of the kingdom's determination to elevate its outlook on an international level. There is no doubt that this international gathering, which received wide global acclaim, has given a real call for peace to all countries of the world, calling for intensified efforts to address conflicts and eliminate terrorism."

Kharafi concluded: "Zain Group is keen to align with efforts that address conflicts, eliminate terrorism and spread the call for peace among peoples, which we view as being a core component of our corporate sustainability activities."

'This is Bahrain' was inaugurated by Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, His Majesty's Representative for Charity and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Charity Foundation and attended by representatives from the White House, the United Nations and many media and social figures. Numerous dialogue sessions and intellectual debates among young leaders were hosted at the 'This is Bahrain' event, with views exchanged on shared aspirations in formulating innovative visions to build bridges of peace and tolerance among different cultures and religions.

As a leading telecom based across the Middle East and Africa, Zain has always focused on promoting peace and love of humanity in conformity with its 'A Wonderful World' brand signature. It's tackled topics others may shy away from, like child abuse and the refugee crisis and most recently, decided to tackle head on the impact of the growing threat of extremist terrorism released its 2017 Ramadan message using the universal language of music by releasing a TVC entitled "We Will Sing Love". The TVC and its song reminds people of the positive force of inner-reflection and forgiveness - and how by forgiving and being there for one another, communities can stay strong in the face of adversity, and to "fight terrorism with love."

The song was released in May 2017 at the start of the holy month, on leading pan regional TV stations and on all major social media channels. Within hours, it was picked up by regional and international media going viral across the globe at a scale never experienced by any Middle East based corporate entity. Audiences may have been polarized in their views, but majority supported and thanked Zain for addressing such a sensitive topic and reminding the world that love can and will conquer all.

## Is Kuwait facing a serious talent crisis?...

Continued from Page 1

The private sector, a significant contributor to the development of national labor workforce (through training programs, national labor fund, corporate social responsibility) is in need of highly-skilled professionals, a need towards which the domestic labor market and educational system can be of little help.

International talent is courted fiercely by most international markets, granting them residency benefits to settle and integrate. The manifestations of this confusion towards expats is (varying from a rhetoric aiming to mass indigenize all the way to signing new employment contracts with shaky hands) are adding an unnecessary premium to our expat salaries, leading to an increased cost of doing business in our market and loss of its global competitiveness.

Knowledge-minded economies are geared and mobilized more aggressively to acquire global talent because they know that it is the essential resource to

build capacity and to indigenize the workforce. The current local generation is showing an unquenchable thirst to learn, as evidenced by the proliferation of professional trainers, coaches and mentors, on many occasions short of experience, qualifications, or both.

According to Ebru Boysan in Bloomberg (Al-Qabas - Oct 4, 2017), commenting on GCC measures taken following the oil price shock, a number of Gulf countries are planning to implement long-term residency programs to minimize the impact of a potential talent exodus: Permanent residencies in Qatar, special visa for the talent in certain areas in the UAE, and a green card arrangement in Saudi Arabia.

The strategic challenge for Kuwait and the other GCC countries now is to implement national empowerment programs without undermining their competitiveness, for the downside of such a policy error would be slipping to discriminating in job markets. Such discrimination begins with estranging the precious segment of international talent, but will insidiously turn into a society far from inclusive, where bias, favoritism and nepotism displace work and knowledge as societal values. This would be a mistake we should have been mindful of long back when we started to lose George Abouna and his fellow innovators.

## IMF: Kuwait 'successful'...

Continued from Page 1

administration mindset from an annual-based model to a midterm one are steps in the right direction, said Azour, who indicated that investments would grow eventually and deficit will shrink as a result. While the reforms continue to be implemented, Kuwait's World Bank's (WB) Doing Business rating will progress, bringing businesses and more investment opportunities

Kuwait Times

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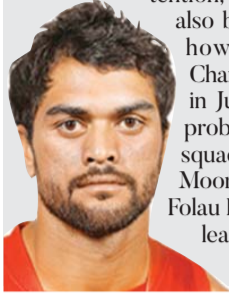
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• Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

## Sports

## Hunt back in Wallabies frame for All Blacks

**SYDNEY:** Inside back Karmichael Hunt was recalled to the Wallabies squad yesterday to face the All Blacks after a lengthy layoff for ankle surgery. One of the stars of Australia's home Tests in June, Hunt has been out of action for eight weeks and will likely be on the bench for next weekend's clash with New Zealand in Brisbane. Back-rower Adam Korczyk has forced his way into contention, while Rory Arnold, Lopeti Timani and Izaia Perese are also back in the frame. "We'll see how Hunt goes at training, how he plays this weekend in the National Rugby Championship," said coach Michael Cheika. "In the last camp in June, he pretty much forced his way into the team. He's probably got a bit more competition now as we've built the squad over the Rugby Championship." With veteran Stephen Moore due to retire this year, Cheika also selected rookie trio Folau Faingua, Jermaine Ainsley and Duncan Paia'aua to join the lead-up camp so he can have a closer look at them.—AFP



## US interested in Winter Games bid

**LOS ANGELES:** The US Olympic Committee wants to bid for the Winter Olympics, but is still mulling whether it would be better to seek the 2026 or 2030 Games. "I put a stake in the ground that we are interested in hosting the Winter Games," USOC chairman Larry Probst told reporters on Friday as he discussed talks at the USOC Assembly in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "Ideally, that's probably 2030, so that there's no confusion with preparations for 2028," Probst added, referring to the Summer Games awarded to Los Angeles. The United States last hosted the Winter Games in Salt Lake City in 2002. USOC board members discussed the pros and cons of possible 2026 or 2030 Winter Olympic bids on Friday, Probst said, adding that officials still need more information from the International Olympic Committee on the bidding process. Probst said the USOC wants to be part of the discussion if the IOC decides to award the 2026 and 2030 Olympics in one vote—as it did last month in choosing Paris for 2024 and Los Angeles for 2028.—AFP

## Gold pulls out of Grand Prix events

**NEW YORK:** Figure skater Gracie Gold's chances of making the United States Olympic team have diminished after she withdrew from two events in next month's Grand Prix series for personal reasons. US Figure Skating said on Friday that Gold would miss competitions in Beijing and Grenoble, France due to ongoing treatment for off-ice matters. "It saddens me deeply to sit out this Grand Prix Series, but I know it is for the best," Gold said in a statement released to media outlets. "I am currently in treatment for depression, anxiety and an eating disorder. I will not have adequate training time to prepare and compete at the level that I want to." Form during the Grand Prix series is taken into consideration for selection on the US team, which will be named after the national championships in January. The 2018 Winter Games will be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea from Feb. 9-25. Gold, 22, a two-time U.S. champion, finished fourth in the individual event in Sochi in 2014.—Reuters



## South Korea's Ko leads by two, Park eyes No 1 spot

## Leader Angel Yin struggles for consistency

**INCHEON:** South Korea's Ko Jin-young delivered a sparkling six-under-par 66 in the third round of the LPGA's KEB Hana Bank Championship yesterday to move two shots clear of compatriots Park Sung-hyun and Chun In-gee at the SKY72 Golf and Resort in Incheon.

Ko, who sits on a combined 15-under for the \$2 million tournament, will play alongside Park and Chun today in a blockbuster final grouping of three of South Korea's most popular players. Lizette Salas moved into contention a shot further back on 12-under after a 68 on yesterday, while overnight leader Angel Yin struggled for consistency and finished even par to sit in a group of three on 11-under.

Park, who could replace Ryu So-yeon as world number one with a win on Sunday and is a lock for U.S. LPGA Rookie of the Year, picked up four shots through nine holes to seize the lead but faltered coming home. She did well to salvage par at the last after driving into a hazard and finished with a 68.

With her 'Flying Dumbos' fan club helping swell the tournament's galleries to record numbers, Chun sank

her fourth birdie of the day at the last for a four-under 68 to move into a good position for her first win of the season after five runner-up finishes on the U.S. tour.

But the day belonged to Ko, who still plays on the domestic Korean Tour and seems poised to fill the vacuum left by the departure of Park and Chun for the more lucrative US tour.

The 22-year-old had her irons dialed-in all day, almost holing out for eagle at the ninth and 10th, and would have been further ahead had her putting been as sharp. "I think my iron shots today were really strong so I was able to make a lot of birdie chances for myself," she told reporters.

"Although I'm in the lead... there are a lot of great players out there in the field. I think tomorrow I would have to really focus

and concentrate.

"At the same time, I haven't seen some of those players for a while so it will be a lot of fun to play with them."

Spain's Carlota Ciganda is still in with a chance of defending her title after carding a 67 on Saturday that left her five off the lead.—Reuters

“I think my iron shots today were really strong”



**INCHEON:** Jin Young Ko of South Korea watches her shot on the third hole during the third round of the LPGA KEB HanaBank Championship at the Sky72 Golf Club in Incheon, South Korea, yesterday.—AP

## Zarco snatches shock Japan MotoGP pole, Marquez third

**MOTEGI:** Yamaha's Johann Zarco produced a sizzling lap yesterday to claim a surprise pole for the Japanese Grand Prix with MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez qualifying in third. With only a minute remaining in a wet Motegi session, the Frenchman Zarco clocked a quickest time of one minute, 53.469 seconds for his second career pole in the MotoGP class, pipping Ducati's Danilo Petrucci and championship leader Marquez.

Petrucci finished 0.3 seconds behind Zarco with Marquez a further tenth off the pace to complete the front row, followed by Aprilia's Aleix Espargaro, Ducati's Jorge Lorenzo and Dani Pedrosa's Honda.

"We were ready to fight," said Zarco, who claimed his first pole in the Netherlands almost four months ago. "I'm just so happy, it's perfect motivation because in your rookie season you expect that maybe one time pole position was good enough."

Marquez's chances of extending his lead in the title race could be boosted with his closest rivals Andrea Dovizioso and Maverick Vinales back in ninth and 14th respectively on the grid.

Spaniard Marquez, who like Yamaha's Valentino Rossi paid for his decision to switch his Honda to slick tyres, has a 16-point advantage over Dovizioso with four races left. "This time maybe I sacrificed a little bit to attack more to understand different things because I saw that Valentino was on slicks too," said Marquez.

"But anyway, I'm happy because the front row was the main target and we are there, we are in front of our main rivals so this is important." Vinales admitted his hopes of catching Marquez were hanging by a thread after a dismal qualifying, the Spaniard missing out on an automatic spot in second qualifying.

"Every time I go out on the track and see myself in 10th position, I see the title slipping away," said the Yamaha rider, complaining of a traction problem. "Especially because my rivals are in the first positions," added Vinales, who trails Marquez by 28 points. "For sure, it's a shame but I can't do anything more with the bike we have right now, it's impossible." Meanwhile, seven-time champion Rossi qualified 12th on the grid for Yamaha as he continues his return to fitness after a double leg fracture. Marquez, chasing a sixth victory of the season this weekend, wrapped up his third MotoGP world title at last year's Japan race.—AFP

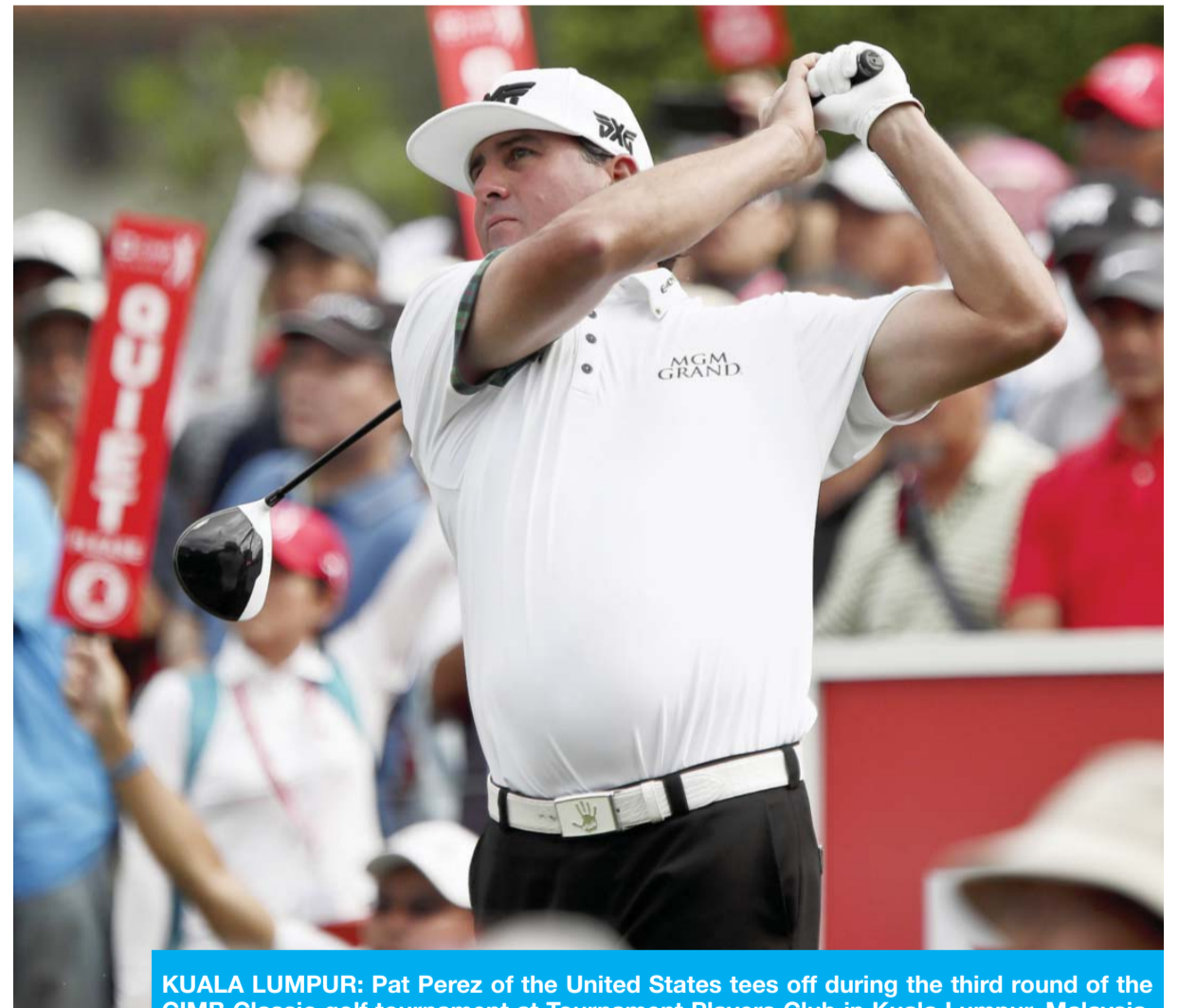
## Pat Perez widens lead at CIMB Classic

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Pat Perez took a four-stroke lead in the third round of the CIMB Classic in Malaysia yesterday with an eight-under 64, as Justin Thomas's title defence looked all but over. The 41-year-old Perez's impressive performance put him on a three-day total of 21-under 195, leaving him in a strong position heading into the final round of the PGA Tour event today.

The American shrugged off sweltering heat at the TPC Kuala Lumpur to fire nine birdies as he continued his impressive putting, which has been the standout feature of his game this week. He holds a significant advantage over second-placed compatriot Xander Schauffele, who sits four strokes behind him. Schauffele overcame a first hole bogey to end the day on five-under-par 67. South Korea's Kang Sung-Hoon is also a threat heading into the final day at five shots behind Perez in third, while Japan's Hideki Matsuyama and American Keegan Bradley are in tied fourth position.

But the shock news of the event has been the poor performance of Thomas, who has just finished a superb season and was hoping to triumph at the CIMB Classic for a third successive year. He improved slightly Saturday with a three-under-par 69 but he was still languishing far down the leaderboard in tied 24th position, 15 strokes off Perez.

Perez insisted he did not feel under pressure to win. "I'm not going to put pressure on myself to win," he said. "Of course everybody wants to win, it would be nice to do it, get the year started off right, but it is what it is. "I'm going to go out and try to hit a little better, make some putts and we'll see what happens." World number three Matsuyama stormed into contention with the lowest score of the day, 63. But he admitted it would be hard to overtake Perez: "You know, with the



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Pat Perez of the United States tees off during the third round of the CIMB Classic golf tournament at Tournament Players Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday.—AP

way Pat is playing, I don't know if he can be caught or not." The shot of the day belonged to South Korea's Whee Kim who fired a 191-yard hole-in-one on the

15th, for which he won a BMW car as a prize. The \$7 million CIMB Classic is co-sponsored by the Asian Tour and PGA Tour.—AFP

## Kuwait gears up for shooting season

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi lauded the continued support of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for Kuwait shooting. He said Kuwait shooting sports club begins local season with one of the most important tournaments which car-

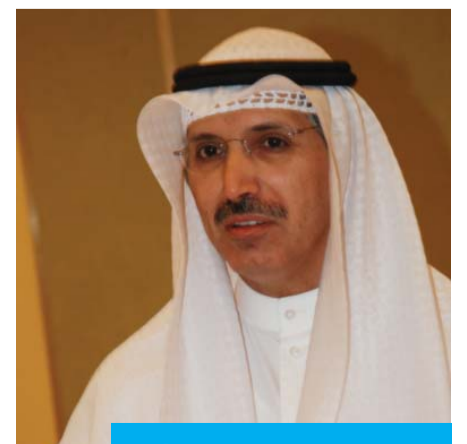
ries the name of HH the Crown Prince.

He said His Highness has a major role in supporting the sport with his material and moral back up, and always gave advice for its improvement. Al-Osaimi expressed thanks and gratitude on behalf of shooting community to HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Al-Osaimi said the organizing com-

mittee held several meetings, and the concerned committees completed their preparations for a distinguished launch of the championship that will be officiated by Kuwaiti international referees who are highly experienced.

He said that technical and administrative preparations are also made, as ranges are being prepared for the large number of shooters who expressed their wish to participate in the tournament beside the shooters of the national team. Shooters from the National Guard, police and military, along with shooters from UAE, and Saudi Arabia will participate. The tournament will start Oct 19 and concludes Oct 21.



Al-Osaimi

Sports

# Keuchel strikes out 10, Astros beat Yanks 2-1 in ALCS opener

## Astros pitchers Ryan, Scott reach double digits in strikeouts

HOUSTON: Dallas Keuchel dominated the Yankees again, striking out 10 in seven scoreless innings to lead the Houston Astros over New York 2-1 on Friday night in the AL Championship Series opener. Keuchel entered with a 1.24 ERA against the Yankees in regular season starts plus six shutout innings in the 2015 AL wild card game. He allowed four hits - all singles - walked one and joined

Nolan Ryan and Mike Scott as the only Astros pitchers to reach double digits in strikeouts in a postseason game. "It's just a good combination of command and pitchability," Keuchel said. "When I'm behind in the count, I feel just as good as if I'm 0-2. I think that's one of the biggest keys for me recently." "He's got that late movement on both sides of the plate," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. Carlos Correa and Yuli Gurriel hit RBI singles in the fourth off loser Masahiro Tanaka, and left fielder Marwin Gonzalez threw out Greg Bird at the plate trying to score on Aaron Judge's two-out single in the fifth.

Bird homered off Ken Giles with two outs in the ninth, and the closer struck out pinch-hitter Jacoby Ellsbury. Giles escaped a two-out jam in the eighth by striking out Didi Gregorius. Greeted by MVP chants each time to the plate, Jose Altuve had three more hits and at 11 for 19 (.579) has the most hits in a team's first five postseason games since Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki in 2001.

Houston is in the Championship Series for the first time since beating St. Louis in 2005. The Yankees, who overcame a 2-0 deficit to beat Cleveland in the Division Series, lost their sixth straight ALCS game since 2010.

After the Astros totaled eight runs in the first innings

of their four AL Division Series games, Tanaka kept the Astros hitless until Altuve's infield single rolled through the pitcher's legs in the fourth. Altuve swiped second before scoring on Correa's single. Gurriel followed with a two-out single, his 10th hit of the postseason.

Bird singled to start the fifth and Matt Holliday, making his first appearance of the postseason, reached when Altuve dropped his slow bouncer to second for an error. Judge singled with two outs and

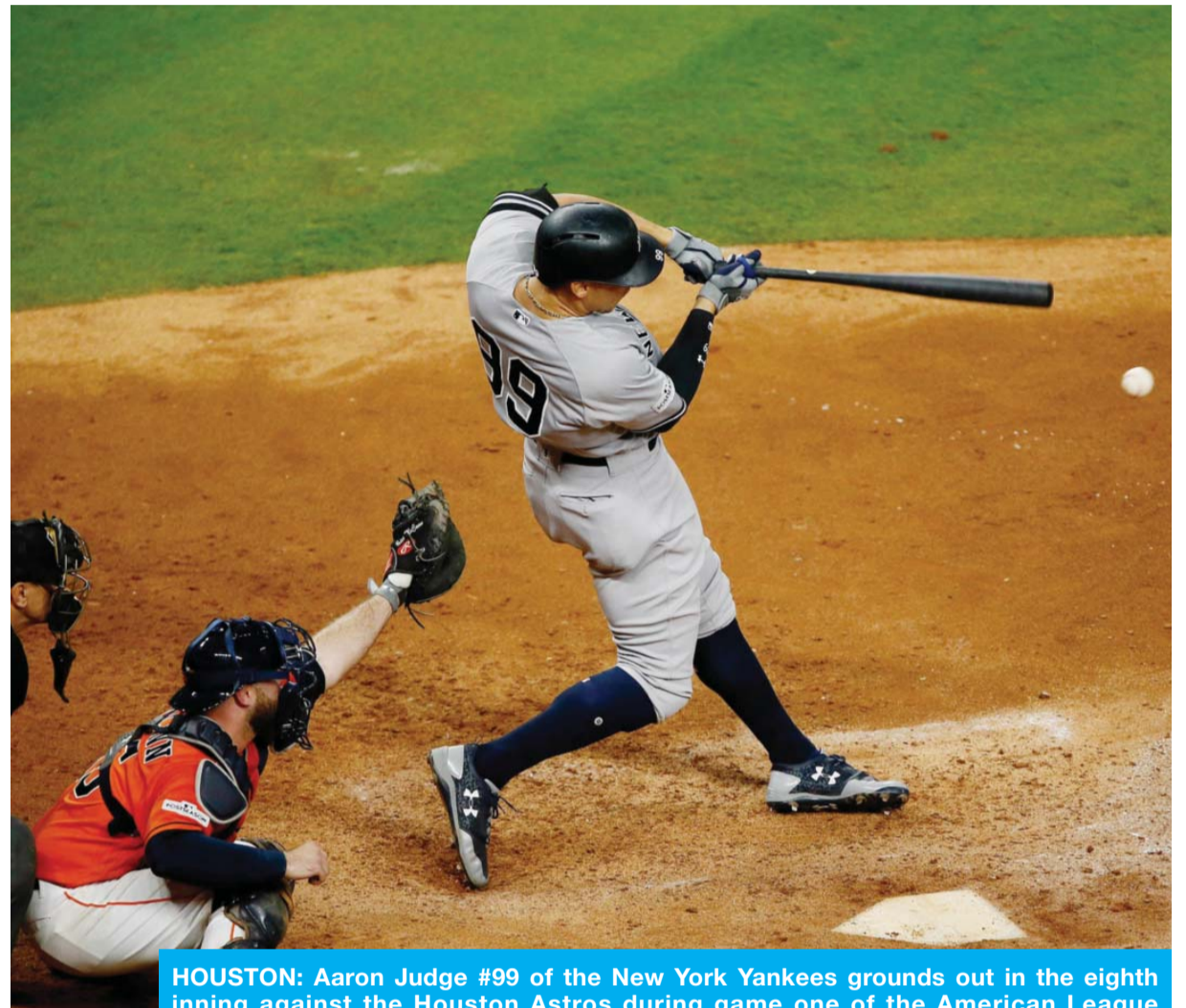
Gonzalez, throwing with such force that he fell to the ground, made a one-hop throw to catcher Brian McCann, who tagged the sliding Bird. To tag Bird at home to end the inning. The call was upheld in a video review.

Primarily an infielder, Gonzalez had just two out-of-field assists in the regular season. He beat his hand into his glove three times in celebration after watching McCann make the tag.

Yankees: Luis Severino will make his third start of this postseason on Saturday. Severino yielded three runs and four hits in seven innings of a win in Game 4 of the ALDS to bounce back after allowing three runs and getting just one out in the wild-card game.

"I feel good, I feel confident in myself," he said. "I knew that that first start I did, that wasn't me, and I made adjustments. That's how we do it; we make adjustments and the second start I put in place those adjustments and did good." Astros: Justin Verlander is scheduled to make his 18th playoff start on Saturday. Verlander got the win in Game 1 of the ALDS against the Red Sox and picked up win No. 2 of this postseason when he made his first career relief appearance in Game 4. He's 9-5 with a 3.36 ERA and 115 strikeouts in his postseason career. — AP

"I think that's one of the biggest keys for me recently"



HOUSTON: Aaron Judge #99 of the New York Yankees grounds out in the eighth inning against the Houston Astros during game one of the American League Championship Series at Minute Maid Park on Friday in Houston. — AFP

## Ice Hockey league to commence as training continues

KUWAIT: President of Winter Games Club Fuhaid Al-Ajmi said the ice hockey league will be launched, with the average of one game a week with the participation of strong Kuwaiti teams, and this is to meet conditions requested by the International Ice Hockey Association, which the club had executed professionally since previous seasons to make the game more popular.

Al-Ajmi, who also heads the Gulf Inter Games Organizing Committee, spoke about the Arab role in helping Arabs who want to develop the ice hockey game in their countries, as a decision was made to host Egypt's national ice hockey team in Kuwait and provide training camp for players.

Meanwhile, daily training continues at the club for both men and women in addition to figure skating. Al-Ajmi said that KWSC signed a contract with the Czech coach Kameel Vavara to train the juniors team, so that the administrative and technical teams are complete.



Fuhaid Al-Ajmi with Vavara after signing the contract.



Female hockey players receiving instructions by coach Mishal Al-Ajmi.

## Bowers' TD leap leads Cal past No 8 Wash St 37-3

BERKELEY: Ross Bowers found a way to overshadow California's opportunistic defense that forced seven turnovers and had nine sacks. An acrobatic flip into the end zone will do just that. Bowers scored on the touchdown leap and the Golden Bears used a dominant defensive performance to stun No. 8 Washington State 37-3 Friday night for their first win in 14 years against a top 10 team.

"I didn't think I could go left or right so why not over the top," Bowers said. "Luckily I was able enough to land safely and all that stuff." Camryn Bynum had two of California's five interceptions against Luke Falk, and the Bears (4-3, 1-3 Pac-12) overwhelmed the Cougars (6-1, 3-1) for a signature win under first-year coach Justin Wilcox.

