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# Amir meets Saudi King to discuss brotherly relations

## Leaders also tackle regional issues during meeting

### MP calls to tax expat motorists to clear roads

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A lawmaker yesterday came up with a solution to resolve traffic congestion, by proposing that expatriates who have a driving license should be asked to pay KD 1,200 annually. MP Khaled Al-Otaibi, an opposition MP, said expatriates who work as private drivers for families should be spared from the fee. The lawmaker, who is serving his first term in the National Assembly, said the measure will help ease traffic jams on roads, which have become a major source of accidents that result in casualties.

Otaibi said the large number of vehicles in the country has aggravated the traffic problem, causing menacing jams at any given time, because the road capacity is very limited to cope with this number. This results in massive delays for motorists, he said. Otaibi said his proposal will reduce the number of vehicles on the roads and will contribute to resolving the traffic crisis.

The lawmaker's proposal is not the first targeting expatriate motorists, as several such proposals were submitted in the previous term, some of which called to suspend issuing driving licenses to expatriates or issuing them under extremely strict conditions. A Kuwaiti lawyer earlier this year filed a lawsuit demanding to stop issuing new driving licenses to expatriates and suspending existing ones for some time to help resolve the traffic crisis.

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RIYADH: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud yesterday. — KUNA

RIYADH: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday met the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, discussing the close and brotherly relations between the two countries and regional issues. The summit meeting was attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior Kuwaiti and Saudi officials.

HH the Amir, accompanied by officials, arrived in the Saudi capital earlier yesterday on a brotherly visit. HH the Amir and the accompanying officials were received at the airport by Prince Mohammad bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz, the Prince of Riyadh Region, and Kuwait's Ambassador to the kingdom Sheikh Thamer Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Following the meeting with King Salman, the Amir and his delegation departed the Saudi capital. HH the Amir was received on arrival in Kuwait by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other senior officials. HH the Amir later sent a cable to Saudi King Salman, thanking him for his hospitality during his visit. — KUNA

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# Talks proceeding with Saudi on Khafji oil field: Minister

## KPC renews crude oil storage contract with SUMED

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq announced yesterday that discussions with Saudi authorities over Al-Khafji oil field are proceeding. "There are simple matters that need to be thrashed out, then production will resume," said the minister in a statement to journalists after opening an exhibition on sidelines of Third Kuwait Oil and Gas Show and Conference.

Minister Marzouq indicated that the environmentally friendly fuel project at Mina Abdullah Refinery and Mina Al-Ahmadi was in the final phase, adding that work was also proceeding as scheduled at site of Al-Zour Refinery venture, forecast to finish by end of 2019.

Regarding accord by OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers on slashing the crude output, he expressed satisfaction "at the substantial adherence to the production cut, effective between the past January and September. "We hope that the concerned states proceed with that approach till end of the extension, March 31."

In November, "we will examine figures of the first four months of the extension and accordingly, we will assess the situation and issue recommendations to the ministerial conference due to examine prospected further extension (of the production slash)," he said.



### Kuwait to import 50 million cubic feet of Iraqi gas

#### Iraqi gas

On Sunday, Marzouq announced that Kuwait plans to import 50 million cubic feet of gas, and indicated this quantity was equal to five percent of Kuwait's summer consumption. The quantity of gas to be imported from Iraq is 50 million cubic feet which represent five percent of Kuwait gas consumption during summer, Marzouq said.

Meanwhile, KPC CEO and Deputy Chairman of the Board Nizar Al-Adsani stated that Kuwait aims to

scale oil production up to four million barrels per day by 2020. The KPC and its subsidiaries will raise the production capacity of crude oil to four million barrels per day by 2020, Adsani said in a speech at the inaugural session of the conference. He added that the KPC also plan to increase natural gas production to one billion cubic feet per day by 2023.

#### Oil storage

In other news, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced yesterday it has renewed its crude oil storage and transportation contract with Egypt's Arab Petroleum Pipelines Company (SUMED). KPC said in a press statement that the renewal of the contract was signed on the sidelines of the conference.

Deputy Managing Director of Global Marketing in KPC Nabeel Buresley and Chairman and Executive Director Mohammad Abdul Hafiz attended the renewal ceremony. The contract is one of the important strategic contracts aims at expanding KPC's presence in the Mediterranean Region and North West Europe to increase Kuwait's market share in that region, KPC said.

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) signed an agreement with one of the suppliers to provide Kuwait with liquefied natural gas to cover the long-term needs of the State in line with the KPC's plan to provide the best economic and environment friendly alternatives.

SUMED pipeline is an oil pipeline in Egypt, running from the Ain Sukhna terminal on the Gulf of Suez to offshore Sidi Kerir, Alexandria on the Mediterranean Sea. It provides an alternative to the Suez Canal for transporting oil from the Arabian Gulf region to the Mediterranean. It is owned by the Arab Petroleum Pipelines Company (SUMED), a joint venture of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Qatar. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq (left) attends an exhibition held as part of the Third Kuwait Oil and Gas Show and Conference. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Zain showcases its latest enterprise and business solutions at KOGS



**KUWAIT:** Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq, KPC CEO Nizar Al-Adsani, Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan, and Chief Enterprise Business Officer of Zain Kuwait Hamad Al-Marzouq pose for a picture at Zain's booth.

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its participation in the third Kuwait Oil and Gas Show and Conference (KOGS) organized by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) at the Kuwait International Fair in Mishref. The event, held between 15 - 18 October, comes under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The opening ceremony witnessed the attendance of several prominent figures, led by HH the Prime Minister's representative the Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Nizar Al-Adsani, Chief Executive Officer of Zain Kuwait Eaman Al-Roudhan, Chief Enterprise Business Officer of Zain Kuwait Hamad Al-Marzouq, as well as a number of experts, professionals, and leaders of the oil, gas, and energy industries.

Zain's participation in this exhibition comes in line with its core objectives that aim at shouldering the advancement of the community as a whole on all levels, where the company reaffirms the principal of partnership through similar efforts with the aim of contributing to the further progress of national economy.

Zain took the opportunity to provide free high-speed Wi-Fi to cover all parts of the exhibition, where over 5000 participants and organizers will benefit from throughout a period of three days. The company also introduced a number of its "Zain Business" services and solutions for corporate customers attending the exhibition, including Zain Machine-to-Machine (M2M), a service that gives new insights into the oil/gas indus-

tries on particular. The service allows firms to monitor, track and diagnose the performance and health of oil and gas assets, as well as send and receive data and control central management systems using sensors around the electricity grid, which can report in real time, helping prevent power outages, increase capacity and defer costly investment.

The company also showcased Zain Cloud DR, which brings a state-of-the-art Disaster Recovery service of various capabilities - that is reliable and secured - to the market. This will offer a Virtual Server Recovery that will provide a complete Disaster Recovery solution and replication of the customer's servers. The services also include @LASILKI, a reliable and secured wireless Push-to-talk service (PTT) over 4G technology, with Zain's fast speed and nationwide coverage, as well as the Zain Business Data Center (BDC) that has the ability to offer companies the reliable support they need, in terms of data storage, industry-leading security and connectivity when hosting their digital assets in the MENA region.

The third Kuwait Oil and Gas Show and Conference (KOGS), organized by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), serves all areas of the oil and gas industry; including petroleum geosciences, exploration and production, refining, and petrochemical products and services. The parallel 3-day multi-disciplinary conference program focuses on science and engineering factors facing those working in Kuwait and the region. Together, the conference and exhibition combine to form the single biggest gathering of the oil and gas industry ever seen in Kuwait.

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Local

# Family of five killed in Salmiya blaze

## Jleeb fire leaves toddler dead

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A family of five died in a fire that broke out in a five-storey building in Salmiya yesterday, said security sources. Firemen rushed to the building in response to an emergency call and managed to rescue nine people who were trapped behind thick smoke. Eighteen ambulances were dispatched to the scene and they transported the victims to Mubarak Hospital. But five of them, a mother and her four children who were found in critical condition, died before they arrived to the medical facility. Preliminary investigations revealed that the fire started in a fourth-floor apartment, and smoke trapped the Bangladeshi family inside their fifth-floor apartment, while help was too late to get to them. A case was filed for investigation to determine the cause of the fire.

In a similar incident, a two-year-old Arab child died in the hospital shortly after arriving there after being rescued from a burning apartment in Jleeb Al-Shoyoukh. Firemen rushed to the scene and managed to rescue four people who were trapped behind flames and smoke in the second floor. Further investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the fire.

### Traffic cases

Ministry of Interior's relations and security media department said the Interior Ministry's Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Fahad Al-Shuwayye' met with the President of the Comprehensive Court Chancellor Adel Borelli to discuss cooperation on traffic-related cases and setting a special mechanism to solve around 500,000 accumulated

cases in 2017-2018. Both sides agreed that traffic violations and the related verdicts won't be written off by time.

### Inspections

Several inspection campaigns to track down traffic law violators in various governorates were held from October 8-14, which resulted in filing 25,636 citations, impounding 463 vehicles and eight motorbikes, while 24 motorists were arrested for committing severe traffic violations.

### Human trafficking

Criminal detectives arrested four people who face human trafficking charges related to holding people against their will and forcing them to practice prostitution. The suspects, a citizen, a bedoon and two Asian nationals, reportedly ran massage parlors in Mahboula and Abu Halifa where they forced human trafficking victims to work for extended hours and to offer sexual services to clients. Police freed 26 Asian men and women who were held against their will by the suspects.

### Assault

A man and a woman were arrested after they lured a man into a building's parking lot in Bneid Al-Qar and beat him up. The victim was treated by paramedics while the couple were taken to Daya police station for questioning. Separately, police are looking for a girl who joined her friends in fighting with a man near the arrival's gate of Kuwait International Airport, before escaping. The others were taken to Farwaniya Hospital to treat their injuries.



## Human trafficking network busted



**KUWAIT:** Firefighters take a breather after tackling a blaze in Salmiya yesterday.

## MP demands parity in cargo transit fees

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** MP Khalil Al-Saleh called for resolving the problems of owners of refrigerated trucks in Kuwait, as their business has been hit since a number of countries including Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan increased transit fees, while Kuwaiti authorities have not done the same. "These hikes have overburdened the owners and only serve transport companies in other countries," he underlined, calling for a similar measure in Kuwait to achieve parity. "It is unacceptable that Kuwaiti trucks pay the equivalent of KD 100 in Jordan while Jordanian trucks only pay KD 40 in Kuwait," he said, urging concerned ministries to act immediately.

### Domestic labor

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh stressed that launching the Al-Durra Domestic Labor Company was not delayed and explained that it is normal that the company faces various obstacles in dealing with foreign bodies. Speaking in response to a parliamentary inquiry, Saleh added that the company had been professionally dealing with various obstacles as planned and that it already started receiving applications on Aug 29.

### Allowances

Official sources at the Manpower and

Government Restructuring Program strongly denied social media reports about paying national labor support allowances to the owners of small business licenses, and stressed that the issue is still being studied with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. "The Cabinet is the only body entitled to add any new categories to the beneficiaries of the national labor support allowances," the sources highlighted.

### Fingerprint

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fared Emadi said the ministry has taken all necessary measures to start using the fingerprint system for imams and muezzins, as per the Cabinet and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) decisions. However, Emadi strongly denied that imams and muezzins will have to use the system before and after every prayer. Emadi added that the ministry's administrative and financial affairs sector asked the mosques sector for a complete timetable to come up with a suitable method of using the system with imams and muezzins, especially since their working hours are related to the times of the five prayers, unlike other government employees. Emadi said the fingerprint system has already been in use in the ministry since 2001. He also noted that the ministry had contacted CSC requesting exempting imams and muezzins due to the nature of their work, but the request was rejected.

### Camps

The spring camps committee at the Municipality is due to meet today with the municipality's deputy director Fahd Al-Otaibi to discuss the sites where camping would be allowed this year. Informed sources strongly

denied intentions to cancel any sites that had been approved and used in previous years unless alternative sites are provided in order to avoid cramming camps within limited areas. The sources added that municipality teams are still traversing across Kuwait to remove any unlicensed camps and warned that penalties would be very severe. The sources said an automated camping system would be developed this year to facilitate registry and site selection. "The same system will be used for removing camps and photos will be taken before and after camping to make sure no debris is left over after the season," the sources concluded.

### School of choice

The Public Authority for Disabled Affairs plans to allow disabled students choose the school they wish to attend on condition that the school is accredited by the Ministry of Education (MoE). Informed sources said the decision was being prepared to be signed next week and that it will include all educational facilities - Arab, foreign and bilingual - that provide educational services to disabled students.

### Charities

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's (MSAL) charities department has sent letters to charities that have so far not submitted their final reports about collecting donations for this year's sacrifice project, said informed sources, noting that the letters inquired about delaying the reports after the legal deadline. The sources added that many charities, namely major ones, have not so far submitted the reports although the ministry had urged them to do so over a month earlier. "Bank accreditation will be suspended of uncooperative charities," the sources stressed.

## Ministry urged to reconsider health fees

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Human Rights Society (KHRS) called on the health ministry to reconsider its decision to hike health services fees for expatriates, as the society found that inability to pay the new charges has forced many expats to discontinue treatment. KHRS asked the ministry to avoid hitting expat pockets, and described Oct 1, the day the increase fees came into effect, as a day of tragedy.

The society said in a report published by Al-Rai yesterday that the fee increases have led to a decrease in patient visits by 30 percent, and the reasons for this are clear - which is the inability of patients to follow up their conditions due to financial reasons. It said regardless of the positive effects of this reduction the ministry thinks it has achieved, for every action

there is a reaction, as reports on social media spoke about the death of an expat of a heart attack after he left the hospital under his own cognizance but was rushed back the next day, to no avail. KHRS said this shows that the increased charges have made expats ignore their health conditions, which can result in a health catastrophe and humanitarian tragedies in this 'humanitarian center'.

The report said the health ministry has excluded some categories from the new fees, in addition to domestic helpers, adding that the exemption of some groups that are beneficiaries of health insurance is under consideration, in addition to including other groups and diseases. KHRS believes these measures are not in favor of the ministry and proves the fee increase was not made after a thorough study.

### Cleaning workers

It said as for excluding domestic helpers, there are workers at security and cleaning companies whose salaries are below KD 100 - in many cases KD 60 - and the society believes they cannot get health services if they needed them, and it is expected that they will not go to

health centers for anything more than examinations or diagnoses, since these are workers with low salaries who have to pay for their children's education and rent.

The report said the society hopes the decision be cancelled, as it is not fair for expats to pay health insurance and also fees for health services, as this is considered double punishment that targets those who come to Kuwait under the sponsorship system. The report spoke about cases of expats who said they were victims of medical errors that caused them to continue their visits to hospitals, which constitutes an extra burden under the new fees, although they are victims of medical malpractices.

The report spoke about the case of a worker who suffered from back pain, so he went to the hospital and was asked to pay KD 10. Doctors then decided that he needed surgery. When he went to have the surgery done, he was asked to pay KD 50 as deposit and KD 10 for every day he stays in the hospital, besides KD 2 for x-rays and KD 2 for laboratory tests. The expat said he could not pay these expenses as he was a laborer with a salary of KD 200, with a family and children in school.

## Cabinet examines railway project recommendations

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet examined a recommendation by the public services committee regarding the railway project, and that during its regular weekly session held yesterday at its airport lounge under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The Cabinet in this respect decided to instruct the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries to coordinate with the ministry of finance and other competent authorities to take necessary measures, removing some farms' barriers that happened to be located on the railway path. Identical instructions were given to the authority of private and public sectors partnership. They also studied a recommendation to minimize cutting red tape with respect of the government development schemes.

Following the session, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah stated that the ministers began the tasks examining a report addressed by the parliament speaker to His Highness the prime minister, attached with an interpellation motion presented by the MPs Riyadh Al-Adsani and Abdulkarim Al-Kandari to grill the acting information minister. The ministers expressed satisfaction at the sensible replies by the minister to the motion, reaffirming the MPs' right to grill members of the government according to relevant laws and regulations.

### Palestine

Meanwhile, the Cabinet has welcomed the reconciliation deal recently concluded in Cairo between the Palestinian Fatah and Hamas movements, as a significant step on the right path toward comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. The ministers stressed that the deal constitutes a positive take-off for the Palestinian people to get united and counter the challenges facing the Palestinian cause. They voiced confidence that the reconciliation would help achieve the expectations of the Palestinian people in

establishing a viable independent state with East Jerusalem as a capital. The Cabinet praised Egypt's constructive and pivotal role, led by President Abdulfatah Al-Sisi, for reaching the agreement.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet condemned the terror attacks that lately targeted two security checkpoints in the city of Arish, the capital of North Sinai province, claiming the lives of several military personnel, and wounding others.

The government reiterated Kuwait's initial and unwavering stance rejecting all forms of terrorism, of whatever sources. It also reaffirmed support to Egypt and the measures the country may take to maintain its security and stability. The ministers expressed condolences to the Egyptian leadership and people, as well as the victims' families.

Also, the Cabinet condemned the Saturday's double car bombing in the Somali capital of Mogadishu killing and wounding scores of people, besides to the third one that targeted the Qatari Embassy in the city where the charge d'affaires was injured. The ministers reiterated backing to the "brothers" in Somalia and the steps they may take to restore stability to the country, offering condolences to the Republic's leadership and people. — KUNA

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## Local

# Kuwait hosts Int'l Conference on Women Leaders in Science, Technology

## 'Women's Empowerment with Science'

Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) held a press conference yesterday to announce the 10th edition of the International Conference on Women Leaders in Science, Technology and Engineering from Oct 23 to 25 under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. "Kuwait is going to host outstanding women leaders in science, medicine, engineering and technology from around the world, as well as women who hold high positions in government, companies and the industrial sector thanks to their scientific specialization," KFAS Director General Dr Adnan Shihab Eldin said.

During his speech, Shihab Eldin said that the conference, whose theme this year is 'Women's Empowerment with Science,' aims to promote the career development of women from diverse backgrounds in the fields of science, engineering and technology by presenting the success stories of famous women personalities and highlighting the effects of their career achievements and scientific production through workshops and panel discussions to establish professional abilities and skills.

He added that KFAS seeks to celebrate Kuwaiti women's scientific leadership in particular and that of regional and international women in general, as a reflection of its strategy to spread scientific culture and expand the awareness of society in the fields of science. Shihab Eldin noted the foundation's firm belief in the need to recognize the scientific achievements of individuals and play a role in the development of their abilities in order to encourage Kuwaitis to engage in scientific fields.

The conference is chaired by Dr Fayza Al-Kharafi, a member of the board of directors of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, winner of the Kuwait Science Award and the Laureus Award, and will be held in cooperation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the US State Department.

Chairman of the Scientific Committee Dr Amina Farhan, Senior Advisor to the Director General of KFAS and Head of the Physics Department, Kuwait University, said women's scientific leaders in academia, research institutions, government and industry are invited globally, regionally and locally to create an effective forum for women.

### Success stories

The agenda of the conference is divided into parallel sessions that highlight the success stories of inspirational women, such as Sheikha Lubna Al-Qasimi, the first Emirati minister at the ministry of economy and planning, and currently Minister of State for Tolerance and President of Zayed University; Jordanian Princess Sumaya bint Al Hassan, President of the Royal Society of Sciences and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Princess Sumaya University for Technology; Dr Samira Islam, who promoted higher education for girls in the early 1970s; and Dr Venice Kamel Gouda, a Research Professor at the National Research Center, who was awarded the Kuwait Award in 1986 and was honored by Egyptian President Abdelattah Al-Sisi with the Nile Award in 2016, the highest award in Egypt.

Also among the participants are Dr Rajaa Sharqawi El-Marsly, a Moroccan researcher in nuclear physics, who won the L'Oréal-UNESCO award for Women in Science; Shadia Rifa'i Habbal, a Syrian-American astronomer and physicist, who received a master's degree in physics from the American University of Beirut and played a key role in establishing the NASA Solar Probe; Annie Black, Deputy Executive Director of L'Oréal and Director General of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Program for Science-Leading Women in the Middle East, Gulf and Yemen; and Dr Celeste M Rohlfing, Chief Executive Officer of AAAS and Deputy Assistant Director of the National Foundation for Science (NSF). In Jan 2016, KFAS signed a memorandum of understanding with AAAS to support and promote the efforts of the two institutions to disseminate scientific knowledge.



**KUWAIT:** KFAS Director General Dr Adnan Shihab Eldin (center) speaks during the press conference. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Chamber hosts 'Small and Crafts Enterprises' fair

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) is hosting the 'Small and Crafts Enterprises' fair from Oct 16-18, 2017, with 42 small projects of companies and institutions participating. The exhibition is open to the public from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm on all three days. It is being held in cooperation with the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development, the Industrial Bank of Kuwait and the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs. The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait Business Center and Al-Baadir voluntary group are also participating, among others.

Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan, Second Vice Chairman of KCCI, said that the chamber always supports the youth. "This is the first fair that we have hosted to develop youth skills, giving them a chance to promote their projects, as they are considered the main pillar of Kuwait's economy. During my tour of the fair, I saw many impressive projects and inventions, which reflects a positive impression and bright future of the Kuwaiti youth," he said during the launch ceremony.

"Through this fair, we aim to encourage young Kuwaitis to work in the private sector

or start their own businesses. This leads to the development of countries and improves productive and industrial plans. We need to change the community from a consuming to a producing one," he added.

Kuwaitis have made intentional achievements. "Various inventions by young Kuwaitis have been produced internationally by China, Taiwan, United States and others. Some US states have adopted ideas of Kuwaiti inventors and produced them. We are proud of them. It's our role to promote, direct and support young people, and we even offer them training and hold exhibitions for them. We aim to let businessmen and companies know more about these youth inventors," concluded Wazzan.

Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, said such exhibitions bring together young inventors or those who have business ideas, and investors and companies, who have experience in the local market. This fair has various industries such as crafts, food and beverage, banking, real estate services and many others," she pointed out.

The Small and Crafts Enterprises fair is a great opportunity for young people who want to establish their own businesses. "During this fair, young creative people can meet investors and companies that can adopt their business ideas that need financing. This fair is an interactive space providing opportunities for the youth. The ministry is also preparing four new activities to be held soon as part of the 'Kuwait is the Capital of Youth' program. The ministry's policy is to turn the youth's ambitions into reality," explained Sheikha Al-Zain.



**KUWAIT:** Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan (right) and Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah inaugurate the event. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Hotels Owners Union sponsors 2018 Horeca

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hotels Owners Union (HOU) Ghazi Fahad Al-Nafisi hailed the continuous success achieved by Horeca Kuwait and its contribution to boosting the hospitality, catering and hotel equipment business, which he says supports the state's plans to achieve comprehensive touristic development, building new residential cities and launching new urban communities.

Nafisi said that HOU is glad to continue partnership with Leaders Group and the Hospitality Services Company to organize the 2018 Horeca exhibition, which is due to be held in the period in January 15-17, 2018 at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref. "This is a great step in the course of

developing the touristic sector and its role in providing more job opportunities for ambitious young men, while diversifying national income sources," he underlined.