Cal was just 1-52-1 against top 10 teams since 1978 with the only win coming over No. 3 Southern California in 2003 before breaking through against mistake-prone Washington State. "There's no bright spot. We were pathetic," Cougars coach Mike Leach said. "We're a bunch of pathetic front-runners."

The Bears used short fields on their first four scoring drives before Bowers delivered the highlight of the night with his touchdown run early in the fourth that left the crowd gasping in amazement. Bowers scrambled and then bounded off two feet from just outside the 2. He did a front flip over Justus Rogers and fell in the end zone following the 7-yard run that made it 27-3.

"That was 11 out of 10," Bynum said. "That was really nice. That's crazy." Bowers, whose mother used to be the gymnastics coach at Washington, had scored on a similar flip in a high school game, and his mother once again was hoping for even more. "She said the same thing to me after the game: 'Why didn't you do a double,'" Bowers said.

"It was the same thing. It's like deja vu. It keeps her coming to the games." The game was played in smoky conditions because of the wine country fires that had killed at least 35 people and destroyed at least 5,700 homes and businesses about 50 miles north of Cal's campus. — AP

## Get ready for the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' with weekly training runs

KUWAIT: In cooperation with leading sports clubs in Kuwait, and for participants to get ready for the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon', Gulf Bank and Pro-Vision Sports Management are organizing weekly training sessions to train the body's 642 muscles, as a step closer to the big day. The weekly training sessions will be held in convenient locations and will start with Q8runclub, one of the largest running clubs in Kuwait, tomorrow (Monday, 16 October), at 7:30 pm in Salmiya in front of Babel Restaurant. Further details and updates on the weekly training sessions will be announced regularly through the marathon's Instagram account @GulfBank642 and the rest of Gulf Bank's social media channels.

The big event, the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' will be held on Saturday, 18 November at 7 am starting and ending at Souq Sharq. The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' is made for every individual who wants to experience a run, touring through the beautiful landmarks of Kuwait. This walk/run event caters to all levels, from challenging athletes to beginners and even families, this includes four different distances/categories: Family Fun Walk/Run (5KM); Souq Run for regular runners (10KM); Half Marathon for more advanced runners (21KM); and Kuwait's only Full Marathon (42KM).

Each year the marathon also supports a cause; this year it reaffirms its support for UNHCR - The UN

Refugee Agency, campaign #Voices4Refugees. This campaign asks for you to give your voice to refugees so that the world will hear their voices. By adding your voice, you will be calling for immediate and practical steps that can improve humanitarian access and the delivery of aid to those in need inside Syria. Your voice will show that you stand with Syrian refugees and can bring hope back to the men, women, and children who have lost everything, through no fault of their women. Add your voice at: <https://voices.unhcr.org>

The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' is

the first road race in Kuwait to have three of its longer distance race categories accredited by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF Athletics), meaning that those races appear in the international calendar of races and serve as qualifying race for the major international marathons. To find out more about the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon', visit the dedicated website at: [www.gulfbank642marathon.com](http://www.gulfbank642marathon.com) or its Instagram account @GulfBank642, or through Gulf Bank's social media channels.



## IOC suspends Olympic official Nuzman in vote-buying case

ZURICH: After being arrested in Rio de Janeiro and accused of storing gold bars in Switzerland, Brazilian Olympic Committee president Carlos Nuzman was suspended by the IOC on Friday. The decision came hours after Brazilian authorities investigating a 2016 Olympic vote-buying case asked for help from prosecutors in Switzerland.

The Brazilian Olympic Committee was also provisionally suspended and had its funding frozen. The world Olympic body also further cut ties with the Nuzman-led Rio Games organizing committee which still has unpaid debts.

Nuzman, a 75-year-old lawyer, was also removed from the IOC's panel overseeing preparations for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The International Olympic Committee announced the decisions after an emergency conference call of its executive board. The IOC said its decision will not affect Brazilian athletes, who will continue to receive scholarship funds and be eligible for the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Nuzman was arrested on Thursday on suspicion of obstructing investigators from Brazil and France, who detained and questioned him one month ago. Their case explores suspicious payments linked to how the city won the hosting rights for the Olympics.

Brazilian prosecutors revealed on Thursday they believed Nuzman stored 16 bars of gold in a depository in Geneva and greatly increased his wealth while overseeing the Rio bid and organizing committees. The office of Switzerland's attorney general said on Friday it was "analyzing" a request from Brazil for legal assistance. "The request has been transferred from the Federal Office of Justice (FOJ) to the (attorney general's office) as the competent authority for execution," the federal office said in a statement.

Brazilian prosecutors have implicated Nuzman in a bribery scheme of at least \$2 million to help win votes from IOC members, who chose Rio as host city in 2009 in a four-city contest. The losers were Chicago, supported by then-President Barack Obama, Madrid and Tokyo. Nuzman is believed to be a central figure in channeling at least \$2 million of a Brazilian businessman's money to Lamine Diack, a former IOC member from Senegal who helped control African votes.

Diack has been arrested in France as part of a wider case of alleged corruption while he was president of the IAAF, including blackmailing athletes to cover up doping cases. — AP



Carlos Nuzman

## Sports

# Nadal and Federer to face off for Shanghai Masters title

## Celebrated duo have faced one another 37 times

**SHANGHAI:** Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer will meet in today's final of the Shanghai Masters, just the latest chapter in their storied rivalry. The celebrated duo have faced one another 37 times, with the Spaniard and world number one Nadal winning 23 of their contests. And the 31-year-old Nadal, who has never won the Shanghai Masters, will be slight favourite this time because he goes into the showdown on a terrific run of form, and his opponent faces a quicker turn around. Nadal, a 16-time Grand Slam champion, triumphed at the US Open and then last week at the China Open for his sixth title of another remarkable campaign. But he was forced to survive a rollercoaster with fourth seed Marin Cilic in their semi-final, saving three set points in the opener before pulling through 7-5, 7-6 (7/3).

The Swiss Federer, the world number two chasing a second Shanghai crown, rolled back the years to fight back from a set down and defeat Juan Martin del Potro 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. The 36-year-old Federer had said that he wanted revenge over the 16th-seeded Argentine for defeat in the quarter-finals at the US Open this summer. And he got it.

Del Potro, the 2009 US Open champion whose career has been blighted by wrist injuries, quickly allayed fears that his latest problem would be a major handicap. The 29-year-old fell and hurt his left wrist in winning his quarter-final on Friday and there were suggestions he may not even make yesterday's match. But he showed no ill effects in stunning the pro-Federer

crowd to break for 4-2 in the first set.

And Del Potro grasped set point following a thrilling rally that had the spectators whooping, only for 19-time Grand Slam champion Federer to inexplicably shank his volley out of the court.

The second set went with serve until Federer, going after a 94th singles title, made the breakthrough on the Del Potro serve to inch ahead. Del Potro began showing irritation, engaging in a series of discussions with the umpire, including demanding Federer be warned for triumphantly hitting the ball away after winning the game. Federer sent the match into a deciding third set and he got the break early to tee up another Nadal meeting. Federer, the older man, could be at a slight disadvantage because he has a shorter time to rest having played the second match of the day.

“World number 2 chasing a second Shanghai crown”

### ‘TOUGH MATCH’

Croatia's Cilic had only ever got the better of Nadal once in five previous meetings, but he made him work hard for this latest win. Nadal said he was just glad

to be in the final. “The way doesn't matter,” he said with a smile.

“We are at the highest level of our sport so nobody wins easy. “And if you want to compete in the most important events of the year and try to go for the victories, for sure you're going to have tough matches, and today was one of them.”

Nadal put Cilic under immediate pressure in the Croat's first two service games. But the 29-year-old



**SHANGHAI:** Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return shot against Marin Cilic of Croatia during their men's singles semifinals match in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, yesterday. — AP

Cilic, the 2014 US Open champion, eventually settled, only to squander three set points as Nadal hung on grimly. In the next game Nadal capitalised, breaking Cilic on the way to claiming the first set.

With the crowd firmly in his favour, the Spaniard

broke Cilic again in the third game of the second set, only for Cilic to break back for 3-3 when Nadal put his simple volley into the net. They exchanged a further break apiece to race into the tie break, before a grateful Nadal pulled away at the last. — AFP

## Shakib and De Villiers return for one-day series

**KIMBERLEY:** The return of leading all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan provides encouragement for Bangladesh ahead of a three-match one-day international series against South Africa starting at the Diamond Oval in Kimberley today.

But Bangladesh, outplayed in two Tests against the hosts, will have to contend with a South African team strengthened by the inclusion of AB de Villiers, one of the world's most dazzling limited-overs batsmen.

Also back in international action for South Africa is JP Duminy, who retired from Test cricket after a run of low scores, but who remains a highly effective one-day player. In the most recent one-day outings for both teams, Bangladesh reached the semi-finals of the ICC Champions League in England in June, while South Africa failed to advance beyond the group stage. Bangladesh were victorious in their two most recent one-day internationals against South Africa when they won a series at home in 2015. But the hosts will start strong favourites. South Africa have won 14 of 17 one-day matches against Bangladesh and triumphed in all six previous encounters in South Africa by convincing margins.

Bangladesh will be under new leadership with veteran bowler Mashrafe Mortaza captaining the side instead of Mushfiqur Rahim, who remains in the squad. Although Shakib's return from a brief sabbatical will strengthen the tourists, they still rely mainly on the players who suffered two crushing Test defeats.—AFP

## Sharapova reaches first final since 15-month drugs ban

**TIANJIN:** Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova crushed Peng Shuai 6-3, 6-1 at the Tianjin Open yesterday to reach her first final since serving a 15-month doping ban. The 30-year-old Russian, playing on a wildcard in the seventh tournament of her comeback, hit top gear as she swept aside the Chinese third seed in one hour, 18 minutes.

In front of a large home crowd, a businesslike Sharapova broke four times and conceded zero breaks of her own before wrapping up the semi-final with a clinical courtscout forehand.

In Sunday's final—her first since she won the Italian Open in May 2015 — she will be the red-hot favourite

against 102nd-ranked Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka, who beat qualifier Sara Errani 6-1, 6-3. Sharapova has had a stop-start and injury-hit season since her controversial return at Stuttgart in April, following her ban for using the banned substance meldonium.

The statuesque former world number one reached the Stuttgart semis but she retired in the Italian Open second round and also withdrew from her second-round match at Stanford.

Sharapova missed Wimbledon qualifying because of injury and she wasn't offered a wildcard to the French Open, but she reached the US Open last 16 on her return to Grand Slam tennis. She has cut a swathe through the limited draw in Tianjin, beating Irina-Camelia Begu, Magda Linette, Stefanie Voegele and Peng without dropping a set.

Sharapova, one of the world's highest-earning female athletes, will now expect to win her 36th career title and end a trophy drought of more than two years, the longest since her debut win in 2003.

By contrast Sabalenka, 19, is gunning for her first WTA title after a run to the Tianjin final that included wins over China's Duan Ying-Ying and Lin Zhu. Sharapova, currently ranked 86th, has also been handed a wildcard for next week's Kremlin Cup in Moscow, which she will play for the first time since 2007. — AFP



**TIANJIN:** Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a return against Peng Shuai of China during their women's singles semi-final match at the WTA Tianjin Open tennis tournament in Tianjin yesterday. — AFP

## Backstrom goal lifts Capitals over Devils

**NEWARK:** Nicklas Backstrom had a goal and three assists as the Washington Capitals knocked the surprising New Jersey Devils from the NHL's unbeaten ranks with a 5-2 victory Friday night. T.J. Oshie had two goals and an assist, and Alex Ovechkin scored his ninth of the season and set up Backstrom's power-play tally to help Washington hand New Jersey its first loss in four games. Jacob Vrana also scored for the Capitals, and Braden Holtby had 21 saves. Washington is 8-1 in its last nine games against New Jersey. Taylor Hall and Kyle Palmieri scored for the Devils, who had surprised many with their quick start after finishing in the basement in the Eastern Conference last season. Cory Schneider made 23 saves, getting beat three times on the power play.

### RED WINGS 6, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 3

Gustav Nyquist scored twice and Detroit had four goals in the third period to beat Las Vegas, handing the NHL's newest franchise its first loss. Vegas (3-1-0) is the first NHL expansion team to win its first three games. Anthony Mantha, Frans Nielson and Luke Glendening also scored in the third period for Detroit, and Henrik Zetterberg had a goal in the second. James Neal scored his sixth goal for Vegas. Jonathan Marchessault and Erik Haula also scored. Petr Mrazek made 24 saves for the Red Wings, while Marc-Andre Fleury had 21 saves for Vegas.

### BLUE JACKETS 3, RANGERS 1

Artemi Panarin and Seth Jones scored to rally Columbus past New York. Panarin, acquired from Chicago in the offseason, had his first goal with the Blue Jackets. He snaked through the defense and beat goalie Henrik Lundqvist between the pads 7:25 into the third for a 2-1 lead. Lukas Sedlak added an empty-net goal, and Zach Werenski had two assists. Sergei Bobrovsky made 37 saves for Columbus, allowing only



**LAS VEGAS:** James Neal #18 of the Vegas Golden Knights scores a second-period goal against Petr Mrazek #34 of the Detroit Red Wings during their game at T-Mobile Arena Friday. — AFP

Kevin Hayes' first-period goal.

### AVALANCHE 3, DUCKS 1

Tyson Barrie broke a tie late in the third period, and Gabriel Landeskog and Nikita Zadorov also scored to help Colorado beat Anaheim. Jonathan Bernier had 17 saves against his former team, and Mikko Rantanen and Sven Andrighetto had two assists each for the Avalanche. Colorado (4-1) is off to its best start after five games since 2013-14. Colorado's Nathan MacKinnon left with a right eye injury in the first period. MacKinnon was hurt when Anaheim's Derek Grant got his stick under MacKinnon's visor. Brandon Montour scored for Anaheim.

### SENATORS 6, FLAMES 0

Craig Anderson made 25 saves for his first shutout of the season and 39th overall in Ottawa's victory over Calgary. Cody Ceci, Mark Stone and Derrick Brassard each had a goal and an assist, Mike Hoffman, Ryan Dzingel and Chris Wideman also scored, and Kyle Turris had three assists. Mike Smith was pulled from Calgary's net after giving up five goals on 22 shots in 47:48. Eddie Lack mopped up the final eight minutes, giving up Wideman's goal. The Flames were shut out for the second time this season. After being blanked 3-0 in Edmonton in their opener, they had won three straight. — AP

## Karthik recalled for ODIs against New Zealand

**NEW DELHI:** India yesterday recalled wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik to the one-day international squad for three upcoming matches against New Zealand. Karthik, 32, was part of the squad for the recently concluded Twenty20 series against Australia but did not get a place in the starting lineup in the two completed matches.

Rookie fast bowler Shardul Thakur was also included in the 15-man squad for the series starting October 22 in Mumbai. Veteran pacemen Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav were omitted.

The selectors continued to rest their faith on wrist spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav while ignoring seniors Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin. Top-ranked India have enjoyed a successful run with Chahal, Yadav and left-arm spinner Axar Patel in their squad during recent matches. The Virat Kohli-led side thrashed Australia 4-1 in the ODI series before a 1-1 result in the T20s following the abandonment of the third and final match on Friday.

Hosts India will play the second ODI against New Zealand in Pune on October 25 and the third in Kanpur on October 29. The two sides will then play three T20 matches. Squad: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Ajinkya Rahane, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Dinesh Karthik, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wicketkeeper), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Shardul Thakur.—AFP

Sports

# Man United contains Liverpool in 0-0 draw in Premier League

## Mourinho's cautious approach frustrate Liverpool

**LIVERPOOL:** Manchester United produced another resolute containing job at Anfield to hold Liverpool to a 0-0 draw in the Premier League yesterday, as the "clásico" of English soccer proved a let-down once again. The match-up between England's two most decorated teams turned into a dull stalemate, just like 12 months ago at the same stadium.

And just like last season, United had David De Gea to thank for preserving a point. In one of the few genuine openings created all match, the Spain goalkeeper stuck out his left boot to turn away Joel Matip's effort from point-blank range.

Otherwise, Liverpool controlled possession but couldn't pierce the wall of white United jerseys set up by coach Jose Mourinho, whose players carried out his game plan to the letter. "For sure you could not play this way at Liverpool," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said, "but it's OK for Manchester United."

Mourinho usually adopts a cautious approach in big away matches and he reverted to type again, stationing Ander Herrera in front of United's back four alongside Nemanja Matic and ensuring wingers Anthony Martial and Ashley Young screened their full backs behind them.

It got the intended result, though Mourinho said United came for a win but retreated in the second half because he couldn't make any midfield substitutions to freshen up his team with Paul Pogba, Marouane Fellaini and Michael Carrick out injured.

Mourinho said he was also surprised Klopp didn't

change formation or make more attacking substitutions. "When at home and you don't move anything, I don't know," Mourinho said. "I was waiting for that."

"The second half was a bit of a game of chess. My opponent didn't open the door for me to win the game." There will be critics who'll argue United, with its heavy spending of recent years and having scored 21 league goals already this season, should have attacked a Liverpool defense that has been fragile.

United, which stayed unbeaten, dropped points for only the second time this season and failed to score for the first time. It was reminiscent of the 0-0 draw almost exactly 12 months ago, but at least there was some goal-mouth action this time.

De Gea's save was stunning, sticking out his left leg to keep out Matip's side-footed effort. Mohamed Salah then blazed the loose ball wide. Later in the first half and at the other end, Romelu Lukaku was

denied by Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet after the league's top scorer finally found himself with space in the penalty box.

The crowd noise was deafening for the early stages but it quietened as United become more comfortable toward the end of the first half. After the break, it was largely forgettable, although Liverpool remained on the offensive and looked dangerous whenever Brazilian pair Firmino and Coutinho linked up. It is only one win in the last five league games for Liverpool, which missed the pace and movement of injured winger Sadio Mane. — AP



'Clásico' of English soccer, a let-down again



**ANFIELD:** Liverpool's Dutch midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum (L) vies with Manchester United's Spanish midfielder Ander Herrera (C) and Manchester United's Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku (R) during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester United. — AFP

## Zaha inspires Palace to Chelsea win

**LONDON:** Wilfried Zaha returned to inspire bottom club Crystal Palace to their first win and first goals of the Premier League campaign with a shock 2-1 defeat of champions Chelsea yesterday. Hodgson's side finally broke their seven-game goal drought when Yohan Cabaye's 11th-minute shot deflected in off Cesar Azpilicueta, prompting a huge outpouring of relief around Selhurst Park.

Tiemoue Bakayoko levelled with an 18th-minute header but Zaha-back in the side for the first time since injuring his knee in the opening-day defeat to Huddersfield-secured the victory with the second on the stroke of half-time. Palace remain rooted at the foot of the table despite this notable win but Hodgson's side were handed a much-needed boost by a victory that revived memories of last season's dramatic survival bid.

For Chelsea, this was an early blow in their efforts to defend their Premier League title. Having gone into the international break on the back of a home defeat to leaders Manchester City, a second loss leaves them already trailing Pep Guardiola's side by nine points after just eight matches. Palace manager Hodgson insisted he had seen positive signs from his players on the training pitch during the international break despite the dismal run of early-season form. And the home side's approach during the opening stages of the games suggested the manager had done a good job in restoring confidence to a side that has endured the worst start in Premier League history. It helped that Zaha was back in the ranks and partnering Andros Townsend up front, the winger quickly demonstrating he had the capacity to worry the Chelsea backline. He was not alone in that as Hodgson's side quickly pressed the reigning champions back on their heels, particularly when Patrick van Aanholt found space on the left to deliver a testing low cross. The breakthrough, though, came from



**LONDON:** Crystal Palace's Wilfried Zaha, left, vies for the ball with Chelsea's Cesar Azpilicueta during their English Premier League soccer match between Crystal Palace and Chelsea at Selhurst Park stadium in London, yesterday. — AP

the other flank after James McArthur had sent Townsend heading towards the byline.

### PALACE FORTUNE

The England international pulled the ball back towards Cabaye and while there was a huge amount of luck in the way the ball bounced off the Frenchman, against David Luiz, and then again off Cabaye, before deflecting past Thibaut Courtois via a hefty deflection from Cesar Azpilicueta, Hodgson's side were grateful for any fortune that came their way.

It was the kind of goal that in normal circumstances would be quickly forgotten, but the reaction from within Selhurst Park confirmed the strike's significance.

Palace, though, are not in desperate trouble for nothing and they quickly demonstrated the side of their game that has been far more prominent this season when they gifted

Chelsea a route back into the match. Tiemoue Bakayoko produced a good downward header from Cesc Fabregas's corner but the way the French international was allowed to drift away from marker Van Aanholt was frustrating for Hodgson. Chelsea may have been back in the game but Antonio Conte's side were far from convincing.

Alvaro Morata was sidelined with a hamstring injury and deputy Michy Batshuayi struggled to make an impression as the focal point of the Blues attack. And while Fabregas was Chelsea's most threatening player when he advanced from central midfield, it was clear the industry of N'Golo Kante-another hamstring casualty-was missed.

Palace could sense they had an opportunity to claim a morale-boosting win and restored their lead immediately before half-time after Mamadou Sakho stepped up from the backline to dispossess Willian and release Zaha inside the Chelsea box. — AP

## Ronaldo gives Real Madrid 2-1 win at Getafe in La Liga

**MADRID:** Cristiano Ronaldo saved Real Madrid from another setback in the Spanish league by scoring late to beat Getafe 2-1 yesterday. Ronaldo's 85th-minute winner from inside the area came after a perfect long pass by Isco. He let the ball bounce in front of him and fired into the far corner to keep Madrid near the top of the standings. It was the first league goal for Ronaldo, who had been ineffective during most of the match at Alfonso Perez Coliseum in southern Madrid. "We know that when we need Cristiano, he is always there for us," Madrid left back Marcelo said.

The victory moved Madrid to within four points of leader Barcelona, which visited fifth-placed Atletico Madrid later. Sevilla dropped to third place, one point behind Madrid, after losing at Athletic Bilbao 1-0.

### REAL MADRID RISE

Karim Benzema opened the scoring for Madrid with a great run into the area, getting past a defender with a quick touch before sending a low shot into the far corner. It was also the first league goal for Benzema this season. The French striker was returning from injury.

Striker Jorge Molina equalized for the hosts early in the



**GETAFE:** Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo, left, shoots to score the winning goal during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Getafe and Real Madrid at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez in Getafe, Spain. — AP

second half with a slight deflection from close range after the Madrid defense was unable to clear a low cross from the right side. Replays showed Molina was offside.

Madrid controlled possession after the equalizer but wasn't able to create many chances until Ronaldo struck. Getafe, which had a few chances to equalize in the final minutes, also conceded late goals in home losses to

Sevilla and Barcelona. It dropped to 14th in the 20-team standings. "We can't allow this to keep happening," Molina said of the late goals. "Maybe we shouldn't have stayed only on defense, maybe we could have pressed a little bit more." Madrid got the win even though coach Zinedine Zidane couldn't count on a few regulars following the international break. — AP

## Eriksen earns Tottenham first home win of season

**LONDON:** Christian Eriksen gave Tottenham Hotspur a long-overdue first Premier League victory at their temporary Wembley Stadium with the only goal in a laboured 1-0 win over struggling Bournemouth yesterday.

Mauricio Pochettino's side were in danger of becoming the only club in English Football League history to win their first four away league games without tasting victory in any of their opening four at home after a drab first half.

Danish playmaker Eriksen ensured that did not happen, however, with a well-taken 47th-minute goal to keep Tottenham in third place with 17 points from their opening eight games - five behind leaders Manchester City.

The fluent football Tottenham have produced away from home was again missing, though, as Harry Kane's prolific run of scoring for club and country came to an end. Kane, who had netted nine times in his previous five games, had a goal rightly ruled out for offside and wasted another great chance to settle his side's nerves before being withdrawn in readiness for Tuesday's Champions League trip to Real Madrid. Bournemouth remained second from bottom but could argue they were worthy of a point. They had the better chances before the break and were always a threat late on with former Spurs favourite Jermain Defoe causing anxiety in the home defence after coming on as a substitute. — Reuters



### Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Brighton & Hove Albion v Everton	beIN SPORTS HD 2	15:30
Southampton v Newcastle United	beIN SPORTS HD 2	18:00
SPANISH LEAGUE		
Eibar v Deportivo La Coruna	beIN SPORTS HD 3	13:00
Girona v Villarreal	beIN SPORTS HD 3	17:15
Malaga v Leganes	beIN SPORTS HD 3	19:30
Real Betis v Valencia	beIN SPORTS HD 3	21:45
ITALIAN LEAGUE		
Fiorentina v Udinese Calcio	beIN SPORTS HD 4	13:30
Bologna v Spal	beIN SPORTS HD 10	16:00
Sampdoria v Atalanta	beIN SPORTS HD 4	16:00
Cagliari Calcio v Genoa	beIN SPORTS HD	16:00
Sassuolo Calcio v Chievo Verona	beIN SPORTS HD	16:00
Crotone v Torino	beIN SPORTS HD 8	16:00
Internazionale Milano v Milan	beIN SPORTS HD 4	21:45
GERMAN LEAGUE		
Bayer 04 Leverkusen v Wolfsburg	beIN SPORTS HD 5	16:30
Werder Bremen v Monchengladbach	beIN SPORTS HD 5	19:00
FRENCH LEAGUE		
Girondins de Bordeaux v Nantes	beIN SPORTS HD 6	16:00
Montpellier v Nice	beIN SPORTS HD	18:00
Strasbourg v Olympique Marseille	beIN SPORTS HD	22:00

**12** South Korea's Ko leads by two, Park eyes No 1 spot

**13** Keuchel strikes out 10, Astros beat Yanks 2-1 in ALCS opener

**14** Nadal, Federer to face off for Shanghai Masters title



## Seven up City put Stoke to the sword

### City's full-backs are a much greater attacking threat

**MANCHESTER:** Gabriel Jesus scored twice as Manchester City produced an outstanding display to thrash Stoke 7-2 and move two points clear at the top of the Premier League yesterday. City scored seven goals for the first time under Pep Guardiola, and for only the second time in the Premier League, as Raheem Sterling, David Silva, Fernandinho, Leroy Sane and Bernardo Silva were also on target at Eastlands. All of this was achieved without star striker Sergio Aguero, left as an unused substitute after recovering from a broken rib suffered in a taxi crash just over two weeks ago.

City were 3-0 up after 27 minutes before Stoke briefly threatened a revival through Mame Biram Diouf's strike and a Kyle Walker own goal. But Guardiola's team then powered away to secure an emphatic win that took their goal tally to 24 in their last five league games and put distance between the leaders and second-placed Manchester United. Stoke looked stretched from the early minutes, and Sane should have given the home side a seventh minute lead, lifting a shot over the bar from

close range after Kevin De Bruyne's cross from the right had flicked off Kevin Wimmer. City's full-backs are a much greater attacking threat this season, with Fabian Delph slotting in seamlessly on the left following a long-term injury to Benjamin Mendy.

It was Delph who tested Jack Butland with a long-range effort that the Stoke goalkeeper gathered comfortably, but it was right-back Walker who was central to the stylish move from which Guardiola's team took a 17th-minute lead. Walker, played in down the right by De Bruyne's finely judged pass in behind Wimmer, reached the byline and cut the ball back for Jesus to sweep in. Barely had Stoke absorbed that setback when they fell two goals behind, and again, the build-up play was wonderful.

#### OUTSTANDING

Sane cut in from the left on to De Bruyne's return pass, before rolling across goal for Raheem Sterling to control and steer in his sixth goal in six Premier League appearances this

season. A third goal for Guardiola's team arrived with just 27 minutes played. This time, Jesus fed Sane down the left, and the Germany international played the ball across goal for Sterling to steer back into the middle, where David Silva stretched to slot home.

Stoke pulled a goal back just before half-time when Diouf surged past Delph down the right, and then received Jese's first-time back-heel to score from 15 yards. City continued to seek more goals and only a good diving save from Butland prevented De Bruyne from finding the corner of the net. Stoke pulled another one back barely 90 seconds after the interval, with Tom Edwards crossing for Diouf, whose header was deflected in off the post by Walker. Sadly for Edwards, his afternoon was ended by injury shortly afterwards, as he was carried off on a stretcher. City, having recovered their composure, then sprinted forward to extend their lead once more.

De Bruyne was involved once again, haring down the right side before crossing low for Jesus to steer high into the net from six yards. — AFP



**MANCHESTER:** Stoke City's Kurt Zouma, left, and Manchester City's Ilkay Gundogan battle for the ball — AP



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## Business

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017

**18** KFH bags 'Best Islamic Project Finance Provider in World 2017'**20** Kuwait's Jazeera Airways named 'Low Cost Airline of the Year'**21** Al-Sayer supports Fikra training program's third edition launch

WASHINGTON: Christine Lagarde, Wolfgang Schauble, Steven Mnuchin and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Governors gather for a group photo during World Bank/IMF annual meetings in Washington yesterday. — AP

## IMF, WB push back against globalization foes

## World finance leaders vow to fight climate change, income inequality

WASHINGTON: The leaders of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank are vowing to fight climate change, combat income inequality and push back against rising populist skepticism over free trade and international collaboration.

"We know from experience that international cooperation works - from reconstruction after World War II more than 70 years ago to fighting Ebola just a few years back," IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde told delegates representing many of the IMF's 189 member countries. The IMF and World Bank wrapped up three days of meetings yesterday. Finance ministers from the G20 major economies concluded two days of talks on Friday.

The global economic integration that the IMF, World Bank and G20 represent is under siege. The British, unhappy with an influx of immigrants, voted to leave the European Union last year. The Americans sent Donald Trump to the White House on a promise to tear up bad trade deals and put America first. And nationalist parties gained strength in German elections last month.

But German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble said Friday that the populist discontent was misplaced. The IMF predicts the global economy will grow this year at the fastest pace since 2010. "We see that things are not as bad as predicted," said Schauble.

“Populist discontent misplaced”

who is serving as the G-20 leader because Germany holds the group's rotating chairmanship this year. The IMF's Lagarde warned that world leaders must take advantage of healthy growth to devise policies that make sure prosperity reaches those who are being

left behind. She said "excessive inequality ... hinders growth, erodes trust and fuels political tensions." "It often feels like our increasingly interconnected world is in fact falling apart and countries and peoples are pulling away from each other," World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said in his address to the annual meetings Friday. Kim said it should be understood that the IMF and the World Bank both represented a "part of the post-1945 world order that was predicated on the notion that what affects one city, one country, one region can have immediate and lasting impacts on us all."

Kim and Lagarde also called for world leaders to do more to fight climate change. "When it comes to climate change, we're out of time - 2016 was once again the hottest year since record-keeping began," Kim said. "We have to reduce our carbon footprint and help countries adapt to natural disasters like the recent hurricanes in the Caribbean and devastating floods in South Asia."

Behind the scenes, the United States



WASHINGTON: IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde (right) speaks with US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin (left) and German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble (centre) during the family photo at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meeting in Washington. — AFP

found itself at odds on some major issues confronting the two multilateral lending institutions. The Trump administration is balking at the current outlines of a World Bank request for more money to finance their lending programs.

A senior US Treasury Department official previewing the meetings earlier this week told reporters the bank needs to provide financing "to countries that need it" instead of continuing to lend heavily to China, the world's second-biggest economy. — AP

## Aramco in stake sale talks with Chinese investor

DUBAI/NEW YORK: Saudi Aramco is considering the sale of a stake to a Chinese investor as plans for its highly-anticipated international public offering are pushed beyond its 2018 target, sources familiar with the matter said on Friday. The initial public offering is expected to be the world's largest stock sale, and is a key component of the Saudi government's economic reform program which aims to diversify the desert kingdom away from its reliance on oil exports.

A private placement of shares in the state oil company to a Chinese investor is being evaluated as a precursor to the international IPO, according to two sources who spoke on condition of anonymity as the information was not public. They declined to name the investor or how much of Aramco would be sold. The move would provide Saudi Arabia with cash to help implement the National Transformation Program (NTP), as the reform package is formally known, according to one of the sources.

The NTP comprises a number of difficult economic adjustments for Saudi Arabia - includ-

ing removing some state subsidies and raising taxes - that are aimed at taming huge budget deficits caused by lower oil prices.

Concerns about the impact of the austerity measures on the economy are rising. While data earlier this month showed the deficit was shrinking, the Saudi economy entered recession in the second quarter, consumer prices are falling and unemployment among Saudis is at 12.8 percent. A Saudi Aramco spokesman said: "A range of options, for the public listing of Saudi Aramco, continue to be held under active review. No decision has been made and the IPO process remains on track."

## Listing

Aramco's dual listing on the Saudi stock market, Tadawul, and an international exchange had been earmarked for 2018 by the Saudi authorities - with stock markets in New York, London and Asia all vying for the offering. A decision on which exchange would secure the offering has still not been made, with top members of the

Saudi royal family preferring New York and Aramco's financial and legal advisers advocating London. Both venues have political issues which have caused the Saudis unease and delayed the location decision, according to a third source familiar with the matter.

The US Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA), passed in September 2016, allowed lawsuits to proceed against the Saudi government claiming it had helped to plan the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States and should pay damages to victims. Riyadh denies the allegations.

Meanwhile, London's markets regulator has been criticized for proposing new listing rules aimed at attracting state-controlled companies such as Aramco, which some U.K. industry groups have warned would weaken investor protection.

The third source added an international IPO beyond 2018 was still very much an option, while a Tadawul listing was on track for 2018, pointing to comments from senior Saudi officials, such as those made in Moscow earlier this month. The Financial Times reported that Aramco had held talks about a private stake sale to foreign governments - including China - and other investors, amid growing concerns about the feasibility of an international listing. — Reuters

## US mobile carriers Sprint, T-Mobile to merge

TOKYO: Japan's SoftBank has reached a broad accord to merge its US subsidiary Sprint with T-Mobile to create a rival to America's top two wireless carriers, a newspaper said yesterday.

SoftBank and German group Deutsche Telekom, which holds 64 percent of T-Mobile, are considering a stock swap for the deal, which could be announced as early as this month, the Nikkei daily said. The two will also discuss details of the planned merger, including ownership ratios, the business daily said.

The Japanese telecom giant is also planning to begin procedures for the approval of the US Federal Communications Commission and the US Department of Justice, the report said. Immediate confirmation of the news report was not available. T-Mobile ranks third among US wireless carriers by subscribers,

followed by Sprint in fourth place, the Nikkei said. Together, the pair would have 131 million subscribers, which would see them virtually match second-ranked AT&T and pose stiff competition to market leader Verizon Communications, it said.

SoftBank has long sought to combine the two firms but appeared to abandon the plan due to likely opposition from US regulators. But the prospects for consolidation among US carriers have brightened with the pro-deregulation stance of President Donald Trump, the Nikkei said.

SoftBank chief executive Masayoshi Son was among the first businessmen to meet Trump after his election victory last year. SoftBank's founder pledged to invest \$50 billion in business and job-creation in the United States, winning praise from Trump. — AP

Business

# KFH bags 'Best Islamic Project Finance Provider in World 2017'

## Group CEO receives awards at IMF/WB meetings in Washington



Al-Nahedh receiving KFH awards



**KUWAIT:** Global Finance Magazine has awarded Kuwait Finance House (KFH) the "Best Islamic Project Finance Provider in the World 2017", while "Best Up-And-Coming Financial Institution in the World 2017" for KT Bank AG, KFH's bank in Germany.

KFH-Group CEO Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh received the awards in an award ceremony held during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in the National Press Club in Washington, DC, USA.

Al-Nahedh said that KFH wins the Best Islamic Project Finance Provider for the second straight year is due to the bank's strong knowledge of market conditions and customer needs, indicating KFH is assuming significant role in participating the financing major development projects. KFH is highly experienced and a leader in the Islamic finance industry. It has financed major developmental projects in different fields including infrastructure, oil and gas, mega construction projects, and other sectors.

He indicated that receiving such prestigious awards from Global Finance Magazine affirms customers' confidence in the bank, and reiterates the bank's leadership in the Islamic finance industry at a global level, indicating the awards culminate KFH's achievements and efforts in offering the best financial services.

He added that KFH contributed to the growth of Islamic finance industry and successfully met customers' needs for Sharia-compliant products, while creating the foundation for continued growth and safety in the future, with modern and efficient delivery channels.

Moreover, Al-Nahedh said that KT Bank, the German Islamic Financial Institution, more than doubled its asset size in 2016. It is the first Islamic bank in Germany, as well as in the Eurozone, that offers comprehensive financial products and services based on the principals of sharia. KT Bank has branches in Berlin, Frankfurt, Mannheim, Cologne and Munich. In the long term KT Bank plans to offer Islamic banking products and services in continental Europe.

All selections were made by the highly professional team of Global Finance, after extensive consultations with bankers, corporate finance executives and analysts throughout the world. The Quantitative criteria of giving the award included growth in assets, profitability, geographic reach, strategic relationships, new business development and innovation in products. Among the subjective

criteria considered were reputation, customer satisfaction, and the opinions of analysts and others involved in the industry.

It is worth noting that a KFH High-level delegation headed by the Chairman Hamad Al-Marzouq and the Group CEO Mazin Al-Nahedh, in addition to other high-level officials in the bank, is participating in the meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank held in Washington from 9-15 October.

The award ceremony was held in the National Press Club- USA, the world's leading professional organization for journalists and one of the nation's leading conference centers and event facilities. This club has more than 3,500 members. Each year, the Club hosts more than 250,000 visitors at more than 2,000 events that are beamed to global audiences in print, on the air and online.

Global Finance, founded in 1987, has a circulation of 50,000 and readers in 192 countries. It also targets the 8,000 international portfolio investors responsible for more than 80% of all global assets under professional management.

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### 'Global Finance' magazine recognition

award included growth in assets, profitability, geographic reach, strategic relationships, new business development and innovation in products. Among the subjective

### Bayt.com weekly report

## Will robots place you out of your job?

In recent years, many of you will have heard of the so-called 'skills gap' in the Middle East and North Africa. Whether you know what it is or not, you may be on the fence about it. You might agree that there is a wide skills gap in the MENA region, or you might think it's a scare-mongering buzzword designed to cause unnecessary anxiety amongst those in the MENA workforce. However, it is not a groundless theory at all. There are many market trends which have already had an impact on our lives and have the potential to exact irreversible consequences on the way people live, work and think. To expand on this explanation, allow us to look at a few examples.

First, there is the technological acceleration which has defined the past two decades. Over half of the global population will be online by 2021. By 2030, the share of online population incidence in the GCC will range between 85-95 percent, whereas Egypt and Levant will be in the world average at around 50 percent. By 2020, 54 percent of the Middle East and North Africa population will have a mobile phone. Consider these numbers, and then think about the world we live in today - a world where the human race continues to advance in the realm of artificial intelligence and automation and where many jobs may slowly become obsolete.

Removing humans from the equation when it comes to certain tasks and roles is something that exists in all industries, from factories which now rely on machinery

for tedious, monotonous work to publications slowly migrating to the internet and the threat that poses to print houses.

When all the above is brought into consideration, the key question asks itself: Will my job be secure in 10 years?

With the intention of answering that question, Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 job site conducted research in collaboration with YouGov in order to discern which skills are missing today and assess the validity of the MENA skills gap. This report provided eye-opening insights about the MENA region and the skills that employees lack as well as information about the state of the professional sphere. For example, the report revealed that more than six in ten employers believe there is a skills gap in the Middle East, in addition to more than five in ten job seekers who believe the same. Since the majority of employers and job seekers appear to be in agreement, there may be some truth to the skills gap phenomenon that has been prevailing over the MENA region.

A deeper look at the report can provide answers to the aforementioned key question. The data pointed to a prominent lack in skills that require interpersonal and communication intelligence. Aside from time management and efficiency, the skills which are considered of highest import indicated a need for human, emotional and social intelligence that a machine cannot currently substitute. What this shows is that while there is a chance artificial intelligence, technology and robots will be taking over the world as we know it in a matter of decades, humans who know how to work with humans will still have their spot in the marketplace, at least for the foreseeable future.

So, which skills are in high demand in the present market? According to respondents, the three highest ranking skills for junior roles were as follows:

1. Teamwork
2. Time management
3. Written communication

All these skills can readily be enhanced through taking online courses or poring over literature that is physically or digitally accessible. Technical or job-specific experience and knowledge, usually learned through university or other forms of higher education, falls in the sixth spot in terms of significance, listing below soft skills which can be acquired at any time such as those aforementioned as well as critical thinking, and people management. This emphasized the importance of personal development and on-the-job training beyond formal and technical education.

#### As for senior roles, the three skills outlined below ranked the highest:

1. Time management
2. Teamwork
3. People management

These skills are not related to education and are vital for both junior and senior employees. Therefore, it is critical to continuously work toward developing these skills in order to succeed in today's professional sphere. While the skills regarded with most importance are similar for both junior and senior roles, 'written communication' looks like a skill junior employees have to excel in should they want to achieve success in today's business world. As important as mastering the technical requirements of a job is, these soft skills play a considerable role in determining your career progression and success.

#### What about the future?

The Bayt.com research report also asked both employers and employees if technical skills or soft skills are going to be considered more important in the future. It comes as a surprise that while the majority of junior job seekers believe technical skills will be equally important as soft skills, over four in ten seem to think that technical skills will have more significance in the future.

After all, even if robots do eventually come to replace humans, these robots will be built, maintained and developed by humans. Intricate details of the tech-driven business world might, indeed, require technical excellence. It's worth noting that all across the board, more than five in ten employers believe that soft skills and technical skills will be equally important, and generally, a smaller percentage of employers than employees believe that technical skills will come out on top.

Of those who participated in the research, employers and employees alike appear to expect some skills that are most critical in 2017 to change in ten years, stating skills such as creative thinking, computer skills and time management to be of most importance in 2027.

At the end of the day, only time will tell what the future will bring and whether or not new skills such as translating data into insights, new media literacy, effective communication channel management, or virtual collaboration will become the keystones of success. One thing we know for certain is that now is the time to take action and preparatory steps. Focus your efforts on improving both your soft and technical skills and take time aside for your own personal development, lest you find yourself lost in time at the turn of the next decade.

## 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
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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	302.650
Canadian Dollar	242.400
Sterling Pound	399.995
Euro	357.765
Swiss Frank	297.720
Bahrain Dinar	803.260
UAE Dirhams	82.790
Qatari Riyals	83.615
Saudi Riyals	81.565
Jordanian Dinar	428.150
Egyptian Pound	17.188
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.974
Indian Rupees	4.641
Pakistani Rupees	2.872
Bangladesh Taka	3.718
Philippines Peso	5.900
Cyprus pound	18.010

Japanese Yen	3.685
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.904
Malaysian Ringgit	72.456
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.295
Thai Bhat	10.070
Turkish Lira	82.415

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CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.396046	0.406046
Czech Korune	0.005898	0.017898
Danish Krone	0.044176	0.049176
Euro	0.352811	0.361811
Georgian Lari	0.134799	0.134799
Norwegian Krone	0.034475	0.039675
Romanian Leu	0.081608	0.081608
Russian ruble	0.005260	0.005260
Slovakia	0.009018	0.019018
Swedish Krona	0.033367	0.038367
Swiss Franc	0.304488	0.315488

Australian Dollar	0.230842	0.242842
New Zealand Dollar	0.208385	0.217885

Canadian Dollar	0.237725	0.246725
US Dollars	0.298550	0.302970
US Dollars Mint	0.299050	0.302970

Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003267	0.003851
Chinese Yuan	0.044459	0.047959
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036811	0.039561
Indian Rupee	0.004197	0.004885
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002624	0.002804
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068064	0.074064
Nepalese Rupee	0.003020	0.003190
Pakistan Rupee	0.002714	0.003004
Philippine Peso	0.005809	0.006109
Singapore Dollar	0.218899	0.228899
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001612	0.002192
Taiwan	0.009999	0.010179
Thai Baht	0.008802	0.009352

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795792	0.804292
Egyptian Pound	0.014201	0.020109
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000196	0.000256
Jordanian Dinar	0.422259	0.431259
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000155	0.000255
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021927	0.045927
Omani Riyal	0.779684	0.785364
Qatar Riyal	0.078841	0.083781
Saudi Riyal	0.079620	0.080920
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.119004	0.127004
Turkish Lira	0.078544	0.088844
UAE Dirhams	0.080975	0.082675
Yemeni Riyal	0.000984	0.001064

Business

# VIVA concludes 'Partners for Success' program for distributors

## Ceremony organized by Indirect Sales Division

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, concludes the competitive "Partners for Success" program launched during September 2017, for distributors.

On this occasion, Indirect Sales Division at VIVA organized a ceremony to reward the best distributors from different areas in Kuwait who participated in the program.

During the event, winners received valuable prizes including three cars and cash. Ahmed Al-Sakout, Consumer Sales Group Director at VIVA and Abdulaziz Al-Deweesh, Indirect Sales Director at VIVA attended the event.

The "Partners for Success" program aims to create a spirit of interaction and direct engagement between VIVA and distributors (mobile stores) all over Kuwait, specialized in prepaid sales services, as they are a key factor in the implementation of VIVA's sales plans.

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer centric approach.

VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling.

VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions: a state of the art, nationwide network

work and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.



**Winners receive cars and cash as prizes**



## Ahli United Bank wins 'Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait 2017' award

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) has won the prestigious "Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait 2017" award from Global Business and Islamic Finance Magazine. The award was earned



through a number of achievements that AUB has achieved recently, including being one of the safest Islamic banks in Kuwait, as well as receiving A+/A2 ratings from three interna-

tionally recognized ratings agencies.

On this occasion, Richard Groves, AUB's CEO, expressed his pride that AUB won this coveted award, which is the third distinct recognition the bank received during 2017. Other awards the Bank has won include the "Best Digital Bank 2017 Award (Global Finance magazine), and the "Best Bank for Private Banking Services and Wealth Management in Kuwait" for 2017 (the Banker magazine).

Richard Groves added, "We are proud to have received a number of awards in less than a year, which reflects the bank's leadership position across the Kuwaiti banking sector, and our ability to provide innovative products that accommodate our customers' varied needs. In addition, these awards also reflect AUB's solid global reputation, highlighting that the Bank's continuous success is driven by our customers' confidence in our ability and our employees' hard efforts to provide the best services."

Groves further reiterated the bank's sustainable vision is based on providing added value banking products and services, while also investing heavily in digital and technology capabilities, human capital, as well as banking operations that are seamless and focus on providing the best customer service and further strengthening the relationship.

## IMF calls on Latin America to fight corruption

WASHINGTON: Latin American and Caribbean governments need to crack down on corruption in order to make their economies more durable and the benefits of growth more widespread, the International Monetary Fund said Friday.

High levels of corruption correlate with high inequality and weaker development, the Fund said in an assessment of the region's economic health. "Weak governance and entrenched corruption are weighing on inclusive and sustainable growth in Latin America and the Caribbean."

High levels of corruption appear to divide the emerging economies of the region from advanced economies which benefit from better rule of law, the report suggested.

That is most noteworthy in Brazil, where huge graft scandals have brought down top politicians and added to the recent recession. The so-called Odebrecht scandal also contributed to Peru's slower growth last year, the Fund said. In the future, it said, "Investment could be weaker than expected as uncertain-

ties related to the Odebrecht corruption probe continue." And Guatemala stands out in Central America with a rise in corruption scandals. The region needs to recognize that this and its link to violence and weak rule of law discourages investment and increases business costs, the Fund said. "With increasing public discontent, Latin America now faces a window of opportunity to curb corruption," the report said.

Tackling it, the Fund admits, is a substantial political challenge, and requires a broad-based strategy. "Earlier experiences suggest that a successful anticorruption strategy would entail strong political leadership, legal and judicial reforms, enhanced transparency and accountability, and above all, stronger monitoring and enforcement," it said.

### Worried over Venezuela

The International Monetary Fund expressed grave concerns Friday over Venezuela's unending political crisis, seeing no end to the economic downturn and suffer-

ing of the population. Venezuela "remains in a full-blown economic, humanitarian, and political crisis with no end in sight," the Fund said in a report on Latin American economies.

The country's economy will have contracted by 35 percent by the end of this year from 2014, and the Fund says the country is headed toward hyperinflation, when prices soar uncontrollably every day for a long period. But it said the shortages and political strife is taking a huge toll on the Venezuelan people.

"The main risk to the region relates to the humanitarian crisis and ensuing migration of Venezuelans to neighboring countries," it said. "The number of Venezuelans arriving in Brazilian and Colombian border towns has been rising sharply as the crisis in Venezuela intensifies."

"The refugees coming from Venezuela is an unfortunate side effect of the crisis, which is extremely severe," said Robert Rennhack, deputy director of the IMF's Western Hemisphere Department.

The refugees, he said, are putting pressure on the social services of neighboring countries. "The (Colombian) government is managing it as well as it can, but it's a challenge. If, say half a million to a million of Venezuelans enter Colombia, that's something the government has to deal with and it's causing much problems." — AFP

## 'Death by overwork': Occupational hazard for Japan's media

TOKYO: The news that a young reporter at Japan's public broadcaster had worked herself to death came as little surprise to those inside the country's media, where a culture of excessively long hours has become the norm. "I thought it would happen eventually because we work like crazy... like a slave," said a journalist at one of Japan's major newspapers. "I really thought I would die," she told AFP on condition of anonymity, recalling her days chasing after the prime minister and lawmakers in Tokyo, when she would routinely come home from work at 1:00 am and wake up four hours later.

While journalists tend to work long hours in many countries, the situation in Japan is among the most extreme, with reporters expected to be on the job 24-7.

The newspaper journalist—now in her 30s—was one of a gang of hardcore Japanese reporters who stake out the houses of politicians they were assigned to follow every single night whether there is news or not—a ritual called "Yomawari," meaning "night round".

Even on a snowy night, she used to wait hours outside the house of a politician she was covering. "I had disposable hand warmers everywhere on my body but it was still too cold. I couldn't go to the bathroom. It's bad for your health," she said, adding that she's seen fellow journalists becoming physically and mentally ill. And forget the weekend, she added, as political reporters chase lawmakers back to their constituencies on Friday night.

### 'Like a zombie'

A former Tokyo TV reporter pointed the finger at the Japanese culture of "fighting spirit," in which you're told to never give up no matter what. The 32-year-old, who was no stranger to working around the clock, remembers the day she kept going even though she felt seriously ill.

"I didn't have time even to check my body temperature. Later I realised I had a 39-degree fever," she said. "Bosses would say you shouldn't be lazy but they wouldn't say you should get rest because you're working too hard."

"Then you become like a zombie... this has to stop." The case of NHK reporter Miwa Sado, who died of heart failure aged 31 after logging 159 hours of overtime in the month before she died, made global headlines but was far from an isolated tragedy. Every year

in Japan, long working hours are blamed for dozens of deaths due to strokes, heart attacks and suicides. Death from overwork even has its own word in Japanese—"karoshi".

According to a government report released last week, there were 191 "karoshi" cases in the year ending March 2017. The report also showed that 7.7 percent of employees in Japan regularly log more than 20 hours of overtime a week. NHK journalist Sado, who had been covering Tokyo assembly elections and an upper-house vote for the national parliament, was found dead in her bed in July 2013, reportedly clutching her mobile phone. She died three days after the upper-house election. A government inquest a year after her death ruled that it was linked to excessive overtime. She had taken two days off in the month before she died.

### 'Karoshi'

NHK eventually made the case public four years later, bowing to pressure from Sado's parents to take action to prevent a recurrence. It was especially embarrassing for NHK, which has itself taken aim at Japan's long-hours culture. "I was shocked that someone at NHK, which has been campaigning against Japan's long working culture, died

from overwork," said Shigeru Wakita, emeritus professor at Ryukoku University and an expert on labor law. "Mass media should be able to change the habit of long working hours but they just don't," he told AFP. NHK boss Ryoichi Ueda went to the house of Sado's parents to deliver a personal apology and vowed reform of the broadcaster's working practices. The firm has pledged to reduce hours spent at work, introduce health standards and hold seminars to address the "karoshi" problem.

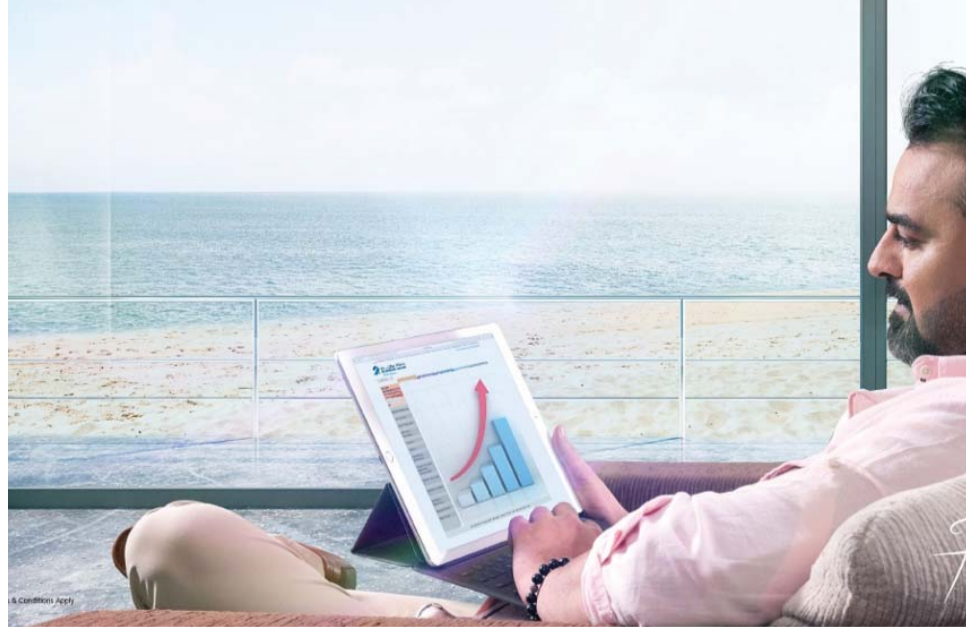
The case also attracted the wrath of the government, with Labor Minister Katsunobu Kato urging Japan's public broadcaster to reduce long working hours "so that such incidents will never happen".