Accordingly, Nafisi announced HOU's participation in 2018 Horeca as a golden sponsor: a decision it took in recognition to the exhibition's significance. In addition, Nafisi stressed that developing hotel occupancy and making use of Kuwaitis' individual spending patterns were significant elements in developing domestic tourism. He added that such challenges require from authorities concerned with setting the state's development plans and diversifying national income to cooperate in order to create more job opportunities and encourage ambitious graduates and entrepreneurs.



**Ghazi Al-Nafisi**

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Local

# Ghanem urges IPU to practice ethical power, counter Israel's violations

## Parliamentary diplomacy key to supporting Rohingya



SAINT PETERSBURG: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem addresses the IPU's 137th Session in Saint Petersburg, Russia. — KUNA

SAINT PETERSBURG: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem has called for the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to be turned into an "ethical authority" that can practice direct criticism, warning, admonition and freezing against members that do not commit themselves to the IPU's principles. Addressing the IPU's 137th Session in Saint Petersburg, Russia yesterday, Ghanem added that he could understand the belief and the desire not to turn the IPU into a "tribunal."

"However, in turn, pardon me, I find it hard to grasp how the alternative is turning (the IPU) into a chatting and theorizing forum. Is not there a third way?" he said. The Kuwaiti chief parliamentarian underlined the necessity of having an IPU with an ethical authority that can take the necessary measures against any member legislature that do not abide by the principles of the union's statute. Ghanem cited the Israeli violations against Palestinians over seven decades; occupying others' lands and building settlements in their cities and villages; killing unarmed people, and denying followers of other faiths to practice their rituals. These are neither ambiguous nor controversial matters, but they are as obvious as ever, with a huge deal of brutality, he said.

### Perpetual violations

Ghanem noted that he was not asking for emotional measures to be taken, but demanding "practicing of our (IPU's) ethical authority toward Israel's old, flagrant and perpetual violations, that are considered by all the resolutions of the international legitimacy "obvious violations of their collective principles."

He also referred to the Israel's concrete separation wall, built at the era of open spaces. "How crazy it is?" he proclaimed. He called for practicing all forms of

pressure on the Knesset, and activating the IPU's authority, as an entity that brings together representatives of the world people - looking forward to freedom, dignity and justice - to take the necessary measures to maintain the union's prestige and reputation and principles.

Referring to the "disaster" of the Rohingya Muslims, Ghanem said it offered the "most flagrant model of rejecting the other on ethnical, religious and cultural basis." Despite the repeated appeals and denunciations by the UN and the international community, the disaster is accelerating as the world is "merely watching," he said. He highly appreciated the IPU's members for their overwhelming vote in favor of comprising the Rohingyas' tragedy as an urgent item on the IPU conference agenda.

### Diplomacy succeeded

Ghanem had stated that the "parliamentary diplomacy" succeeded in adding the ordeal of the Rohingya Muslim minority to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference's agenda. The National Assembly of Kuwait co-proposed the addition of the Rohingya issue to the IPU conference's agenda, which was supported by 1,027 MPs. Winning this wide support "is not an easy task," said Al-Ghanem said in a press statement following the addition of the item. "It needs coordination and relations, as well as parliaments that are highly respected by the others in order to get this support," he added.

Ghanem thanked all those who supported the Rohingya issue, including parliaments of Britain, Germany and France "who, despite the fact they are not Muslims, supported the just causes." The suppression of the Rohingya required a firm stance by the parliaments of the world, he said. — KUNA

## Ooredoo announces new Breast Cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait announced the launch of its Breast Cancer awareness campaign under the title of "Fifteen Minutes" where it shows women that it only takes that amount of time to check themselves and make a difference. This campaign is aligned with Ooredoo's value of caring and also the strategy of empowering women; as women are one of the main pillars for Ooredoo Kuwait. In collaboration with Al-Seef hospital; Ooredoo Kuwait will also be giving all women 30 percent off on their annual mammograms until the end of the year.

Commenting on this initiative Mijbil Alayoub, Senior Director at Ooredoo Kuwait stressed that Ooredoo emphasizes its commitment towards women as they play a major role in the community and are also a main pillar of the society. "We are proud to collaborate with Al-Seef hospital; one of the leading health providers in Kuwait; to provide women with the best technology in health care. Women are our sisters; our mothers and our daughters who take up almost 50 percent of

our society and more importantly our hearts." Adding to this statement Al-Ayoub said "we are always proud to collaborate with other reputable institutes and entities to support our society."

Ooredoo Kuwait's building has one of the most technologically advanced screens in Kuwait which is used throughout the year to showcase many events and products. This month the screens have been painted pink to symbolize the breast cancer awareness ribbon.

TV presenter Hessa Al-Loghani and Social Influencer Bashayer Al-Shaibani have also taken part in this campaign by starring in the social media ad. The ad shows women how long their daily activities take in comparison to their annual checkup which is only fifteen minutes of their time. It can be viewed on all of Ooredoo Kuwait's social channels (Twitter; YouTube and Instagram). This campaign is just one of Ooredoo Kuwait's corporate commitments in contributing to society throughout its yearlong program of CSR activities.



Mijbil Alayoub



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Spanish government moves towards direct rule over Catalonia

## Cairo named most dangerous megacity for women



PONTEVEDRA, SPAIN: The wreckage of a burned bus is pictured after a fire in Chandebrito, near the town of Nigran, northwestern Spain yesterday. — AFP

# 34 killed as deadly wildfires rage in Portugal and Spain

## Blazes sparked by arsonists and fanned by Ophelia

**LISBON:** At least 31 people have died in fires which have ravaged forests in northern and central Portugal over the past 24 hours, rescuers said yesterday, as three people were killed in Spain in blazes sparked by arsonists and fanned by Hurricane Ophelia. In Portugal, Prime Minister Antonio Costa declared a state of emergency as more than 5,800 firefighters fought some 30 major fires still raging yesterday.

The deaths, confirmed by Portugal's national civil protection agency, came four months after 64 people were killed and more than 250 injured on June 17, in the deadliest fire in the country's history. Even before the latest blazes, nearly 216,000 hectares (530,000 acres) had been consumed by wildfires across the country between January and September, according to estimates from the country's forest service.

The 524 separate fire outbreaks registered on Sunday, by far the most since 2006, were caused by "higher than average temperatures for the season and the cumulative effect of drought, which has been felt since the start of the year", civil protection agency spokeswoman Patricia Gaspar said. 51 people have been wounded in the fires, 15 seriously, she added. One of the worst hit areas is near Lousa, in the Coimbra region, where 650 firefighters are battling blazes. "We went through absolute hell, it was horrible. There was fire everywhere," a resident of the

town of Penacova, near Coimbra, told RTP television. Two brothers in their 40s who were from her town and were trying to help put out the blaze were among the fatalities.

### 'Intentional fires'

In the northwestern Spanish region of Galicia, on the Portuguese border, authorities were blaming arson for about 17 fires which have caused three deaths. "They are absolutely intentional fires, premeditated, caused by people who know what they are doing," said Alberto Nunez Feijoo, the head of the Galicia regional government, who also announced Galicia would observe three days of mourning.

Yesterday, the "situation remained very worrying", Feijoo said, adding that firefighters along with soldiers and locals were battling the flames. Spanish Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido said in a tweet that "several people have been identified in connection to the fires in

Galicia". The fires were being fanned by wind gusts of up to 90 kilometers per hour as Hurricane Ophelia moved north off the coast of Spain towards Ireland. Zoido told private broadcaster La Sexta. "We have not had a situation like this in the past decade. We have never deployed so many means at this time of the year," he said.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, who is from Galicia, plans to visit the region later. Five wildfires near Vigo, Galicia's biggest city, forced the evacuation of a shopping mall and a PSA Peugeot Citroen factory on the outskirts of the city, though workers were

able to return to the factory yesterday. The flames had reached O Castro, a large hilltop park in the heart of Vigo with sweeping views of the city's estuary. Spanish public television station TVE reported. Two people also died inside their vehicle near Nigran, outside Vigo, as they tried to escape the flames. "It was very sudden, it was

crazy," the city's mayor said on television. In Carballeda de Avia, an elderly man was found dead near his shed behind his house.

### Schools shut

Images broadcast on Spanish TV showed local residents, their mouths and noses covered with handkerchiefs, trying to contain the flames with buckets and pans of water. The city of around 300,000 residents has opened up two sports centers and booked rooms in three hotels for people who had to evacuate their homes. At least 10 schools cancelled classes yesterday in Vigo because of the flames, local officials said. Spain's rail operator Renfe said it had cancelled train service between Vigo and Barcelona because of the wildfires, and several roads in Galicia were closed because of the flames, local officials said.

The national weather office is forecasting rain and cooler temperatures in Galicia, which officials hope will help put out the flames. Meteorologists say Ophelia is the most powerful hurricane recorded so far east in the Atlantic and the first since 1939 to travel so far north. Though Ophelia was downgraded to a storm before it hit the coast of Ireland, schools there were closed yesterday as the country braced for violent winds and rain, with the weather service warning people to remain indoors. —Agencies



## Wildfires wreak havoc, trigger evacuations

## Death toll from Somalia bomb attacks tops 300

**MOGADISHU:** More than 300 people died after twin bomb explosions in Mogadishu, an official said yesterday, as locals packed hospitals in search of friends and relatives caught up in Somalia's deadliest attack in a decade. The death toll has steadily risen since Saturday, when the blasts - for which no organization had claimed responsibility - struck at two busy junctions in the heart of the city.

"We have confirmed 300 people died in the blast. The death toll will still be higher because some people are still missing," Abdikadir Abdurahman, the director of the city's ambulance service, told Reuters yesterday. Aden Nur, a doctor at the city's Medina hospital, said they had recorded 258 deaths while Ahmed Ali, a nurse at the nearby Osman Fiqi hospital, told Reuters five bodies had been sent there. Nur said 160 of the bodies could not be recognized. "(They) were buried by the government yesterday. The others were buried by their relatives. Over a hundred injured were also brought here," he told Reuters at the hospital.

Some of the injured were being evacuated by air to Turkey for treatment, officials said. Locals visiting their injured relatives or collecting their bodies filled every available space in Medina hospital. "My last time to speak with

my brother was some minutes before the blast occurred. By then he told me, he was on the way to meet and was passing at K5," Halima Nur, a local mother, told Reuters, referring to one of the junctions that was struck. "I am afraid he was among the unrecognized charred bodies that were buried yesterday. I have no hope of getting him alive or dead. But I cannot go home."

### Deadliest insurgency

Saturday bomb attacks were the deadliest since Islamist militant group al Shabaab began an insurgency in 2007. Neither it nor any other group had claimed responsibility, but al Shabaab, which is allied to al Qaeda, stages regular attacks in the capital and other parts of the country. The group is waging an insurgency against Somalia's UN-backed government and its African Union allies in a bid to impose its own strict interpretation of Islam. The militants were driven out of Mogadishu in 2011 and have been steadily losing territory since then to the combined forces of AU peacekeepers and Somali security forces.

But al Shabaab retains the capacity to mount large, complex bomb attacks. Over the past three years, the number of civilians killed by insurgent bombings has steadily climbed as al Shabaab increases the size of its bombs. Some of those seriously injured in Saturday's bombing were moved by ambulance to the airport yesterday morning to be flown to Turkey for further treatment, Nur added. Workers unloaded boxes of medicine and other medical supplies from a Turkish military plane parked on the tarmac, while Turkish medical teams attended to the cases of injuries moved from the hospital for evacuation. — Reuters



MOGADISHU: Picture shows a general view of the scene of the explosion of a truck bomb in the centre of Mogadishu. — AFP

International

# Iraq's security forces seize Kurdish-held city of Kirkuk

## US-trained elite force among units engaged in operation

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi government forces captured the Kurdish-held city of Kirkuk yesterday, responding to a Kurdish vote on independence with a bold lightning strike that transforms the balance of power in the country. A convoy of armored vehicles from Iraq's elite US-trained Counter-Terrorism Force seized the city's provincial government headquarters yesterday afternoon, less than a day after the operation began, a Reuters reporter in Kirkuk said. A dozen armored vehicles arrived at the building and took up positions nearby, alongside local police. They pulled down the Kurdish flag and left the Iraqi flag flying.

Neither side gave a casualty toll for the operation. But an aid organization working in Kirkuk said several Peshmerga and members of the Iraqi forces had been killed in an overnight clash south of Kirkuk - the only serious fighting reported. Some Kurdish civilians were fleeing the city of 1 million people in fear of reprisals.

Crowds of ethnic Turkmen who opposed Kurdish control of the city were celebrating. Some drove in convoys with Iraqi flags and fired shots in the air.

"This day should become a holiday, we're so happy to have gotten rid of Barzani's party," said a man celebrating on a motorbike, waving the blue-and-white flag of Iraq's Turkmen, referring to the Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi ordered that the Iraqi flag be hoisted over Kirkuk and other disputed areas claimed by both the central government and the Kurds, who defied Baghdad to hold a vote for independence on Sept 25.

Baghdad described the advance as largely unopposed, and urged the Kurdish security forces known as Peshmerga to cooperate in keeping the peace. The Peshmerga said Baghdad would be made to pay "a heavy price" for triggering "war on the Kurdistan people". Washington called for calm on both sides, seeking to avert an all-out conflict between Baghdad and the Kurds that would open a whole new front in Iraq's 14-year-old civil war and potentially draw in regional powers such as Turkey and Iran.

The overnight advance was the most decisive step Baghdad has taken yet to block the independence bid of the Kurds, who have governed an autonomous part of

northern Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003 and voted three weeks ago to secede. Kirkuk, one of the most ethnically and religiously diverse cities in Iraq, is located just outside the autonomous Kurdish zone. Kurds consider it the heart of their homeland; they say it was cleansed of Kurds and settled with Arabs under Saddam to secure control of the oil that was the source of Iraq's wealth.

State TV said Iraqi forces had also entered Tuz Khurmatu, a flashpoint town where there had been clashes between Kurds and mainly Shiite Muslims of Turkmen ethnicity. The "government of Abadi bears the main responsibility for triggering war on the Kurdistan people, and will be made to pay a heavy price", the Peshmerga command said in a statement, cited by Kurdish leader Barzani's assistant Hemin Hawrami.

A Kurdish father of four who was driving out of Kirkuk towards the Kurdish regional capital Erbil said: "We no longer feel safe. We hope to return to our home but right now we feel it's dangerous for us to stay." Washington, which arms and trains both Iraqi federal forces and the Kurdish Peshmerga to fight Islamic State militants, called on "all parties to immediately cease military action and restore calm", according to a US Embassy statement.

"ISIS (Islamic State) remains the true enemy of Iraq, and we urge all parties to remain focused on finishing the liberation of their country from this menace." The military action in Kirkuk helped spur a jump in world oil prices yesterday. Oilfields near Kirkuk halted production, but Baghdad said it would be quickly restarted. "We've got confirmation from military commanders that it's a matter of a very short time," a senior Baghdad oil official told Reuters. "Our brave forces will regain control of all Kirkuk oilfields and then we will restart production immediately."

### Secession opposed

Baghdad considers last month's Kurdish independence vote illegal, especially as it was held not just in the autonomous region but in Kirkuk and other neighboring areas the Kurdish Peshmerga occupied after driving out Islamic State. The Kurdish secession bid was strongly



**KIRKUK:** Iraqi civilians gather as Iraqi forces arrive in the first neighborhood on the southern outskirts of Kirkuk yesterday. —AFP

opposed by neighbors Iran and Turkey. Washington, allied with the Kurds for decades, pleaded vainly for them to halt a vote that could break up Iraq. There were signs of internal conflict among the Kurds, who have been divided for decades into two main factions, the KDP of regional government leader Barzani and the PUK of his longtime rival Jalal Talabani, who served as Iraq's ceremonial president in Baghdad from 2003-2014 and died two weeks ago.

Both Kurdish parties control their own Peshmerga units. While Barzani's KDP strongly supported the independence referendum, some PUK figures were more circumspect. Yesterday's Peshmerga statement accused a group within the PUK of "treason" for assisting Baghdad's advance. "We regret that some PUK officials helped in this plot," it said. Although Iraqi officials portrayed the Kurds

as retreating without a fight, Kurdish officials said Peshmerga had clashed with the "Popular Mobilization" - Shiite Muslim forces trained and armed by Iran that operate alongside regular Iraqi troops.

### Fate unsettled

The status of Kirkuk and fate of the Kurds were left unsettled 14 years ago when a US-led invasion toppled Saddam. During the years of US occupation that ensued, Washington leaned on its Kurdish allies to keep their ambitions in check to avoid triggering another war amid an insurgency by Sunni Muslim Arabs. After Islamic State swept across a third of Iraq in 2014 and were subsequently driven out, the Kurds found themselves in their strongest position on the ground for generations. —Reuters

## To beat Militants, Syrian force goes back to the basics

**RAQQA:** Once the last Islamic State group fighters are ousted from Syria's Raqqa, the unconventional forces battling the jihadists say they'll have batteries and masking tape to thank for their victory. The Syrian Democratic Forces on the verge of seizing IS's former bastion Raqqa have received sophisticated support from the US-led coalition, including air strikes, weaponry, and intelligence. But winning their months-long offensive against the jihadists, they say, required going back to basics. In a cavernous warehouse just east of Raqqa's Old City, SDF fighters sit cross-legged on a dusty rug piled high with cylinder-shaped three-volt batteries, masking tape, empty cigarette packs and loose wires.

The materials are used to make primitive powerbanks to charge the walkie-talkies that SDF commanders rely on to communicate with each other across Raqqa's frontlines. As artillery fire and air strikes echo in the background, the assembly line gets to work. One fighter stacks eight batteries into a brick-like shape while another prepares the tape that will hold them together. A third peels the aluminum foil from white cigarette packs—perfect for a conductor—and begins taping it to the wires he snipped from the walls of the battered building. "Our positions have to be in touch 24 hours per day with these walkie-talkies, but they're not that great," says local SDF commander Sevger Himo.

### 'Mother of invention'

Built-in batteries last just three hours, which forced SDF commanders to switch them off between coordinating storming operations, defensive rocket fire, or civilian rescues. But with the hand-made battery packs, walkie-talkies stay charged for up to two straight days. The powerbanks are ubiquitous in battle-ravaged Raqqa, including in frontline positions near the city's hospital and football stadiums, two of IS's last redoubts in the city. SDF fighters advancing there are often isolated for days from rear bases, making fully-charged walkie-talkies their only link to the outside world. "This has saved lives more than once. Necessity is the mother of invention, as they say," says Himo, a young fighter with a boyish face. "National armies have their own factories, but we're a military force without much international support—so we rely on things we can get in the market and



**AYN TARMA, Syria:** Smoke billows from buildings following a reported air strike on Ayn Tarma in the Eastern Ghouta area, a rebel stronghold east of the Syrian capital yesterday. —AFP

## Malaysian teacher seen as new 'emir' of pro-IS militants

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The battlefield deaths of two leaders of an Islamic State alliance in the southern Philippines could thrust a Malaysian who trained at an Al-Qaeda camp in Afghanistan as the militant group's new regional "emir", experts and officials say. Intelligence officials describe Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad as a financier and recruiter, who helped put together the coalition of pro-Islamic State (IS) fighters that stormed Marawi City in May. Isnlon Hapilon, Islamic State's anointed "emir" in Southeast Asia, and Omarkhayam Maute, one of two Middle East-educated brothers at the helm of the militant alliance, were killed in a raid on a building in Marawi and their bodies recovered yesterday, Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

Philippine authorities said they were still searching for Mahmud. "Based on our information, there is still one personality, Dr Mahmud of Malaysia, and he is still in the main battle area with some Indonesians and Malaysians," military chief,

Gen Eduardo Ano, said yesterday. "But their attitude is now different, they are no longer as aggressive as before." He did not elaborate. Ano urged the 30 militants remaining in a shrinking combat zone to surrender and free hostages as troops stepped up their fight.

Abdullah Maute, the alliance's military commander, was reported killed in August, though no body was found. Intelligence officials in Malaysia believe Mahmud left Marawi months ago. Malaysia's police counter-terrorism chief Ayob Khan Mydin Pitchay told Reuters in July that Mahmud "managed to sneak out from Marawi city to another safe place with his followers". The 39-year-old Mahmud, who holds a doctorate in religious studies and was a university lecturer in Kuala Lumpur, was Hapilon's second-in-command in the IS's Southeast Asia "caliphate", according to a July report by Indonesia-based Institute of Policy Analysis and Conflict (IPAC).

### Recruitment and financing

Sitting in the inner circle of the Marawi command centre, Mahmud controlled recruitment and financing, the IPAC report said. He was the contact for foreigners wanting to join the fight in the Philippines or with IS in the Middle East, it said. "It wasn't just Indonesians and Malaysians contacting Dr Mahmud ... he was also the contact for Bangladeshis in Malaysia who wanted to join the fighting in Mindanao."

IPAC's director Sidney Jones told Reuters. Rohan Gunaratna, an analyst at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, described Mahmud as "the most important IS leader in Southeast Asia". Ahmad El-Muhammady, a lecturer at the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) and a counter-terrorism advisor to the police, said Mahmud often solicited funds for IS operations. "He's always the one asking people "does anyone have any money they'd like to donate?", and he will usually reply when followers in the region ask him about the situation in the Philippines," Ahmad said.

### 'Just disappeared'

Mahmud grew up in Batu Caves, a crowded Kuala Lumpur suburb, famous for a Hindu temple housed in a large complex of caverns. Mahmud's wife and three children were last known to be living there, although Reuters could not locate them. Before leaving Malaysia in 2014, Mahmud taught young Muslim students at a tahfiz, a school to memorize the Koran, in Nakhoda, a village near Batu Caves, residents said. "When he (Mahmud) started the school, he did stay there for the first one or two years, but then he just disappeared," said 50-year-old Zainon Mat Arshad, a Nakhoda resident who went to the mosque where Mahmud prayed. "When he was at the tahfiz school, he kept mostly to himself and if he had come over to pray on Friday, I don't think anyone would have recognized him," said Zainon. "He didn't mingle with the local community." —Reuters



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## International

## Spain govt moves towards direct rule over Catalonia

## Catalan leader fails to respond to ultimatum from Madrid

**MADRID:** Catalan authorities must drop a bid for independence by Thursday, the Spanish government said, moving closer to imposing direct rule over the region after its leader missed an initial deadline to back down. In a confrontation viewed with mounting unease in European capitals and markets, Carles Puigdemont failed yesterday to respond to an ultimatum from Madrid to clarify if he had declared independence. A regional broadcaster said he also planned to ignore a second deadline on Thursday. Plunging Spain into its worst political crisis since an attempted military coup in 1981, Catalan voters backed a breakaway in a referendum on Oct 1 that Spain's Constitutional Court said was illegal.