The government itself has tried to clamp down on "karoshi", naming-and-shaming more than 300 companies in its first nationwide employer blacklist released in May. In April, a government panel unveiled its first-ever plan to limit overtime with a 100-hour-a-month cap, which sparked anger among critics and family members who lost their loved ones due to overwork. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has wrestled with the problem and introduced so-called "Premium Fridays", where employees are urged to knock off work early on the last Friday of the month.

Abe himself spent a Friday afternoon meditating in a bid to lead the way but critics slammed the plan, saying it was not compulsory with most firms simply ignoring it. Wakita charged that the government is not being "serious enough" to tackle the issue. "They're going easy on major companies," he said. — AFP

## Burgan Bank revamps the 'Ladder Deposit' account

**Ladder Deposit**  
Sit back, relax & watch your money grow



KUWAIT: Burgan Bank renewed their ladder deposit product with an enhanced feature that now ensures an extended term of up to 2 years. Designed to cater to the Premier segment's needs, the ladder deposit will now provide customers with a more attractive product that yields higher returns. The longer the customer holds on to his deposit, the higher the return is.

The revamped product will enable customers to gain higher interest rates every quarter that will be credited to their accounts allowing them access to their fund any time. In addition, the ladder deposit is designed to provide flexibility to the customer in accessing money on a quarterly basis without penalty. Customer has also the option of discontinuing the deposit after every quarter.

Raed Al-Haqhaq, Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Kuwait of Burgan Bank said, "We are pleased to revive the ladder deposit as part of our commitment to innovation in our product offerings. Burgan Bank will continue to offer relevant products that cater to current demands and demonstrate its leadership in the banking community."

The ladder deposit has various tenors ranging from 3 months up to two years, with a minimum principal of KD 25,000 and quarterly interest payable.

This feature is part of the bank's wide range of privileges and benefits designated especially for its Premier customers, with the aim of enhancing their banking experience and supporting their needs on every level.



TOKYO: in this picture taken on October 12, 2017, people wait for the train at a subway station in Tokyo. — AFP

## Business

# Kuwait's Jazeera Airways named 'Low Cost Airline of the Year'

## Low-cost champion reaches new heights

**KUWAIT:** Jazeera Airways, a national airline of Kuwait, operating regionally and internationally, received the 'Low Cost Airline of the Year' Award at the annual Aviation Business Awards 2017 held in Dubai, October 11. The latest recognition reconfirms Jazeera Airways' positioning as a low cost champion ensuring customers enjoy the very best deals and an efficient travel experience.

The leading awards program celebrates achievements and individual brands' contribution to regional growth in the aerospace industry over the past 12 months and looks at differentiating factors in the industry. In 2017, Jazeera Airways embarked on a multi-million dollar expansion plan,

introducing new routes, a new brand identity, new cabin interiors, additional aircraft; and a new terminal, exclusively for its customers to be opened in Q1 2018. Reasserting its dedication to delivering great value, Jazeera Airways recently also launched weekly Fantastic Friday web specials with great discounts on selected routes and in September 2017, the airline ran a 100,000 ticket sale across all routes with discounts of up to 50 percent.

Accepting the award at the high profile event in Dubai, Jazeera Airways CEO Rohit Ramchandran said:

"I accept this award on behalf of our 492 com-

mitted staff who work tirelessly to deliver a great service on the ground and in the air. I also want to dedicate it to the 1.3 million passengers who flew with us over the past 12 months and have shown their preference to fly Jazeera - all we do is focused on ensuring we live up to their expectations. When our Chairman, Marwan Boodai, launched this airline 12 years ago he had a vision to revolutionize the aviation market in Kuwait and offer better choice and better fares for travelers. Today I am pleased to say we are still delivering against that mandate."

Jazeera recently announced new routes to India - Hyderabad starting November 16th followed by Kochi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.



## Overcoming roadblocks, bitcoin takes flight again

**PARIS:** Bitcoin may be in for a sustained record run as it overcomes key obstacles, experts said on Thursday after the cryptocurrency set a new record high. Even bitcoin fans were plagued by doubts over the summer when Chinese regulators cracked down on exchanges trading the virtual currency and a dispute among developers gave birth to a new version, splitting the market of the budding currency.

In September, banking regulators in Beijing and Shanghai ordered local cryptocurrency exchanges to shut down. But observers say they are now detecting a rethink by the Chinese authorities, causing bitcoin on Thursday to surge past the \$5,000 level for the first time since its launch eight years ago.

Around 1530 GMT its value based on a basket of trading exchanges calculated by Bloomberg was \$5,247.02, up from \$4,829.29 late Wednesday. This represents a rise of 400 percent this year alone.

### Uncertainty didn't last

Should rumors reported in state media be confirmed, then what is by far the most well-known and traded of more than 1,000 so-called cryptocurrencies could soar to even greater heights, experts predict. "There has been a period of uncertainty but that has not lasted. China represents more than 60 percent of trading and the question of their regulation, as everywhere, has made a bigger impact," said Greg Revenu, of Bryan, Garnier & Co.

The virtual currency is created through blockchain technology, which publicly records transaction details including the unique alphanumeric strings that identify buyers and sellers-technology which is gaining increasing currency among banks and companies. "Mining" the coins is a very profitable but long, expensive, and energy-intensive process requiring powerful servers.

Between 60 and 70 percent of new bitcoins are mined in China, where the local leader Bitmain has imposed infrastructure. The bitcoin supply is capped at 21 million units, some 17 million of which have already been mined.

### It once traded for cents

Beijing's crackdown saw bitcoin's price plunge some 40 percent before recovering, the latest move in its rollercoaster existence which began in 2009, when it was worth just a handful of cents.

Even at the start of this year it was worth 'only' \$966. Its volatility has led many financial observers to suggest the current bull run is another speculative bubble which could well lead to a corrective selloff. Two Chinese trading platforms, Okcoin and BTC China, control about 22 percent of the global bitcoin market.

Bitcoin is not generally recognized as a currency-lacking a home country, central bank or treasury-although its real world use is constantly increasing. Another key player in the crypto currency is Russia, where President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday spoke of a "risk" that virtual currencies-often associated with so-called anonymous 'dark web' dealings-could represent.

For Jonathan Gerardin, IT manager at Wavestone, "the summer was marked by different crises".

Gerardin noted that the currency split, coupled with China's crackdown, had dampened enthusiasm but "bitcoin has been able to overcome that and continue to progress, it has shown its resilience".

### Why not \$100,000?

The rising use of blockchain-a theoretically unhackable digital ledger technology-is also viewed as keeping the digital cash's value buoyant, according to Revenu.

"Its value is totally marginal in the face of potential uses being put in place," he said. That is a key reason why digital currencies have been winning supporters across the globe, from the United States to Japan via India but also Europe with some major financial names coming aboard.

For Neil Wilson, analyst with Etx Capital, "the prospect of Goldman Sachs trading bitcoin is also driving buying as this might give it a toehold on Wall Street that could bring it into the mainstream and attract fresh inflows of capital".

Wilson suggested the soaring value was linked to "reports indicating that China may be ready to allow trading again, albeit with tighter regulation".

Some converts say bitcoin's value could go to dizzy heights like \$100,000 or even \$500,000, although experts from Mirabaud Securities in Geneva said the commodity may now be in a "bubble zone" which could burst. But for now, Gerardin said, "there is nothing to suggest such a collapse". —AFP

# Malabar Gold & Diamonds launches three stores in UAE



**ABU DHABI:** Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the BIG 5 jewelry retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 190 retail outlets spread across nine countries has launched 3 new stores on 13th October 2017. Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor launched 2 stores in Dubai on the same day. The relocated & expanded showroom of Malabar Gold & Diamonds at Lulu Village, Muhaisnah, Dubai and the store at Ramla Hyper, DIP, Jebel Ali, Dubai was inaugurated at by Bollywood Actor Anil Kapoor Khan in the presence of Shamlal Ahamed MP, Managing Director - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; KP Abdul Salam, Group Executive Director - Malabar Group; Mayinkutty C, Senior Director - Malabar Group; management team members, media & well-wishers.

The company has also inaugurated another showroom as well on the same day at Sharjah City Centre. Shamlal Ahamed MP, Managing Director - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. KP Abdul Salam, Group Executive Director - Malabar Group and Mayinkutty C, Senior Director - Malabar Group; jointly inaugurated the showroom in the presence of management team members, media & well-wishers.

These latest outlets unveil a significantly large collection of traditional as well as contemporary designer jewelry. The new showrooms showcases the exquisite collection of gold jewelry in 18K, 22K and 24K alongside Diamond, Uncut diamond and precious gem jewelry handpicked for the jewelry lovers in UAE. Malabar group offers exquisite and beautiful jewelry as a part of various brands presented at Malabar Gold & Diamonds' namely Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewellery, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewellery, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine - Indian Heritage Jewellery, Precia - Gem Jewelry and Starlet - Kids Jewelry.

\* Special Inaugural Offers - Win 100 Kilos of Gold



\* Main attraction: Win up to 100 kg of gold  
\* Customers get one raffle coupon for every gold & diamond jewelry purchase worth AED 500.  
\* Win 1/2 KG gold each through raffle draws  
\* Free 2 gram gold coin on purchase of diamonds jewelry worth AED 5000.  
\* Pay 10% & get gold rate protection until 17th Oct, 2017  
\* Offers Valid until 28th October, 2017

The stores will participate in the biggest offer in the market which was recently announced by Malabar Gold & Diamonds which is giving an opportunity to win 100 kilos of gold. With every purchase of gold &

diamond jewelry worth AED 500, customers get a chance to enter raffle draws to win 1/2 (Half) kg gold each in 25 raffle draws. Adding to the above, customers also get two gram gold coin on diamond jewelry purchase of AED 5000 and a one gram gold coin on purchase of diamond jewellery worth AED 3000. Not only that, customers can protect the gold rate at Malabar Gold & Diamonds by paying 10% of the entire amount on the selected gold jewelry until 17th Oct 2017. A true shopper's delight, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also unveiled a huge collection of jewelry in gold, diamonds and precious gems from different parts of the world to enthrall the jewelry lovers.

Business

# Al-Sayer supports Fikra training program's third edition launch

## Lexus partners to empower new generation of entrepreneurs



**KUWAIT:** In support of the strategic CSR commitment towards national youth, who are pillars of the sustainable development of the country, Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Lexus, one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies partnered with Fikra Program's 3rd edition intensive entrepreneurship training.

The launch press conference was held under the kind patronage of Khaled Al-Roudan, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs and was attended by Ibrahim Al-Fouzan Vice Chairman - Sustainability Steering Committee representing Al-Sayer.

According to Ibrahim Al-Fouzan "Such strategic youth initiatives are important from a sustainability standpoint. And as part of Al-Sayer Corporate Sustainability & Responsibility (CSR), we wish to have stronger engagement and long term partnerships to foster Kuwait's youth community to build them to lead the nation".

Mariam Hisham Al-Rayes, Fikra Program Manager at Cubical Services Business Incubator explained

"We are passionate about paving the way for aspiring entrepreneurs with creative business ideas to achieve their dreams and to give back to the community. The program offers a platform for them to enhance their capabilities through extensive training, skill development, and knowledge sharing and mentoring. We are glad to have Al-Sayer Lexus as our partner."

### Partnership

Lexus brings the legacy of creating first time technologies to the world, and in the same spirit, Lexus would like to be part of the Fikra program which encourages new ideas.

Through the eight months, beginning from October 2017, Al-Sayer Lexus will support Fikra Program as a Gold Partner, to offer their participants best exposure and expertise to

succeed in their endeavor. Nehad Al-Haj Ali Corporate Excellence DGM added that "Al-Sayer Group Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility aims to play a greater role to support the youth segment who shall become visionaries to boost the economy and sustainable development



Ibrahim Al-Fouzan, Business Director Toyota Group Service Division



the country and we wish the very best to the participants, Fikra Program team and the organizers for the success of this program".

The first and second edition of the program received above 200 applications, accepted 30 business ideas, provided 37 training sessions and trained 48 entrepreneurs. Fikra Program invites talents to be part of an exciting entrepreneurial journey through

registering for the program in [www.fikraprogram.com](http://www.fikraprogram.com) (Registration deadline is November 11, 2017).

Fikra Program is proudly supported by Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, The National Fund for SME Development, Al-Hamra Real Estate Company, Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa Commercial Company, Markaz Financial Center, Gulf Bank, and Grand Cinemas, and is managed by Cubical Services Business Incubator.

## Stay on the path of Luxury with Cadillac Alghanim



**KUWAIT:** Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the sole distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, continues to uphold the luxury experience it offers to customers.

Designed and engineered to give its driver greater comfort and luxury with more entertainment and safety technologies, the XT5 strengthens Cadillac's position as a leader in its field, coupling innovation in design, overall luxury and a new chassis system that improves the stunning performance and makes driving safer. And now upon purchasing the 2017 XT5, customers receive a gift card worth up to KD 2000 from Bloomingdale's.

The Cadillac XT5 engineers were able to design a lighter car to enhance its performance and fuel consumption. The car is 126 kilograms lighter than its predecessor the Cadillac SRX, while the rear seat area has increased by 8.1 centimeters. The rear seat also comes with a forward and backward sliding option as seen in the Cadillac CTS and ATS models, making them the lightest cars in their category. The lighter design and better strength were also achieved using laser welding technology and strong steel sheets, which are engineered to enhance the performance of the vehicle while driving on the roads and in the event of collisions.

With strength and innovation, the Cadillac XT5 is ready to launch a new phase of innovative design and superior manufacturing to reflect the brand's exclusive engineering and technical design culture, especially when it comes to enhancing performance, driving experience and engine efficiency which reduces fuel consumption. The aesthetics of the car stand out in its elegant lines that form the edges of every part of the car, from the bonnet to the doors, the front grille, the rear design and headlights. The interior reflects the Cadillac philosophy of elegance, modernity and high-precision professionalism, adding to the comfort features in the enhanced luxury experience. Like all Cadillacs, the stylish and neat tailoring looks truly reflect the brand's passion for luxury away from the ready-made molds found in other cars.



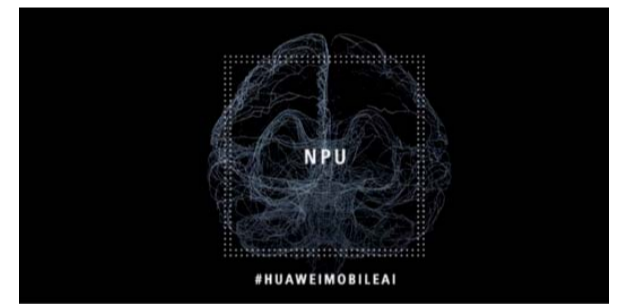
### Gift cards worth up to KD 2000

and entertainment system is fully controlled and is improved from previous models, featuring a faster and more accurate powerful data processor console. Like all Cadillacs, the XT5 offers 4G Internet connectivity with WiFi, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto to ensure faster and better synchronization with smartphones. The car also features a technology that reflects the car panel on the interior windshield so that the driver can better focus on the path ahead. All interior and exterior LED lights come with a bird's eye view, provide a wider range viewing area.

### Premium Care Program

As part of its commitment to enhance customers' unique Cadillac experience, Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive offers its customers peace of mind with a comprehensive insurance program. In addition, all Cadillac owners will enjoy service and maintenance for 4 years or 100,000 km, warranty for 4 years or 100,000 km, 24-hour roadside assistance anywhere in the Middle East for 4 years (unlimited mileage) plus a courtesy transportation and a replacement vehicle upon availability.

## Mobile AI: The new reality of mobile intelligence



**KUWAIT:** Intelligent smartphones are no longer simply something to look forward to in the future. As Huawei unveils the Kirin 970, the new smartphone SoC (system on chip) which combines an 8-core CPU, a new generation 12-core GPU, and a dedicated Neural Processing Unit (NPU) to power AI computing, a significantly better user experience is now an imminent reality. As we sit on the cusp of an exciting new era of smartphones, the result is a device that can understand and predict the needs of their users, providing them with relevant information and services based on that understanding.

Huawei's NPU, embedded in the Kirin 970 chipset, will focus on artificial intelligence tasks linked to the cloud and on the device for real-time calculations from end to end. By utilizing the benefits for both Cloud-AI and On-Device AI, Huawei will deliver truly personalized and readily accessible services on the HUAWEI Mate 10 device.

The benefits of the Kirin 970 NPU (on-device AI) are multifold and are set to change the trajectory of smartphone technology for years to come. The soon-to-be-released HUAWEI Mate 10 will function at a much higher speed with faster responses because it is no longer necessary to upload data from the device into the cloud, then do the computing, and then send it back into the device. The NPU also makes the device more secure with higher user privacy as the computing is done on a local device, which means there is no need to upload data into the server. The power and batter consumption of the NPU are also much lower compared to cloud-based AI which featured a big calculating system, ensuring a far more reliability and efficiency for

users of the latest Mate series device.

Most importantly, the performance of the Kirin 970 NPU is unparalleled with 25 times that of a CPU (Central Processing Unit) and with 50 times the efficiency of a CPU. In a benchmark image recognition test, the NPU allows the Kirin 970 to process 2,000 images per minute, considerably more than other chips with similar capabilities.

The NPU in the HUAWEI Mate 10 will take smartphone photography to the next level allowing the smartphone to truly know and understand their users, supporting real-time image recognition, voice interaction and intelligent photography with ease. For example, the beautiful artistic effects in the Prisma app take time to create on the app, but are possible in real time through the camera with the NPU. Additionally, the image recognition will understand what's in front of the camera, and adjust settings and modes automatically.

The NPU will also promote development of innovative apps that use On-Device AI. New developments in AI require joint effort across the entire value chain, involving tens of millions of developers, and the experience and feedback of hundreds of millions of users. Huawei is positioning the Kirin 970 as an open platform for mobile AI, opening up the chipset to developers and partners who can find new and innovative uses for its processing capabilities. The AI powered flagship HUAWEI Mate 10, set to hit the market this fall, is expected to make a giant leap in smartphone technology by providing more comprehensive mobile intelligence through Mobile AI.

## Chevrolet Alghanim launches its 'biggest offers of the year'

**KUWAIT:** Chevrolet Alghanim launched its biggest deals of the year during the month of October, giving customers great opportunities this month to own one of the many highly-rated and in-demand Chevrolet vehicles.

The offers bring unbeatable prices and offerings on Chevrolet's most popular vehicles which include the Tahoe, Trailblazer, Traverse, Malibu and the cov-

eted Silverado. For the first time ever, Chevrolet Alghanim offers customers a first time ever price on 2018 Trailblazer at KD6,999, while the Malibu LS2 2017 is offered at KD5,666. Customers can also opt for the Traverse LT 2017, which is available for KD8,195 and enables them to receive a cash prize of K300 when purchasing the mid-size SUV.

Even more, Chevrolet Alghanim also brings unbeatable offers when trading in an old vehicle for the power-driven Tahoe LS 2017, offering to its customers its strongest trade-in offer ever! \$5,000 over their trade-in value.

As for truck enthusiasts, Silverado "THE MOST SELLING PICKUP IN ITS CLASS IN KUWAIT!" comes to meet customers' high demand this season with cash gift up to KD1,000 depends on the chosen 2017 Silverado trim.

### Pulling power

When speaking of the Cadillac power, it is not easily compared to other competitors, as the XT5 engine releases a maximum pulling power of 310 horsepower with a torque of up to 271 lb/ft. This six-cylinder V6 engine operates a timeless, variable-speed valve technology that responds to the driver's desire to start or reduce speed. The engine is powered by a smart start button that features a brand-new technology, which is automatic stop and start of the engine in cases of long downtime from traffic, allowing the car to save on fuel. The engine inte-

## Technology

# Battle of online sex crimes in high-tech South Korea

## 'Price to pay for destroying woman's life is so light'

SEOUL: Tony Kim has been paid to watch porn for the last six years, spending his days staring attentively at graphic videos of naked women and sexual liaisons. He is part of an anti "revenge porn" force in Seoul tasked with finding private sexual images posted online without permission, and removing them. The 27-year-old first applied for the role at Santa Cruise out of "curiosity", he said. "But I soon started to feel very uncomfortable, having to watch videos like this all day long, day in and day out. "Now I'm used to this and feel nothing," he added. "It is just a job now."

The bleak business is part of the so-called "digital laundry" industry thriving in South Korea—a tech-savvy nation but one whose culture remains chauvinistic and where objectifying women is common. CEO Kim Ho-Jin set up Santa Cruise in 2008, initially specializing in removing malicious online rumors or inaccurate information for local firms and celebrities.

But in recent years a new type of client has emerged—women whose private sex videos and photographs were posted online without permission by disgruntled ex-boyfriends, ex-husbands, or malicious acquaintances. "We monitor various porn, P2P (peer to peer networks) and social media sites around the clock, because such 'leaked videos' could pop up at any time and over and over for years," said chief executive Kim.

### Fun game

So-called "revenge porn" is a global phenomenon—one study showed that two percent of Americans who use the internet have had

such images posted—prompting social media giants such as Facebook to deploy counter measures. In South Korea, 7,325 requests to have intimate videos removed from the internet were made in 2016, according to government figures, a sevenfold increase in four years. This includes hidden camera footage posted by people using surveillance gadgets or smartphones to film women in changing rooms or public toilets.

Seoul recently announced a sweeping policy package to battle the online sex crimes, including a plan to make a prison term the minimum sentence for such crimes. Some

online. "I was once a happy person who lived a normal life like everyone else," she said in text messages shared by the Korea Cyber Sexual Violence Response Centre. "Now I'm scared of just going outside and scared of the whole world."

A sense of shame runs deep in the conservative, patriarchal nation, where women who appear in the videos face social stigma, said Seo Lang, head of the campaign group. Seo said the police cyber-crime unit is understaffed and overwhelmed, with the police often blaming the victims—almost always women—for not having "behaved properly". She insisted: "The price to pay for destroying a woman's life is so light here."

### 'Is that you?'

At present only six percent of convicted uploaders are sentenced to prison, according to a study by the Korea Women Lawyers Association, with around 65 percent being fined. The anonymous victim said the man who posted their intimate video online was only fined 1 million won (\$900), with a website that displayed it ordered to pay a 3 million won penalty. "These websites scoff at the fine and never change, because they earn enormous profits every month by advertising and spreading videos of women like me," she said.

Many videos are also used as online adverts for prostitution—illegal in South Korea—said Jang Woo-Sung, a senior superintendent in the police's cyber bureau. Around 140 women sign up for Santa Cruise's services each month, according to Kim. Some have found footage of themselves—often via a male



## Bleak business part of digital laundry industry

posters photoshop portraits of a female acquaintance onto pornographic pictures to spread the images online. Santa Cruise boss Kim explained: "Most offenders are teenage boys or men in their 20s who want to see pretty, popular girls out of their reach being abused and humiliated online."

One victim, whose name was withheld, said she quit her job and cut all contact with friends and family after her video emerged



SEOUL: This picture shows South Korean women participating in a protest to urge tech giants including Google, Youtube, Facebook and Twitter to work harder to curb high-tech sex crimes in Seoul. — AFP

acquaintance sending them a link asking "Is that you?"—while others are simply concerned that such images may have been shared.

Once Santa Cruise finds a video, the firm contacts the website operator—sometimes a gambling or social media site rather than a pornography sharing hub—to have it taken down, warning of violation of privacy laws. Many comply quickly, but if they do not, or are unreachable, Santa Cruise asks Seoul's internet regulator to block access to the content, which can take weeks.

"No matter how many times we take it down, it's nearly impossible to delete such videos completely from the internet," he said. The service costs two million won (\$1,750) a month—almost two-thirds of the country's average wage—prices that Kim defends on cost grounds, saying the monitoring effort goes on around the clock. But he fears the worst if clients running out of funds drop out of contact. "When I've called them, sometimes their parents answered the phone, saying their daughter is dead." — AFP

## Emma the robot masseuse gets to work in Singapore

SINGAPORE: A robot masseuse named Emma is offering Singaporeans high-tech back rubs with a gigantic metal arm and warm silicone tips which its creators say perfectly mimic the human touch. The robot, the brainchild of local startup AiTreat, began work at a clinic in the city-state this week and performs "tui na", a type of massage practiced in traditional Chinese medicine. Emma, which stands for Expert Manipulative Massage Automation, consists of a white metal arm with heated silicone tips that mimic the human palm and thumb, with customers massaged while lying on a bed.

For Sg\$68 (US\$50), customers at the traditional Chinese medicine clinic get half an hour of robotic massage—on the back or other parts of the body that are aching—five minutes of massage by a human therapist and around 20 minutes of acupuncture. Calista Lim, a Beijing-trained physician at the NovaHealth TCM clinic, said the robot eases her workload, allowing

her to focus on seeing more patients. "There are days that... humans feel a little tired or under the weather and they may be a little reluctant to do extra work," she said.

"But for Emma, once I say go, then she goes to work." She said the massage robot is also useful in plugging a labor shortage, as it can be difficult to find good therapists in Singapore. "Tui na" involves applying pressure to certain points of the body. Practitioners of Chinese medicine believe it can help relieve various ailments from headaches to depression. Zhang Yizhong, chief executive of AiTreat, which was nurtured by the city-state's Nanyang Technological University, said Emma uses sensors to detect stiffness in the human body and how well blood is flowing to more effectively massage patients. Still, Lim conceded some patients were initially apprehensive about being massaged by a machine "because they watch a lot of horror movies". — AFP



SINGAPORE: In this photo, a robot masseuse performs a massage on patient Elaine Low, 35.



Zhang Yizhong, CEO of AiTreat



SINGAPORE: In this photo, Singaporean physician Calista Lim Hui Min, right, takes the pulse reading of patient Elaine Low, 35, left, before receiving a massage by a robot masseuse at the NovaHealth traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) clinic in Singapore.