On that basis, Puigdemont made and then suspended a symbolic declaration of independence last Tuesday, calling for negotiations on the region's future. Madrid had given him until 10:00 am to clarify his position on independence with a "Yes" or "No", and until Thursday to change his mind if he insisted on a split - saying it would suspend Catalonia's

autonomy if he chose secession. Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria said he had not answered the question and had to do so by Thursday. "Mr Puigdemont ... must answer 'yes' or 'no' to the declaration," she said.

Catalan broadcaster TV3 cited unnamed sources as saying Puigdemont did not intend to respond on Thursday, but would maintain an offer of dialogue. A Catalan government spokesman could not confirm the report. In a letter to Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy made public yesterday, Puigdemont did not directly answer on the independence issue, instead making a "sincere and honest" offer for dialogue between the two men over the next two months.

In reply, Rajoy said Puigdemont's stance had brought Madrid closer to triggering Article 155 of the constitution, under which it can impose direct rule on any of the coun-

try's 17 autonomous communities if they break the law. Also suggesting Puigdemont and his team were in no mood to follow Rajoy's game plan, Catalan interior chief Joaquim Forn said Article 155 would not allow Madrid to remove members of the Catalan government.

## Broader secessionist concerns?

The Catalan government says 90 percent of voters in the referendum backed a breakaway, but turnout was only 43 percent as most opponents of independence in the region boycotted it. While that points to a lukewarm endorsement of Puigdemont's intentions, EU authorities remain concerned that the test of strength between Madrid and Barcelona might impel moves towards secession elsewhere in the bloc.

European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker said on Friday that Catalan independence would encourage other regions to follow suit, potentially making the European Union ungovernable. With some of the region's largest companies having already shifted their head offices elsewhere and others undertaking to follow if Puigdemont declares independence, investors believe a political split could undermine Spain's economic rebound. As Spanish bonds and stocks sold off yesterday, major Cava producer Codorniu Raventos added its name to the list, saying it had moved from Barcelona to Spain's La Rioja region due to "legal and political uncertainty."

The terms of Article 155 on direct rule, which has never been applied, are vague. It says that when a region does not meet its constitutional obligations or other laws, or goes against the general interest, the government "can adopt any measure needed to force those obligations to be met" once receiving approval from Spain's lower house. The article's wording suggests that would include anything

## Prosecutors want Catalan police chief detained



**MADRID:** Catalan police chief Josep Lluís Trapero (right of group) leaves the national court during a break in Madrid yesterday. A Spanish prosecutor is asking for Catalonia's regional police chief to be jailed in a sedition case. — AP

from taking control of regional police and finances to installing a new governing team or calling a snap election.

A legal source said state prosecutors had asked for Catalan police chief Josep Lluís Trapero to be detained in prison pending questioning over whether his force deliberately failed to enforce the court's referendum ban. A judge would rule on the request later, the source said. Trapero

was put under formal investigation for sedition after failing to order the Mossos d'Esquadra to rescue Civil Guard police who were trapped inside a Catalan government building in Barcelona by tens of thousands of pro-independence protesters. The heads of civic groups Asambleia Nacional Catalana and Omnium will also testify over their role in organizing those protests. — Reuters

## News in brief

## Terror as flight turns

**SYDNEY:** An AirAsia flight from Australia to Indonesia was forced to turn back to Perth after losing cabin pressure, with passengers yesterday recounting their terror as oxygen masks dropped from the ceiling. Air Asia said the plane suffered a "technical issue" with Australian media reporting that the aircraft had to quickly drop from 32,000 feet to 10,000 feet 25 minutes after take-off. Video circulating online shows distressed passengers wearing oxygen masks with an alarm blaring and AirAsia staff calling for people to assume the brace position. "I picked up my phone and sent a text message to my family, just hoping that they would get it," one tearful passenger named Leah told Channel Nine television. "It was horrible." Another holidaymaker said not knowing what was going on heightened fears. "We didn't know what was happening because all the voice recordings on the plane where in every language but English," she said.

## Greek sex change law

**ATHENS:** Churches in a western Greek region will ring funeral bells every day until Saturday to protest a new law that makes it easier for people to change their legally recognized gender, clerics said yesterday. Greece's parliament passed a law last week which allows people over 15 to change their gender on official documents with a court ruling, without requiring medical tests or sterilization as was the case until now. The bill laid bare divisions within the left-right coalition government and led to debates between the ruling leftist party and the conservative opposition. It has also angered the powerful Orthodox Church, which demanded it be withdrawn. Clerics of the Orthodox Diocese of Kalavryta and Egialia decided that churches in their region will ring the funeral toll for three minutes every day until Oct 21. Yesterday, Skai TV showed a banner on the facade of a church in the city of Egio reading "Christian morals have been murdered" as church bells rang in mourning.

## Vietnam death toll hits 72

**HANOI:** Vietnam yesterday braced for fresh storms as the official death toll from last week's floods and landslides rose to 72. Downpours lashed much of northern and central Vietnam last week, causing floods and landslides that killed dozens, wiped out thousands of homes and left at least 30 missing in one of the country's worst weather disasters for years. The desperate search for the missing continued yesterday, with officials trying to clear roads as Tropical Depression Khanun barreled towards northern Vietnam. Forecasters said Khanun has weakened from a typhoon after passing south of Hong Kong. But it threatens to bring heavy rain and more misery to areas already hard hit by floods and landslides, including Hoa Binh province where 23 died last week. The province declared a state of emergency on Monday over warnings that more landslides could occur as Khanun approached. "Provinces are concentrating efforts and equipment on improving traffic," the Disaster Management Authority said Monday, giving the latest death toll.

## 33 died in Nairobi

**NAIROBI:** At least 33 people died in the Kenyan capital Nairobi during a police crackdown on opposition supporters after elections in August, including a child and a pregnant woman, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said yesterday. Protests erupted after President Uhuru Kenyatta was declared winner over opposition leader Raila Odinga in the vote. The Supreme Court later voided the result. Odinga has withdrawn from a re-run on Oct 26, leaving Kenyatta as the only candidate, prompting further protests. Kenyan police disputed the rights groups' report, which brings the nationwide death toll in the crackdown to at least 45.

## Conservative's shift opens path to power for Austria far right

**VIENNA:** Austria's shift to the right in a parliamentary election has paved the way for young conservative star Sebastian Kurz to become the country's next leader and opened a path for the resurgent far right to return to power. The People's Party, which named 31-year-old Foreign Minister Kurz its leader only in May, secured a clear victory on Sunday with a hard line on immigration that left little space between it and the anti-Islam Freedom Party (FPÖ).

That party was founded by former Nazis and is a sister to France's National Front and Germany's AfD, both of which were also buoyed by voter concerns about Europe's migration crisis in 2015. Kurz is well short of a majority and will probably need a coalition partner to govern. Having pledged to move away from often deadlocked coalitions with the centre-left like the one currently in power, an alliance with the FPÖ is likely.

Austria was a gateway into Germany for more than a million people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and elsewhere in 2015. It made the neutral country fertile ground for parties out to halt the influx. That propelled Kurz into first place ahead of his current coalition partners, Chancellor Christian Kern's Social Democrats. The FPÖ and Social Democrats were in a close race for second that will be settled by a record number of postal ballots that were being counted. Kurz champions tough enforcement of the EU's borders and helped broker border restrictions through the Balkans that largely shut what was then the main migrant route into Europe. He has, however, kept his coalition options open. "Neither a coalition with the FPÖ nor one with the SPÖ has been agreed," Kurz told broadcaster ORF shortly after projections showed his party had won Sunday's election. But the likelihood of the FPÖ entering government with Kurz's conservatives for the first time since 2000 concerned politicians across Europe.

At that time, a horrified European Union slapped short-lived sanctions on Austria for letting the FPÖ share power. It was then led by the late Joerg Haider, who gained infamy for praising the employment policies of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, who was born in Austria. Austria's shift to the right came after German voters last month punished Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door policy for migrants, pushing her conservative bloc to its worst showing since 1949 and putting the far-right AfD party in parliament. Merkel said the strong FPÖ showing was a "big challenge" for other

## Pro-Biafran leader missing on the eve of treason trial

**LAGOS:** The leader of a pro-Biafran separatist group in Nigeria has apparently gone missing, prompting speculation as to his whereabouts on the eve of his trial on treason charges. Nnamdi Kanu, who heads the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) movement, has not been seen in public since troops were deployed to the southeastern city of Umuahia last month. Kanu, who wants a separate state for the Igbo people who dominated the country's southeast, has been on bail since April. He is scheduled to appear in court in Abuja on Tuesday. His lawyer, Ifeanyi Ejirofor said: "Only the army can tell us where he is. Either they arrested him or they killed him. If he is alive, they should bring him to the court on Tuesday." Justice ministry spokesman Salihu Othman Isah said whether the trial goes ahead depends on Kanu's appearance and the judge. "I can't tell you specifically what will happen," he added.



**VIENNA:** Austria's Foreign Minister and leader of Austria's centre-right People's Party (DeVP) Sebastian Kurz waves to supporters during the party's election event following the general elections yesterday. — AFP

parties and she hoped for close cooperation with Kurz at a European level. Alexander Lamsdorff, a senior member of Germany's pro-business Free Democrats that are a possible coalition partner for Merkel, called the Austrian election results "a wake-up call for refugee policy that we finally have to organize together." "An orderly refugee policy is what people want, in Austria, in Germany, in other European countries," Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto congratulated Kurz for his win, welcoming his stance on migration as close to that of Budapest. He said he expected anti-immigration eastern EU states Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic to work more closely with Austria now.

## Hard line

Kurz is on track to become one of the world's youngest leaders after securing around 32 percent. His hard line resonated with many voters who felt Austria was overrun in the migration crisis—it took in roughly 1 percent of its population in asylum seekers in 2015. Under current leader Heinz-Christian Strache, the FPÖ has become a more

## Bullet holes

Kanu's disappearance has prompted renewed fears of violence in the restive southeast, which remains tense 50 years after a declaration of independence sparked a brutal civil war. He was first arrested in October 2015 and held in custody until April this year, despite repeated court rulings that he should be released. In Umuahia, which was once the capital of the self-styled republic of Biafra and where Kanu spent his childhood, the windows of the family home have been blown out.

The ochre walls and the cars parked in front of the building are pitted with bullet holes, according to an AFP correspondent in the city. Kanu's younger brother, Prince Emmanuel Kanu, maintains he was at the compound when soldiers attacked it on September 14. He said 28 people were killed but the army has denied the claim. Neither claim has been verified independently. "They were so numerous. They started to shoot from 200 metres (650 feet) away," Prince Emmanuel told AFP by telephone. "People were running for their lives. We had no guns with us." Prince Emmanuel said the military was holding his brother in secret. The government has dismissed the claim and said he was "hiding" somewhere.

## Long-standing resentment

Nigeria officially declared IPOB a "terrorist organi-

zation" in mid-September after violent clashes between the security forces and IPOB supporters.

Members of the group were accused of attacking military checkpoints in Umuahia, which is the capital of Abia state, and the state's commercial hub, Aba. There was also violence in Port Harcourt, which is the capital of the neighboring state of Rivers and Nigeria's main oil hub. Officially, the military said the troop deployment was part of its Operation Python Dance against crime in the region. IPOB said it was designed to curb its activities.

Human rights organizations and analysts believe the authorities' response has exacerbated tensions in a region where separatist sentiment has never really disappeared. Many in the southeast say the region's lack of basic infrastructure and extreme poverty is a "punishment" for what happened in 1967. The charismatic Kanu, who is in his 50s, knew how to exploit those frustrations. He revived Radio Biafra and used to broadcast calls for independence from his home in London. Those calls increased after his arrest and sparked repeated demonstrations. Even after his release on bail, he rarely passed up a chance to whip up his crowds of supporters. Kanu wants a referendum on self-determination and has called for a boycott all forthcoming elections. — AFP



International

# Delhi and Sao Paulo worst megacities for sex attacks

## Cairo named most dangerous megacity for women

NEW DELHI: Five years after the fatal gang rape of a student on a bus in New Delhi, the Indian capital was yesterday paired with Brazil's Sao Paulo as the world's worst megacities for sexual violence against women in a poll by the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The December 2012 attack of a 23-year-old woman was a watershed in the fight for women's rights in India, the world's largest democracy, prompting thousands to take to the streets demanding action against rising sex attacks.

The public outcry not only forced authorities to strengthen gender laws, establish speedy courts for rape and set up a fund for rape victims, but also opened up the conversation on sexual violence in the largely conservative, patriarchal nation. However Delhi - a metropolis of more than 26 million people remains known as India's "rape capital". And alongside Sao Paulo, it came joint bottom in the survey when experts on women's issues were polled about the risk women run of encountering sexual violence in 19 different megacities.

"I'm not surprised by the results as they're based on perceptions. India and Brazil have seen a lot of media attention on sexual violence in recent years," said Rebecca Reichmann Tavares, head of UN Women in India who also worked in Brazil. "Sexual violence in both these cities is, of course, a reality, but there isn't any definitive data to suggest that rates are higher in Delhi and Sao Paulo than any other city." The survey asked 380 experts in cities with populations of more than 10 million to assess the risk of sexual violence and harmful cultural practices to women, as well as rank women's access to health care and economic opportunities. The Egyptian capital Cairo was rated the most dangerous city for women overall and rated third worst for sexual violence, followed by Mexico city and Dhaka. Tokyo was seen as the safest city for women in terms of sexual violence.

### High-profile rapes

Public awareness on sex attacks in Delhi has surged since the Delhi bus attack and thrown a global spotlight on gender violence in the world's second most populous nation. Indian newspapers offer a daily array of sex crimes. Girls molested in school, professional women raped by taxi drivers while

commuting home, village teens duped, trafficked and sold to brothels in the red-light districts of cities.

Brazilians are fed a similar diet, with multiple reports of assaults on women and girls in Sao Paulo - Brazil's most populous city with 21 million people, according to UN figures. In September, thousands of Brazilian women took to social media to demand better support and access to justice after a series of sex attacks on buses where the accused were released due to a lack of evidence. In one case, the released man was re-arrested two days later after he was accused of attacking another woman on a bus. "I do not believe in the system. If I file a police report, I'm afraid the accused will come after me," said Clara Averbuck, a writer who was assaulted by a taxi driver and started an online campaign - #MyAbuserDriver - that went viral.

### Checkpoints, safety apps

In India, authorities have been forced to act. This includes stricter punishments for gender crimes, a 24-hour women's helpline and fast-track courts for rape cases as well as a fund to finance crisis centers for victims. Women's desks in many of the city's police stations have been established, thousands of police received gender sensitization classes, and there is increased patrolling, surveillance and more checkpoints across Delhi at night. Companies, charities, students and even individuals have also launched countless initiatives - from smart phone safety apps and gender lessons for taxi and auto-rickshaw drivers to women's self-defense classes and female cab services. Voracious media reporting on sex crimes in both countries has helped break the silence, shame and fear of rape, but reports of sex crimes continue to rise.

There were 2,155 rapes recorded in Delhi in 2016 - a rise of 67 percent from 2012, according to police data. London was ranked as the most woman-friendly, then Tokyo and Paris. Women's rights campaigners in Cairo said traditions dating back centuries made it a tough city, with discrimination rife. "We're still operating under a conservative country and it's hard to take any radical progressive steps in the area of women and women's laws," said Omaima Abou-Baker, co-founder of the Cairo-based campaign group Women and

## London, Tokyo, Paris seen as the best for women



CHAMPAHATI, India: Indian workers makes firecrackers for the upcoming Diwali festival at a workshop in Champahati around 35 Km south of Kolkata. —AFP

Memory Forum. "Everything about the city is difficult for women. We see women struggling in all aspects. Even a simple walk on the street, and they are subjected to harassment, whether verbal or even physical," said high-profile Egyptian journalist and women's rights campaigner Shahira Amin.

Sao Paulo had 2,287 rapes reported in July this year compared to 2,868 in all 2016, according to government figures, but Brazilian think-tank, the Institute of Applied Economic Research, estimates only 10 percent of rape cases are reported. Gislaire Caresia, coordinator of policies for women at Sao Paulo's city hall, said authorities were looking for private partners to implement a project to track violence against women which could help indicate how to target the crime.

"Everyone has this perception that domestic and family violence has increased but we do not have specific data of it," Caresia told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. In a slum in Delhi's outskirts, auto-rickshaw driver Suresh sits on a

bed in a one-roomed concrete house, telling how his teenage sister was dragged to a nearby wasteland and raped by a neighbor as she walked home from college in March. "This city is unsafe. We know it is, but what am I supposed to do? Am I supposed to lock her up?," he said. "We see the stories every day in the news. Nothing has changed since the Delhi gang rape. Nothing."

Authorities attribute the surge in numbers to more victims reporting crimes, rather than more sexual violence occurring. Activists say it is probably a combination of both. Campaigners said sex attacks were often not reported due to the "dishonor" associated with rape, as well as a lack of faith in a male-dominated, often insensitive police and judicial system. "For too long, the perpetrators have acted with a sense of impunity. Certainty of punishment is the best deterrent," said Rishi Kant, a supreme court lawyer and activist from Shakti Vahini, a Delhi-based charity that supports victims. —Agencies

# Indonesia considers ban on 'destructive' LGBT contents, ads

JAKARTA: Days after a long-running Indonesian television comedy aired last month, its producers got a letter from the broadcast commission warning that a male character in the show was "dressed and behaving like a woman" and could violate broadcasting standards. "We evaluated the show ... We immediately reminded our staff to be careful because we are minimizing LGBT content on our network," said Anita Wulandari Prasojo, head of

marketing and public relations at Trans7, the private television station that aired the show "Opera van Java" last month.

She may have to do more than that in the future. Indonesia's parliament is considering national legislation that would ban lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) content from TV screens by the end of the year. The draft bill, which Reuters reviewed, would revise the broadcasting law to scrub content

with "LGBT behavior". Broadcasts and advertisements that show "lesbian, homosexual, bisexual and transgender behavior" would be banned. It does not explicitly define "LGBT behavior".

Lawmakers told Reuters the ban could include dramas with gay characters, traditional folk or comedic performances with cross-dressing or "effeminate" men, and broadcasts advocating LGBT rights. It would be the latest measure targeting the LGBT community in a rising tide of hostility in the world's third-largest democracy. Indonesian police last week briefly detained 51 people, including eight foreigners, at a "gay spa" in Jakarta, one of several raids targeting the LGBT community.

### 'An abnormality'

"LGBT is not criminal, but if it enters the public sphere, if it's broadcast to the public, then of course it must be regulated," said Bobby Rizaldi, a member of parliament involved in drafting the law. Another MP, Hanafi Rais, said "LGBT is an abnormality". "It is destructive for our younger generations. If the content has no educational qualities, and is only for commercial or advertising purposes, then we must reject it," Hanafi said. If the content was aimed at "fixing the abnormality", then it would be allowed, he added. The United Nations human rights office on Friday condemned anti-gay crackdowns in Indonesia, Egypt, and Azerbaijan. "Arresting or detaining

people based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity is by definition arbitrary and violates international law," UN human rights spokesperson Rupert Colville told a news briefing.

In May, police detained 141 men at another gay sauna, and reportedly strip-searched them before marching them almost naked from the venue into police vehicles. Photos were then shared on social media in what activists considered an abuse of power and violation of privacy. Police have used a controversial anti-pornography law that outlaws any physical display of sexual relations to justify the raids. Activists say the law is too sweeping and can be abused to target the LGBT minority. —Reuters

# Philippines vows to crush pro-IS groups

MANILA: The Philippines' military chief vowed no letup yesterday in hunting down and destroying extremist groups loyal to Islamic State, saying Marawi City would be retaken within days after the pivotal killing of two top rebel commanders. General Eduardo Ano said the successful operation to take out the two leaders was a "triumph of good over evil" and urged the 30 militants remaining in a shrinking combat zone to surrender and free hostages as troops stepped up their fight.

"It will be just a matter of days before it will finally be declared that Marawi has been liberated from the clutches of terrorists," Ano told a televised news conference. "There will be no let up. It's about time to end these terrorists." Isnilon Hapilon, Islamic State's appointed "emir" in Southeast Asia, was shot in the head by a sniper and Omarkhayam Maute, one of two Middle East-educated "Khalifas" at the helm of the militant alliance, died of a chest wound in a targeted operation during the night, officials said.

The mission came after a freed hostage disclosed the leaders' location. Ano said the bodies had been recovered and identified by experts and by captured rebels. The deaths of Hapilon and Maute is a major win for a military criticized for its slow progress in retaking Marawi and the ease with which rebels laid siege to it on May 23, before holding the heart of the city for nearly five months. The United States has for years offered a bounty of up to \$5 million for the elusive Hapilon over his activities as a faction leader of Abu Sayyaf, a group notorious for kidnaping, piracy and for beheading hostages, including foreigners.

Experts say Hapilon was an Islamist ideologue who took fighters from his faction to join forces with the Maute



MARAWI: Philippine military chief General Eduardo Ano shows images of slain militant leaders Isnilon Hapilon (right) and Omarkhayam Maute during a press conference yesterday. —AFP

clan, a well-funded extremist group on the island of Mindanao that emerged only last year. Abdullah Maute, the alliance's military commander, was reported killed in August, though no body was found. Ano said another key operative, Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad, was believed to be in the battle zone. The leaders have been central to rebels regrouping, re-arming and recruiting after previous clashes over the past two years, growing stronger each time.

The alliance, Dawla Islamiya, has been bolstered by fighters from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Middle East, among other countries. Experts say foreigners have aided funding and recruiting, preying on vulnerable youth, as shown by the presence of teenagers and child soldiers in Marawi.

### Crumbling alliance

The military will target the destruction of all groups tied to Islamic State by the end of the year, Ano said. "There will be no let-up. It's about time to end these terrorists in Mindanao. The resistance, or what's left of it, the terrorists, will crumble. It is a dead end, there is nowhere else to go," Rommel

Banlaoi, head of the Philippine Institute for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, warned of retaliatory attacks from leaders' deputies, who would assume control. He described yesterday's operation as a "tremendous setback" to Islamic State loyalists, but said security forces should avoid complacency, boost intelligence and tackle recruitment. "We have seen many times in the past, the death of key leaders will not prevent the terrorist organizations from wreaking havoc," Banlaoi told news channel ANC.

More than 300,000 Filipinos have been displaced by the fighting, which authorities say has killed 824 rebels, 47 civilians and 162 military. The occupation has been the biggest internal security crisis in the Catholic-majority Philippines for years, compounding fears that Islamic State's extremist agenda and its advanced recruitment methods are more widespread than previously thought. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said defense chiefs would assess whether to lift martial law in Mindanao. He said all cities on the island of 22 million people were vulnerable to attack, but authorities were vigilant. — Reuters

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The Bidding envelope(s) provided by the Company shall be deposited in the appropriate "Contract Box" located in the reception area of the Joint Operations Main Office Building at the Admin. Camp, Wafra, Kuwait, before **09:00 hours on November 20, 2017**. Tender received after this date and time will be rejected.