## Twitter turns over 'handles' of 201 Russia linked accounts

MENLO PARK, California: Twitter has handed over to Senate investigators the profile names, or "handles," of 201 accounts linked to Russian attempts at influencing the 2016 presidential election. The company has stepped up its efforts to cooperate with investigators after it was criticized for not taking congressional probes seriously enough. The handover occurred this week,



PHILADELPHIA: This file photo shows the Twitter app icon on a mobile phone in Philadelphia. — AP

according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to speak publicly about it. What remains unclear is whether posts associated with those accounts have been deleted from Twitter's servers. Politico reported on Friday that the company had deleted the tweets in line with its privacy policy. Twitter had no comment on that report.

The company's policy calls for removing

tweets that a user deletes on their own. But that policy also states that some tweets can survive the process. For instance, retweets of deleted tweets will remain live if the retweeter added a comment. Twitter also can't remove tweets that have been temporarily stored, or "cached," by services such as Google or reposted on other sites.

Twitter might be able to recover some information about any deleted tweets, according to another person familiar with the situation who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the investigation. That person added that the company is working with investigators to find information that's useful.

The account handles previously hadn't been submitted in part due to legal privacy issues, the person said. Twitter is set to appear Nov. 1 before the Senate intelligence committee at a public hearing. Both Facebook and Google have been invited to testify at the same hearing. Twitter previously uncovered the accounts linked to Russia's Internet Research Agency — a notorious "troll farm" known for pushing out pro-Russian positions via fake accounts — by using information provided by Facebook, which found 470 Russia-linked pages or accounts.

After looking for patterns linking those accounts and pages to accounts on its service, Twitter said it had suspended 22 accounts that pushed divisive social or political issues during the 2016 campaign. It found another 179 related or linked accounts and took action against those that violated its spam rules.

The company enforces an anti-spam policy against bots and human users that exhibit unusual behavior. Such flags include having multiple accounts repeatedly retweet the same posts or having multiple accounts follow or block other users. After Twitter's initial closed-door briefing with the Senate committee late last month, Virginia Sen. Mark Warner — the top Democrat on the committee — called the company's findings "frankly inadequate" and "derivative" of Facebook's work. — AP

## Facebook takes on food delivery

NEW YORK: Several online services already offer food delivery, but that doesn't mean Facebook won't jump on board anyway. The social-media giant says ordering food for takeout or delivery is complicated. It promises to help save time by bringing existing food-delivery services into its app and partnering with some restaurants directly.

Of course, using Facebook to order food might prompt users to spend more time perusing their news feeds — and seeing ads. US Facebook users can order from local restaurants and big chains. Most people who order food already have accounts set up with individual restaurants and delivery apps, however. — AP

## SpaceX launches communications satellite, lands booster

CAPE CANAVERAL: SpaceX has launched and landed its second rocket in three days, this time from the US East Coast. The unmanned Falcon — recycled following a February flight — blasted off with a communications satellite Wednesday evening from Florida's Kennedy Space Center. Minutes later, the leftover booster landed on an offshore barge. Successfully placed in orbit, the dual-mission satellite will be shared by Colorado-based EchoStar and SES, a Luxembourg company.

Early Monday, a SpaceX Falcon soared from Southern California with Iridium satellites. That first stage also was recovered. The booster launched Wednesday was previously

## Uber drivers in London divided over ban threat

LONDON: Since he was forced to abandon his construction business in Iraq and move to London to escape the advance of the Islamic State group, the US ride-hailing app Uber has become Adam's livelihood.

Now as the US ride-hailing app files an appeal against a ban from London, the 46-year-old Iraqi is worried that his newfound stability could crumble.

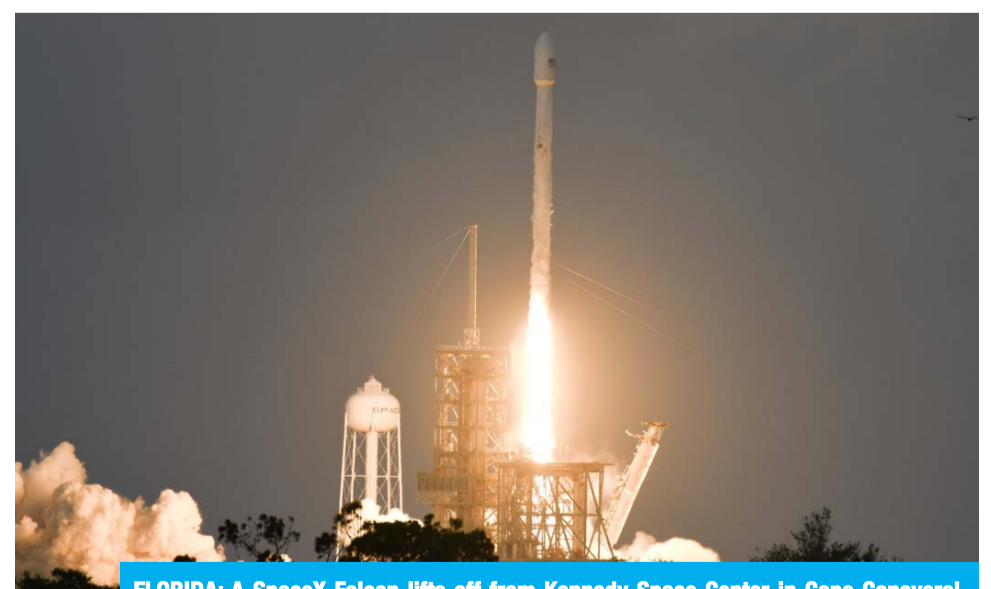
Adam, who requested his surname not be published, passes his days connected to the app—from midday to 1.00 am on weekdays and until 3.00 am on weekends. "My life is Uber," Adam told AFP. His work has enabled

him to move out of his friend's home, where he lived for free, and rent a studio apartment alone. Despite working seven days a week, he is pleased with Uber for helping him. "I am happy to pay tax, I feel I am a good citizen," added Adam, a divorced father of two. After all expenses, he earns around £2,000 (2,200 euros, \$2,600) a month with his Toyota Prius.

### 'If Uber goes'

The value of Uber operating in the city has been questioned in recent weeks, after Transport for London (TfL) announced last month it would not be renewing the company's license. The way the firm reports serious criminal offences and obtains criminal record checks for its driver contributed to the decision, which will affect around 40,000 drivers and 3.5 million customers in London.

Adam, who fears he will have to start again if Uber loses its appeal, said the ruling was "unfair" and described the app as "the safest transportation" in the city. — AFP



FLORIDA: A SpaceX Falcon lifts off from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. — AP

used to deliver supplies to the International Space Station for NASA. It's only the third time SpaceX has reflown a rocket on an

orbital mission. SpaceX chief Elon Musk is working to lower launch costs by reusing rockets. He's aiming for Mars. — AP

Health

# Conservation cutbacks put Amazon animals at risk

With only 20 officers, program relies on volunteers

**MEDIO PURUS EXTRACTIVE RESERVE, Brazil:** Benedito de Souza scoops back sand hiding a nest of baby giant Amazon River turtles that he had covered over weeks ago to hide from predators. Suddenly exposed, dozens of the tiny reptiles make a run for it. During the dry season in Brazil's Amazon, the Purus River snaking through the Medio Purus Extractive Reserve shrinks to leave vast beaches on which thousands of turtles lay their eggs every year. The marks from their nocturnal activity can be seen in the sand by day from passing boats.

"They're like my children," de Souza said with emotion, using an improvised bag to grab the reptiles, the first of the season's hatchlings. A local community leader who did his first environmental course in 2007, he watches over the Purus River beaches with his neighbors during the June-to-November season to protect the eggs. The great Amazon River turtle, also known as the Arrau turtle, can grow to a meter in length.

Although not classified as endangered, "in fact, they are," said Roberto Lacava, head of the chelonian program for Brazil's governmental IBAMA environmental agency. His unit was created because populations of several species in the region were deemed to be imperiled.



**Amazon, a territory bigger than the whole of Peru**

**Protectors turned poachers**

With only 20 officers to cover eight vast Brazilian states, the program relies on volunteers to carry out its work in the Amazonas state, a territory bigger than the whole of Peru. But as IBAMA funding has been cut back, some of those volunteers turned to the dark side, using their knowledge to become poachers instead of protectors. "Many hoped to be paid, and when they weren't, they became predators," Souza said, placing baby turtles in a tank for transportation to a lake where their odds for survival would be better.

Lacava said that IBAMA is forced to make do at a time when

"resources for conservation are lacking." This year, the federal government has announced a 43 percent reduction in the environment ministry's budget on which IBAMA depends. And that comes against the backdrop of what critics say is President Michel Temer's steady erosion of environmental protections. "That is a big worry," Lacava said. "There's been a drastic cutback. We have to send fewer officers into the field, and this could have a big impact on the results that we're getting."

**'No resources'**

Ze Bajaga, the technical coordinator for Brazil's National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) in the town of Labrea, described an equally grim situation. "We have no resources, no people," he said. He has just returned from the first field environmental monitoring operation in the area since 2015. "The ideal would be to do this three times per year, but the lack of resources means we only do it once every two years," he explained.

He said that, a month ago, he observed that turtle and fish populations in the river had not increased in several locations because of illegal fishing. "Poaching grows where there is an absence of the government," said Ana Claudia Torres, with the fishing management program for the Mamiraua Institute, based in the Amazon town of Tefe. The

program was started in 1997 and is used to put checks on catches of arapaima fish present in five Brazilian states.

Weighing up to 220 kilograms, arapaima is one of the world's biggest freshwater fish. It has been on the endangered list since 1975. However, Torres said, "if we consider their number in terms of stock, in Amazonas state we could say their population has recovered and they are no longer vulnerable."

**Local investment**

In the Medio Purus Extractive Reserve, there are 200 lakes containing arapaima, 16 of which have managed fishing programs. Jose Maria de Oliveira, manager for the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation in Medio

In those two years, the tropical regions of Africa, South America and Asia released 2.5 billion tons more carbon into the atmosphere than they did in 2011, it said. These increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide were 50 percent larger than the average increase seen in recent years. Excess heat and drought related to El Nino in the tropics of South America, Africa and Indonesia "were responsible for the record spike in global carbon dioxide," NASA said in a statement.

Key drivers of this change in carbon emissions were lower precipitation in South America and increased temperatures in Africa. "These drier and hotter conditions stressed vegetation and reduced photosynthesis, meaning trees and plants absorbed less carbon from the atmosphere," NASA said. In tropical Asia, the increased carbon release was mostly due to biomass burning.

**Satellite data**

Carbon dioxide is a leading byproduct of fossil fuel burning, and its accumulation in the atmosphere heats up the Earth, hence the name "greenhouse gas." Scientists have suspected El Nino—a weather pattern that causes sea surface temperature and air pressure in the tropical Pacific Ocean to fluctuate, and may last years at a time—might wield an influence on the balance of carbon in the atmosphere. But 28 months of data from a NASA satellite—called the Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 (OCO-2) and launched in 2014—have clarified its role. —AFP



**BRAZIL:** Fishermen load a recently caught arapaima, also known as pirarucu, onto their boat in the Western Amazon region near Volta do Bucho in the Ituxá Reserve. —AFP

Purus, said. In one of them, Sacada Lake, Ednilo de Souza—of Benedito de Souza—and a friend were fishing, careful to make sure they observed the rule on only catching arapaima over 1.5 meters in length and between September and November. "It got better when it became legalized," Ednilo said as he brought in a catch.

"It's small," he noted, letting the fish go. He boasted that his best-ever catch weighed 153 kilograms, though the average one is around 100 kilograms. De Oliveira said that structuring and allowing limited sales of the fish had helped combat poaching, underlining that vigilance alone is not enough. Investment

in community projects is also required. Nevertheless, Ze Bajaga said poaching is growing and "without vigilance, the managed program will weaken."

There's a similar threat for the Arrau turtles, Lacava said. "Just one year without any watching over them could be enough so that the species is wiped out locally," he said. Beyond the poaching, climatic factors and the construction of hydroelectric dams in the Amazon are threatening fauna and the forests themselves. "The situation is really dangerous," Ze Bajaga said. "We are on the brink of an ecological disaster." —AFP

## Huge spike in global carbon emissions linked to El Nino

**MIAMI:** A huge spike in carbon emissions seen in the past couple of years has puzzled scientists, since there was no evidence of a rise in human activities, like fossil fuel burning, that might explain it. But new satellite data shows that the weather phenomenon El Nino is to blame, because it led to dry spells that put stress on plants and trees across the tropics, and made it harder for them to perform their important role of absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Experts warn that in the coming decades, climate change could lead to even more such warming in the future, as severe droughts and heat waves become more common across the planet. The 2015-16 El Nino was one of the strongest on record, and led to the biggest increase in annual concentrations of carbon released into the atmosphere in some 2,000 years, according to the NASA-led study published Thursday in the journal Science.

## Russia launches European satellite to monitor Earth's atmosphere

**MOSCOW:** Russia on Friday launched a European satellite dedicated to monitoring the Earth's atmosphere, the protective layer that shields the planet from the sun's radiation, live footage from the cosmodrome showed. The Sentinel-5P orbiter took off on schedule at 0927 GMT from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in northern Russia. The launch went according to plan and the 820-kilogramme satellite was delivered into its final orbit 79 minutes after liftoff, the European Space Agency (ESA) said.

"The Sentinel-5P satellite is now safely in orbit so it is up to our mission control teams to steer this mission into its operational life and maintain it for the next seven years or more," the agency's director general, Jan Woerner, said in a statement. The satellite—carried by a Rokot, derived from the former

Soviet intercontinental ballistic missile—left behind billows of yellow smoke amid an autumnal landscape of boreal forest, footage showed earlier Friday. After separating from the upper stage, the satellite deployed its three solar panels and began communicating, the ESA said. "The first signal was received 93 minutes after launch as the satellite passed over the Kiruna station in Sweden," it said.

**Operational in six months**

The launch and the early orbit phase will last three days, and the mission is slated to begin full operations in six months, the ESA said. It is the first satellite dedicated to monitoring the atmosphere for Europe's Copernicus project, a joint initiative of the European Union and the ESA to track environmental damage and aid disaster relief operations. It was the sixth satellite to join the Copernicus constellation. Others launched since April 2014 monitor forest cover and land and water pollution.

"Once operational, Sentinel-5P will map the global atmosphere every day with a resolution as high as 7 kilometers x 3.5 kilometers," the ESA said this week. "At this detail, air pollution over cities can be detected." The satellite is carrying a state-of-the-art Tropomi monitoring instrument that can map trace gases such as nitrogen dioxide, ozone, methane, carbon monoxide and aerosols that "affect the air we breathe and therefore our health, and our climate," the agency has said. —AFP

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## What's On

# Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, NetJets offer exceptional services

Iconic luxury brands come together to create custom travel itineraries



Born of the shared belief that travelling should be one of life's most enjoyable and fulfilling endeavors, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, the world's leading luxury hospitality company, and NetJets, the world's largest private aviation company, are joining forces to offer the ultimate in luxury in the sky and on the ground.

As industry pioneers, Four Seasons and NetJets have been at the forefront of innovation, setting new standards for service excellence and introducing industry firsts for more than fifty years each. The icons are now coming together with the introduction of exclusive travel opportunities available to both NetJets Owners and Four Seasons guests.

"The complementary nature of our two companies lays the foundation for a strong global collaboration, combining the power of the NetJets private fleet - the largest in the world - with the renowned culture of service excellence that defines Four Seasons," says J. Allen Smith, President and CEO, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts. "Four Seasons has always been singularly focused on the luxury consumer - understanding their needs, looking at how they like to travel and recognizing opportunities to extend our offering in ways that fit their lifestyles. These specially-designed itineraries offer the perfect opportunity for our guests - many of whom are already NetJets Owners - to enjoy excep-

tional service, flexibility and unmatched access to destinations around the world."

In three uniquely designed itineraries - with each entirely customizable to suit traveller preferences - guests will be transported via a NetJets private jet to Four Seasons destinations, where they will have opportunities to enjoy a series of exclusive experiences. Guests can choose from a winter mountain adventure on the soaring slopes of Jackson Hole and Vail, a tropical escape to the unspoiled Hawaiian island of Lanai, and a cultural immersion in France and Italy. Throughout their journey, air transportation will be arranged by NetJets, while Four Seasons will provide all accommodations and a dedicated concierge will customize each guest's local itinerary. Timing of these trips is flexible, and available for parties of up to 14 guests - ideal for families, couples seeking a romantic getaway, or an intimate group of friends travelling together.

"This collaboration will open new doors to travellers, welcoming them into a world of access that only Four Seasons and NetJets can offer," says Patrick Gallagher, EVP of Sales and Marketing, NetJets. "Our goal is to make the impossible possible as we invite our guests to experience exceptional private aviation. Alongside the extraordinary experiences Four Seasons creates, our



combined dedication to providing bespoke service in every detail creates a rare opportunity for our guests to travel without compromise."

NetJets Owners and Four Seasons guests will enjoy the freedom of travelling with true peace of mind, never having to worry as every step of their journey is seamlessly executed. Passengers will have access to a Four Seasons Director of Guest Experience, a dedicated

concierge who will work with each guest to customize the itineraries into one-of-a-kind experiences.

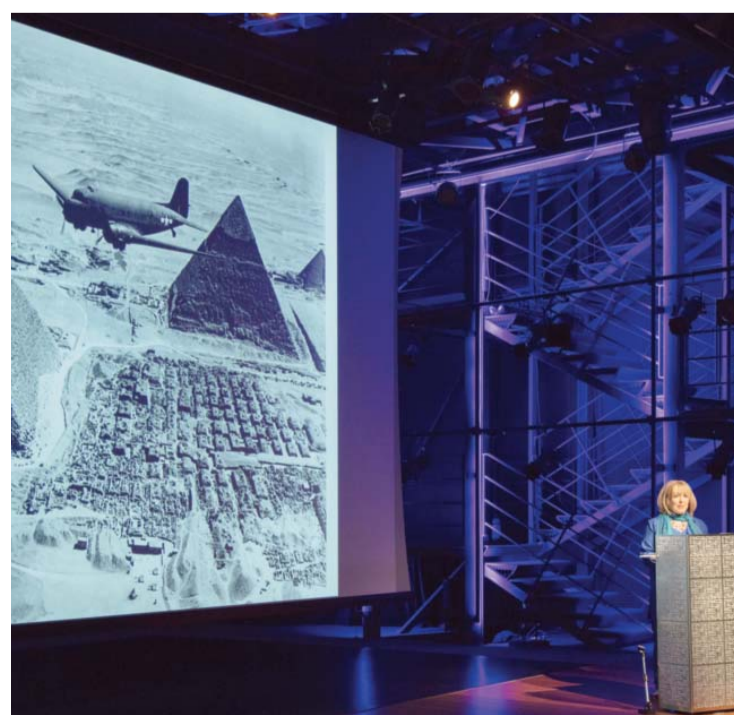
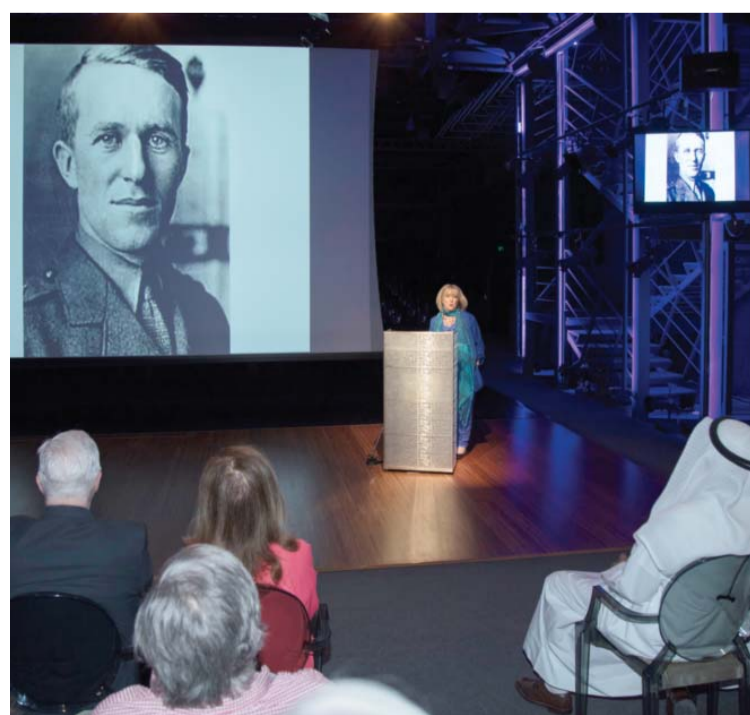
As the fifth largest airline in the world, NetJets offers an unrivalled network of global connectivity including access to 5,000 airports in 170 countries around the globe. Four Seasons is the world's leading luxury hospitality company, with more than 100 hotels and resorts on six continents.

## Alison Shan Price speaks at Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyya

Founder and director of One World Actors Centre UK and Creative Director of TAQA Productions, Kuwait, Alison Shan Price has lived in Kuwait for 33 years working with multi-national artists to bring cross-cultural history alive through the medium of original performance. Later this season Shan Price will portray Dame Freya Stark in a new mono drama 'Freya: Letters from Kuwait'. In 2017, she was awarded the MBE by Queen Elizabeth II in the New Year's Honors List for Services to Dramatic Arts in Kuwait and the Middle East.

### Stepping Over the Horizon: Dame Freya Stark 1893-1993

Standing only 5ft 1inch tall in stocking feet, Freya Madeline Stark was a giant amongst 20th Century explorers. She did not allow the small problems of lack of money or warring tribes to stop her plans for exploring places no European had gone before. Poverty, typhoid, kidnapping, or boundaries could not deter her from her goals, whether to be the first European to see the hidden city of Shabwa or to interview the fierce Druze. Freya delighted in 'going native' as she pointed out in one of her 24 books and 8 volumes of letters - 'how else can you know the country if you do not know its people?'



## ACK's participation in KOC's 'potential risks of e-smoking campaign'



Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) organized an event to raise the awareness levels regarding 'the potential risks of electronic smoking' in the presence of Acting Director of KOC's Public Relations and Media Group Hassan Al-Shammari and Director of Al-Ahmadi Hospital Dr Imad Al-Awad. The event took place on Wednesday, October 11, 2017.

KOC has invited the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) to participate as a guest speaker and a booth representative representing their 'Smoking Awareness Initiative' program which consists of conducting school visits to aware children regarding the effects of smoking on humans and also the environment during their campaign. ACK's school visits are hosted by ACK's students from the Management Diploma

program under the supervision of the Healthy Living Committee where students prepare presentations that are interactive and involve practical demonstrations as well as audience participation.

During his speech, ACK Senior Manager of Health and Safety quoted: "The vision of the College is to enable human potentials within a culture of care has been actively translated through the collaborative work and efforts with the 'Smoking Awareness Initiative' towards the school visitation program."

The 'Smoking Awareness Initiative' has received a very positive feedback from KOC's campaign attendees and many schools who have attended the campaign requested ACK to conduct a school visit for their schools.