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## Analysis

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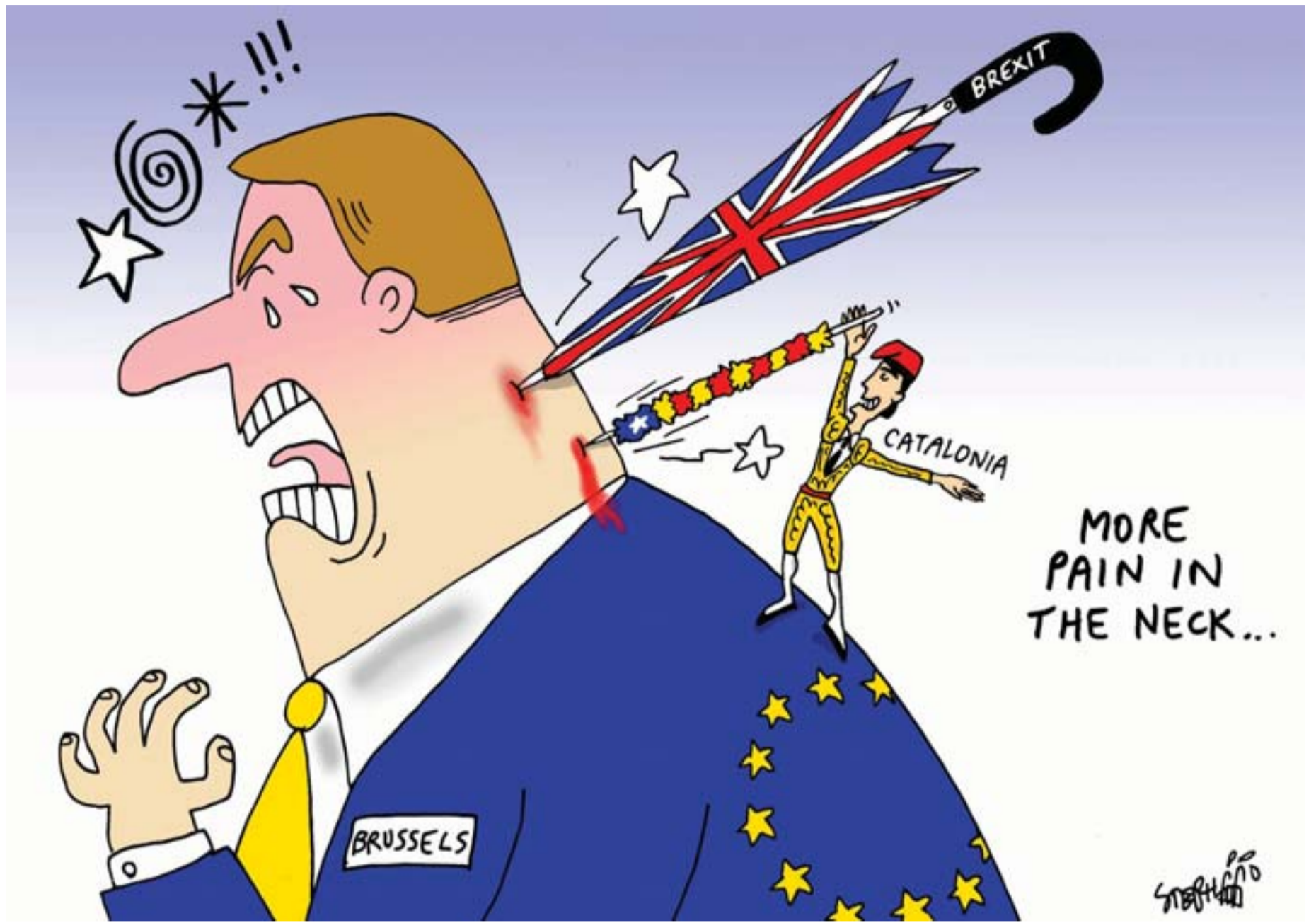
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E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
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## Trump hostility set to deepen Iran power struggles

Iranians quickly closed ranks against a hawkish new US approach to Tehran, but Iran's powerful hardliners are set to exploit the latest dispute with Washington to weaken domestic rivals who are open to the West, analysts and insiders say. President Donald Trump's warning on Friday that he might ultimately terminate a landmark 2015 nuclear deal sets the stage for an eventual resurgence of political infighting within Iran's complex power structures, officials said. If the accord signed by Iran and six major powers does start to fall apart, anyone who strongly promoted it, such as pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani, could face a career-damaging backlash.

That could leave Iran's security hardliners unchallenged at home, enabling greater Iranian assertiveness abroad that could worsen tensions in the Middle East, analysts say. For the moment, solidarity within the Islamic Republic's faction-ridden political elite is the priority. "What matters now is unity against the foreign enemy," a senior official told Reuters on condition of anonymity, like other figures contacted within Iran because of the sensitivity of the matter. "Our national interest is a priority for all Iranian officials."

But Rouhani and pragmatists and reformist allies who promoted the deal, which lifted sanctions in return for Tehran rolling back technologies with nuclear bomb-making potential, may become increasingly politically vulnerable at home.

### 'Golden opportunity' for Rouhani's critics

Trump on Friday defied both US allies and adversaries by refusing to formally certify that Tehran is complying with the accord even though international inspectors say it is. "The growing tension with America is a golden opportunity for hardliners to clip Rouhani's wings," said a Rouhani ally, who was involved in the 18-month nuclear talks. Rouhani's top authority, hardline Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, guardedly backed Rouhani when he opened the door to nuclear diplomacy with world powers, but has repeatedly expressed pessimism about Washington remaining committed to it.

For Rouhani the stakes are high: His rapprochement with the world won him enhanced popularity at home and prestige abroad, dealing a setback to Khamenei's hardline allies, who oppose both détente with the West and domestic liberalisation. Now the tables may be turning. "Hardliners will use Trump's threat as a Sword of Damocles over Rouhani's head ... While enjoying the economic benefits of the deal," said Tehran-based political analyst Saeed Leylaz, referring to the lifting of tough oil and banking sanctions. "Rouhani and his detente policy with the world will be weakened if the deal does not survive," another senior Iranian official said. "And of course an aggressive regional policy is inevitable."

Under Iran's unique dual system of clerical and republican rule, the elected president is subordinate to the unelected Khamenei, who has in the past reasserted control when infighting threatened the existence of the Islamic Republic. Trump's policy will play into the hands of hardliners eventually, said an ally of Khamenei. "What matters is the Islamic Republic and its interests."

### Tit-for-tat steps

In reaction to Trump, Rouhani signalled Iran would withdraw from the agreement if it failed to preserve Tehran's interests. The survival of the deal now is up to the US Congress, which might try to modify it or re-impose US sanctions on Iran. But even if the Congress refuses to consider sanctions, the deal could still be in jeopardy if Washington and Tehran resort to tit-for-tat retaliatory steps. "As long as both sides only exchange words, business will continue as usual," said Leylaz.

Since the lifting of sanctions, Rouhani has started to repair an economy ravaged by a decade of restrictions on its vital oil industry and issued warm welcomes to global investors. But major European investors could think twice about involvement in Iran if tension mounts with the United States and uncertainty grows over survival of the accord. "If European companies don't have the comfort of a political agreement endorsed by the Americans they will say stop," said a senior French diplomat. Among European firms that have announced big deals in Iran since the deal took effect are planetmaker Airbus AIR.PA, French energy group Total TOTEPA and Germany's Siemens SIEGn.DE.

### Regional chaos

Trump enraged Tehran by saying that the Revolutionary Guards, which have fought Iran's regional proxy wars for decades, was Khamenei's "corrupt personal terror force and militia". Rouhani said Iranians would always stand by the Guards. Several officials agreed that Trump's hostility would not change Iran's regional behavior, determined by Khamenei. But if Trump somehow made good on his threats, "then Iran will adopt a harsher and aggressive regional policy," said one of the officials familiar with Iran's decision-making policy.

Iran and its rival Saudi Arabia accuse each other of fuelling regional tensions. The Sunni Muslim kingdom is at odds with Tehran's revolutionary Shiite leaders in struggles across the Arab world, including Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Bahrain and Lebanon. On social policy, Rouhani's scope to loosen restrictions on individual freedoms and rights would be crushed by hardliners if he loses political prestige. Hardliners control the judiciary, security forces and state media. "Whenever pressured abroad, the regime increases pressure at home to silence any opposition," said a former moderate official. — Reuters

## IS threat to SE Asia despite leader's death

The reported death of Islamic State's top leader in Southeast Asia is a major blow to the militants but analysts warn it remains a potent threat, with battle-hardened fighters set to return from the Middle East. IS' regional head Isnilon Hapilon was said to have been killed early yesterday in the southern Philippines during a military offensive to end the months-long siege of the city of Marawi, which has cost hundreds of lives. The military said the leader - who was on the US "most wanted terrorists" list - died in a dawn offensive alongside Omarkhayam Maute, who allied with Hapilon to plot the takeover of the city.

IS-supporting gunmen had overrun the predominantly Catholic country's main Muslim city in May following a foiled attempt by security forces to arrest Hapilon. Hapilon, a key figure in Philippine kidnap-for-ransom outfit Abu Sayyaf, emerged as leader of IS in Southeast Asia in 2016 when a video appeared showing militants from the group urging extremists to unite under his leadership.

Omarkhayam Maute was a leader of the Maute group, a ragtag outfit that emerged from a decades-old Muslim separatist rebellion on the southern island of Mindanao. His group also pledged allegiance to IS and joined forces with Hapilon to overrun Marawi. Hapilon and Maute were the final two extremist leaders holding out against a military offensive to oust the militants from Marawi. Last month Abdullah Maute - another key leader of the Maute group and Omarkhayam's brother - was

killed in fighting. Hapilon was key to IS' efforts to establish a base in Southeast Asia as the militants increasingly lose ground in the Middle East. His reported killing is undoubtedly a blow for the militants, analysts said.

### 'Symbolic blow'

His death is "a significant operational and symbolic blow to IS-linked groups in Mindanao and to ISIS

because the Marawi siege is coming to an end does not mean the threat is over. ISIS-linked militants there will regroup... and lay low for a while, while rebuilding their strength," he said.

He said a Malaysian militant involved in the Marawi siege, Mahmud Ahmad - would if he is still alive likely rise up to lead the IS-linked fighters in the southern Philippines and stay in contact with the militants in the Middle East. Mahmud Ahmad is reported to be a university lecturer in his home country who was in charge of raising finances from abroad for the militants and recruitment.

It is not clear how many IS-supporting militants there are in Southeast Asia, a region of more than 600 million people, but many local militant outfits have pledged allegiance to the group. Hundreds of militants are believed to have flocked to the Middle East to fight with IS - particularly from Indonesia, which has the world's biggest Muslim population, and the Philippines.

Sidney Jones, head of Jakarta-based security think-tank the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, warned authorities now faced a growing threat of battle-hardened fighters returning to Southeast Asia as the noose closes on IS in the Middle East, with their former stronghold of Raqqa close to being captured. Authorities have been particularly concerned about a Southeast Asian unit of IS fighters in Syria, Khatibah Nusantara. "I think the attention is going to shift back again to the return of fighters from Syria and Iraq," she said. —AFP

## HK leader tinkers with economy in face of challenges

Hong Kong's new leader Carrie Lam showed last week that bringing the mojo back to the territory's once uniquely dynamic economy isn't going to be easy. In her first policy address since coming into power in July, the chief executive acknowledged that "Hong Kong is facing increasingly grave challenges," citing in particular competition from other economies. She called for the development of an economy that was more diversified and fostered leading technologies.

It was an echo of Chinese President Xi Jinping's comment that Hong Kong's traditional strengths are "losing their edge, while new drivers of growth have yet to emerge," during his visit to the city in July. But economists and investment strategists said that while Lam and her big boss in Beijing may have identified the disease, they have yet to come up with a cure.

In her policy speech she sought to tinker with probably the territory's biggest social problem - soaring property prices that have put owning an apartment out of reach for many young middle and working class Hong Kongers. And she decided to throw money at another issue - the lack of innovation - by targeting a doubling of the percentage of the city's gross domestic product that goes to research and development (R&D). But her "Starter Homes" scheme - meant to provide affordable housing for purchase by lower-income residents - may only make a small dent in the problem. Hopes she would come up with proposals to free up much more land for development weren't addressed.

Kevin Lai, chief economist for Asia ex-Japan at Daiwa, called the new housing measures and some tax cuts aimed at small businesses "trivial". He said the government needed to rid young people of the housing burden to allow them to focus on more enterprising activities, which he says would have more success than government-funded projects. "Unless you give more power to the younger generation your economy will not be able to rebalance," Lai said. "I'm afraid Hong Kong is losing its relevance to the rest of the world."

### Past missteps

There have been a number of faltering attempts by the Hong Kong authorities to diversify the territory's economy in the past 20 years. The Cyberport business park, which was first announced in 1999 and built in the following decade, was supposed to make Hong Kong a great incubator for technology start-ups. But many new businesses prefer Shenzhen, just across the border in mainland China, and the park area has turned into as much of a residential development as a base for entrepreneurs.

Among a number of other examples of less-than-stellar results from government-financed projects is Hong Kong's Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, which has attracted both fewer ships and high-spending passengers than the government hoped when it opened it in 2013 after investing HK\$6.6 billion (\$845 million). Hong Kong's old model is not delivering: its once world-leading port has been overtaken by cheaper options on the Chinese mainland, and its role as a middleman selling everything from iPhones to infant milk formula to mainlanders has diminished as China's own retail industry has developed.

The problem is that the benefits it gets from being a gateway to and from China all come with big prices. Cash-rich mainland Chinese have sent apartment prices into the stratosphere - UBS recently estimated that Hong Kong was the world's most expensive city for apartments with the average living space per person now only 14 sq m. That has helped to drive growth - it is a major reason that the Hong Kong economy grew at 4 percent in the first half of the year. But it is also hurting many who are not yet on the housing ladder.

Even Hong Kong's role as a financing centre for China carries major risks. Increased stock and bond market connections with the mainland have brought new business to the territory's banks and brokerages but their growing mainland profile is a concern to credit rating agency, Moody's Investors Service. "China doesn't need Hong Kong as much as in the past," CLSA economist Ines Lam said. "Hong Kong is losing competitiveness in a lot of areas. That's why it's an urgent issue for us to find new growth drivers."

One big hope is that Beijing will use the city as a finance hub for its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative through which China is developing infrastructure and increased trade and investment ties with many countries in Asia and beyond. —Reuters

## Many local militant outfits have pledged allegiance to group

Central in Syria as well," said Kumar Ramakrishna, a terrorism expert from Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, using another name for the group. But he cautioned that it was far from the end of IS in the strife-torn southern Philippines or Southeast Asia. "Just

## Kobe Steel scandal exposes 'Made in Japan' fault-lines

Under the once-vaunted "keiretsu" system of close, trust-based ties between manufacturers and suppliers, "Made-in-Japan" became a byword for industrial quality and reliability. That reputation has eroded over recent years. Kobe Steel is just the latest in a string of corporate scandals involving data tampering and other methods of cheating to tarnish the Japan Inc quality stamp. It may be a sign that the government's push to improve corporate governance is seeing greater disclosure of wrongdoing.

But the root cause is more likely that Japanese manufacturers are failing modern compliance standards as they grapple with a shrinking domestic market and increased global competition. As the focus has shifted to market mechanisms instead of cosy relationship-based arrangements, Japanese manufacturers have had to compete on price and expand their client base. "Growing global competition has forced Japanese manufacturers to cut costs to be more efficient, while fulfilling a production quota which is often difficult to achieve," said Motokazu Endo, a lawyer at Tokyo Kasumigaseki law office.

The "keiretsu" system was the bedrock of Japan's automotive industry. As the market has become more competition based, those automakers now invest less money in their suppliers and spend less time checking what those suppliers' factories are producing, says Hitoshi Kaise, an auto industry consultant and partner at Roland Berger.

Beyond that, Japan's economy has suffered decades of anaemic growth, bogged down in deflation with its population shrinking and with growing competition from its Asian neighbors. Those pressures have potentially whittled away at Japanese firms' ability to compete, says Hideaki Miyajima, a Waseda University professor and corporate governance expert.

### 'Gone too far'

The list of manufacturer miscreants is long, and growing. Nissan Motor Co has had to recall every new car it sold in Japan in the last three years after it falsified safety checks.

Both Suzuki Motor Corp and Mitsubishi Motors Corp have faced scandals over fuel economy tests on their vehicles, and there was wrongdoing by the now bankrupt air bag maker Takata, Toyo Tire & Rubber Co and Asahi Kasei Corp. "While focusing on targets was right in the beginning it has gone too far, with companies that can't hit their targets resorting to deception," says Hiroshi Osada, a production quality expert and Bunkyo University professor.

Over the last 15 years compliance rules have become stricter but many Japanese companies have carried on with practices common in the past, says Nobuo Gohara, a lawyer specializing in compliance, who took part in an audit of Olympus Corp after its accounting scandal in 2011. "There are many of these problems lying dormant on the factory floor," he said. Japan runs the risk it will "lose out as other Asian economies, including China, progressively raise their standards of quality and reliability," said Professor Thomas Clarke, a corporate governance expert at the University of Technology in Sydney.

### Better boards

And it's not just dodgy data. Conglomerate Toshiba Corp is still battling an accounting scandal, and there is a litany of wrongdoing at Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO), the operator of the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex. Just this week, Japan's nuclear regulator said Japan Nuclear Fuel had violated safety rules at its Rokkasho site by fabricating records to say safety checks had been carried out. The plant's start data has been delayed 23 times.

Even when moves are taken to strengthen external monitoring of companies, "it's not possible to conduct checks day in, day out," said Osada at Bunkyo University, who sat on an external panel that audited Toyota during its 2010 recall crisis. Companies must do more to develop a culture in which workers are able to raise concerns and say "no" to their bosses, and in which teamwork is used to catch wrongdoing by other employees, Osada added.

More attention should be focused on Japan's board members, who are not active enough in engaging with scandals when they occur, says Shin Ushijima, lawyer and president of the Japan Corporate Governance Network, noting a tendency for companies to be over-reliant on appointing outside panels that are not truly independent. —Reuters



Rohingyas cross a shallow canal after crossing the Naf River as they flee violence in Myanmar to reach Bangladesh in Palongkhali near Ukha yesterday. The UN has said that 537,000 Rohingya have arrived in Bangladesh over the last seven weeks. They are fleeing violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state, where the United Nations has accused troops of waging an ethnic cleansing campaign against them. — AFP

## Israel strikes Syrian anti-aircraft battery in response to fire

JERUSALEM: Israel's military said yesterday it carried out an air strike on an anti-aircraft battery in Syria after it fired toward its planes, while vowing it sought no further escalation in the war-torn country. Israeli planes were on what the military described as a routine reconnaissance mission over neighboring Lebanon when an anti-aircraft missile was fired in their direction, a military spokesman said. The planes returned safely, according to the spokesman, adding it was believed the anti-aircraft battery in Syria was destroyed.

"We hold the Syrian regime responsible for the anti-aircraft fire and any attack originating from Syria," Israeli military spokesman Jonathan Conricus told journalists. Israel "will maintain its ability to thwart hostile intentions and activities endangering Israeli civilians," he said. He did not specify how many Israeli planes were involved in the reconnaissance mission, but described them as being "in proximity to the Syrian border."

The battery targeted was located some 50 km east of Damascus. It was believed to be the first time since Syria's civil war began that Israeli planes were fired toward while in Lebanese airspace, said Conricus. However, Israel's military said it had no interest in any further escalation. "Israel has no intention to destabilise the situation," said Conricus. Israel has sought to avoid becoming more directly involved in the six-year civil

war in neighboring Syria, though it acknowledges carrying out dozens of air strikes to stop what it calls advanced arms deliveries to Hezbollah. The Lebanese Shiite group is backing Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's regime in the conflict. Israel and Hezbollah fought a devastating war in 2006.

### Russian visit

In March, Israeli warplanes struck several targets in Syria, drawing retaliatory missile fire in the most serious incident between the two countries since the start of the Syrian war. At the time, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the air strikes targeted weapons bound for Hezbollah and that Israel would do the same again if necessary. Syria's military had said it launched anti-aircraft missiles at the aircraft, claiming it had downed an Israeli plane and hit another as they carried out pre-dawn strikes near the desert city of Palmyra. Israel denied any of its aircraft was hit.

During the sortie, Israel fired its Arrow interceptor to take out what was believed to have been a Russian-made SA 5 missile. In the aftermath, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman threatened to destroy Syrian air defense systems "without the slightest hesitation" if they fired on Israeli planes in future. Yesterday's strike comes with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu due to visit Israel later in the day. Russia is also backing Assad in the Syrian conflict.

Russia and Israel have established a hotline to avoid accidental clashes in Syria. "The Russians were notified in real time," Conricus said of the strike. Shoigu and Lieberman were expected to discuss Syria and Iran's presence there. Iran, Israel's main enemy, backs Assad in the war along with Russia. Israel is concerned Iran will establish a permanent military presence along its border. — AFP

## Malaysia rolls out red carpet for Qatar emir



PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia: Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak attend a signing ceremony of memoranda of understanding at the prime minister's official residence yesterday. — AP

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia yesterday rolled out the red carpet for Qatar's emir, who is on his first trip to Southeast Asia four months after a diplomatic crisis erupted between his nation and four Arab countries. Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur late Sunday, was given a 21-gun salute at a state welcoming ceremony in Parliament attended by Malaysia's king, Prime Minister Najib Razak and Cabinet ministers. Sheikh Tamim later held talks with Najib, after which they witnessed the signing of agreements on training for diplomats, higher education, and legal and judicial cooperation. The emir was to meet Malaysia's king, followed by a state banquet at the palace before leaving late yesterday.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cut ties with Qatar on June 5 due to its close ties with Iran and alleged support for extremist groups in the region, charges denied by Doha. They also launched an economic boycott, stopping Qatar Airways flights from using their airspace, closing off the small country's sole land border with Saudi Arabia and blocking its ships from using their ports.

The emir's visit to Malaysia comes eight months after Saudi Arabian King Salman visited, the first trip to the Southeast Asian country by a Saudi king in more than a decade. The Gulf crisis puts predominantly Muslim Malaysia in a tight spot because it is close to both Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Najib in July backed Kuwait's effort to mediate the crisis and called for a swift solution. "We pray that all differences among our Arab brothers will be settled amicably and that the unity and harmony of the (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries can be restored," Najib said in a statement.

The emir, who will also travel to Singapore and Indonesia, is on his second trip abroad since the diplomatic crisis erupted. He traveled to Turkey, Germany, France and the United States in September. Malaysia's foreign ministry said it was the first visit by a ruling Qatari emir since Sheikh Tamim's father visited Malaysia in 2009. It said the visit provided an opportunity for the leaders to discuss bilateral issues and exchange views on issues of common interest. Qatar is Malaysia's 40th largest trading partner, with total trade of \$566 million in 2016. — AP

## MP calls to tax expat motorists...

Continued from Page 1

The lawsuit was supported by a number of lawmakers. The traffic department already imposes discriminatory rules for expatriates to obtain a driving license. Expatriates who qualify to apply for a driving license must have been residing in the country for two years, must be drawing a monthly salary of at least KD 600 and should have a university degree. There are exemptions to all these conditions for highly-skilled professionals like doctors, judges, engineers, etc.