TV



00:20 Zero Tolerance
02:00 Spooks: The Greater Good
03:50 The Last Witch Hunter
05:35 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
07:45 Bloodsport
09:20 Rampage: President Down
11:05 Spooks: The Greater Good
12:50 The Last Witch Hunter
14:35 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
16:45 Avengers Grimm
18:10 Operation Chromite
20:00 In The Heart Of The Sea
22:00 Brick
23:45 Evely



00:45 Dark Days In Monkey City
01:13 Dark Days In Monkey City
01:40 Dark Days In Monkey City
02:08 Dark Days In Monkey City
02:35 Dark Days In Monkey City
05:02 Rugged Justice
05:49 Rugged Justice
06:36 Night
07:00 Night
07:25 Whale Wars
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Treehouse Masters
11:00 Treehouse Masters
11:55 Treehouse Masters
12:50 The Lion Queen
13:45 Wild Animal Rescue
14:40 Dogs 101: New Tricks
15:08 Dogs 101: New Tricks
15:35 Dark Days In Monkey City
16:03 Dark Days In Monkey City
16:30 Dark Days In Monkey City
16:58 Dark Days In Monkey City
18:20 Expedition Mungo
19:15 Catching Monsters
20:10 Pit Bulls & Parolees
21:05 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
22:00 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
22:55 Untamed & Uncut
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:00 EastEnders
00:30 The Durrells
01:20 The Durrells
02:10 Kat & Alfie: Redwater
03:05 The Collection
04:00 Doctors
04:30 EastEnders
05:00 Death In Paradise
06:00 Father Brown
06:50 EastEnders
07:20 Stella
08:10 New Tricks
09:10 Doctors
09:40 EastEnders
10:10 Father Brown
11:00 The Coroner
11:50 Stella
12:35 New Tricks
13:30 Doctors
14:00 EastEnders
14:30 Father Brown
15:25 Stella
17:10 The Coroner
18:40 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 Kat & Alfie: Redwater
21:00 Luther
21:50 Unforgotten
22:40 Unforgotten
23:30 Doctors



00:00 Paranormal State
00:30 Paranormal State
01:00 The Haunting Of...
02:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back
03:00 Escaping Polygamy
04:00 Paranormal State
04:30 Paranormal State
05:00 The Haunting Of...
06:00 The First 48
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Casebook
09:00 Cold Case Files
10:00 Cold Case Files
11:00 Evil Up Close
12:00 Evil Up Close
13:00 Evil Up Close
14:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
15:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
16:00 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Cold Case Files
19:00 Cold Case Files
20:00 The First 48
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 I Didn't Do It
23:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill



00:05 Problematic With Moshe
Kasher
00:30 The Half Hour
00:55 Tosh.0
01:16 Tosh.0
01:35 Rufus Hound: Being Rude
02:35 South Park
03:00 The President Show
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 Another Period
04:15 Kroll Show
04:40 Nathan For You
05:30 Tosh.0
05:35 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Framework
07:15 Lip Sync Battle
07:40 Lip Sync Battle
08:05 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:30 I Live With Models
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Kroll Show
09:45 Nathan For You
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Framework
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Lip Sync Battle
13:05 Lip Sync Battle
13:30 Nathan For You
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14:20 I Live With Models
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Friends
15:35 Disaster Date
16:00 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Workaholics
17:20 I Live With Models
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show
18:35 Lip Sync Battle
19:00 Lip Sync Battle
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Friends
20:12 Friends

20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00 The President Show
21:30 Ridiculousness Arabia
22:00 The Half Hour
22:25 South Park
22:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:15 Detroiters
23:40 The President Show



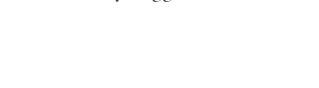
00:30 Destroyed In Seconds
00:55 Destroyed In Seconds
01:20 Destroyed In Seconds
01:45 Destroyed In Seconds
02:10 Playhouse Masters
03:00 Playhouse Masters
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Ultimate Survival
05:30 Storm Chasers
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Storm Chasers
07:50 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
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11:10 How It's Made
11:35 How It's Made
12:00 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Destroyed In Seconds
13:15 Destroyed In Seconds
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14:55 Destroyed In Seconds
15:20 Destroyed In Seconds
15:45 Destroyed In Seconds
16:10 Destroyed In Seconds
16:35 Destroyed In Seconds
17:00 How It's Made
17:25 How It's Made
17:50 Guinness World Records
Smashed New Zealand
18:15 Guinness World Records
Smashed New Zealand
18:40 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie
19:30 Serious Desert
19:55 Serious Desert
20:20 Space Dealers
21:10 Wild Mexico
22:00 Storm Chasers
22:50 Storm Chasers
23:40 Storm Chasers



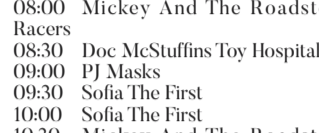
00:30 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
01:20 Chandra Levy: An American Murder Mystery
02:10 Murder Calls
03:00 I Am Homicide
03:48 Forbidden: Dying For Love
04:36 True Nightmares
05:24 Disappeared
06:12 Fatal Encounters
07:00 Disappeared
07:50 Disappeared
08:40 Disappeared
09:30 Disappeared
10:20 Disappeared
11:10 Grave Secrets
12:00 I Almost Got Away With It
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 I Almost Got Away With It
14:30 I Almost Got Away With It
15:20 I Almost Got Away With It
16:10 Fatal Encounters
17:00 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
17:50 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
18:40 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
19:30 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
20:20 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
21:10 Betrayed
22:00 Disappeared
22:50 Devil In The Details
23:40 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff



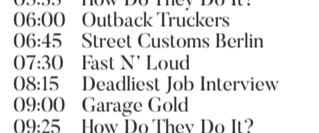
00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binnie And The Ghost
02:30 Binnie And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binnie And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks S1
Splits
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
06:55 The Zhuzhus S1
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
08:10 Girl Meets World
08:35 Bizaardvark
09:00 Stuck In The Middle
09:25 Disney Cookabout
09:50 K.C. Undercover
10:15 Bunk'd
10:40 Radio Rebel
10:55 The Zhuzhus S1
12:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 K.C. Undercover
14:50 K.C. Undercover
15:15 Jessie
15:40 Jessie
16:05 Descendants Wicked World
16:10 Disney Cookabout
16:35 Girl Meets World
17:00 Austin & Ally
17:25 Austin & Ally
17:50 Descendants 2
19:40 The Zhuzhus S1
19:55 Elena Of Avalor
20:20 Jessie
20:45 Bizaardvark
21:10 Disney Cookabout
21:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:25 Alex & Co.
22:50 LoloRock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binnie And The Ghost
00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster



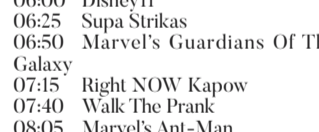
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02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:40 Loopdidoo
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03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster
05:00 Art Attack
05:30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



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



00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 The Chase
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Coronation Street
03:55 Catchphrase
04:25 Catchphrase
05:00 Jekyll And Hyde
05:55 Jekyll And Hyde
06:50 The Jonathan Ross Show
07:50 Midsomer Murders
09:30 Victoria
10:25 Grantchester
11:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
12:25 Catchphrase
12:55 Catchphrase
13:35 Doc Martin
14:35 Grantchester
15:30 Victoria
16:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
17:25 Midsomer Murders
19:00 Catchphrase
19:45 Doc Martin
20:40 Victoria
21:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
22:25 Midsomer Murders



00:00 Ancient Aliens
01:00 Ancient Aliens
02:00 Ancient Aliens
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Ancient Aliens
04:30 Ancient Aliens
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 Ancient Aliens
07:00 Ancient Impossible
08:00 Ancient Impossible
09:00 Serial Killer Earth
10:00 Serial Killer Earth
11:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
12:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
13:00 Ancient Impossible
14:00 Ancient Impossible
15:00 Serial Killer Earth
16:00 Serial Killer Earth
17:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 The Lost Evidence
20:00 United Staff Of America
21:00 Secret Access: The Vatican
23:00 Al Capone



00:20 Mystery Pickers
01:00 Mountain Men
02:00 Leepu And Pitbull
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 Pawn Stars
03:40 Pawn Stars Australia
04:05 Sean Bean On Waterloo
05:00 Alone: Lost And Found
06:00 Fifth Gear
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:50 Duck Dynasty
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Aussie Pickers
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Time Team
14:20 Swamp People
15:10 Alone
16:00 Time Team
16:50 Swamp People
17:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
18:30 Alone: Lost And Found
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 American Pickers Best Of
22:40 The Warfighters
23:30 Mountain Men

09:05 Botched
10:00 Botched
10:55 Botched
11:55 WAGS Miami
12:50 WAGS Miami
13:40 WAGS Miami
14:30 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
15:20 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
16:10 Eric And Jessie
16:35 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:30 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 E! News
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 WAGS Miami
23:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians



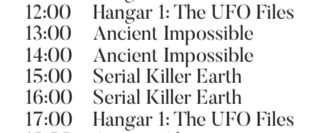
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00:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
02:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
02:35 Dog Whisperer
03:30 Rustic Adventures Italy
03:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
04:50 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
05:20 John Torode's Malaysian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



00:10 Highway Thru Hell
01:00 Nazi Megastructures
02:00 Big Fish, Texas
03:00 Wicked Tuna
04:00 Exploring Malaysia
04:30 Exploring Malaysia
05:00 Future China 2049
06:00 Sea Patrol
07:00 Highway Thru Hell
08:00 Hard Time
09:00 Locked Up Abroad
Complications
10:00 Chilean Miners: Buried Alive
11:00 The 2000's Greatest Tragedies
12:00 Exploring Malaysia
13:00 Exploring Malaysia
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Dog Whisperer
16:00 Big Fish, Texas
17:00 Wicked Tuna
17:40 Future China 2049
18:00 Seconds From Disaster 2.5
19:00 Big Fish, Texas
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Future China 2049
21:40 Seconds From Disaster
22:05 Seconds From Disaster 2.5
22:30 Big Fish, Texas
23:20 Taboo



00:20 The Last Orangutan Eden
01:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
02:00 Man v. Monster
02:50 Savage Kingdom
03:45 South Africa
04:40 India's Lost Worlds
05:35 Squid vs. Whale
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Wild Case Files
09:15 K-9 Border Wars
10:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
11:05 Animals Gone Wild
12:00 Wonderfully Weird
12:55 Wonderfully Weird
13:50 Ultimate Animal Countdown
14:45 Man v. Monster
15:40 South Africa
16:35 India's Lost Worlds
17:30 Born Wild
18:25 Wild Thailand (2015)
19:20 South Africa
20:10 India's Lost Worlds
21:00 Born Wild
21:50 Monster Fish
22:40 Wild Thailand (2015)
23:30 Wonderfully Weird
23:55 Wonderfully Weird



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
10:50 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 School Of Rock
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Hunter Street
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15:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
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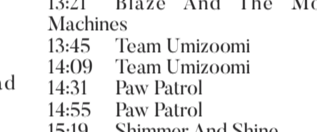


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17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
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23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



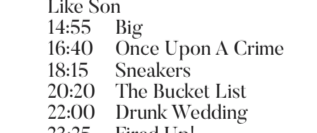
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01:21 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:45 Team Umizoomi
02:09 Team Umizoomi
02:31 Paw Patrol
02:55 Paw Patrol
03:19 Shimmer And Shine
03:42 Shimmer And Shine
04:05 Nella The Princess Knight
04:27 Nella The Princess Knight
04:50 Rusty Rivets
05:14 Rusty Rivets
05:37 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:24 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Dora The Explorer
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
10:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
10:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
11:31 Blaze And The Monster Machines
11:53 Blaze And The Monster Machines
12:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines
12:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
12:59 Blaze And The Monster Machines
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14:55 Paw Patrol
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17:14 Rusty Rivets
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18:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:24 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Zack & Quack
19:21 Bubble Guppies
19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:07 Paw Patrol
20:30 Shimmer And Shine
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Wallykazam!
22:42 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Zack & Quack
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:39 Shimmer And Shine



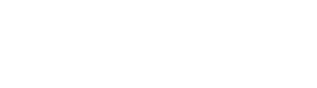
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03:00 The Brothers Grimm
05:00 Cloud Atlas
07:25 Noel
09:40 Man To Man
11:15 Hard Cash
13:00 A Dangerous Method
14:30 Union Square
16:00 Jane Eyre
18:00 Even Money
20:00 Twice Born
22:15 Hollywoodland



00:00 Project Runway
03:00 MAFS: The First Year
04:00 Three
05:00 MAFS: The First Year
06:00 Three
07:00 MAFS: The First Year
08:00 MAFS: The First Year
09:00 Fashion Star
10:00 Three
11:00 MAFS: The First Year
12:00 Cedar Cove
15:00 Fashion Star
16:00 Three
17:00 MAFS: The First Year
18:00 Who Lives Here?
20:00 Along For The Ride
21:00 Fashion Star
22:00 Three
23:00 MAFS: The First Year



00:20 My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now?
01:05 Botched Up Bodies
01:50 The Baby With A New Face
02:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
03:20 Sister Wives
04:50 Toddlers & Tiaras
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 7 Little Johnstons
07:30 Sister Wives
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddlers & Tiaras
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Separated At Birth
11:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
12:25 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:10 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
13:55 Toddlers & Tiaras
14:40 Little People, Big World
15:25 Separated At Birth
16:10 Love At First Swipe
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
17:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
18:50 Ultimate Shopper
19:40 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
20:10 Cake Boss
20:35 Cake Boss
21:00 The Undateables
21:50 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
22:40 This Is Life With Carissa Cupido
23:30 90 Days To Wed



17:20 The Wish Fish
18:45 Monkey King: The Hero
20:25 Elias And The Royal Yacht
21:55 DC Superhero Girls: Hero Of The Year
23:30 Rh+ The Vampire Of Seville



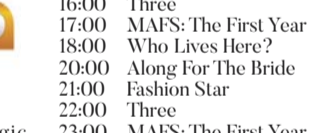
01:20 Joy
03:30 Raising Helen
05:35 Reign Over Me
07:50 The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water
09:30 King Arthur
11:50 Joy
14:10 Twins
16:10 Loch Ness
18:00 Our Brand Is Crisis
20:00 Unbroken
22:20 Pushing Tin



00:30 The Future Of...
01:20 Da Vinci's Machines
02:10 Da Vinci's Machines
03:00 Da Vinci's Machines
03:48 How Do They Do It?
04:12 How Do They Do It?
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:24 Food Factory
05:48 Food Factory
06:12 Food Factory
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 The Future Of...
08:14 The Future Of...
09:02 Da Vinci's Machines
09:50 Da Vinci's Machines
10:38 Da Vinci's Machines
11:26 Mythbusters
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 Mythbusters
13:50 Mythbusters
14:38 Mythbusters
15:26 Food Factory
15:50 Food Factory
16:14 Food Factory
16:38 Food Factory
17:02 Food Factory
17:26 How Do They Do It?
17:50 How Do They Do It?
18:15 How Do They Do It?
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 How Do They Do It?
19:30 NASA's Unexplained Files
20:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
21:00 NASA's Unexplained Files
22:00 Invent It Rich
22:50 How We Invented The World
23:40 How We Invented The World



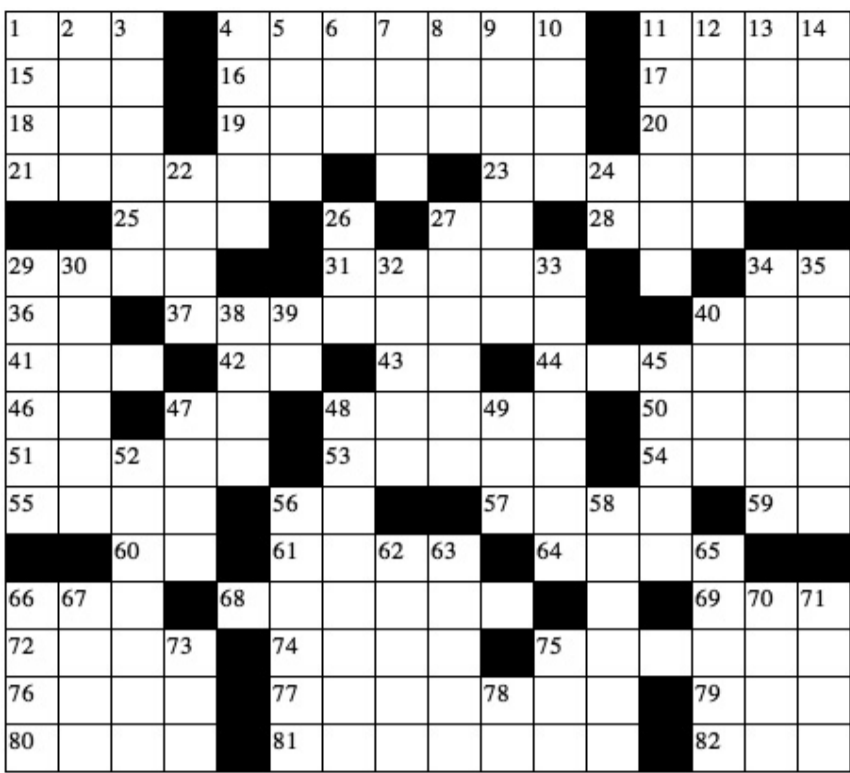
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Stars

CROSSWORD 1735



ACROSS

1. Standard temperature and pressure.
4. A city in southeastern Spain.
11. In waves.
15. An informal debt instrument.
16. A canal for a current of water.
17. On or toward the lee.
18. The habitation of wild animals.
19. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
20. The goddess of the moon.
21. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
23. (Jewish cookery) A loaf of white bread containing eggs and leavened with yeast.
25. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
28. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
29. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
31. Attractiveness that interests or pleases or stimulates.
36. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
37. Widely distributed genus of herbs or shrubs with glandular compound leaves and spicate or racemose purple or white flowers.
41. (Roman mythology) Goddess of abundance and fertility.
42. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
43. A member of the military police who polices soldiers and guards prisoners.
44. A soft silver-white ductile metallic element (liquid at normal temperatures).
46. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
50. Weapons considered collectively.
51. The capital and largest city of Ghana with a deep-water port.
53. Any tropical gymnosperm of the order Cycadales.
54. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
55. Common Indian weaverbird.
57. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
59. In operation or operational.
60. A public promotion of some product or service.
61. An inclined surface or roadway that moves traffic from one level to another.
64. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
66. (usually followed by 'to') Naturally disposed toward.
68. A family of North American Indian language spoken in southwestern United States.
69. Electronic warfare undertaken under direct control of an operational commander to locate sources of radiated electromagnetic energy for the purpose of immediate threat recognition.
72. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
74. Located at or near the back of an animal.
76. Advanced in years.
77. (zoology) Lacking a tail or taillike appendage.
79. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
80. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.

81. Stem of the rattan palm used for making canes and umbrella handles.
82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. Sudden and unexpected death of an apparently healthy infant during sleep.
2. 100 toea equal 1 kina.
3. A historical region on northwestern India and northern Pakistan.
4. Pasture grass of plains of South America and western North America.
5. Type genus of the Ranidae.
6. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
7. A less than average tide occurring at the first and third quarters of the moon.
8. A pointed tool for marking surfaces or for punching small holes.
9. Childcare during the day while parents work.
10. An Indian nursemaid who looks after children.
11. (India) Usually in combination.
12. Scale-like structure between the base of the wing and the halter of a two-winged fly.
13. A blood vessel that carries blood from the capillaries toward the heart.
14. Not only so, but.
22. A city in northwestern Syria.
24. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
26. A magnetic tape recorder for recording (and playing back) TV programs.
27. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
30. Wool of the alpaca.
32. Affectedly dramatic.
33. Covered with paving material.
34. United States screenwriter who was blacklisted and imprisoned for refusing to cooperate with congressional investigations of communism in America (1905-1976).
35. Norwegian writer of novels (1859-1952).
38. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
39. A Russian river.
40. A genus of Mustelidae.
45. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
47. A small nail.
48. A large group of islands in the south Pacific including Melanesia and Micronesia and Polynesia (and sometimes Australasia and the Malay Archipelago).
49. An accidental happening.
52. Type genus of the Cythaceae.
56. United States evangelical preacher famous as a mass evangelist (born in 1918).
58. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
62. Brilliantly colored south Asian pheasant.
63. A city in Veneto.
65. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
67. Especially one side of a leaf.
70. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
71. Type genus of the Majidae.
73. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
75. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
78. The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This Sunday you may be moved to take risks. When we become truly inspired by something that we consider to be extraordinary then truly extraordinary things begin to happen for us—particularly in our thought process. Today you are inspired. Science projects or artistic opportunities spark ideas in your head. This could also mean a shop has begun to teach some fun through small classes in some type of art or science class. You may even decide to have your own class in your garage; perhaps a guest could teach. What a great way to learn, earn money for the holidays or enjoy the company of a loved one while experimenting with art. A little exercise away from home is a good thing: a long walk, jogging or biking is good for body and mind.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Practical matters are uppermost in your mind—you sort out anything that needs doing. Taking care of personal business may be the major theme where your emotional orientation is concerned. You like organization and practicality and you want to get things accomplished. After the bills are written and the letters are answered you may decide today is the perfect time to pay a visit to a museum or library or to attend a lecture. There are some profound changes available for you now, on a personal level—psychologically and perhaps physically as well—as if you are transforming into an entirely new person. Friends want to socialize tonight and you may join them—keep an eye on your diet. Good feelings, laughter and hugs come easily this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your emotions are not in tune with the more sensitive and private areas of your life. Push on now without gaining some kind of focus and you risk some very turbulent emotional scenes. Take some time to enjoy a hobby or some form of self-expression. This is a very contemplative day as you delve back into your memories and reassess many of the pivotal events of your life. This would be a good time to go through the old photograph albums. You are looking for some level of meaning now and will examine your past looking for patterns. Look at the achievements that you have made recently. With a new focus on your goals, the time is positive for new beginnings. Refreshed and refurbished, consider a night of dancing this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You seem to be in a hurry this day—which may place yourself at odds with others. You could make mistakes you regret. Pace yourself—others want to help you. You have a lot of energy for making improvements in your surroundings or life situations. You are motivated to improve. This could also involve repair or decoration of your home. A short trip into the country, for nature's artistic gifts—colored leaves, berries, herbal seeds—may involve the whole family. Your support system—family, home, those who give you nourishment—becomes more secure these days. You are able to dispense with some of the unessential and develop what is most true in your environment. You encourage better support and are able to lend a helping hand.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There are many meaningful days this month. The energies present at this time seem to bring out your unique qualities. You and your friends have plans for the afternoon and you should have a blast with all the activity that they have planned. A game could be played and may be an incentive to use your imagination. You could be very inventive when ingenuity is needed. There is a desire to explore all kinds of new horizons. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizons open new doors of opportunity soon. This is a good day to think about your next vacation or drive to the country to collect colorful fall leaves for decorating your home. Time away from your regular responsibilities brings a renewed appreciation of your life.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Friends and distant family members have a need to stay in touch today. The phone is ringing and an accidental sighting of a friend may have many of your friends wanting to chat about the next reunion or holiday gathering. This is a great time to be with others. If you are visiting in-laws or family members today, make it a point to give thanks to your host or hostess. Forgetfulness may be the earmark of the day's energies; keep notes. You find inspiration for a creative talent—art, poetry, etc.—and may find yourself encouraged to teach a creative class before the next holiday season; perhaps greeting cards, thank you notes or handmade gifts. You are positive and will encourage others to either keep up their good work or to follow through with needed changes.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Challenges provide you with many choices and this is one of those days when there should be thinking before acting. Slay as focused as possible on whatever projects you have set out for yourself; you will be quite satisfied at the results. You could be building the model of the next super airplane or spaceship. Conversations with friends this afternoon could get into things like time travel or a psychic premonition. There is the possibility of new visions or sudden insights into your self-image or into your ideals and dreams. You may find breakthroughs in understanding as you view a situation from a different angle. You put a lot of consideration into reshaping and renewing your philosophy or religion, during which your imagination is at full tilt.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is the best time this month to start a diet or a new exercise plan. You have an instinctive urge to get serious about taking care of yourself. Diet, exercise and work somehow mean more now; you want to feel good about yourself and the way you do things. You could have difficulty getting outer recognition for your efforts or accomplishments. This does not mean they are worthless but it does mean you should throw your efforts into work or a venture you really love doing. A friend wants your approval on an upcoming decision. This evening would be a good time to spend with a loved one. Emotions are up and you may even find yourself pondering a bit on the meaning of life. Generally, this may prove to be a very satisfying day.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be able to enjoy your life situation this Sunday. A friend may occupy much of your day with activities that are enjoyable for the both of you. There is much communication between you and your friend. This is a good day to enjoy taking some time off from the everyday sort of routine and just having a good time. You appreciate your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you. Outer circumstances and the flow of events make it easy for you to make clear decisions, see the road ahead and gain a focus for future action. Things seem to fall into place and progress is easy. Be careful not to overextend yourself at this time. This weekend may bring about a greater than usual interest in relationships, social connections and the arts.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Emotional security, a sense of belonging and nurturing are felt instinctively now. You want roots, and you want a sense of intimate connection. You make every effort to improve your living conditions as well as relationships. You value what is factual and straightforward and have a particular repugnance to anything secret. You know you must be willing to listen in order to have the best communication between hard-to-understand people. Making a good impression and putting your best foot forward takes on greater importance now as you receive many social invitations this fall. You may be reassessing your wardrobe as appearances and styles are important to you. Romance, the arts and life's other pleasures take center stage now.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

There is a more outgoing quality to your lifestyle now. Besting others in the heat of competition and taking on a leadership role mean more to you now than in the past: second best is not good enough! This may mean some sort of competition involvement. It could also mean that it is time for the annual "tell the best scary story" competition. This could be in your own home, your neighborhood, in your neighborhood library, etc. Rules that keep stories age appropriate can be decided upon and the fun begins. A meeting may be formed to create a writing format if the group would rather not have a spur of the moment format. The fall is such a good opportunity for teaching that you enjoy regular times to collect information and to teach information.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are in control today and it is up to you to keep the peace. This may mean you have more seniority than your peers or it could mean you have been appointed a particular responsibility. This is called power and it is not a bad word! Once you adapt to the concept of power, you may acknowledge that you are able to successfully make a positive difference in whatever you are trying to accomplish. You may spend much of today in tearing down what does not work and building it up again. Blending in with the group has not always been uppermost in your mind but is becoming workable now. With all of this energy you may find romance and social interactions become greatly important. Tell someone of your love in a romantic and unique way tonight.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Washing a Car

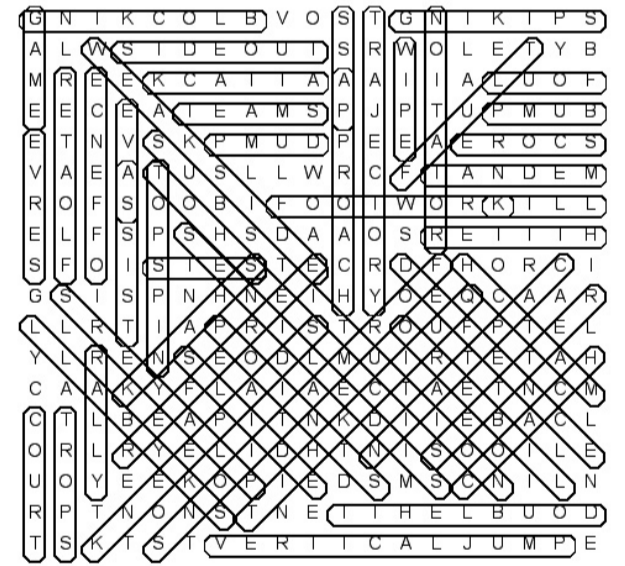
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 13 letters spell something that you wash off of a car.