Since the collapse in oil prices three years ago,

Kuwait and some Gulf states have targeted expatriates with financial measures. In Kuwait, the government increased the price of electricity and water by 150 percent from late August. It also increased medical services fees at public hospitals and centers by several-fold in some cases. The government is still considering other charges, mainly on residencies, traffic and other public services, only for expatriates.

A number of lawmakers meanwhile criticized the government for obstructing the functioning of a company established to recruit domestic helpers at reasonable costs after hundreds of private recruitment offices hiked their prices to unprecedented levels. The lawmakers charged that influential people were behind the delays in the startup of the company, which was established in accordance with a law passed last year. MP Osama Al-Shaheen meanwhile said the two laws issued on the matter are contradictory and should be amended.

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## Sports

## All Black Mathewson signs for Toulon

**TOULON:** New Zealand international scrum-half Alby Mathewson has signed for Toulon on an initial one-year deal, the French Top 14 side announced yesterday. The four-times capped Mathewson, 31, has agreed a deal that includes an option for a second season in the south of France. Toulon said on their Twitter account that Mathewson would arrive at the club this week. He will provide competition in an area where Toulon already have options in Eric Escande and Sebastien Tillous-Borde. Escande is set for a spell on the sidelines after injuring an ankle against Scarlets in the European Champions Cup at the weekend. Mathewson has played Super Rugby for Western Force, Hurricanes and the Blues, while he had a stint in England last season with Bristol. —AFP



## Indonesian goalkeeper dies after collision

**JAKARTA:** Indonesian football was in mourning yesterday after celebrated goalkeeper Choirul Huda died following an on-pitch collision with a team-mate. Huda, 38, a long-time regular for his hometown club Persija in East Java, collapsed just before half-time after Sunday's accidental clash with Brazilian midfielder Ramon Rodrigues. Video footage showed the father of two clutching his chest in pain before he was rushed away on a stretcher and taken to hospital. Doctors said he stopped breathing and suffered a heart attack. "He received an emergency treatment for a few minutes in the hospital but he could not be saved. He died before 5:00 pm yesterday," Persija's assistant coach Yuhronur Efendi told AFP. Doctors said the medical team tried to revive the veteran Huda, a former fringe player in the national set-up, for about an hour. "Choirul Huda suffered from traumatic collision with a team-mate which caused him to stop breathing and have cardiac arrest," Yudistiro Andri Nugroho, a doctor from Lamongan hospital, said in a statement. —AFP

## Lukaku 'relaxed' over record against 'Big Six'

**LIVERPOOL:** Manchester United striker Romelu Lukaku has brushed off criticism over his poor record against the Premier League's "Big Six" after a missed chance against Liverpool cost his side a potential win. The Belgian international has scored 15 goals in 57 matches against Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham. It is a poor return considering the form he has shown over the past two years for Everton and now United and was highlighted again after he missed his solitary opportunity in Saturday's goalless draw at Anfield, shooting too close to international teammate Simon Mignolet. It was a chance the 24-year-old would normally have converted after plundering 16 goals in 13 appearances for club and country and led to more questions about his big-game performances. "I don't think too much about it-I just move on," said the striker, many of whose goals have come late in matches, which critics point to as evidence he does not score enough game-changing goals. —AFP



## Former supremo Bernie Ecclestone moving to Switzerland after F1 exit

'Bernie is always welcome at any grand prix he'd like to attend'

**LONDON:** Formula One's former commercial supremo Bernie Ecclestone is moving further away from the sport he ruled for decades by relocating to Switzerland. The Briton, who will be 87 this month, was ousted in January after US-based Liberty Media took control and gave him an undefined role as emeritus chairman.

"It's something I had agreed to do 20 years ago, or more: To take Formula One (Management) to Switzerland," Ecclestone, who has lived in London for most of his life, told Reuters on Monday.

"Trouble is I couldn't get all the guys to come and live there. I don't blame them, they had kids and were settled very well in England. "I don't have to do anything particular with the company now so I can more or less do what I want," he said, denying the move was for tax reasons.

Ecclestone owns a hotel in the Swiss ski resort of Gstaad, among other business interests, and has had residence for nearly 30 years. In London he had an apartment above the shop - Formula One's offices in well-heeled Knightsbridge.

"Instead of just popping over (to Switzerland) for a few days and keeping my eye on things it will be nice. I think, if I lived there and I can pop back to England when I want to," he said. The sport remains headquar-

tered in Britain, the staff now in new premises in central London and Ecclestone, while remaining a paid employee, has little involvement.

"I'm so high up in the company now, I can't see anything," he commented wryly. Ecclestone said Liberty was not keen for him to attend races and he could understand that. "I think this year for them it's all new and I think it's better that I'm not around because people know me," he said.

"It'd be difficult for them to get known properly and accepted if there's somebody else there all the time that they think is stealing their glory." A Formula One spokesman said that was not the case. "Bernie is always welcome at any grand prix he'd like to attend," he said, although limited office space at some tracks meant prior notice was preferred.

## UNPREDICTABLE HAMILTON

Ecclestone was in Bahrain, Russia, Azerbaijan and Austria this season and will be back for the penultimate round in Brazil next month. His wife Fabiana is Brazilian and they own a farm there.

He said champions Mercedes, whose non-executive team chairman is Ecclestone's old friend Niki Lauda, and Red Bull had also made him welcome. Mercedes



Bernie Ecclestone

are set to win the constructors' title for the fourth season in a row in Austin, Texas, this weekend while Lewis Hamilton also has a first chance to clinch his fourth championship with three races remaining.

Ecclestone said Hamilton had taken the sport to new audiences and was always good for a headline. "If he suddenly decided to stop racing, I wouldn't be surprised. He is unpredictable. That's why he's been fantastic for us," he observed.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, 59 points behind the Briton

in the standings, has also done his bit by taking the fight to Mercedes and winning four races. The last three in Asia have seen Ferrari implode, however, with Vettel failing to score in two of them and having to fight back from last place to fourth in the other.

"I'm a very close friend of Seb's. But he's more predictable in what he's going to do and say," Ecclestone said. "He's come out a lot different this year. This year hasn't been Seb. Unfortunately he's been unpredictable in the wrong way." — Reuters

## IOC disappointed Austrian state voted against bid

**LAUSANNE:** The International Olympic Committee said it was disappointed the Austrian state of Tyrol voted against Innsbruck's bid for the 2026 Winter Olympics, but will continue its search for a host city. Preliminary results of a referendum showed on Sunday that 53.35 percent of Tyrol residents opposed the bid.

An IOC spokesman said it would have liked to continue its preliminary talks with Innsbruck, which is the state capital of Tyrol. "The IOC shares the disappointment for the Austrian Olympic Committee, the many supporting athletes and the promoters of the project who worked on it with so much energy and commitment," the spokesman said. Opponents in Tyrol were worried about the high financial cost of hosting the Winter Games, the third in Innsbruck after 1964 and 1976, as well as the environmental impact.

Fresh talks with interested cities from America, Asia and Europe will now go ahead. "We are certain that an excellent host city for the Olympic Winter Games 2026 will emerge from this process," the spokesman said. "The exploratory talks will also allow the IOC to better communicate about the benefits of the new candidature process for host cities, highlight our reforms that make it possible to have a sustainable, feasible and cost-effective Olympic Winter Games."

Austria's Olympic Committee had said no extra major infrastructure was needed and that the 1.2-billion-euro (\$1.4 billion) cost would be recouped by revenues. Two previous referendums among residents of Innsbruck but not the whole state in 1993 and 1997 came out against previous bids as well. The final results of the latest referendum are due later, although the outcome is not expected to change. Hosting the Olympics, either in winter or summer, is by no means universally popular.

In 2015 the German city of Hamburg voted against bidding to host the 2024 Summer Games, while Rome and Budapest also withdrew due to public pressure. Despite the success of its athletes, Austria has not hosted the Winter Olympics since 1976. A bid by Salzburg for 2014 lost out to Sochi in Russia. The next Winter Olympics will be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in 2018 and in Beijing in 2022.

The official bidding process for 2026 starts next year with the IOC due to make a decision in 2019. Only Sion in Switzerland and Calgary in Canada have expressed an interest so far. — AFP

## 'It's war': David Warner driven by hatred for Ashes

**SYDNEY:** Australian batsman David Warner says playing England is "war" and he plans to work up "hatred" for the tourists for extra motivation during the upcoming Ashes series. During the first Test in Brisbane in 2013, Warner famously said England had "scared eyes" when facing Australia's pace attack and he is firing similar salvos ahead of their arrival later this month. "The history, the pride that is at stake. As soon as you step on that line it's war," Warner told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation late Sunday, when asked what the Ashes meant to him.

"You try and get into a battle as quick as you can. I try and look in the opposition's eye and work out how can I dislike this player, how can I get on top of him. "You've got to find that spark in yourself to really take it to the opposition. You have to delve and dig deep into yourself to get some sort of hatred about them."

Australia's arch cricketing enemy, already reeling from a nightclub scandal involving star all-rounder Ben Stokes, face a hostile reception, with the pre-series talk starting to ratchet up. Former captain Steve Waugh turned the screws last week, saying England can't win without Stokes, whose position is in question after he was arrested on suspicion of



David Warner

causing actual bodily harm. And fast bowler Mitchell Starc said if Stokes does make the trip he'll be targeted, urging Australian fans "get stuck into" him. Starc has also warned England to expect a repeat of the carnage of four years ago when Australia, fired by the fearsome pace of Mitchell Johnson, won 5-0.

Provided they are all fit, spearhead Starc, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Nathan Coulter-Nile and Jackson Bird could form a formidable attack on Australia's fast-paced home wickets. "I can tell you now I'm very scared when it comes to the nets," said Warner, pointing to the pace, bounce and aggression of the Australian attack. "So hopefully they (England)

are scared because it is challenging facing our guys."

Coach Darren Lehmann joined in the verbal barrage when he said he can't wait to see how brittle England's batting might be when faced with Australia's express pace. "It'll be interesting. They'll have to cope with that, they know it's coming. Our quicks have been saying that," he told ABC. "They (Starc and Cummins) can certainly enforce some problems... especially for their middle and lower order on the bouncy tracks. They didn't like it last time." England, the Ashes holders, have lost two of their past three tours in Australia 5-0, either side of their 3-1 win in 2011. — AFP

## Batsman Usman Khawaja criticizes Australia's selection policy

**SYDNEY:** Australia batsman Usman Khawaja has criticized the country's selection policy and says the constant team changes hampered his attempts to develop his all-round game. The 30-year-old left-hander scored 55 runs in four innings during Australia's 3-0 Test series defeat in Sri Lanka in 2016 before being dropped for the third test.

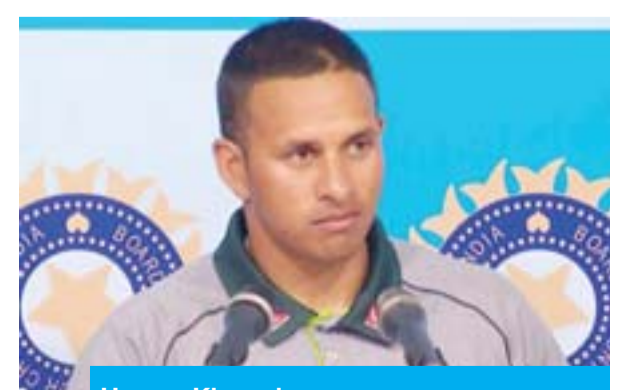
He then scored half-centuries in six consecutive home tests but did not play in the four-test series in India this year. Khawaja was brought back for the first test in

Bangladesh, only to be dropped for the second match of the series. "They never used to do it before, I'm not really sure why they do it now," Khawaja told ABC Radio of the selection policy. "It creates a lot of instability in the team I reckon, going in and out for everyone."

"You hear things like 'the players are playing afraid' or whatnot, but that's what happens when you drop players all the time. We've been doing that a fair bit lately." The Pakistan-born cricketer has played 24 tests since making his debut in the 2011 Ashes series against England and has scored five hundreds, averaging over 45.

The Queensland captain is in good form in domestic cricket and is expected to earn a place in Australia's top order in the Ashes series against England which starts next month. "For some reason it seems like lately in Australia that the best players always seem to be the next guy in, which I don't totally agree with," he said.

"(It is) very hard to develop your game and play some consistent cricket if you're not getting consistent opportunities overseas, which I haven't been getting. "It's frustrating but I've just got to focus on what's in front of me. I'd love to win an Ashes series - it's something I haven't been able to do yet." Khawaja believes the Australian selectors already know what side to pick for the five-test series



Usman Khawaja

against England starting in Brisbane on Nov 23. "I think the Australian team is pretty stable," he said. "I'm confident the selectors already know what their make-up of the team is going to be for the first test. "There might be a few positions up for grabs depending on what happens in the Shield games but I'm pretty confident they know what they're expecting." — Reuters

Sports

# Johnson makes 25 saves as Sabres beat Ducks; Tuch, Shipachyov shine

## Kopitar, Doughty lead Kings to 3-2 victory

### NHL results/standings

Los Angeles 3, NY Islanders 2; Buffalo 3, Anaheim 1; Las Vegas 3, Boston 1.

Western Conference						
Central Division						
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	
Chicago	4	1	1	25	13	9
Colorado	4	2	0	19	13	8
St. Louis	4	2	0	18	16	8
Winnipeg	3	2	0	16	18	6
Nashville	2	2	1	14	16	5
Minnesota	1	1	2	15	16	4
Dallas	2	3	0	11	13	4
Pacific Division						
Los Angeles	4	0	1	16	9	9
Las Vegas	4	1	0	15	11	8
Calgary	4	2	0	17	17	8
Anaheim	2	3	1	12	17	5
Vancouver	1	2	1	9	14	3
Edmonton	1	3	0	8	14	2
San Jose	1	3	0	8	14	2
Arizona	0	4	1	11	22	1
Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
Toronto	4	1	0	26	19	8
Tampa Bay	4	1	0	20	16	8
Detroit	4	1	0	18	12	8
Ottawa	3	0	2	20	10	8
Florida	2	2	0	16	15	4
Boston	2	3	0	14	18	4
Montreal	1	3	1	8	17	3
Buffalo	1	4	1	14	23	3
Metropolitan Division						
New Jersey	4	1	0	21	13	8
Columbus	4	1	0	16	11	8
Pittsburgh	3	2	1	20	25	7
Washington	3	2	1	23	22	7
Philadelphia	3	2	0	21	15	6
NY Islanders	2	3	1	15	18	5
Carolina	1	1	1	7	8	3
NY Rangers	1	5	0	13	21	2

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

ANAHEIM: Benoit Pouliot scored the decisive goal late in the second period, and goaltender Chad Johnson made 25 saves as the Buffalo Sabres beat the Anaheim Ducks 3-1 on Sunday. Buffalo (1-4-1) earned its first win of the season, outshooting the Ducks 31-26. It was coach Phil Housley's first victory with the club. The Sabres rebounded from allowing three power-play goals in a 4-2 loss at Los Angeles on Saturday, denying the Ducks in their four man-advantage opportunities. Justin Bailey, called up from the minors before the game, and Johan Larsson, into an empty net, also scored for the Sabres. The Ducks (2-3-1) got a short-handed goal from Chris Wagner, the team's third of the season, but they have yet to score a power-play goal this season.

### GOLDEN KNIGHTS 3, BRUINS 1

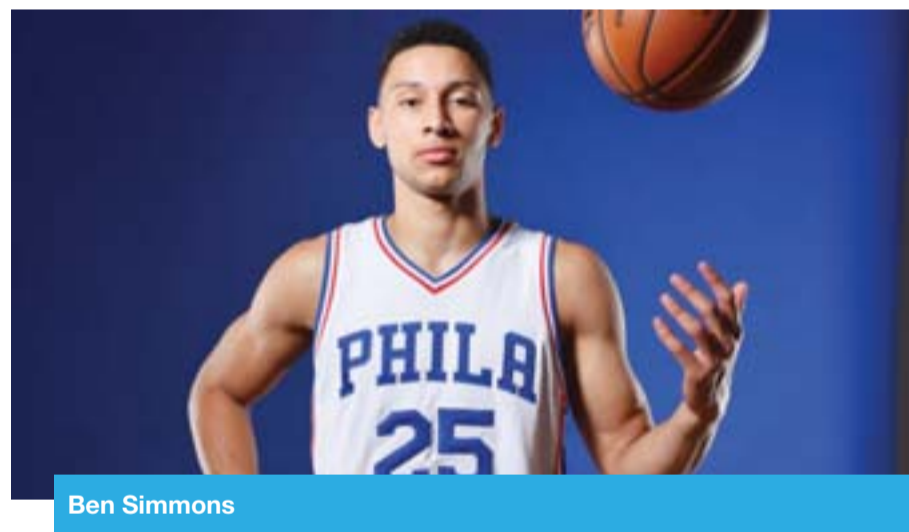
Alex Tuch and Vadim Shipachyov scored their first career NHL goals, and Malcolm Subban stopped 21 shots while picking up his first career victory to lead Vegas past Boston. Tuch and Shipachyov were both recalled from AHL Chicago over the weekend due to injuries to Jonathan Marchessault and Erik Haula. Subban was making his first start for the Golden Knights in place of injured regular Marc-Andre Fleury. Subban, claimed off waivers from the Bruins on Oct. 3, was making just the third start of his NHL career after compiling an 0-2 record and 5.82 goals-against average with the Bruins. But Subban made 21 saves, outdueling Bruins starter Tuukka Rask, who finished with 23 saves.

### KINGS 3, ISLANDERS 2

Anze Kopitar and Drew Doughty each registered a goal and an assist, and Darcy Kuemper made 23 saves as Los Angeles defeated New York for the eighth time in the past nine meetings at Staples Center. Kuemper won his debut in a Kings uniform after being signed as an unrestricted free agent in the offseason. Jake Muzzin added the other Los Angeles goal. New York has lost three of its past four contests. Josh Bailey and Casey Cizikas scored goals for the Islanders, and Jaroslav Halak made 24 saves. —Reuters



LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles Kings defenseman Drew Doughty (8) loses his helmet but keeps on playing, clearing the puck against the New York Islanders in the third period of an NHL hockey game in Los Angeles. — AP



Ben Simmons

## Australia's Simmons set for NBA debut with 76ers

LOS ANGELES: Australia's Ben Simmons is a man in a hurry as he prepares to make his long-awaited NBA debut with the Philadelphia 76ers after missing the entirety of his first season through injury. The 21-year-old point guard from Melbourne is eager to fulfill the lofty expectations that come with being the league's number one overall draft pick in 2016. "I want to go in and make sure everybody remembers my name," Simmons said recently. "I want to get out there and play where everyone's talking about me." Philadelphia open the season tomorrow against the Wizards in Washington. The 76ers have fallen on hard times but Simmons is feeling optimistic about making them a contender again. "He is a special talent. He will help them immediately," said fellow Aussie Matthew Dellavedova who plays for the Milwaukee Bucks. The 1.86 metre (6-foot-10) Simmons missed the 2016-17 season after breaking a bone in his right foot. He rolled his right ankle in the team's final training camp scrimmage. Team doctors said he would be out three to four months but in February he was ruled out for the entire season because the bone was not fully healed. When the 76ers went out of town last season, Simmons spent the time watching road games on the big screen TV in his bedroom. "It got frustrating not being able to be out there," he said. "You have people saying things about you, whatever it is, could be negative, positive, but you can't control it. You just have to sit back and wait." Simmons was born in 1996 in the northeast Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy to an Australian mother, Julie, and an American father Dave. An accomplished multi-sport athlete at age 14 he had to choose between Australian rules football and basketball, eventually decid-

ing his love of basketball was greater. Simmons attended high school in Melbourne before moving to Florida. He played one season of American college basketball for Louisiana State University. **NO. 1 OVERALL** He was then chosen number one in the draft by the 76ers, becoming the third Melbourne-born number one overall pick, following Andrew Bogut and Kyrie Irving. He represented Australia at the 2012 FIBA World Under 17 Championships. "I came to the States and no one knew who I was, then they kind of do, then I get injured and no one talks about you for a while," Simmons told BleacherReport. "So it's kind of like now I've got to build myself back up." With Simmons in the lineup there is no shortage of talent in Philadelphia this season. But the big question is will that result in more victories than last year when they finished fourth in the Atlantic Division with a 28-54 record? Simmons will try to make that happen along with centre Joel Embiid and point guard Markelle Fultz in a potential Philly version of a big three. "He got drafted number one for a reason," said San Antonio Spurs' Patty Mills, of Canberra, Australia. "He is going to be great in NBA. His rookie year is all about learning the ways of the NBA." Earlier this week the 76ers signed Embiid to a five year \$148 million contract extension. Like Simmons, Embiid's career is just getting started after he missed his first two NBA seasons due to injuries. He has played just 31 games so far. Fultz was the first pick overall in this year's entry draft. Add a couple of veteran newcomers, J.J. Redick and Amir Johnson to the mix and Philadelphia could be punching their ticket to the playoffs. —AFP

## Federer shakes off 'scars' of Nadal defeats

SHANGHAI: Roger Federer said he has finally shaken off the "scars" of his many defeats to Rafael Nadal after claiming the Shanghai Masters with his fifth win in a row over the world number one. The 36-year-old Swiss put on a masterclass to beat Nadal 6-4, 6-3 on Sunday, lifting his sixth trophy this season and underlining a turnaround in fortunes against his long-time nemesis. Federer, the world number two, ended a sequence of five straight defeats to Nadal at Basel last year, before winning their gripping Australian Open final in January. Federer also beat Nadal at Indian Wells and in the Miami final prior to Shanghai, although the Spaniard still holds a handsome advantage in their overall record down the years, winning 23 of their 38 matches. Federer said that "we don't have enough years left on the tour" for him to overhaul his great rival in their head-to-head count, but he insisted he's not concerned by the disparity. "I just think I'm not so scarred like maybe I have been in the past, not that I was horribly scarred in any way," said the Swiss, when asked what had clicked against Nadal. "But I did lose against him sometimes, a lot of the times especially on the clay courts." Federer holds a record 19 Grand Slam titles, three ahead of Nadal after both players cast off injuries to add two more major victories this year in a surprise resurgence. In September and it completes an astonishing turnaround in fortunes since he missed the cut in six of seven events over the summer, a run that led him to sack his caddie and replace him with his best friend Jonathan Bell. Hatton is now the runaway leader of Europe's Ryder Cup rankings with a points tally double that of second-placed Fisher. The 26-year-old is also fifth in the Race to Dubai and plans to compete in four of the final five events. "It was an amazing feeling," said Hatton of Sunday's win which lifted him to 17th in the world rankings. "To win back-to-back is incredible. It was my birthday as well yesterday so you could say this was well-timed." Yet just a few weeks ago Hatton's boorish behaviour on course drew criticism from fellow pro Gary Evans, a veteran of more than 350 European Tour events. "You're a great talent with potential but you need to grow up mate, your on course whinging and body language is a disgrace," Evans wrote on social media after the British Masters. Hatton, who responded by saying that "nobody's perfect", has apparently taken the advice to heart. "I was fighting myself, trying to stay patient and you know my caddie kept saying 'good things will come', 'good things will come'," he said of his final round at Monza. "I found it hard to believe, to be honest, but tried to stay as patient as I could. In the end, I guess I got my reward." — Reuters



SHANGHAI: File photo shows Roger Federer (L) speaks after the men's singles final match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai. — AFP

Federer skipped the clay court season this year and he said avoiding Nadal on his favourite surface had also given him an advantage. **'HE SAVED HIS BODY'** He said he believes he lost the epic 2008 Wimbledon final against Nadal because he was still rattled by a heavy defeat just a few weeks earlier at Roland Garros. After his five-set victory over Nadal in Melbourne this year, Federer spoke of how he had focused on playing "the ball, not the opponent" to avoid any mental demons. The Swiss legend also said on Sunday that he is highly unlikely to knock Nadal off the number one spot in the world rankings in time for the end of the year. But with his advancing years he is more sanguine about his ranking, and said he was

just enjoying staying injury-free and in good form. "It's definitely been the best I felt since Wimbledon," he said, where he won the championship for a historic eighth time in July. The Swiss great, who has been carefully managing his schedule, will now return home to map out the next few months to ensure he continues his fine run. The 31-year-old Nadal, who was on a 16-match streak before Sunday's final, said Federer was reaping the benefits of taking breaks from the sport. The two old stagers are the last members of the 'Big Four' still standing this season after Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic were both sidelined by injury. "For this year, Roger did great in all the events that he played, so looks like he saved his body," said Nadal. "He played very high level of tennis during the whole season, so well done for him and happy to see him play well." — AFP



Tyrrell Hatton

## Sports

# Calls for exiled player to go to World Cup stirs storm in Egypt

## Aboutrika turned down call to return in a message

**CAIRO:** Soon after Egypt qualified for the World Cup for the first time since 1990, a hashtag began trending on social media: "Aboutrika to the World Cup."

In a country where soccer and politics often mix, and often with explosive results, the pro-government media didn't like that. The hashtag unleashed an intense online campaign by tens of thousands of fans calling for former star midfielder Mohamed Aboutrika, who is now living in exile in Qatar, to come out of retirement and play for Egypt at the World Cup in Russia next year.

It stirred a storm in the Arab country because of Aboutrika's alleged ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, an Egyptian Islamist group that has been outlawed and declared a terrorist organization by the government.

The Brotherhood was outlawed after the military's ouster of a freely elected but divisive Islamist president in 2013. The 38-year-old Aboutrika faces a host of charges rooted in his alleged financial support for the Brotherhood and lives in exile knowing he risks arrest if he returns home. His assets have been frozen by Egyptian authorities and his name is on a terrorism list. He now makes a living as a soccer pundit on the Qatar-based sports channel beIN. Aboutrika turned down the call to return in a message to his supporters.

"These are kind feelings for which I thank you," he wrote on his Twitter account. "But realism is better and I don't steal the efforts of others. Those men (on the current team) deserve to be there alone."

Yet that gentle refusal didn't stop the storm around him, and the unfavorable comparisons made by some between Aboutrika and Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah, the team's current star and new darling of the pro-government media.

"Mohammed Salah is the player who stood by his country, not like the other one (Aboutrika)," said Ahmed Moussa, perhaps the most ardent government supporter among TV talk show hosts. "He (Salah) is Egypt's only star." The 25-year-old Salah endeared himself to fans with both goals, including an injury-time penalty, in a 2-1 win over Republic of Congo on Oct. 8 that ensured Egypt qualified for the World Cup for just the third time, and first time in nearly 30 years.

Salah has also been embraced by the government of general-turned-president Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and its supporters in the media as a patriot. A donation of 5 million Egyptian pounds (nearly \$300,000) Salah made in December to a development fund founded by el-Sissi has gone a long way to endear him to them. In the week since qualification, Salah

### Pro-government media refers to him as a traitor



has been branded "golden boy," "legend" and "genius." One media commentator, Dandarawy el-Hawary of the daily "Seventh Day," wrote of Salah's decisive goal against Republic of Congo: "It touched off the volcanoes of patriotism, sense of belonging and love of one's country." Not long ago Aboutrika was the national hero he still is to many after playing a central role in Egypt's three straight African Cup of Nations titles in 2006, 2008 and 2010. Those triumphs made Egypt Africa's most successful team with a record seven titles.

Now, the pro-government media refers to him as a traitor. Another talk show host, Amr Adeb, suggested the campaign to bring Aboutrika out of retirement was the work of government critics and berated him for his failure to lead Egypt to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Aboutrika has been labeled a mercenary, with his job with the Qatar-based beIN used as evidence of his lack of patriotism because of Egypt's diplomatic spat with



**TOYOTA:** File photo, Al-Ahly SC's Mohamed Aboutrika celebrates after scoring a goal against Sanfrecce Hiroshima during their quarterfinal at the FIFA Club World Cup soccer tournament in Toyota, Japan. — AP

Qatar over the tiny Gulf nation's alleged support of terrorism. Aboutrika's supporters argue that to have him back on the team would be a just reward for his dedication to Egypt and compensation for his failed efforts to get the team to previous World Cups. They point out that Argentina great Diego Maradona and Cameroon's

Roger Milla both came out of retirement to play for their countries at the World Cup. Responding to the criticism from government supporters, Aboutrika's fans have also been posting videos of him scoring goals for club and country in years past, with commentators lavishly praising him for his skill and passion. — AP

## Icardi hat-trick as Inter reign in ilan

**MILAN:** Mauro Icardi scored a hat-trick as Inter Milan kept pace with leaders Napoli with a 3-2 defeat of city rivals AC Milan in a fiery Serie A derby clash on Sunday. Inter skipper Icardi sealed victory from the spot in the final minute in front of 80,000 spectators at the San Siro to complete his hat-trick after also scoring on 28 and 63 minutes.

Spanish forward Suso (36) and Giacomo Bonaventura (81) had twice put AC Milan back on level terms in the 'Chinese' derby between two clubs fuelled by multi-million dollar investments by their Asian owners.

With Juventus losing 1-0 to Roma on Saturday, Luciano Spalletti's Inter are now alone in second place, within two points of Napoli who they face next weekend. "Scoring three goals in a derby is something special," said Icardi.

"The important thing is that Inter won. It's too early to talk about a Scudetto challenge," he continued. "We are doing things the right way from pre-season and now we have to think about the next match against a great opponent like Napoli."

"It's a special match for me, because they are the leaders and play the best football in Europe." Napoli maintained their perfect run of eight wins from eight games with Lorenzo Insigne scoring the only goal in a victory over Roma. Juventus are third after Ciro Immobile's second-half brace for Lazio condemned the reigning champions to a 2-1 defeat, their first at home in over two years. Lazio are fourth equal on 19 points with Juventus with Roma four points adrift in fifth.

### MILAN IN FREEFALL

AC Milan dropped to tenth place after their fourth defeat piled the pressure on coach Vincenzo Montella. "Looking at the table right now, everything might seem out of reach, but the season is very long and we can make up ground," insisted Montella.

"This squad has quality, despite what some might say, and I thought even a draw would have been hard on us today considering all the chances created. "I think a top four finish is absolutely possible." In a tense first half in the Derby della Madonnina, the first chance came after quarter of an hour when Antonio Candreva hit the crossbar. Both Suso and a Joao Miranda header went wide, but Inter took the lead with Icardi picking up a Candreva cross on 28 minutes.

Patrick Cutrone came on after the break and lifted Milan who got back into the game thanks to a beautiful curling Suso effort. But Icardi restored Inter's advantage from an Ivan Perisic cross before Bonaventura slid in to make it 2-2 with Samir Handanovic unable to clear.

Ricardo Rodriguez brought down Danilo D'Ambrosio and 24-year-old Icardi converted to earn the praise of Spalletti. "He (Icardi) has strength, dynamism, technique. He is an all-around player, who for his age knows how to shoulder responsibility," said the Inter coach. — AFP

## Zidane praises 'complete player' Harry Kane

**MADRID:** Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane heaped praise on Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane ahead of today's Champions League clash between the sides which will be an acid test for the prolific England striker. Kane leads the scoring charts in Europe's elite competition with five goals in Spurs' games against Borussia Dortmund and APOEL Nicosia, one more than Cristiano Ronaldo. Kane, who has also six strikes in the Premier League and has scored 13 times in his last nine matches for club and country, has been the main focus of media attention before Tuesday's blockbuster clash between Spurs and the European champions and was featured on the cover of Spanish newspaper Marca on Monday.

"He is a fundamental player for Tottenham, he is very good in every aspect, but the best thing about him is that he's always got the goal on his mind," Zidane told a news conference on Monday.

"He's a very complete player even though he does not look it, but he always turns up when he needs to," Zidane ducked a question on whether he would like to sign Kane for Real Madrid who are short of strikers after selling Alvaro Morata to Chelsea.

"I don't know what's going to happen in the future," he said. Tottenham's Spanish striker Fernando Llorente,

meanwhile, warned Real about the threat his teammate poses.

"We have great players who are capable of playing very good football and we have Harry Kane, who at the moment is turning everything he touches into a goal," Llorente said in an interview with Marca.

"There isn't a great deal of difference among the top teams in Europe and I'd count Tottenham among them." Real have flattered to deceive in La Liga this season as they bid to defend the Spanish title for the first time since 2008, dropping points in four of their eight games, but like Spurs they have won both Champions League matches, convincingly beating APOEL and Dortmund.

They sit third in the domestic standings, five points behind leaders Barcelona and scraped an unconvincing 2-1 win at Getafe on Saturday thanks to a late strike from Ronaldo. "You have to keep their best players under control, you can't just try and take the ball off them because they are much better in possession now and when they don't have it they are still very dangerous on the counter-attack," added Llorente.

"Madrid can kill you off easily because they have more quality and are more effective than most teams, but they always give you a chance." — Reuters



**MADRID:** Real Madrid's French coach Zinedine Zidane gives a press conference after a training session at Valdebebas Sport City in Madrid. — AFP

## Valencia thrashes Real Betis 6-3 to move second in Spain

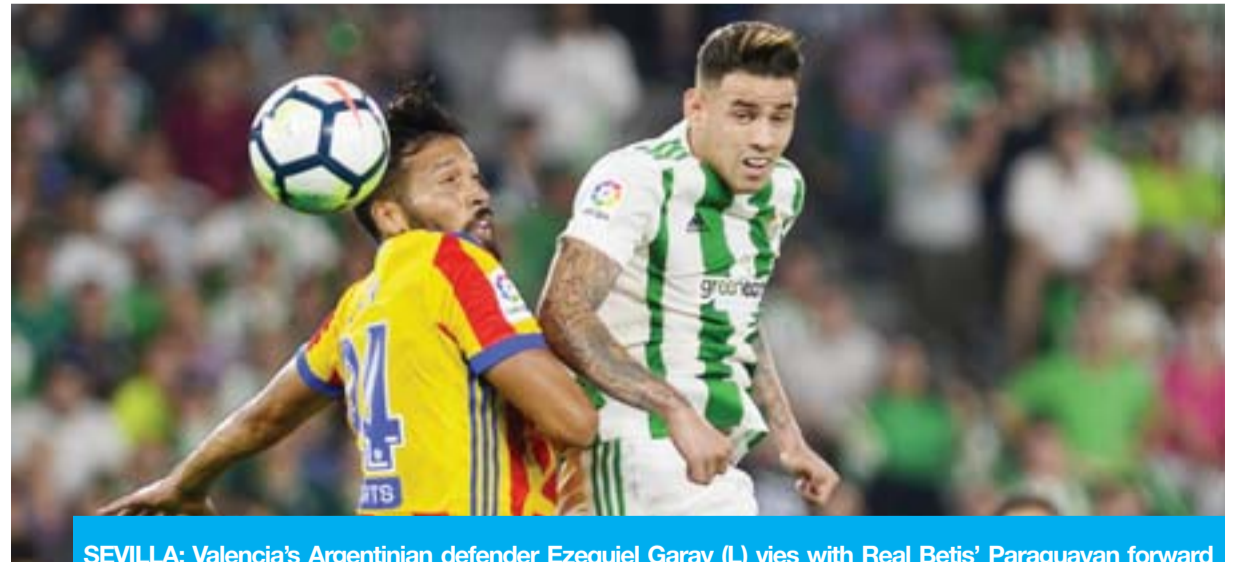
**MADRID:** Valencia spent the last couple of seasons trying to avoid relegation in the Spanish league. After eight matches this season, it's already looking to dethrone Barcelona from the top of the standings.

Valencia reached second place with an emphatic 6-3 win at Real Betis on Sunday, moving to within four points of Barcelona, which lost its perfect record after a 1-1 draw at Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

Defending champion Real Madrid, which defeated Getafe 2-1 with a late winner by Cristiano Ronaldo on Saturday, is one point behind Valencia in third place. Atletico and Sevilla are another point behind.

Valencia, whose last league titles came in 2002 and 2004, struggled in recent seasons under the ownership of Singapore investor Peter Lim. Under coach Marcelino Garcia, Valencia has already won five times this season, and it's coming off four straight wins while outscoring opponents 17-7.

"We are playing at a very high level collectively," Valencia striker Rodrigo said. "We deserve a lot of credit for what we have been doing so far this season. We know there's still a long way to go. We want more, we are an ambitious team." Valencia got off to a great start at the Benito Villamarin Stadium in Seville, opening a 4-0 lead with goals by Geoffrey Kondogbia, Goncalo Guedes,



**SEVILLA:** Valencia's Argentinian defender Ezequiel Garay (L) vies with Real Betis' Paraguayan forward Arnaldo Sanabria (R) during the Spanish league football match Real Betis FC vs Valencia FC. — AFP

Rodrigo and Santi Mina.

Betis, which started the weekend in sixth place and had won three of its last four matches, rallied with three unanswered goals after the 79th minute from Joel Campbell, Antonio Sanabria and Cristian Tello. But Valencia sealed victory in the closing minutes with goals by Simone Zaza and Andreas Pereira. "We were close to equalizing ... but in the end it wasn't possible," said Costa Rica midfielder Campbell, whose goal on debut came after he received the ball from an erroneous back pass by Valencia midfielder Dani Parejo. Betis forward Sergio Leon had a penalty kick saved by Valencia goalkeeper Neto when the visitors were winning 2-0.

Girona's struggles continued in the Spanish league with a 2-1 loss to Villarreal, extending the team's winless streak to six games after a promising start to its season. Girona made its top-flight debut with a draw against Atletico Madrid and a win at Malaga, giving fans hopes of a successful season, but it hasn't been able to win since, losing four matches and drawing two. Sunday's loss left the Catalan team at 17th in the 20-team standings, just outside the relegation zone.

"It shouldn't be a strange thing to see Girona near the bottom of the table," Girona coach Pablo Machin said. "This is the elite. We want to enjoy it, but we also will have to suffer— AP

## Sports

# Tottenham tackle Real Madrid, Man City host in-form Napoli

## Liverpool head to Slovenia looking for first group-stage victory

**PARIS:** A look in today's Champions League action as holders Real Madrid take on Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City host Italian high-flyers Napoli:

## Group E

## At Maribor, Slovenia

## MARIBOR (SLO) V LIVERPOOL (ENG)

Liverpool head to Slovenia still looking for their first Champions League group-stage victory away from home since a 1-0 win at Debrecen in November 2009. Jurgen Klopp's men are winless in three games in all competitions and have drawn their first two Group E encounters against Sevilla and Spartak Moscow. The five-time European champions will have to make do without forward Sadio Mane, who is still ruled out with the muscle problem that forced him to miss Saturday's drab 0-0 draw with Manchester United. Maribor drew their opening match with Spartak and have a solid European record at home against English teams. They held Chelsea in the 2014-15 Champions League group stage and Tottenham Hotspur in the 2012-13 Europa League, before beating Wigan Athletic the following season.



### Sevilla top the early group standings

## At Moscow

## SPARTAK MOSCOW (RUS) V SEVILLA (ESP)

Sevilla top the early group standings after a comfortable victory over Maribor last time out and a 2-2 opening draw at Anfield. Russian champions Spartak held off a Liverpool onslaught to grab their second point in their first Champions League group-stage campaign since 2012. The capital club have turned around a poor start to the season with a nine-match unbeaten streak in all competitions. Sevilla have kicked off the campaign strongly and sit fourth in La Liga despite a 1-0 loss at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday. The record five-time Europa League winners are the favourites to top Group E, as they look to improve on last term's Champions League showing when they suffered a shock last-16 defeat by Leicester City. It will be the first meeting of the two sides.

## Group F

## At Manchester, England

## MANCHESTER CITY (ENG) V NAPOLI (ITA)

Pep Guardiola's Premier League pace-setters look horns with Serie A front-runners Napoli as Manchester City attempt to make it three wins from three in the section. The Italians suffered an opening setback to Shakhtar Donetsk in Ukraine, but Maurizio Sarri's side have swept aside all-comers in Italy—their 1-0 win at Roma on

Saturday stretched their winning run in the league to eight matches. In England, City pulled two points clear of Manchester United at the top following a 7-2 demolition of Stoke City achieved without Sergio Aguero, who was left on the bench after recovering from a broken rib suffered in a car crash in Amsterdam last month. City became the first English top-flight team to score 29 goals in their first eight league games of the season since Everton in 1894. Napoli have never won in England in five previous trips.

## At Rotterdam, Netherlands

## FEYENOORD (NED) V SHAKHTAR DONETSK (UKR)

Dutch champions Feyenoord must regroup quickly to avoid a premature end to their European adventure following defeats by Manchester City and Napoli. Their league form has also tailed off dramatically after kicking off the season with four straight wins—Saturday's 0-0 draw at home to Zwolle marked the third time in four outings they had failed to score. Shakhtar were unbeaten in 27 away games before losing to City three weeks ago, while their track record against Dutch opposition is awful with four defeats in as many matches. Brazilian-born Marlos, scorer of six goals this term for the Ukrainian league leaders, earned his first Ukraine cap in a 2-0 World Cup qualifying win over Kosovo on October 6.

## Group G

## At Leipzig

## RB LEIPZIG (GER) V PORTO (POR)

A tough third outing for debutants RB Leipzig who are seeking their first win in the competition. Their Portuguese rivals won the title in 2004 and come calling on the back of an impressive 3-0 win over last season's semi-finalists Monaco that has left them second in the group. The match reunites Leipzig striker Timo Werner, who scored twice in Germany's 3-1 defeat of Cameroon in July's Confederations Cup, with his Porto opposite number Vincent Aboubakar, who got the African champions' goal that day and who last week signed a new deal tying him to Porto until 2021. Leipzig, last season's runners-up on their Bundesliga debut, beat Borussia Dortmund at the weekend, with Porto held to a goalless stalemate by Sporting Lisbon in their domestic Liga.

## At Monaco

## MONACO (FRA) V BESIKTAS (TUR)

Besiktas are at Monaco hunting a third straight win

Only Lionel Messi has scored more La Liga goals this season than Bakambu as the DR Congo striker produced two classy finishes inside the first 20 minutes to hand Villarreal a 2-1 win at Girona. Bakambu showed poise and power as he placed the opener into the bottom corner before rifling in the second to take his tally for the season to seven in La Liga and eight in all competitions.

## ITALY

## KWADWO ASAMOAH (Juventus)

Ghana midfielder Asamoah played the full 90 minutes for champions Juventus as their two-year unbeaten home record ended with a 2-1 defeat by Lazio. Juventus took the lead on 24 minutes with Asamoah crossing to unmarked Sami Khedira, whose shot was cleared into the path of Douglas Costa, who scored.

## FRANCK KESSIE (AC Milan)

Ivorian Kessie had a game to forget in a 3-2 derby defeat to city rivals Inter Milan. The normally combative 20-year-old midfielder was substituted at half-time in a derby that drew an 80,000 crowd to the San Siro.

## GERMANY

## PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (Borussia Dortmund)

The 2015 African Footballer of the Year bagged a brace, but could not prevent Borussia suffering a 3-2 home defeat by RB Leipzig, which cut their lead over Bayern Munich to two points. Aubameyang punished a mistake to score after four minutes and converted a second-half penalty.

## FRANCE

## ADAMA TRAORE (Monaco)

Malian midfielder Traore, 22, made his first appearance for Monaco since last December and marked it with a goal as the reigning champions went down to Lyon in Ligue 1. Traore, who was named the best player

Russia next year.

Postecoglou, who is contracted to the end of the World Cup, passed up the chance to deny the report, saying only that he was focused on the Honduras games in a statement issued by Football Federation Australia (FFA). FFA chief executive David Gallop had little to add when pushed by reporters in Sydney on Monday but poured cold water on suggestions in the media that the 52-year-old might be replaced before the Honduras games to give the team certainty.

"We are focused on Honduras, those are massive games for us both away and (at home)," said Gallop.

"(Postecoglou's) focus is on November and knocking down to the task which is to qualify for our fourth consecutive World Cup."

A successful former coach in Australia's domestic top flight, Postecoglou has spoken openly about his ambitions to return to coaching at club level and pursue a role overseas.

## Zaha torments Chelsea as Palace end horror run

**PARIS:** Ivorian winger Wilfried Zaha scored the winner as bottom-of-the-table Crystal Palace stunned champions Chelsea 2-1 in the English Premier League at the weekend. Zaha, part of the Ivory Coast team that flopped at the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations in Gabon, was in superb form and his curled shot on the stroke of half-time proved decisive. Democratic Republic of Congo striker Cedric Bakambu followed up a recent Spanish La Liga hat-trick with both goals for Villarreal in a 2-1 win at Girona.

## ENGLAND

## WILFRIED ZAHA (Crystal Palace)

The Ivorian inspired Palace as they scored their first goals and collected their first points in the Premier League this season after seven losses. Unstoppable Zaha tore the Chelsea defence to shreds and scored the winner from the edge of the area.

## MAME BIRAM DIOUF (Stoke)

The Senegal winger scored his second goal of the season, but it was an afternoon to forget for Stoke as they were thrashed 7-2 at Manchester City. With Stoke trailing 3-0 in the first half, Diouf sparked a brief revival when he took Jesse's pass and fired home from inside the penalty area.

## SPAIN

## CEDRIC BAKAMBU (Villarreal)

## Postecoglou doubts to follow Australia to Honduras

**MELBOURNE:** Speculation over Ange Postecoglou's future is set to follow Australia into next month's World Cup playoff against Honduras after the country's football boss shed little light on the matter yesterday.