- |              |               |             |            |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| BRUSH        | FENDERS       | PREPARATION | TIRES      |
| BUCKETS      | FRONT         | REAR        | TOP        |
| CHAMMOIS     | GARDEN HOSE   | RINSE       | TOWELS     |
| CHROME       | GLASS         | ROOF        | VEHICLE    |
| CLEAN        | GRIME         | SCRUB       | WASH       |
| DEAD BUGS    | HEADLIGHTS    | SIDES       | WATER      |
| DIRT         | HOOD          | SOAP        | WAX        |
| DOOR HANDLES | HUBCAPS       | SPONGE      | WHEELS     |
| DOORS        | LICENSE PLATE | SQUEEGEE    | WINDOWS    |
| DRIVEWAY     | MIRRORS       | SUDS        | WINDSHIELD |
| DRY OFF      | MUD           | TAIL LIGHTS |            |

Yesterday's Solution

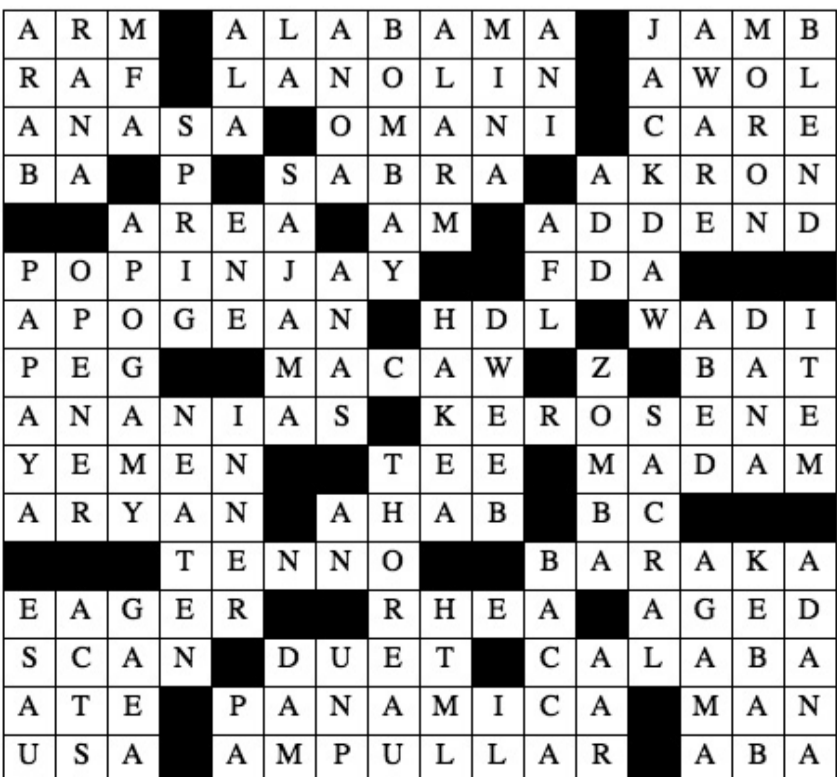
Volleyball



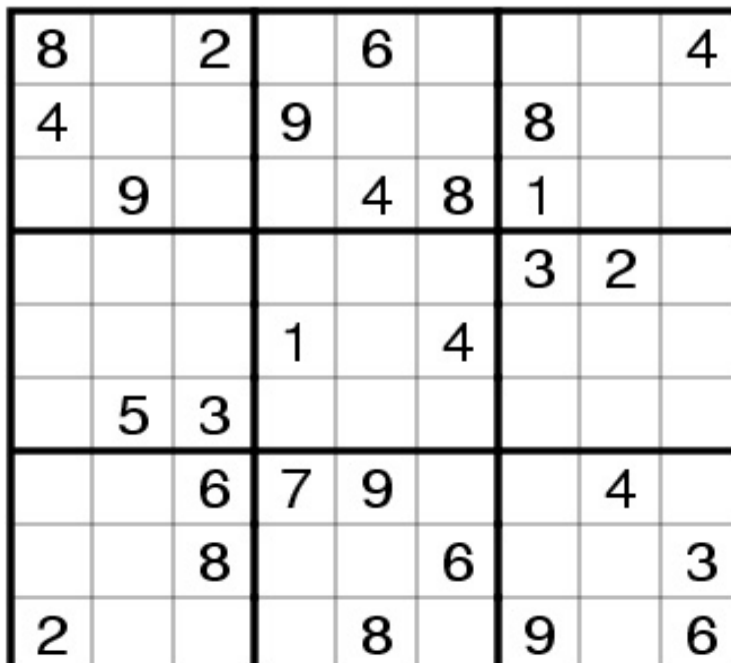
- |            |            |           |               |
|------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| APPROACH   | FOOTWORK   | QUICK HIT | SKY BALL      |
| ASSIST     | FORMATIONS | RALLY     | SLIDE         |
| ATTACK     | FOUL       | REFEREE   | SPIKING       |
| BLOCKING   | GAME       | ROTATION  | SPORT         |
| BUMP       | HITTER     | SAVE      | SUBSTITUTION  |
| CAPTAIN    | KILL       | SCORE     | TANDEM        |
| COACH      | KNEE PADS  | SERVE     | TEAMS         |
| COURT      | LIBERO     | SETS      | TOPSPIN       |
| DEFENCE    | MATCH      | SETTER    | TRAJECTORY    |
| DOUBLE HIT | OFFENCE    | SHANK     | VERTICAL JUMP |
| DUMP       | PASS       | SHOT      | WEAK SIDE     |
| FAULT      | PLAYERS    | SIDELINES | WIPE          |
| FLOATER    | POINTS     | SIDE OUT  |               |

The hidden message is: VOLLEYBALL WAS ORIGINALLY CALLED MINTONETTE

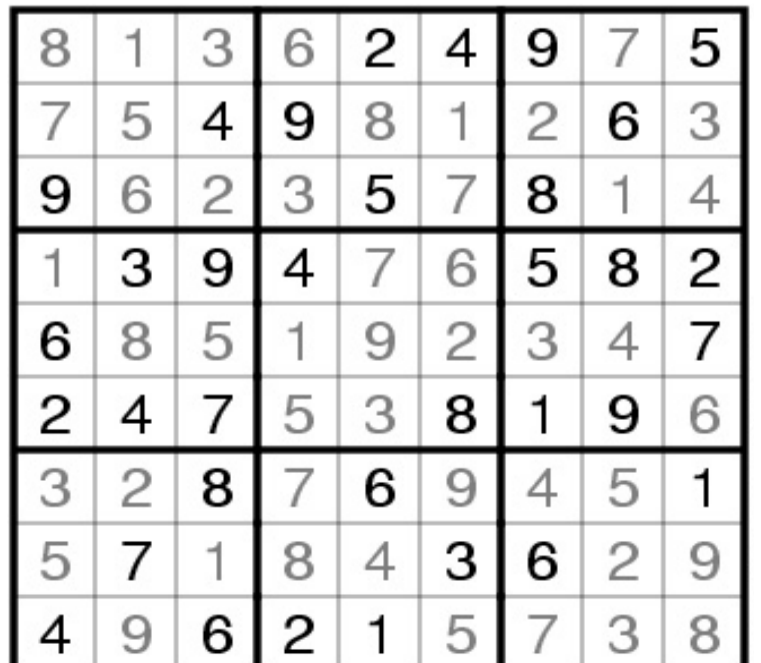
Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Kuwait Times Classifieds

Sunday, October 15, 2017

**Kuwait Times**  
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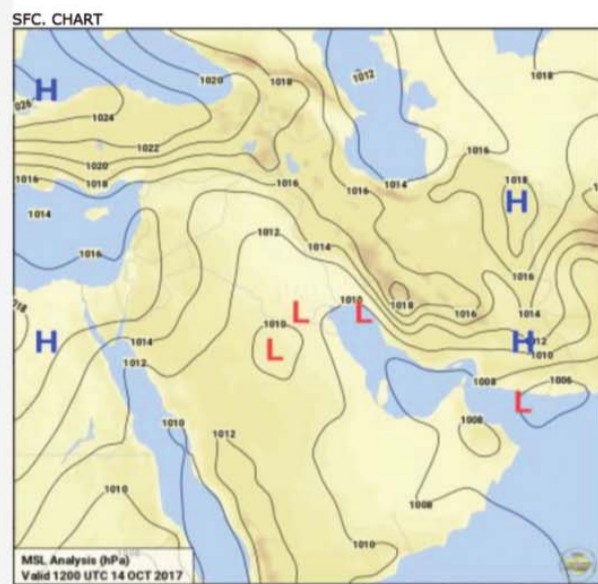


**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**  
 Issued 14/10/2017-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

**MIN Temperature 20 °C**

**By Night** :Fair and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h .

**By Day** : Relatively hot with light variable wind to light to moderate north easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .



**Four-Day Forecast**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	Relatively hot	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	Relatively hot	Relatively hot and some scattered clouds will appear
Min Temp °C	20	21	21	21
Max Temp °C	36	37	35	36
Wind Direction	variable to northerly easterly	northerly easterly to variable	northerly changing to northerly easterly	northerly westerly to northerly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 26	08 - 26	10 - 35	15 - 40

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	37
KUWAIT AIRPORT	20	37
ABDLY	21	38
BUBYAN	20	36
JAHRA	23	37
FAILAKA ISLAND	23	37
SALMIYAH	29	33
AHMADI	28	34
JAL ALIYAH	22	38
QAROH ISLAND	31	33
UMM AL-MARADEM	30	33
NUWAISIB	22	35
WAFRA	20	37
SALMY	20	38
MUTRIBA	20	39

**Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport**

Max Temp (°C)	37
Min Temp (°C)	24
Max Rel Hum (%)	37
Min Rel Hum (%)	13
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:49
Sunset	17:18

**Tomorrow Prayer Times**

Fajr	04:30
Sunrise	05:49
Zuhr	11:34
Asr	14:51
Sunset	17:18
Isha	18:35

## AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
Kuwait Airways	22087426
Jazeera Airways	171
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Alitalia	22414427
Balkan Airlines	22416474
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Czech Airlines	22417901/
Indian Airlines	2433141
Oman Air	22456700
Turkish Airlines	22958787
Aeroflot	22453820/1
	22404838/9

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**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

## Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Sunday 15/10/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 15/10/2017			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	PAL	669	Manila	13:10
JZR	125D	Bahrain	00:25	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
KAC	102	London	00:55	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	ICV	1079	Doha	15:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	QTR	675	Hong Kong	15:20
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	563	Riyadh	15:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	501	Amman	15:40
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	530	Jeddah	15:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	KNE	530	Doha	16:00
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	646	Seeb International, Muscat	16:10
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	SHR	128	Sharjah	16:15
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	FDK	802	Damascus	16:55
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
JZR	553	Alexandria	04:05	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
QTR	8511	Doha	05:20	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
BAW	157	London	06:05	WAN	115	Bahrain	17:45
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
WAN	342	Sohag	06:40	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:50	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:35
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:55	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:55
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
WAN	9114	Bahrain	11:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:00
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
JZR	1443	Doha	11:10	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	JZR	528	Asyut	23:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
KAC	514	Tehran	13:10	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

## Jordan received death threats from fans



The 'Black Panther' actor alleges that on May 10, a woman named Brittany Virginia Green issued three death threats to him via Instagram, YouTube and a call to his manager's office. He was granted a five-year restraining order against the woman, who must stay 100 yards away from him and his team, and she has been banned from contacting him on social media. In court documents obtained by The Blast, Michael claimed that at 3.03PM on May 10, the woman sent him a private message on Instagram which read "This is an OFFICIAL death threat. I am going to kill you." Less than 30 minutes later she called his manager's office and reportedly said: "I'm making an official death threat to Michael B. Jordan. I'm going to kill the motherf\*\*\*er." Michael says she alleged in the call that he had abused her. According to the per-

son who took the call, she was "agitated and spoke really quickly." And just 20 minutes after that, the woman posted a video on YouTube, with the caption 'Death Threat Michael B Jordan', in which she allegedly said: "This confirms the official, official death threat to Michael B. Jordan on his Instagram, to his agent, and I, yeah. I called up his agency, left a death threat, and left it on his Instagram." Michael, 30, claims that the woman has repeatedly harassed him online and often creates new accounts when hers get blocked. He also detailed a 2016 encounter, when she appeared at a charity event in "an altered state" and "aggressive repeatedly sought continued access to and physical interaction with him".

## Oprah Winfrey

wants to interview Harvey Weinstein



Disgraced movie producer Harvey - who stands accused of sexually harassing a number of female employees and actresses over a period of almost three decades - reached out to Oprah this week but she told him she would only speak to him if it was for a '60 Minutes' style interview. Oprah's representative told TMZ: "Oprah has not spoken to Harvey Weinstein directly. Someone from his team reached out to her to see if she would talk to him, and she said she would if it was for an interview. There are no plans for an interview at this time." "She was only interested if he'd look in the mirror and give her the honest, bone marrow truth." Following the bombshell revelations about Harvey, Oprah posted a statement, which read: "I've been processing the accounts of Harvey Weinstein's behavior and haven't been able to find the words to articulate the magnitude of the situation." She then quoted filmmaker James Schamus, who said, "This is the story of one predator and his many victims; but it is also a story about an overwhelming systemic enabling, and until that story is fully told we will fall far short of stopping future depredations on a similar scale." Meanwhile, Harvey is reportedly set to challenge his firing from The Weinstein Company. The 65-year-old film producer was fired by the board of his firm, which he co-founded with his brother Bob Weinstein in 2005, "in light of new information about misconduct" after he was accused of sexual harassment.

## Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander love karaoke

The couple - who have been dating since 2014 and are rumoured to be getting married in Ibiza in the next few weeks - are usually very private about their relationship, but the 40-year-old hunk admitted they enjoy nothing more than group singing sessions when they're not working. He said: "We karaoke. It's usually something in falsetto. I guess my Frank Sinatra is not bad because I'm kind of a baritone. But if I'm ambitious, I'll try Marvin Gaye or Rihanna. "Rihanna went really badly - she was there." The 'Shame' actor also revealed she and his 29-year-old girlfriend have relocated to Lisbon, Portugal, and are enjoying the relaxed lifestyle so much, they can see it being their permanent base. He told Grazia magazine: "At the moment we live in Lisbon. I like it, I like the people and the fact it's right next to the ocean. "The weather, the food, the wine is always good. We have a UK base, but Lisbon is becoming home." The Hollywood duo have been tight-lipped about their romance ever since they met on the set of the Derek Cianfrance-directed drama 'The Light Between Oceans' three years ago. Despite this, Michael revealed in an interview last year that their relationship "just happened". He shared: "It just happened. It's good that it happened. It is what it is." Meanwhile, Alicia recently revealed she has "always wanted" to have children. She explained: "I don't even have children, and it's the wonder of my world. I've always wanted kids. I've never been pregnant, but I hope to have a family one day. "It's both the expectation and knowing that it should be the greatest experience of my life - and suddenly from one day to another, it's a reality; it's a new chapter of your life."



## Franco finds new work/life balance

Although the 39-year-old actor is currently starring in HBO's 'The Deuce', about the rise of the porn industry in New York beginning in the 1970s, he revealed that he no longer watches erotica himself. He told ES magazine: "I used to watch a lot of porn when I was younger, but I actually do not watch it now. I watched it up until a year ago." James also revealed that after years of being a workaholic, he has found a new work/life balance and has been in a relationship for "four months". He said: "Workaholicism is a huge thing, and one of the problems is that it's really hard to see, because hard work is applauded in our culture. As it should be, but I think there's also a line, a very thin line, that I crossed over where there were diminishing returns on the amount of work I was putting in. It was just 'busy work' after a while, an escape rather than discipline that was adding up to better work." James also admitted that his upcoming 40th birthday has brought on a "midlife crisis". He said: "I guess it's called a midlife crisis. I've certainly hit a wall this past year. It's not like I went out and had to buy a Ferrari or anything like that. It was more about re-prioritizing and figuring out what was meaningful. I've been known as a guy that just did a lot of things. I already went through a lot of the phases I think people go through in their midlife crisis. So, for me it was really about cutting back and focusing on figuring out what I really wanted to spend my time on."

## Mindy Kaling expecting a baby girl



The 38-year-old actress announced in August she was expecting her first child, and has said she's "having a great time" being pregnant so far, as she now realises she took a lot of things for granted before her stomach started to swell. She said: "I'm very, very pregnant. I've had a pretty great time of it so far, but I think I took a lot for granted before this, now that I'm in my current situation. Like, sitting, I'm obsessed with sitting and even when I was standing back there I was looking at this chair and I was like, 'Awww, can't wait to sit in that chair!'" The 'Mindy Project' star confirmed her baby's gender when talking about the final episode of the comedy series, as she said she found out the show was ending around the same time she fell pregnant "with[her] own daughter". Mindy's pregnancy announcement was somewhat dampened when her 'A Wrinkle In Time' co-star Oprah Winfrey managed to let the news slip prior to her official announcement, but Mindy insists she isn't upset

about it, as she can now tell her daughter the story involving legendary talk show host. Speaking on 'The Ellen Degeneres Show', Mindy said: "At first I was like, OK if anyone was going to announce big news about your private life, Oprah Winfrey's the person. You can't complain that much about it, and you can't be like, 'Hey, Oprah, zip it!' because she's almost like a religious figure. I thought, 'OK, if there's one person I have to tell my daughter who revealed her existence to the world, Oprah's pretty good.'" Meanwhile, the star admitted recently that she feels "anxious" about becoming a mother. She said: "Right now, I just feel so anxious. "But, I'd like to be the fun mom. I know I'm gonna be the dorky mom. So, if I could be kind of fun, too, I think that would be nice."

## Foy describes Golden Globes as the 'weirdest experience ever'

The 33-year-old actress picked up the statuette for Best Actress in a TV series thanks to her role as Queen Elizabeth in 'The Crown' earlier this year and she felt overwhelmed by the occasion until she had a drink. She recalled: "It was genuinely the weirdest experience of my life. "There I was, standing in a sandwich between Stevie Wonder and John Travolta, having a completely out-of-body experience. "[I was overwhelmed at the after-party]. All I kept thinking was, 'Um, I don't know what to do with this. I don't know what to do with this thing that's happening to me.' "But then I had an espresso martini and WhatsApped my family and friends with all the gossip and then I felt fine." "The Crown' has been hugely popular across the globe and Claire can't believe huge stars know who she is. She told Britain's Vogue magazine: "I know, it's completely mental isn't it? I can't really get my

head around the fact people like Elton John and Helen Mirren actually know who I am because of my acting." But the actress - who has daughter Ivy, two, with husband Stephen Campbell Moore - claims she can still go about her everyday life without getting recognized. She said: "I'm telling you, nobody recognizes me at all, ever. "I think it's because I look normal, like someone's sister or cousin." The 'Breathe' actress is embracing her success because she knows it won't necessarily last forever, but is staying down-to-earth. She said: "I'm under no illusions as to how fickle success can be. "I've been on the outside of it enough to see it come and then see it go. "If this had happened to me when I was 23, I think I would probably have spun into a vortex but I genuinely have enjoyed the past year for what it is."





## Jaden Smith has launched his own vegetarian burger

The 19-year-old actor - who is the son of Hollywood stars Will and Jada Pinkett Smith - has joined forces with Umami Burger in Los Angeles to launch three new burgers, which will help bring more health-conscious dining options to the public. Jaden said: "You should come to Umami and have the Jaden slider trio because you're not gonna believe there's no meat in it and it's impossible and you're just not gonna believe it. "So there's the normal impossible, the Korean barbecue and the Umami barbecue. I'm trying to satisfy different flavors for people but at the same time

give them a plant-based burger that they, you know, can enjoy and promote healthy living and lifestyle." But Jaden's healthy burgers aren't just good for the body, they're also helping to bring much needed supplies to places such as Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean Islands, which have all been devastated by hurricanes in recent weeks. He continued: "But I also want there to be a social impact and social change aspect to it as well. So \$1 from every burger that is sold from my partnership with Umami will be going to a specific charity for hurricane relief. "So I feel like this is

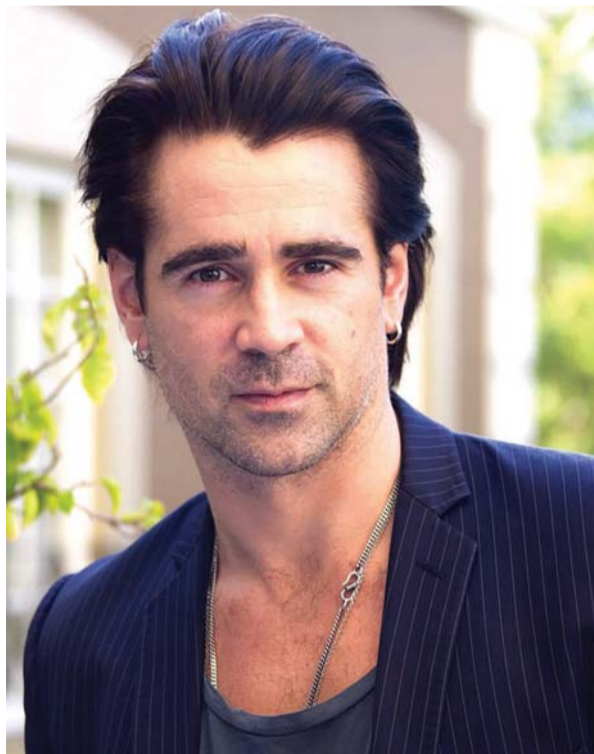
very important for moving the future of humanity into the plant-based diets for the world and this is at the forefront of the world's food technology and I just want to be part of that positive change and I want to bring the youth in and everybody else as well. This is what the world needs to be on. Umami is at the forefront of something that's beautiful."

## Kourtney's romance with Younes Bendjima makes her 'giddy'



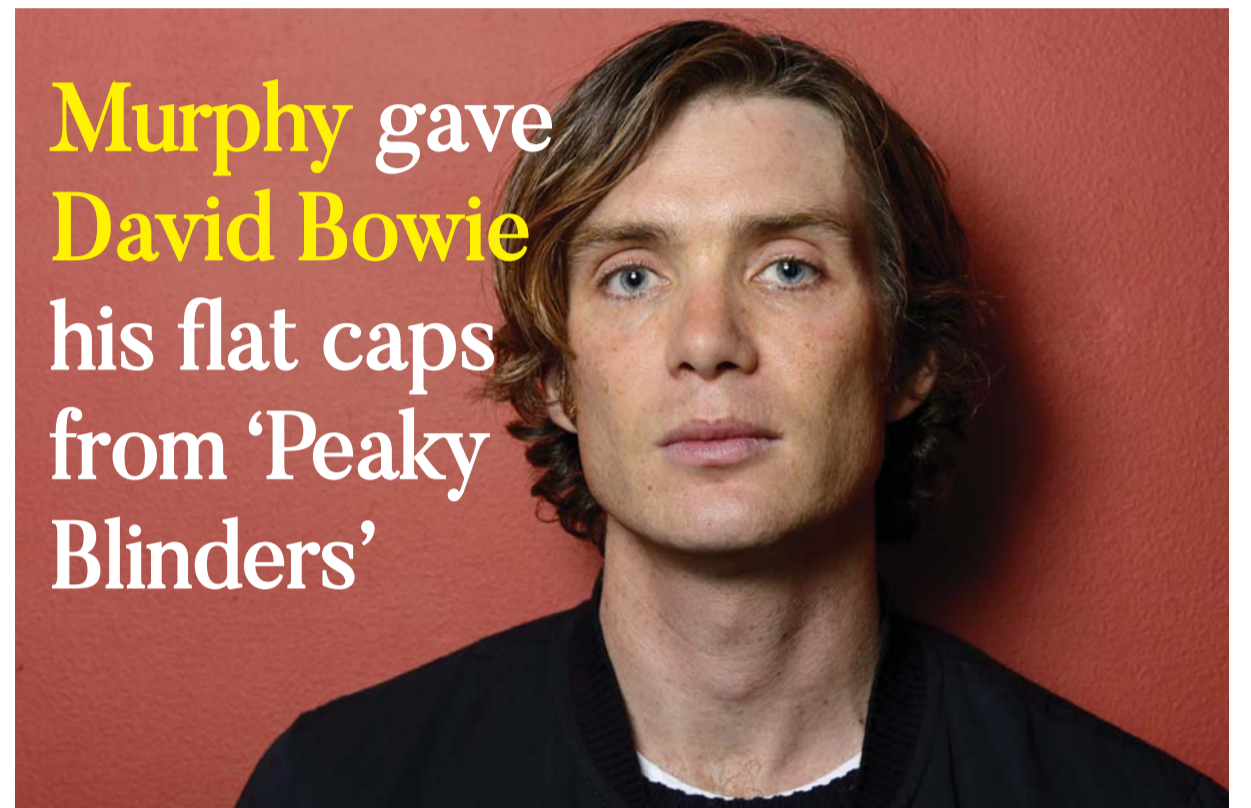
The 38-year-old reality star struck up a relationship with the former boxer in mid-2016, and in scenes of her reality show 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' which were filmed before his identity was made public, the brunette beauty is seen getting excited about a birthday surprise she is planning for her beau. In the clip - which was shared by E! News ahead of the episode airing today - Kourtney is sat in a car with sister Khloe Kardashian and family friend Jonathan Cheban, and is struggling to gift wrap her present, which includes putting a hotel key card inside a wallet. Speaking in her confessional, 33-year-old Khloe said afterwards: "I know Kourt has been out on the dating scene recently. She's planning a birthday surprise tonight. I don't really know the details tonight but she's like doing this whole exchange. Like she's putting like a hotel key into a wallet. "Never known Kourtney to be this giddy ever in my life. I've never known Kourtney to plan anything. It's so cute though to see her this giddy." Whilst in the car, Jonathan tells her: "Just be fun. You're so f\*\*\*ing weird about it." The sweet clip comes after it was revealed in a previous episode of the show that Kourtney's ex-boyfriend Scott Disick - who is the father of her three children Mason, seven, Penelope, five, and Reign, two - "screamed at the top of his lungs" when he found out she had moved on. Kourtney said: "Last night I went to dinner with a guy and was photographed and I just felt like I should give Scott a heads up out of respect, even though he hasn't done the same to me in the past. But the photos never ended up coming out in the end so it was pretty much all for nothing." And sister Khloe, who had witnessed the phone call, added: "He was screaming at the top of his lungs."

## Colin Farrell gets mistaken for Colin Firth



The 41-year-old actor might have his own glittering career as a Hollywood movie star, but he has revealed that often gets mistaken for fellow iconic actor Colin Firth, even though he says the hunk has "a lot more decorum" than he does. Speaking on an episode of 'The Graham Norton Show' which is due to air tonight (13.10.17), he said: "Even though he beats me by an Oscar, about ten inches and a lot more decorum. I tried to sign up for gym once and the woman got on the phone to sort out the membership and she said in a rather loud whisper, 'Colin Firth is here.'" It comes after the 'In Bruges' actor - who has sons, James, 14, from a relationship with Kim Bordenave, and eight-year-old Henry, from a short romance with Alicja Bachleda-Curu? - recently admitted he doesn't consider himself to be an actor, as his believes is primary job is being a father to his brood. He said: "I'm loving work. I think I love the work now more than I ever have. I identify, ironically, less with it. It's not that it means less than to me. I just identify less with it - being an actor ... with it having a relevance to my work as a man. I think with that has come a sense of freedom that allows you to engage with the work on a deeper and a less personal level. And

then when I'm not working, I'm out of it. I've nothing to do with it. I'm with my boys. It's like, 'Are you an actor?' 'No, but I act sometimes, and I get paid to do it, but I'm not an actor.' And Farrell - who has been single for over six years - previously hinted he was considering joining dating app Tinder, though he could face the same identity crisis problem if hopeful romantics believe his is the wrong Colin. — Bangshowbiz

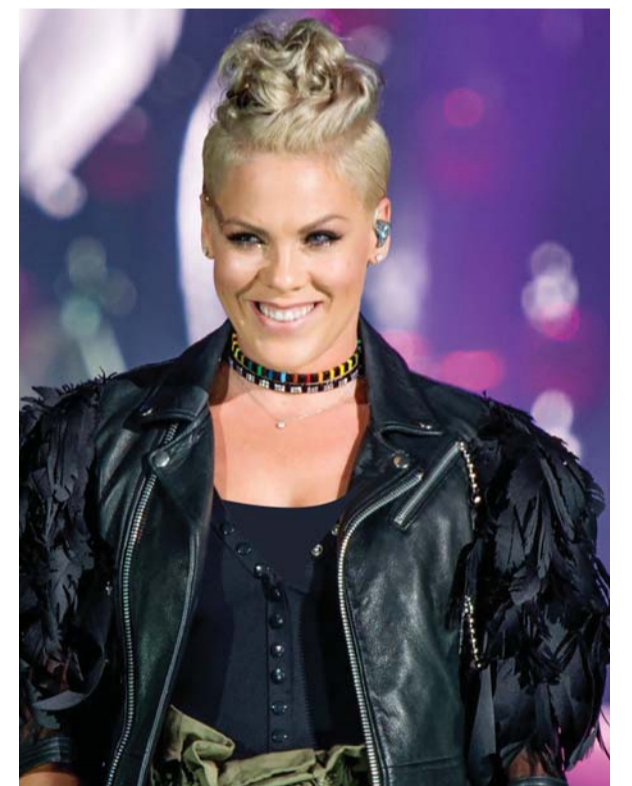


## Murphy gave David Bowie his flat caps from 'Peaky Blinders'

The 41-year-old actor has starred in the hit BBC TV series as Tommy Shelby since the show started in 2013, and has revealed the 'Life of Mars' hitmaker - who passed away in early 2016 at the age of 69 - was a huge fan of the show and loved it when he was given some of the iconic flat caps from the series. Speaking to Esquire magazine at the launch of The Esquire Towerhouse in London on Wednesday (11.10.17), Cillian said: "David Bowie was a massive figure for me growing up and I had the privilege of meeting him because he was a fan of the show. I gave him my caps from series one and he loved them." 'Peaky Blinders' is based off a real-life criminal gang based in Birmingham during the early 20th century, and the title phrase comes from the act of stitching razor blades into the peak of flat cap hats so they could be used as weapons. Currently the show - which also stars Helen McCrory and Tom Hardy - is gearing up to air its

fourth series, and Cillian said he feels like the "luckiest man in the world" to be a part of it. He said: "I feel like the luckiest man in the world. "We're four series in and it still gets better and better. Helen is one of my favorite people in the whole world, I love working with her. "The thing about acting is that no matter who the actor is, it's all about doing the scene, when you're in that, nothing else matters." Meanwhile, the show's screenwriter, Steven Knight, revealed Bowie and fellow music icon Leonard Cohen - who also passed away last year - both offered their music to 'Peaky Blinders', and admitted series four could be the last.