Local media reported last week that Postecoglou would step down after the two-leg playoff, regardless of whether Australia win it and qualify for the finals in



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City's Sergio Aguero, left, attends a training session with his teammates at the City Football Academy, Manchester, England yesterday. — AP

after the Turkish champions dished out defeats to Porto and Leipzig. That's left them three points clear at the top of a table footed by French champions Monaco. The Istanbul club have history against them as they have never beaten a Ligue 1 side on their previous four visits to France. Monaco line up for the two teams' first ever meeting looking to kick-start their European campaign after a lopsided loss to Porto and opening stalemate with Leipzig. Key striker Radamel Falcao was rested for Friday's 3-2 away loss to Lyon which left Leonardo Jardim's side, Champions League finalists in 2004, six points adrift of leaders PSG. Monaco may never have crossed swords with Besiktas, but Falcao has, scoring against them when he was with Porto in the 2010-11 Europa League and for eventual winners Atletico Madrid in the same competition the following season.

## Group H

## At Madrid

## REAL MADRID (ESP) V TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (ENG)

European champions Real Madrid host Tottenham Hotspur with both teams looking to seize control of the group following back-to-back victories to start the competition. The odds are stacked in favour of the Spaniards who have won three of four meetings with Spurs and are yet to

concede a goal against the Premier League side. Real are unbeaten at home in the group stage dating back to 2009, winning 21 of 23 matches since then at the Santiago Bernabeu. Luka Modric could face his former club, although Gareth Bale is unlikely to be fit for Real. Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first La Liga goal of the season with a late winner in Saturday's 2-1 victory at Getafe. Tottenham striker Harry Kane has netted 15 goals in his last 11 outings for club and country, but Spurs will be without Dele Alli who serves the final game of a three-match ban.

## At Nicosia

## APOEL NICOSIA (CYP) V BORUSSIA DORTMUND (GER)

Victory in Cyprus is imperative for Borussia Dortmund if the Bundesliga leaders are to reignite their flickering European hopes. Peter Bosz's men also lost their unbeaten domestic record over the weekend after being beaten 3-2 at home to RB Leipzig despite a brace from Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. Their recent form on the continent is dreadful with Dortmund losing five of their last seven matches, while APOEL are looking for a first win in the Champions League proper since March 2012. Both Dortmund and APOEL are seeking their first points in the group after successive defeats in what is the first encounter between the two clubs. —AFP



**Wilfried Zaha**

at the under-20 World Cup in 2015 as Mali reached the semi-finals, lasted 79 minutes before coming off as Monaco lost the game 3-2.

## BAKARY KONE (Strasbourg)

Burkina Faso defender Kone captained Strasbourg in their meeting with Marseille and had an eventful evening. His touch to a Morgan Sanson cross allowed Marseille to go 2-1 up early in the second half, but he redeemed himself by heading in the equaliser shortly after and the match ended in a thrilling 3-3 draw. —AFP

News Ltd media reported on Monday that Chinese Super League club Shanghai Shenhua was preparing to table an offer worth \$3 million a year to Postecoglou to replace Gus Poyet, who quit last month.

Gallop said he had spoken to Postecoglou "a number of times" and was not convinced he had made up his mind. "A number of factors go into this kind of thing. He's made no secret he wants to coach week-in week-out (at club level) again," he added.

"I think he's not necessarily indicated that he's made a decision (on his future). He's focused on November, and that's where we're at." Postecoglou he has already confirmed he would not seek another contract if still in charge at the World Cup. Feted in 2015 for guiding the Socceroos to a maiden Asian Cup title on home soil, he has come under fire this year for his tactics and selections during the final phase of World Cup qualifying. — Reuters

## France join top seeds for World Cup draw

**ZURICH:** France will be among the top seeds for next month's World Cup draw after they climbed to seventh in the FIFA rankings published yesterday. The draw for next year's finals will be held in Moscow on Dec. 1 when the 32 teams will be divided into four pots according to their position in the rankings.

The seven top-ranked sides plus hosts Russia go into pot one, the next eight ranked teams will be in pot two and so on. Each of the eight four-team first-round groups will consist of one team drawn from each pot. The top seven teams yesterday were Germany, Brazil, Portugal, Argentina, Belgium, Poland and France — all among the 23 teams who have guaranteed their places in Russia. Spain will be in pot two, where they will be joined by England, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay. Peru, Switzerland and Italy, who all face playoffs in November, will also go into pot two if they qualify. Peru, who face New Zealand in November as they attempt to end a 36-year absence from the World Cup, climbed into the top 10 for the first time. New Zealand are 122nd, the lowest of any team still in contention for a place in Russia. South American champions Chile, ninth, were the highest-ranked team to fail to qualify. — Reuters



## Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
Man City v Napoli		21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 2		
Feyenoord Rotterdam v Donetsk		21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 7		
Apoel Nicosia v Dortmund		21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 5		
Real Madrid v Tottenham		21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 1		
Monaco v Besiktas		21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 6		
Leipzig v Porto		21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 8		
Spartak Moscow v Sevilla		21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 3		
Maribor v Liverpool		21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 4		

**12** Former supremo Ecclestone moving to Switzerland after F1 exit



**14** Zidane praises 'complete player' Harry Kane



**15** Postecoglou doubts to follow Australia to Honduras



GLENDALE: Arizona Cardinals defensive back Tramon Williams (25) intercepts a pass intended for Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Mike Evans (13) during the second half of an NFL football game. — AP

## Vikings cruise past Packers 23-10

### Steelers hand NFL's only unbeaten Chiefs its first loss

**MINNEAPOLIS:** Harrison Smith led Minnesota's defense in a thorough dismantling of Green Bay, as the Vikings knocked Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers out of the game on Sunday with a broken collarbone during a 23-10 victory that drastically altered the course of the NFC North. Smith had 11/2 sacks on safety blitzes, a diving interception and two pass breakups, helping the Vikings (4-2) limit the injury-depleted Packers to a season-low 227 yards. Anthony Barr, who later left with a concussion, delivered the game-changing hit on Green Bay's second drive when he took Rodgers hard to the turf as the two-time NFL MVP followed through on a pass. Rodgers fell on his throwing shoulder, and the Packers (4-2) announced he could miss the remainder of the season. Brett Hundley threw his first career touchdown pass in relief, connecting with Davante Adams in the second quarter after a 63-yard return by Clay Matthews of Jerick McKinnon's fumble gave the Packers the ball at the 18.

#### CARDINALS 38, BUCCANEERS 33

Adrian Peterson rushed for two touchdowns and 134 yards in an impressive Arizona debut and the Cardinals held off a furious second-half Tampa Bay rally. The Buccaneers (2-3) lost quarterback Jameis Winston to a right shoulder injury in the second quarter, with the Cardinals (3-3) leading 21-0. But backup Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for 290 yards and three touchdowns to bring Tampa Bay back from a 31-0, early third-quarter deficit. Fitzpatrick's 37-yard touchdown pass to Mike Evans cut the Arizona lead to 38-32 with 2:02 to play. Larry Fitzgerald recovered the onside kick and, with no Tampa Bay timeouts remaining, the Cardinals ran out the clock. Carson Palmer completed his first 14 passes and finished 18 of 22 for 283 yards and three touchdowns with one interception. Fitzgerald caught 10 passes for 138 yards and a score.

#### GIANTS 23, BRONCOS 10

Eli Manning ignored the loss of four wide receivers, and reeling New York capped a stormy week of injuries and infighting with a stunning win over Denver. The Giants (1-5) pulled off one of the season's biggest upsets by dominating Denver in every phase from start to finish. The Broncos (3-2) blew a golden opportunity to close in on Kansas City in the AFC West after the Steelers knocked off the last unbeaten team in the league earlier Sunday. Visiting teams went 8-5 in Week 6 and are 46-44 overall this upside-down NFL season. Jason Pierre-Paul had a trio of sacks for the Giants, who came into Denver tottering from a tumultuous week in which three wide receivers landed on injured reserve, five other starters were sidelined with injuries and

cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie was suspended for insubordination.

#### PATRIOTS 24, JETS 17

Tom Brady set the NFL record for regular-season victories by a quarterback, getting his 187th. The Patriots (4-2) were playing their first game in 10 days after beating Tampa Bay 19-14 on Oct. 5, and appeared a bit rusty early as they fell behind 14-0 in the second quarter against the surprising Jets (3-3). New York had a chance to tie the game after getting the ball back with 1:53 remaining, but the Patriots' 32nd-ranked overall defense held on - forcing Josh McCown to throw incomplete on a desperation heave on fourth-and-17 from the 50, and ending the Jets' three-game winning streak. Brady broke a tie with Peyton Manning and Brett Favre for the record. New York appeared to make it a one-score game again on its next possession as Austin Seferian-Jenkins took a short pass from McCown and reached over the goal line for a 4-yard touchdown.

#### STEELERS 19, CHIEFS 13

Le'Veon Bell ran for 179 yards and a touchdown. Antonio Brown made an acrobatic touchdown catch in the fourth quarter and the Steelers handed the NFL's only unbeaten team its first loss. The Chiefs (5-1) still had a chance after Brown's 51-yard reception made it 19-10, moving quickly downfield and getting a 33-yard field goal from Harrison Butker. And when their defense forced a quick three-and-out, Tyreek Hill's 32-yard punt return gave them the ball with 1:48 to go. But after the Steelers (4-2) gave up a first down, James Harrison sacked Alex Smith on third-and-10, and the quarterback's incomplete pass on fourth down left the NFL with no perfect teams. Ben Roethlisberger was 17 of 25 for 252 yards for Pittsburgh, bouncing back from his abysmal five-interception performance against Jacksonville last week. His favorite target was Brown, who a few weeks ago was flipping over water coolers on the sideline but spent Sunday slinging high-fives. He finished with eight catches for 155 yards, often beating All-Pro cornerback Marcus Peters.

#### CHARGERS 17, RAIDERS 16

Nick Novak kicked a 32-yard field goal on the final play and the Chargers took advantage of a key missed extra point by Giorgio Tavecchio. The Chargers (2-4) had been done in by poor kicks this season, losing twice on misses by former kicker Younghoe Koo. Novak missed a 48-yard field goal in the first quarter, but it was a missed extra point by Tavecchio - after a high snap by Jon Condo early in the fourth quarter - that was the difference in a fourth straight loss by the Raiders (2-4). Philip Rivers took over at his 8 with 4:09 to play and used two long passes to Hunter Henry to move the Chargers into field-goal range. Five straight runs by Melvin Gordon and two kneeldowns moved the ball to the 14 and drained the clock, setting the stage for

Novak's winning kick.

#### BEARS 27, RAVENS 24, OT

Connor Barth kicked a 40-yard field goal with 2:08 left in overtime, and the Bears used a 167-yard rushing effort by Jordan Howard to beat the Ravens. The Bears (2-4) blew a 14-point lead in the second half before coming through in overtime behind Howard, whose 53-yard run put Chicago at the Baltimore 40. After rookie Mitchell Trubisky completed an 18-yard pass to Kendall Wright, Barth delivered the winner. Making his first career start on the road, Trubisky directed a conservative game plan that leaned heavily on the run. The first-round draft pick completed 8 of 16 passes for 113 yards and a touchdown. The Bears gained 231 yards on 54 rushing attempts.

#### DOLPHINS 20, FALCONS 17

Jay Cutler threw a pair of touchdown passes, Cody Parkey kicked a pair of field goals and the Dolphins rallied from a 17-0 halftime deficit. Matt Ryan had another crucial interception with the Falcons in position to at least attempt a tying field goal. Cordrea Tankersley got a hand on a pass intended for Austin Hooper and Reshad Jones swooped in to make the clinching interception with 39 seconds remaining. Parkey put the Dolphins (3-2) ahead for the first time with 2:30 remaining, booting a 38-yard

field goal after a gutsy play by receiver Jarvis Landry, who was hit by six players but still managed to power ahead for a key first down.

#### RAMS 27, JAGUARS 17

Pharoah Cooper returned the opening kickoff 103 yards, one of two special teams touchdowns that helped the Rams. The Rams (4-2) also blocked a punt for a score and a 10-point lead in the first half. Malcolm Brown returned the loose ball 8 yards for the franchise's first such touchdown since 2005. The Jaguars (3-3) botched a decent chance to tie the game early in the fourth period when Blake Bortles fumbled on one play and then threw an interception on the next. It cost Jacksonville a shot at ending its up-and-down start to the season. Los Angeles essentially sealed its third road victory on Greg Zuerlein's 29-yard field goal with 2:32 remaining. The Rams hadn't started 3-0 away from home since 2001.

#### SAINTS 52, LIONS 38

Running backs Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara combined for 237 yards from scrimmage, the Saints' resurgent defense forced five turnovers and scored a franchise-record three times. New Orleans (3-2), which has a winning record for the first time since its last playoff season in 2013, built a five-touchdown lead, only to gut out a remarkable bid by Detroit to pull off the greatest comeback in NFL history. Detroit (3-3) scored four straight TDs, including one on a punt return by Jamal Agnew and another on A'Shawn Robinson's close-range interception near the Saints goal line, in less than 15 minutes off the game clock to pull as close as 45-38 with 6:41 to go. But after Agnew muffed a punt and barely got it out of the end zone, Saints defensive end Cam Jordan scored on virtually the same type of play as Robinson when he got his hand on Matt Stafford's pass from the end zone.

#### REDSKINS 26, 49ERS 24

Washington's Kirk Cousins threw for two touchdowns, ran for a score, and also had an interception as part of an inconsistent performance against his past - and possibly - future mentor Kyle Shanahan's winless 49ers. The Redskins blew a 17-point lead before barely holding on. Cousins was hardly at his most accurate in completing 25 of 37 passes for 330 yards against the team he has been linked to for next season because of his connection with Shanahan. The 49ers (0-6) remain unsettled at quarterback: Shanahan benched Brian Hoyer for rookie C.J. Beathard, who threw for 245 yards, a touchdown and an interception and nearly led an impressive comeback.—AP



**Brown makes an acrobatic touchdown catch**



## Business

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017

**18** Wall Street hits fresh record on financial, technology gains**21** Hong Kong skyscraper sold for record \$5.15bn**22** T-Mobile-Sprint: A merger without asset divestitures

HANGZHOU: Customers buy fruits and vegetables at a supermarket in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province yesterday. China's factory price inflation rose again in September, official data showed yesterday. — AFP

## Fiscal woes, Aramco IPO driving Saudi oil policy

## China offers to buy 5% of Aramco directly

**DUBAI:** Faced with dire economic straits due to low oil prices, Saudi Arabia is gearing up for deeper production cuts ahead of its massive Aramco share offering. Analysts say the cuts aim to rebalance the market after the OPEC kingpin lost hundreds of billions of dollars in oil income, posting huge budget deficits in the wake of the 2014 crash in global crude prices.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude exporter, is now going a step further by making even deeper cuts to its oil production, long the backbone of the Arab world's largest economy. A factor influencing Saudi oil policy is the planned sale of close to five percent of national oil conglomerate Aramco in an Initial Public Offering (IPO) next year. The project, expected to be the biggest IPO in history, is part of a vast economic reform program aimed at reducing the kingdom's reliance on oil.

A potential rise in oil prices by then will likely earn the kingdom more returns from the sale of Aramco stocks-but to what extent remains a point of debate among analysts.

For Jean-Francois Seznec of the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center, the increase in prices will likely be marginal at best but could still boost the value of Aramco. "The market

will not price the shares based on short-term price gyrations, (but) rather on long-term expectations," Seznec said.

Kuwaiti oil expert Kamel Al-Harami said current Saudi oil policy is more geared towards the Aramco sale. "The Saudi policy is somehow directly linked to the planned partial privatization of Aramco," Harami told AFP.

Aramco, the world's largest company, is being valued at between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion, and the five percent sale could generate up to \$100 billion. Saudi Arabia over the weekend quashed Western press reports that the sale could be shelved and insisted the listing is on track sometime in 2018.

**New paradigm**

Riyadh last week announced it would reduce its production by 560,000 barrels per day from November—the deepest cut so far after the historic deal by OPEC and non-OPEC producers to scale back output by 1.8 million bpd. The deal, passed in November 2016, came two years after Saudi Arabia

defended its original market share strategy, which flooded an already oversupplied market and sent prices spiraling.

"Had it not been for this cut, today's oil prices might have been lower than \$30 per barrel," said Ibrahim Muhanna, a top aide to

come under extreme fiscal pressure since the oil market crash, posting \$200 billion in shortfalls in the past three years, withdrawing an estimated \$245 billion from its reserves and revisiting the debt market. The kingdom has also introduced a series of price hikes, imposing fees on expats and preparing to introduce VAT in the new year.

**Five-year low**

Oil prices, and consequently revenues, rose after the six-month production cut deal, which has since been extended for another nine months until March. Saudi Arabia and its partners are now hoping to extend the deal further and are ready to make even bigger cuts if needed after having taken a hit under the market share policy. "Protecting market share does not really work," said Seznec of the Atlantic Council. In a world of replaceable commodities, like oil, "once you have market share, you will always lose it to a lower price".

"Now the Saudis seek... an arrangement with Russia, to have some control on prices," Seznec told AFP. The kingdom's assurance that

its exports in November will be 7.2 million bpd, the lowest in five years for this period, is proof of a shift away from the market share policy. "That policy is dead and buried," Al-Harami said. "Now, we are witnessing a new era based on a new relationship between OPEC and non-OPEC producers and centered around a Saudi-Russian understanding," Harami told AFP. Analysts say Saudi Arabia is looking at the price of around \$60 a barrel, on condition Riyadh can secure support and commitment from OPEC and non-OPEC producers.

"We even might hit \$60 per barrel before the end of this year or the beginning of next year," said Saudi oil expert Muhanna. Crude prices made key gains in the past few weeks, rising above \$58 a barrel, substantially above its level at the start of 2017. China is offering to buy up to 5 percent of Saudi Aramco directly, sources said, a move that could give Saudi Arabia the flexibility to consider various options for its plan to float the world's biggest oil producer on the stock market. Chinese state-owned oil companies PetroChina and Sinopec have written to Saudi Aramco in recent weeks to express an interest in a direct deal, industry sources told Reuters. — Agencies



## Paradigm shift in market share strategy

former Saudi oil minister Ali Al-Naimi. "OPEC, through its alliance with key non-OPEC producers, has recently created a new paradigm for managing markets," Muhanna said in a lecture at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington last month. Saudi Arabia, a G20 member, has

ing the vote that Madrid has deemed illegal. The Spanish government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has repeatedly said it's not willing to negotiate with Puigdemont if independence is on the table, or accept any form of international mediation. The government has threatened to activate Article 155 of Spain's Constitution, which could see Madrid take temporary control of some parts of Catalonia's self-government.

While the Catalan movement is not explicitly against the euro, unlike the German and Austrian right-wing parties, its success would shake the currency union by breaking up its fourth largest economy. These political forces come at a time when the European economy is enjoying one of its most sustained upswings for a decade. A run of economic indicators have shown that the recovery, especially among those countries that use the euro currency, has been gaining momentum through 2017. The recovery, which has also seen unemployment come off highs, has prompted speculation that the European Central Bank will start to ease back on some of its emergency stimulus measures in the coming months. The growth has been driven partly by the ECB's stimulus drive, which has pushed down borrowing rates to record lows, as well as the export-boosting impact of a relatively low euro in a growing global trade environment. — AP

## Populism again casts shadow over booming eurozone economy

**LONDON:** For months, the outlook for the eurozone economy has brightened thanks to a series of electoral defeats for political parties that were critical of the euro currency. Now, votes in Germany and Austria and uncertainty over the Spanish region of Catalonia are reviving concerns about the unity of the bloc. In Germany, the anti-immigration and anti-euro Alternative for Germany received almost 13 percent of September's national vote, putting it in parliament for the first time. Though the center-right Christian Democrats came out on top, the authority of Chancellor Angela Merkel was weakened by AfD's relative success.

And in Sunday's Austrian election, the right-wing Freedom Party came second with around 27 percent of the vote - enough to possibly become part of a government. Should the party, which has sought to downplay the country's Nazi past, become part of the government, it could hinder efforts to further integrate the economies of the 19 countries that use the euro.

Such measures, advocated for particularly by France's new president, Emmanuel Macron, are considered important to avoid new financial crises, stabilize the banks and sustain growth.

"Even though Austria is highly integrated and depends on the eurozone's structure and openness, a new Austrian government will make the eurozone's life harder, trying to push through self-interests," ING economist Inga Fechner said. The euro has edged lower in recent weeks as a result despite data showing that the eurozone economy is enjoying one of its strongest periods of growth since the global financial crisis exploded a decade ago. Yesterday, it was down 0.2 percent at \$1.1795, having been above \$1.20 at the end of August for the first time in two years. Also of potential concern to the eurozone is the uncertainty surrounding Catalonia following its disputed independence referendum earlier this month. Yesterday, there was still a lack of clarity as to whether the region's leader, Carles Puigdemont, has declared independence follow-

## Huawei bets on AI phone in challenge to Apple, Samsung

**MUNICH:** Chinese technology group Huawei unveiled its latest smartphone yesterday, talking up the advanced artificial intelligence capabilities it hopes will cement its place among the world's three biggest manufacturers. The Shenzhen-based group's new Mate 10 phone appears just weeks after Apple unveiled its top-of-the-line iPhone X, a timing choice many industry observers have read as a direct challenge to the California tech titan. Huawei has become a fixture in listings of the top three smartphone makers by worldwide unit sales in recent years, investing heavily in technology and design to vault beyond the low- and mid-range devices that still round out its range.

Like rivals Apple and Samsung, it has built AI features directly into the processor at the heart of its latest phone, allowing the device to help users translate between languages, choose

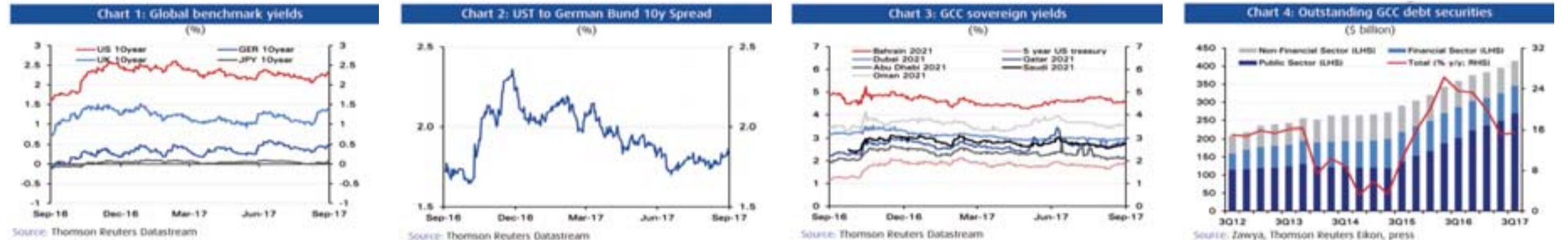
the most appropriate camera settings or take over busywork like organizing files and photos. Ideally, AI can help shift such everyday tinkering into the background, saving people time and minimizing annoyance. "This phone is designed for ultimate performance, that's the most important thing," Huawei consumer electronics chief Richard Yu told journalists and bloggers in the southern German city of Munich. Huawei uses Google's Android operating system rather than keeping the same tight control over hardware, operating system and third-party apps as Apple.