## Pink's son Jameson cries when she sings



The 38-year-old singer is devastated that her nine-month-old son Jameson - whom she has with her husband Carey Hart - doesn't seem to be a fan of her music, as every time she attempts to sing him to sleep, he just starts crying. When asked by Jimmy Fallon during an appearance on 'The Tonight Show' if she ever sings lullabies to her son, the 'What About Us' hitmaker said: "I try! He cries when I sing. He has since birth, which is kind of rough. He likes 'Row Row Row Your Boat', so he'll allow that one. That's a classic. It's a little repetitive, so I have to keep going up a notch. I get as high as I possibly can, and then it's over and he cries." The 'So What' singer - who also has six-year-old daughter Willow with her spouse - previously credited her young son with adding "six months" to her lifespan whenever he smiles, but joked that it just replaces the months he takes away by screaming. She said: "He is edible. That's how I cope because he looks at me and he sticks his tongue out and smiles and it adds like six months to my life. "It gives me the six months back that he took the previous night screaming. Yeah one day at a time. Sometimes I hide under tables and be really quiet so they

can't find me." Meanwhile, Pink also recently revealed she often struggles to balance being a mother with her music career, and she acknowledges that her path is no longer a "simple puzzle" as she has to think of more than just herself. She said: "I would like to put everything I am and everything I have into everything that I do. I'd say the hardest part is just trying to figure it all out. I signed up for this when I was 16 and now I have children and I have a marriage. I just want to always make sure that I'm doing right by them. It's not a simple puzzle anymore - it's not just me."



## Tarantino is 'stunned and heartbroken' at Weinstein

The Oscar-winning director has broken his silence on the news that his friend of "25 years" stands accused of sexually harassing a number of female employees over a period of almost three decades. Quentin made all of his movies with either Miramax or The Weinstein Company - from which Harvey was recently fired - and said he needs "a few more days" to process his emotions before he gives a more in-depth public statement. His statement, which was posted on Twitter by actress Amber Tamblyn on Thursday (12.10.17), read: "For the last week I've been stunned and heartbroken about the revelations that have come to light about my friend for 25 years Harvey Weinstein. I need a few more days to process my pain, emotions, anger and memory and then I will speak publicly about it." Amber, 34, said in a tweet prior to posting the statement that she'd had a "long dinner" with

the 'Pulp Fiction' director the night before, where they discussed the disgraced producer. She wrote: "Last night I had a long dinner with my friend Quentin Tarantino. He has asked me to share a statement with you regarding Harvey Weinstein." Meanwhile, the 65-year-old producer - whose alleged actions were exposed to the public in a New York Times article, which claimed he had paid off eight of the women to keep their allegations quiet - has denied many of the claims made against him, but recently revealed he is "trying his best" to "get help". He said: "Guys I'm not doing OK but I'm trying I've got to get help. I'm hanging in - I'm trying my best."

## Lifestyle | Features

# Hidden film treasures brought to life in British vault

In a refrigerated vault outside London filled with old film reels, a team of curators is bringing to life forgotten masterpieces of early cinema history. A chemical smell hangs in the air at the British Film Institute's National Archive, where some 250,000 wheels of old film are stacked floor-to-ceiling.

"As we're restoring them we're pulling back the veils of history, and we can see much more clearly than we used to," curator Bryony Dixon told AFP on a visit to the archive in the town of Berkhamsted this week. A selection plucked from the shelves is being showcased at the BFI's London Film Festival, including a tale about the heartbreaking Indian love story of the Taj Mahal mausoleum.

"Shiraz: A Romance of India" is being screened at a gala on Saturday for the first time since its release in 1928, following months of restoration. "It's beautiful, it's dramatic, it's got exciting locations, and great acting. And it's unique, there are almost no surviving Indian films from that era, so it's very special," Dixon said. A score by composer Anoushka Shankar, daughter of late Indian sitar maestro Ravi Shankar, has also been added to accompany the silent film.

## From hand to digital

BFI curators have restored a wealth of films including

Alfred Hitchcock's nine surviving silent films and footage of a legendary Everest expedition in 1924 in which two of the climbers died. Despite technological leaps, preparing the film begins with it being checked by hand. "There will be a lot of hand, manual repair on the original film copies, using tape to make sure the films can pass through cleaning machines, and also through the scanner," said Kieron Webb, the archive's film conservation manager.

The team used the original camera negative of "Shiraz", along with a copy made decades later, which were combined digitally to obtain the best images and restore tens of thousands of frames. "The removal of scratches and dirt: de-flicker, which makes the image look more stable; reduce the light and darkness changes in some shots," said Webb, summarising hundreds of hours of work.

Ben Thompson, an image quality section leader, demonstrated how to remove a scratch from a "Shiraz" scene without accidentally brushing out a horse's leg. Restorers have also sharpened the images, which Thompson said creates more work: "As soon as you improve the sharpness of the image it reveals, brings into sharp focus the detail but also the defects." Digital techniques, which have replaced much

“  
We're pulling  
back the veils  
of history  
”



A technician works on a computer to digitally restore individual frames of a film at the British Film Institute.



Kirsty Shanks, British Film Institute's (BFI) National Archive Conservation Specialist, examines a roll of film through a magnifying glass.



Sarah Bemand poses for a photograph whilst looking at a film can in the storage archives at the British Film Institute in Berkhamsted, north of London.

## St Helena's isolation to end as air link opens

Life for the people of St Helena will change forever today when the first regular commercial flight from the outside world touches down on the remote island's windswept new runway. The British island of just over 4,000 people, where the locals are called "Saints", is known best as the rocky outcrop where French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte saw out his final days. Now, after five years of construction, controversy and embarrassing delays due to high winds, an airport built at a cost of £285 million (318 million euros) will welcome its first routine flight from Johannesburg. The volcanic tropical island itself measures just 122 square kilometers and is located almost exactly halfway between Africa and South America.

Its isolated location meant it was chosen as a place of exile for those who suffered defeat at the hands of the British, with Napoleon held there from 1815 until his death in 1821. Several thousand Boer prisoners of war were also detained there at the start of the 20th century. Until yesterday, St Helena was one of the world's most inaccessible locations. It has been only reachable by sea, a five-day voyage from Cape Town aboard a Royal Mail vessel that chugs along at a speed of just 15 knots. Every three weeks, the RMS St Helena has been the islanders' link to the outside world, bringing a cargo of food, post, visitors and vehicles.

### Major engineering challenge

The new flight route, via Windhoek in Namibia, will mean that the island will be reachable by air from South Africa in just six hours. Authorities have issued a list of the best vantage points to watch the arrival of AirLink flight 8131. "We are very excited that is finally happening," said Helena Bennett of the St Helena tourism office. The airport has been a colossal civil engineering challenge.

The island had no suitable flat surface to construct the necessary 1,950 meter-long airstrip. Engineers were forced

to chip away a mountain peak and fill in a valley to create enough of an even surface. The runway is located on a breathtaking mountain just 300 meters from the sea. Because of high winds, Comair abandoned plans to operate the route with a Boeing 737, paving the way for AirLink's smaller Embraer 190 jet.

### High winds setback

The winds meant that the airport could not be opened in 2016 as originally planned with a ribbon-cutting by Prince Edward, Queen Elizabeth II's youngest son. The conditions made take-offs and landings much more difficult than expected and just weeks before the scheduled ceremony, it was cancelled and the airport became practically unused.

After more than a year of test flights and studies, the decision was taken to use the Embraer 190. "Safety is our number one priority," said airport director Janet Lawrence, adding that AirLink had completed 13 test flights including so-called "touch and go" landings when pilots land and take off again without bringing the aircraft to a stop. The island will be served by a weekly service from Johannesburg costing about £800 return (\$1,060). The average salary on St. Helena is just £7,280.

It is hoped the air link will help reduce the island's dependence on aid from London which cost the British taxpayer £53.5 million in 2015 alone. Britain's overseas development ministry told AFP that it expects the airport to "boost tourism (and) increase salaries" for islanders. When the RMS St Helena is retired from service next year, the island will become almost completely dependent on its airport. But with its Napoleonic heritage, rare birds and exotic plant life, hopes are high that the island will become a nirvana for curious tourists. — AFP



This file photo taken on March 10, 2015 shows a general view of Jamestown, the capital of the South Atlantic island of Saint Helena. — AFP photos



Robert Ewart, Collections Care Manager at the British Film Institute's (BFI) National Archive, looks at cans of film stacked on shelves at the storage archives at the British Film Institute in Berkhamsted, north of London.

of the old photo-chemical processes, have enabled restorers to become more precise in their work and upgrade every single shot in a film such as "Shiraz".

### 'A fantastic record'

The Indian film is nearly 90 years old but BFI also holds films going as far back as the 1890s. Despite the films' age, curators said they were easier to restore due to their brevity. "Some of them are only a minute long," Dixon said. "With the 1920s it gets much more complex, because the films get longer and they have a grammar to them which means if you're missing part of the film print, you have to sort of compensate in order to make it understandable for the audience."

Color and sound add further layers of complexity,

although silent films are themselves problematic because they often lack any documents to dictate the speed they should be shown at. Restoration is a costly endeavor and the archive relies on public funds and private donors, as well as ticket sales from screenings. But the restorers say the cultural value is boundless, giving audiences a window into an unseen age and places that have since disappeared. "Fiction film, or non-fiction film, is this fantastic record of the whole of the 20th century that people can look at... It is, for those that care to look, a real experience," said Dixon. — AFP

## Hatchet throwing a new pastime in America

What better, safer way to have fun than drink beverage and throw a hatchet? This is now a thing in America, a new pastime, and it's spreading. On a busy Friday night at Stumpy's Hatchet House in New Jersey, it sounds like this: the thud of the blade sticking into a wooden target, people cheering a good toss, and a bell ringing out when somebody scores a bull's eye. Its four founders say this place, which opened 18 months ago, is the first of its kind in the US, although Canada is generally considered the cradle of competitive hatchet-hurling.

Such spots are now found in Chicago, Washington, Nashville and Denver, among other US cities. Stumpy's owners are talking about opening another elsewhere in New Jersey and have even started offering franchise arrangements. They hope to have a network of 15 within a year. "This is the next bowling," said Kelly Josberger, a former elementary school principal aged 51 who decided to change careers. Like her three partners, she had never before run a business.

"Even if you're bad, you still have fun. With bowling, if you're not good at it, it's not really as fun," said Joseph Cavanagh, 27, who came to Stumpy's with friends to celebrate his birthday. Participants say it takes about a half hour of practice to master the trick of throwing the hatchet so it spins right and sticks in the target, which is replaced several times a day. "I think it's good because it's different and you're active and it's more hip than bowling," said Jessica Hill, 34, a pharmacist and friend of Cavanagh.

And it's all kind of natural here. There are no TVs or neon lights. People feel sophisticated, in a rustic way. On this particular night most of the crowd are young people, men and women in roughly equal numbers. But many say they have also seen people in their 60s come and give it a try, at the rate of 40 dollars a person for two hours. Tim Foley likes the sense of danger the game entails. "It makes it more interesting," he said.

### Beverage and blade, an odd couple

But some consider hatchets and booze to be a risky combination. Stumpy's does not have a license to sell alcohol but it does allow people to bring their own beer or wine. Alyssa Tabernise remembers when she first heard of the quirky pastime. She recalls thinking "it's not really safe that we're drinking and throwing, but it's probably a lot of fun." To maximize safety, the Stumpy's team makes a short training course mandatory. And there are strict rules: no one under age 21; one thrower at a time, and competitors cannot hand the hatchet to each other but rather must leave it in a special holder after throwing.

At Valhalla, the first hatchet bar in France, which opened in October near Caen, people have to take a breathalyzer test before being allowed to play along. At Stumpy's, staffers

stroll around constantly to make sure people are following the rules. The 14-inch steel hatchets weighs 1.25 pound. When she sees skittish customers at the door, Josberger—who insists Stumpy's has never had an accident—asks this question: "Do I look like a dangerous person?" — AFP



A woman throws a hatchet as she plays hatchet throwing at the Stumpy's House in Eatontown, New Jersey. — AFP



Men throw hatchet at their target as they plays hatchet throwing at the Stumpy's House.

Lifestyle | Features

# Abu Dhabi cruise sector embarks upon a regional trade road show

By Nawara Fattahov

Abu Dhabi's cruise tourism sector, led by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi continued its series of international promotions and conventions ahead of the start of the 2017/18 cruise season with a four-city regional travel trade road show in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Showcasing the Emirate's distinct cruise offering, the road show is being staged to drive growth in GCC bookings for Arabian Gulf cruises and will see the Department of Culture and Tourism attend the annual GCC travel industry road show which runs from 8 - 12 October, calling at Jeddah, Riyadh and the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, together with a visit to Kuwait.

"By embarking upon this regional road show, we aim to highlight the diverse cruise tourism options available to our neighbors in the Arabian Gulf. The three cruise lines originating from Abu Dhabi provide world class tourism facilities and access to the vast array of leisure opportunities and immersive experiences at every stop," said Sultan Al Mutawa Al Dhaheri, Acting Executive Director, Department of Culture and Tourism -

Abu Dhabi during the press conference held on Thursday at the JW Marriot Hotel.

The regional trade mission is one of a number of international promotions planned for the coming months with road show in Russia and India also on the calendar before the end of the year to help drive the sector's growth. "The 2016/2017 cruise season was record breaking for the industry in Abu Dhabi and by engaging directly with our trade contacts throughout the region and internationally, we expect that the season ahead will see increased numbers of passengers embarking upon cruises from Abu Dhabi's state of the art cruise terminal," added Al Dhaheri.

With the cruise sector identified as an emerging niche, a cruise development committee established by Abu Dhabi's General Secretariat of the Executive Council under the chairmanship of HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of Department of Culture & Tourism - Abu Dhabi, has implemented a cruise charter to steer the future course of the cruise tourism industry. Abu Dhabi's growth ambitions have been accelerated by the partnership between the Department of Culture and Tourism, Etihad Airways and Abu



Sultan Al Mutawa Al Dhaheri, Acting Executive Director, Department of Culture and Tourism speaks during the conference. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

“ Aim to highlight the diverse cruise tourism options ”

Dhabi Ports. The demand on cruises increases. "The number of visitors of the cruise was around 30 thousand in 2006/2007, and we aim to increase the number up to 500 thousand by 2020. Our road show aim to increase the demand on cruising in the region, and we also hope to have more stations in the Gulf, which will attract more international touristic ships to cruise in the region. This industry is growing internationally by 2.3 percent," stressed Al Dhaheri.

Different cruises are available. "We offer short and longer cruises. The short is only three night long and just cruises in the Arabian Gulf and Oman Gulf, while the other cruises for 9-12 days with three stops in India and one stop in

Singapore. We operate during the winter season from November to March. Also last year the Sir Bani Yas Island was launched, and cruising to this island is a unique experience, as the ship stops far from the island and the visitors are transported to the island with small boats," he concluded. For the coming cruise season, Abu Dhabi Cruise Terminal is forecast to welcome 129 ship calls from 18 different cruise lines, making the emirate a firm fixture on the world cruise map and continuing to base their regional Arabian Gulf operations at the terminal.

## Novelist Margaret Atwood says Trump era 'feels like 1930s'

Award-winning novelist Margaret Atwood yesterday said Donald Trump's America reminded her of Europe in the 1930s, and warned that the world was "at a moment of change and disruption". "I think it's a moment of turmoil everywhere," the 77-year-old author said at the Frankfurt book fair. "This feels like the 1930s," she told a press conference, referring to the rise of populist leaders and fascism that ultimately led to World War II. "And what's surprising to many people in Europe is that this is also happening in the United States" which was long seen as "a beacon of democracy", Atwood added.

George Orwell's "1984" and her own 1985 book "The Handmaid's Tale", about a totalitarian regime where fertile women live in sexual servitude, were resonating right now because those worlds no longer seemed so far-fetched. "People suddenly feel that it's a possible reality for them," said Atwood, a prolific Canadian author and poet famed for her cautionary tales. "The Handmaid's Tale" is now a major television show, and the story's trademark red cloaks and white bonnets have been donned as symbols of protest at US demonstrations against threats to women's healthcare under Trump.

"There's a widespread feeling of dissatisfaction and resistance, but no leading figure has appeared yet," Atwood said. The US Republican party is "in disarray", she said, while the Democrats had yet to formulate a response. "One wonders what the Democrats are going to come up with because so far... 'hello, where are you?'" she said. Asked what she would say to Trump, Atwood jokingly replied: "Could you get that Twitter account away from him, please?"

### Weinstein criticism

But she also praised the power of social media in giving a voice to the voiceless, as highlighted in the sexual assault scandal surrounding Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. "He had nothing to do with our show," she said, before adding that the exploitation of young women by powerful men has been going on "for really quite a long time". But the recent downfalls of some of these men showed that things were changing.

"I think there have been a number of cases involving large powerful men with lawyers in which, partly due to social media, it has become possible for that has to be: everyone is a person," she said. "(And) they should not be treated the way Harvey Weinstein was treating people."

Atwood was in Frankfurt to receive the German book trade's annual "Peace Prize" for her prescient body of work, due to be awarded on Sunday. Regularly tipped for the Nobel Prize for Literature, Atwood was asked whether she was disappointed when the accolade went to British novelist Kazuo Ishiguro last week. "I am very used to not winning the Nobel prize. So it's really not a concern for me," she quipped. — AFP



Canadian author Margaret Atwood attends a press conference at the Frankfurt Book Fair in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. — AFP

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**150 CELEBRATE CANADA**

**STUDENT ART COMPETITION**

**October 8th till November 9th, 2017**

Kuwait Times newspaper in cooperation with the Embassy of Canada in Kuwait and under the patronage of Ministry of Education is organizing a painting competition for students titled Celebrate # Canada 150. The idea is to have students in Kuwait learn more about different countries, cultures and civilizations, and to identify communities in other parts of the world through arts. The theme of the Student Art Competition is Celebrate # Canada 150 and encourages students to express their knowledge of Canada by drawing an icon, a natural scene, or any other expression they would find suitable for the above title.

The drawing competition would be held from 8th October, 2017 till 9th November, 2017 for a period of 30 days, which would give participants from government, special needs and private schools enough time to submit their work.

The contest aims to make students gain knowledge of the heritage, culture and civilization of other countries. The competition's slogan motivates students to express their knowledge of Canada through art. Participants can draw touristic, environmental or civilization pieces or icons or symbols that reflect the competition's slogan. Canada is famous for its magnificent and beautiful places. It is one of the largest countries in the world with a unique geography, such as towering mountains, beautiful beaches, lush forests, green areas and wild and marine life.

the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans. Canada overlooks the North Pole, besides having the Great Lakes. Canada enjoys an abundance of natural wealth. Bring Canada into your imagination and express it in your paintings in a way and method you find suitable. The competition is open to students in all educational stages in government and private, Arab and foreign schools, as well as special needs schools. Schools and participants can collect the drawing sheets directly from Kuwait Times office. The completed drawings should be sent to the newspaper, where a panel of expert artists will select 10 winners from each age group, bearing in mind that the contest is open for students of both genders as follows:

(6-8 yrs old), (9-11 yrs old), (12-14 yrs old), (15-17 yrs old) and special needs.

On the due date, the drawing sheets will be collected by Kuwait Times, and a jury of professional artists will be selected, who will choose the Top Ten winners in each age group. The contest is open to both boys and girls as follows: Elementary (6-8 years) and (9-11), Intermediate (12-14 years), Secondary (15 years and above), in addition to schools of special needs. 10 valuable prizes for winners and runners-up will be awarded in each category.

The students requiring special efforts and those with special needs will also be awarded similarly. Furthermore, a certificate will be given to each school as a recognition of honorable participation. The event is sponsored by Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company, Petrochemical Industries Company, Algonquin College Kuwait, S N C Lavalin, Air Canada, Lufthansa, Ebla and hosted by Four Seasons Hotel - Kuwait at Burj Alshaya.

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# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017



Emiratis arrange dates freshly picked from palm trees into boxes during the annual Liwa Date Festival in the western region of Liwa, south of Abu Dhabi. — AFP

## Coming to a cinema near you: Dubai destroyed, again

As a mammoth wave from the Persian Gulf rises up to drown fleeing beachgoers and wash over downtown Dubai and the world's tallest building, you can be forgiven for thinking you've seen this all before. The coming film "Geostorm" marks just the latest movie in which Western filmmakers put the commercial capital of the United Arab Emirates in their crosshairs. The UAE offers an attractive, tax-free shooting environment and Dubai's futuristic, skyscraper-studded skyline as a backdrop. But amid all the computer-generated destruction, viewers are offered only rare glimpses of Emiratis, and learn little about the country or the surrounding region.

"It's just kind of like this futuristic city that exists only to be destroyed in a very dramatic way," said Dale Hudson, an associate professor of film and new media at NYU Abu Dhabi. "For audiences in the US used to Hollywood, it's just another city... It's not the Middle East, where they assume it's going to be religious conflict or oppression of women or all the different stereo-

types they have. It just kind of normalizes it."

In "Geostorm," opening on Oct 19 in the UAE and starring Gerard Butler, satellites stop all natural disasters until something goes wrong. Dubai is then apparently swamped by the Persian Gulf, despite the fact that its warm waters are rarely deeper than 90 meters. Previews for the film show major cities around the world being destroyed. The Dubai Film and TV Commission offered an excited, exclamation-pointed tweet about the footage of the Persian Gulf tsunami, in which the spire tip of the world's tallest building, the 828-meter Burj Khalifa, is visible in the background.

The commission did not respond to a request for comment. It's not the first time Dubai has featured in a Western blockbuster. Tom Cruise dangled off the side of the newly built Burj Khalifa in the 2011 film "Mission Impossible 4: Ghost Protocol." The world's tallest building escaped being destroyed in that film, but the city-state was engulfed in computer-generated sandstorm of epic proportions.



**An attractive, tax-free shooting environment**

## Between the lines: Hollywood's whispers about Weinstein

The sexual abuse accusations now deluging Harvey Weinstein have bubbled up before as inside jokes and sly asides, tributes to the movie producer's capacity to inspire both fear and loathing in Hollywood. US media have resurrected scenes from films and TV series, or interviews in which Weinstein's name and unsavory reputation are on clear display.

Through his representatives, Weinstein has asserted that all the sexual encounters revealed over the past week were consensual. At the Oscars in 2013, comedian and writer Seth McFarlane joked after announcing the nominees for best supporting actress: "Congratulations, you five ladies no longer have to pretend to be attracted to Harvey Weinstein."

He explained Wednesday on his Twitter account that in 2011 the actress Jessica Barth, with whom he had acted in the "Ted" films, confided in him about Weinstein's "attempted advances."

"It was with this account in mind that, when I hosted the Oscars in 2013, I couldn't resist the opportunity to take a hard swing in his direction. "Make no mistake, this came from a place of loathing and anger," he wrote, even though he was smiling when he made the comment, which drew laughs from the Oscars audience. In the New Yorker magazine, which on Wednesday published a long investigative piece about Weinstein, Barth said the movie mogul had asked her to give him a naked massage in bed.

**'Three occasions... out of five'**

In 2012, in an episode of the television series "30 Rock," the character played by actress Jenna Krakowski says, "Oh, please, I'm not afraid of anyone in show business. I turned down intercourse with Harvey Weinstein on no less than three occasions out of five." The following season, her character says: "I know how former lovers can have a hold over you long after they're gone. In some ways, I'm still pinned under a passed-out Harvey Weinstein, and it's Thanksgiving."

Tina Fey, the series' creator, has yet to comment on the scandal. In 2007, the actor Maury Chaykin played the role of Harvey Weingard, a producer who is full of himself, angry and given to threats, in the HBO series "Entourage," which tells the story of two young actors in Hollywood. The scriptwriters did not include any sexual indiscretions. According to the British daily The Telegraph, Weinstein sent a message to the producers through one of the actors: "Tell them if they ever mention my name again, they're dead."—AFP



In this Oct 7, 2016 file photo, people watch the sunset over the skyline, with Burj Khalifa at right, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. — AP

In 2016's "Star Trek Beyond," Dubai stood in as Starbase Yorktown and was attacked by the forces of the lizard-like dictator Krall. Dubai was again the target of vengeful aliens in the 2016 film "Independence Day: Resurgence," in which the gravity-defying extraterrestrials somehow picked up the Burj Khalifa and slammed it into London.

In the case of the "Star Trek" film, its producers picked Dubai because of its space-age look. "We came searching for the future and found it," Jeffrey Chernov, one of the film's executive producers, said in 2015. However, the cast later acknowledged finding difficulty in casting a gay husband in Dubai for the character Sulu.

Traditionally dressed Arabs often show up for just a moment in such films. A family dines as a Lebanese-made

sports car plunges down an Abu Dhabi skyscraper in "Furious 7." But that moment, like a brief reference to Abu Dhabi being a global city on a map in the 2011 plague thriller "Contagion," separates the UAE from the "chaos" Mideast stereotype seen in other films, Hudson said. "It puts (the UAE) on the same political side as London and New York," he said. "It definitely tries to make it a global player." — AP



This combination of pictures created on October 13, 2017 shows US producer Harvey Weinstein (L) taken on March 10, 2015 with the actresses who have come out with accusations against him. - AFP photos