Google executive Jamie Rosenberg made a brief appearance on stage to promise new tools early next year to let developers access the phone's AI processor. "Computing is undergoing a fundamental shift from being mobile first to AI first," Rosenberg said. — AFP

NBK Economic Report

# Global, GCC debt yields trade in narrow range in Q3 2017

## Geopolitical tensions cast shadow on economic outlook



**KUWAIT:** Global and GCC debt markets yields traded in a narrow range in 3Q17 as central banks' increased hawkishness and the improving economic outlook were countered by geopolitical tensions, White House political challenges and stubbornly low inflation. Issuance in the GCC picked up in 3Q17 but continued to be dominated by domestic sovereign issuance; Bahrain was the only country to issue internationally. GCC primary debt market activity is expected to stay healthy for the remainder of 2017.

International benchmark yields trended downward for most of the quarter as North Korea worries benefitted safe haven assets. Persistently low inflation in the major economies also continued to put a cap on yields. However, most yields ended the quarter slightly higher following a more hawkish tone by Fed Chair Janet Yellen and the unveiling of President Trump's pro-business tax plan late in the quarter.

**Risk off mode**

US government 10-year Treasury yields trended lower for most of 3Q17 but finished 2 bps higher at 2.3 percent. Tensions with North Korea spurred a generally "risk-off" mode, exerting downward pressure on yields. Demand for safe-haven assets also picked up as hurricanes hit the US coast. But yields recovered shortly after as the impact turned out to be less than was previously feared. Yields took a detour thereafter, pushed higher mostly by the Fed's more hawkish stance. Towards the close of the quarter, yields shot up as investors digested the latest iteration of Trump's tax plan and Yellen's unwavering pursuit of monetary tightening. Market expectations for a rate hike in December rose to 80 percent from 25 percent just a few weeks earlier following September's FOMC meeting in which they announced the

start of the balance sheet reduction process.

Yields on 10-year German Bunds followed a similar path. Despite the continued flow of economic data highlighting the strength in the Eurozone economy, inflation data was still surprising on the downside, putting downward pressure on yields. The North Korean threat also saw Bund yields move lower along with other safe-havens. The German election was another factor pulling yields lower in 3Q17. Although Angela Merkel's party won the election, the results were perceived as weak given the strong showing by the far-right party. Nonetheless, yields on German paper ended the quarter unchanged at 0.46 percent thanks to a more hawkish European Central Bank (ECB). Indications by ECB President Mario Draghi that winding down the bank's EUR 60 billion monthly asset purchases would be discussed at the October meeting saw Bund yields jump.

The spread between the 10-year Treasury yield and the 10-year Bund continued to tighten. The spread had widened to 2.4 percent following the election of President Trump in November. His pro-business agenda, coupled with the markets' improved prospects for the US economy, pushed US equities and yields higher. At the same time, German yields were edging lower as Brexit and rising anti-EU sentiment

fueled concerns over the future of the EU. But spreads have tightened considerably since and are now hovering around 1.8 percent as US markets discounted expectations of imminent pro-business reforms and pro-EU parties advanced across the Eurozone. Eurozone growth has also gained momentum over the past few quarters, prompting a shift in the ECB tone as it sought to begin winding down its quantitative easing program.

**GCC yields**

GCC yields tracked international markets and closed the quarter slightly lower. The quarter saw a marked improvement in oil prices which also helped GCC yields move lower. Oil prices were up 25 percent in 3Q17, increasing the appeal of regional paper as fiscal concerns were alleviated. Most GCC sovereign yields were marginally down on the quarter.

### Issuance in GCC picked up in Q3 2017

Yields on Qatari and Omani sovereign bonds dropped more notably following the sell-off seen in 2Q17. After reaching a high of 3.3 percent on the back of its political rift with its neighbors, yields on Qatar's bonds maturing in 2021 fell to 2.8 percent at the close of 3Q17. Yields on Omani paper maturing in 2021 also declined in 3Q17 to end at 3.5 percent after having reached 3.9 percent in the previous quarter following the sovereign's downgrade to below

investment-grade by S&P. GCC debt issuance picked up in 3Q17 as the typically slower summer season came to an end but activity remained predominantly in the public sector. Total new issuance amounted to \$24 billion compared to \$21 billion in 2Q17. Private sector activity continued to weaken in 3Q17, with the share of sovereign issuances up to 94 percent. Total outstanding debt was up a healthy \$20 billion, to rest at \$415 billion.

Sovereign activity was strong during 3Q17 with \$23 billion in new issuances and the bulk coming from Saudi Arabia. Bahrain tapped international markets for the second time this year with a \$3 billion issuance. Despite Bahrain having a rating below investment-grade by the three main rating agencies, the offering was well received and almost five times oversubscribed, reflecting the strong appetite and increased attractiveness of the regional debt market. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait issued domestic debt of \$11 billion and \$4 billion, respectively.

Following the sharp increase in CDS rates on the back of Qatar's dispute with its neighbors, CDS rates for most of the tracked sovereigns came off in 3Q17. For the most part, the region's risk profile benefited from the recovery in oil prices. CDS rates for Saudi Arabia and Qatar dropped the most, by 31 bps and 22 bps, respectively. As for the rest of the GCC, their rates were little changed.

GCC debt issuance is expected to remain healthy in 4Q17, as sovereigns continue to seek cheap deficit financing in favorable market conditions. In early October Saudi Arabia raised \$12 billion in dollar-denominated debt almost a year after its debut international issuance. Abu Dhabi also just completed a \$10 billion international offering.

## Wall Street hits fresh record on financial, technology gains

**NEW YORK:** Major Wall Street indexes hit fresh records at the open yesterday on gains in financial and technology stocks even as investors awaited a barrage of earnings reports this week.

Apple gained 1.05 percent, providing the biggest boost to the Nasdaq and the S&P after KeyBank upgraded the stock to "overweight". Financial stocks gained for the first time in four days, led by bank stocks. Reactions to bank results last week were muted on concerns about credit card losses at JPMorgan and Citigroup and weak trading activity across the sector.

Investment banks Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley report before markets open today. Insurer Travelers jumped 2 percent, providing the biggest boost to the Dow. Video-streaming pioneer Netflix reports third-quarter results after market. "The market still wants to be optimistic, it wants to continue to move higher from here," said Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Boston Private Wealth.

"It seems to be the trend recently that companies report

good earnings and the market sells them off a little bit, taking it as an opportunity to lock in profits. But it's not something that should worry long term investors." Of the S&P 500 companies, 55 are expected to report this week. Out of the 32 that have reported so far, 84.4 percent beat earnings expectations, according to Thomson Reuters data. World stocks and commodities got a boost from upbeat Chinese data on Monday, while US oil futures jumped to a near six-month high as escalating tensions between the Iraqi government and Kurdish forces threatened supply. At 9:46 am ET (13:46 GMT), the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 66.88 points, or 0.29 percent, at 22,938.6, the S&P 500 was up 5.72 points, or 0.22 percent, at 2,558.89 and the Nasdaq Composite was up 20.73 points, or 0.31 percent, at 6,626.54.

Ten of the 11 major S&P sectors were higher, led by gains in the energy index as oil prices jumped nearly 2 percent. Oil majors Chevron gained 1.4 percent and Exxon rose half a percent.

Adobe slipped 1.58 percent after Deutsche Bank cut rating on the Photoshop maker's stock to "hold". Groupone rose 4.5 percent after brokerage Cowen and Co upgraded the daily deals website operator's stock to "market perform".

Freeport-McMoran gained 4.7 percent as copper prices broke through the \$7,000-a-tonne mark for the first time in three years, helped by Chinese data. Advancing issues outnumbered decliners on the NYSE by 1,571 to 992. On the Nasdaq, 1,518 issues rose and 973 fell.—Reuters



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, people walk to work on Wall Street beneath a statue of George Washington, in New York. —AP

## EXCHANGE RATES

**Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.**

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.706
Indian Rupees	4.665
Pakistani Rupees	2.869
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.965
Nepali Rupees	2.921
Singapore Dollar	225.610
Hongkong Dollar	38.766
Bangladesh Taka	3.699
Philippine Peso	5.887
Thai Baht	9.165
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.761
Qatari Riyal	83.180
Omani Riyal	786.512
Bahraini Dinar	804.170
UAE Dirham	82.455
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.150
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.101
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	126.100
Jordanian Dinar	427.170
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.613
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.650
Euro	360.150
Sterling Pound	404.790
Canadian dollar	244.790
Turkish lira	84.190
Swiss Franc	313.300
Australian Dollar	240.910
US Dollar Buying	301.450
GOLD	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

**Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd**

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

Swiss Franc 0.303509 0.314509

**Australasia**

Australian Dollar 0.229834 0.241834  
New Zealand Dollar 0.210676 0.220176

**America**

Canadian Dollar 0.236940 0.245940  
US Dollars 0.298650 0.303070  
US Dollars Mint 0.299150 0.303070

**Asia**

Bangladesh Taka 0.003298 0.003882  
Chinese Yuan 0.044544 0.048044  
Hong Kong Dollar 0.036677 0.039427  
Indian Rupee 0.004221 0.004909  
Indonesian Rupiah 0.000018 0.000024  
Japanese Yen 0.002619 0.002799  
Korean Won 0.000258 0.000273  
Malaysian Ringgit 0.068088 0.074088  
Nepalese Rupee 0.003021 0.003191  
Pakistan Rupee 0.002692 0.002982  
Philippine Peso 0.005811 0.006111  
Singapore Dollar 0.218825 0.228525  
Sri Lankan Rupee 0.001617 0.002207  
Taiwan 0.009923 0.010103  
Thai Baht 0.008805 0.009355

**Arab**

Bahraini Dinar 0.796057 0.804557  
Egyptian Pound 0.014358 0.020266  
Iranian Riyal 0.000084 0.000085  
Iraqi Dinar 0.000199 0.000259  
Jordanian Dinar 0.422401 0.431401  
Kuwaiti Dinar 1.000000 1.000000  
Lebanese Pound 0.000150 0.000250  
Moroccan Dirhams 0.021938 0.045938  
Omani Riyal 0.779944 0.785624  
Qatar Riyal 0.078857 0.083797  
Saudi Riyal 0.079647 0.080947  
Syrian Pound 0.001283 0.001503  
Tunisian Dinar 0.119045 0.127045  
Turkish Lira 0.078103 0.088403  
UAE Dirhams 0.081002 0.082702  
Yemeni Riyal 0.000984 0.001064

**BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL**

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.395470	0.405470
Czech Korune	0.005815	0.017815
Danish Krone	0.043908	0.048908
Euro	0.351630	0.360630
Georgian Lari	0.120579	0.120579
Norwegian Krone	0.034237	0.039437
Romanian Leu	0.077740	0.077740
Russian ruble	0.005270	0.005270
Slovakia	0.0090023	0.019023
Swedish Krona	0.033200	0.038200

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

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

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

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Business

# KFH reports KD 137.9m net profit for shareholders until Q3 2017 end

Earnings per share 24.26 fils, an increase of 11.8%: Al-Marzouq

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said that "KFH has, by the grace of Allah, realized a KD 137.9 million net profit to shareholders until end of Q3 2017 compared to KD 123.1 million for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 12 percent.

Financing income reached KD 542.1 million i.e. a growth of 1.5 percent compared to the same period last year. Total operating income until the end of Q3 2017 reached KD 525.1 million, i.e. a growth of 9.1 percent and net operating income reached KD 311.7 million, i.e. a growth of 19.8 percent compared to the same period last year.

The operating expenses decreased for the period by KD 7.75 million, i.e. a decrease of 3.5 percent over the same period last year. Earnings per share until the end of Q3 2017 reached 24.26 fils, compared to 21.69 fils for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 11.8 percent.

Total Assets reached KD 17.40 billion i.e. an increase of KD 902 million or 5.5 percent compared to end of year 2016. Financing portfolio reached KD 9.27 billion i.e. an increase of KD 1.1 billion or 13.4 percent compared to end of year 2016. Depositors' accounts reached KD 11.59 billion i.e. an increase of KD 926 million or 8.7 percent compared to end of year 2016. Shareholders' equity reached KD 1.85 billion i.e. an increase of KD 35.5 million or 2 percent compared to end of year 2016.

Strategy execution

Al-Marzouq explained that the realized profits are attributed to the efficient execution of the bank's strategy by focusing on the core banking

business while achieving stable and sustainable growth across the Group banks in various countries. KFH proved resilience in its business model through optimal integration of its units and activities. KFH continues pursuing cost optimization policy.

Al-Marzouq added that KFH achieved good profitability and stability in all indicators, including the total operating revenues and the investment revenues. KFH managed to reduce the operating expenses in comparison to the revenues. KFH Group has over 481 branches over the world among of which is 61 branches in Kuwait in addition to 46 branches dedicated to serve the ladies. KFH works tirelessly to increase coordination among the Group units in Turkey, Malaysia, Bahrain, Saudi and Germany, indicating that KFH constantly endeavors to improve its asset quality while continuing its prudent policy in risk management as per best practices.

Al-Marzouq said that KFH has a pioneering position in the retail market. The bank rolled out advanced banking products and services. Despite the challenging operating environment in the domestic and international markets, KFH proved resilience in its business model through optimal integration of its units and activities in the markets of Turkey, Bahrain, Saudi, and Malaysia while taking advantage of the nature of each market.

KFH-Turkey is leading the participation banks in Turkey. It offers a wide range of financial services while expanding and penetrating new markets. KT Bank Ag in Germany has also achieved good growth. KFH-Malaysia managed to map out a new customer-centric strategy based on offering retail



Hamad Al-Marzouq

and corporate financial services in the Malaysian market. KFH-Bahrain inked several financing agreements for several real estate development projects. It increased its market share in the retail market.

Liquidity

Al-Marzouq said that the high levels of liquidity and the expertise in the Islamic financial services industry is witnessing huge turnout locally and globally. KFH offers a wide range of banking business models and financing options that suit the financing needs of the individuals, corporates and governments. KFH arranged several financing deals. KFH-Capital succeeded in arranging syndicated facility of USD300mln to ALAFCO Aviation Lease and Finance Company. It arranged many Sukuk deals to companies and governments in the region and the world. The volume of Letter of Credits and Letter of Guarantees offered to customers is increasing which reflects the bank efficiency in attracting new customers from different investment sectors.

He stressed the significant role of the human resources, indicating the bank spares no efforts in hiring, training, and qualifying its human resources whilst preparing the distinguished national employees for leadership position. The bank reinforced its technological channels and implemented different customer-centric initiatives that revolved around customer satisfaction as per accuracy, security and quality standards.

As part of its innovation efforts and the keenness to adopt the latest banking technology, KFH launched several innovative services such as the XTM; the novel approach that allows customers to

perform their transactions in a very modern and secure manner. KFH offers ATMs for the blind and the disabled. KFH is the first bank in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region to launch in collaboration with Mastercard KFH Wallet service based on the MDES platform. Moreover, the bank launched 4 innovative e-services in the fields of bank accounts and call center. KFH remains dedicated to utilizing technology in a way that optimally meets customers' evolving needs as per highest standards of accuracy, simplicity and security.

Credit facilities

Al-Marzouq stressed the ceaseless efforts of KFH in strengthening its role in boosting the national economy, primarily through corporate finance as per the credit and legislative regulations. KFH continues its unremitting efforts to offer credit facilities for SMEs.

He reiterated KFH-Group's significant role in strengthening Sukuk product as a prime financing instrument for governments and corporates across the global markets, especially in light of the increasing acceptability of this sharia-complaint product, that offers financing for corporates, development and infrastructure projects, and for urban development to achieve further growth and expansion. KFH is a pioneer in arranging and syndicating the Sukuk issuances across the world.

The economic development on the local level is moving forward. The government initiatives offer more legislations that comprise a catalyst for attracting foreign investments. Upgrading the Kuwaiti Bourse to emerging-markets classification by index FTSE Russell is very important step for further prosperity. He called for concerted efforts and for further collaboration between the private sector and the government in order to improve the domestic business environment. This boosts the economy, increases the country's return and contributes in creating more jobs, which achieves the aspiration of the future generations and offers growth and development in all fields.



Total operating income rose by 9.1% to KD 525.1m

## China CB chief surprises with 7% H2 growth forecast



BEIJING: Workers walk past a construction site in Beijing yesterday. China's factory price inflation rose again in September, official data showed yesterday. —AFP

SHANGHAI/BEIJING: China's central bank governor said the economy could grow 7 percent in the second half of this year, accelerating from the first six months and defying widespread expectations for a slowdown. The uncharacteristically explicit growth forecast by Zhou Xiaochuan came just days ahead of a twice-in-a-decade Communist Party Congress, where President Xi Jinping is expected to strengthen his grip in a leadership reshuffle. While China produced forecast-beating growth of 6.9 percent in the first half, many economists and investors had expected momentum would start to fade later in the year. Those views are largely predicated on three factors: higher borrowing costs; increasing curbs on home buying to cool soaring prices; and government-mandated shutdowns of some steel mills and factories in coming months to reduce winter air pollution.

But the driving force behind growth has been mainly rising household consumption, Zhou said in remarks published on the People's Bank of China's (PBOC) website yesterday.

"China's economic growth has slowed over the past few years...but economic growth has rebounded this year, with GDP reaching 6.9 percent in the first half, and may achieve 7 percent in the second half," Zhou was quoted as saying at the G30 International Banking Seminar in Washington on Sunday. Zhou, the country's longest-serving central bank chief, is likely to step down next year, sources told Reuters.

Investors are waiting to see if sustained economic growth this year will give China's leaders the confidence to quicken and deepen reforms, though many say Beijing continues to rely too heavily on debt-fueled stimulus.

The government had set a 2017 growth target of around 6.5 percent. Zhou's estimate implies an expansion of about 6.95 percent, topping growth rates in 2015-2016.

Economists had expected growth to ease to 6.8 percent in the third quarter and 6.6 percent in the fourth quarter, but the impact of the pollution shutdowns is a major wild card. "Growth in the second half will be slower...I don't think 7 percent growth is very possible," said Xu Hongcai, deputy chief economist at China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE), a

prominent think-tank in Beijing. "Investment and consumption growth have eased. And foreign trade is not likely to be as strong as in the first half." The International Monetary Fund last week reiterated its stance that there may now be a now greater chance of a sharp slowdown in China, if authorities delay the withdrawal of hefty stimulus as they focus on achieving growth targets.

Firing on all cylinders?

China will report third-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) on Thursday. September data so far has shown imports and bank lending grew more than expected, while exports picked up. Yesterday, data showed producer prices jumped 6.9 percent in September on-year, confounding views that producer inflation had peaked. A year-long construction boom has helped boost prices for building materials and resources from steel and copper to iron ore, helping to create a reflationary pulse worldwide in commodities markets and manufacturing.

Prices have turned wildly volatile in recent weeks on fears of shortages as Beijing embarks on its biggest environmental crackdown yet to reduce the country's notorious winter smog. Some steel mills, smelters and chemical plants have cranked up output ahead of curbs on production or outright shutdowns. Shanghai steel futures surged to a one-month high yesterday along with raw materials iron ore and coking coal, and the ripples are spreading globally, with LME copper futures hitting a three-month high.

Other data on Thursday is expected to reinforce the view that China is still in high gear, with growth in industrial output and retail sales seen accelerating while fixed investment may hold at a roughly steady pace. Private business surveys, however, suggest the recovery has not been balanced, with large state-run firms reaping more of the benefits from robust growth than smaller, private companies who don't enjoy the same access to cheap and ample credit. Moreover, a recent Reuters analysis showed few of China's listed companies are using windfall profits this year to reduce massive debts despite Beijing's campaign to rein in risks. —Reuters



Praise be to Allah

## Financial Results up to the end of third Quarter of 2017

	30/09/2017	30/09/2016	%
Net Profit for Shareholders "KD Million"	137.9	123.1	12.0
Earnings per Share "Fils"	24.26	21.69	11.8
Total Financing Income "KD Million"	542.1	534.1	1.5
Total Operating Income "KD Million"	525.1	481.3	9.1
Total Operating Expenses "KD Million"	213.3	221.1	(3.5)
Net Operating Income "KD Million"	311.7	260.3	19.8
	30/09/2017	31/12/2016	%
Total Assets "KD Billion"	17.40	16.50	5.5
Financing Receivables "KD Billion"	9.27	8.17	13.4
Depositors' Accounts "KD Billion"	11.59	10.66	8.7
Shareholders Equity "KD Billion"	1.85	1.81	2.0

# Honda “Engineered for Better” Graffiti Event: University students unleash creativity to win KD500 travel prizes!



**H**onda Alghanim’s ongoing support of initiatives engaging youth talents is extended in its “Engineered for Better” graffiti event, which was held at The Avenues Mall over the weekend, gathering eight teams of university students in a competition to express their vision of the event’s title and translating it into graffiti art.

Organized in collaboration with Zahhab, the leading student community in Kuwait, the event comes as part of Honda’s “Engineered for Better” campaign, derived from its motto: “The Power of Dreams”.

Honda’s philosophy reflects the belief that dreams should be combined with skill in order to be achieved. Honda was fond of saying “If you can dream it, you can build it. If you use your imagination and pair that with sound and innovative engineering, you can achieve what other people can only dream about.”

Ahead of the event, select teams were trained in

a workshop led by designer and famed graffiti artist Monstariam, which was held at the Honda Al Rai showroom. This extensive four hour long workshop taught students graffiti techniques and prepared them for the great day.

Participating students came from various universities and different majors mainly from engineering, graphic design, and marketing. During a live broadcast of the event, the audience cast their votes for the winning team on social media. Members of the winning team were awarded KD500 in travel vouchers from Alghanim Travel each.

While teams worked on their graffiti walls, Monstariam worked on a Honda Civic, turning pure engineering into a magnificent piece of art. The Honda Civic will be on display at the Honda Alghanim Showroom located in Al Rai.

In addition to the competition, the Honda “Engineered for Better” graffiti event also included a number of fun activities and gave out valuable

prizes for the audience to enjoy.

Honda vehicles, “Engineered for Better” performance, mobility and joy in life:

We are dream builders. Honda believes in The Power of Dreams. But believing isn’t enough. As Soichiro Honda said: “Action without philosophy is a lethal weapon; philosophy without action is worthless.” This is your chance to see how we are bringing this idea to life. We couldn’t wait for the future — so we’re building it now.

At Honda, The Power of Dreams drives us to create intelligent products that enhance mobility and increase the joy in people’s lives. Fueled by the Power of Dreams, Honda continues to rank as the world’s most innovative mobility company making a positive impact on the environment, communities and customers.

From automobiles, power products, marine engines to racing to jets and robots — Honda is always on the move creating new products showcasing the advanced engineering technologies. We strongly believe that what makes a Honda is who makes a Honda. It’s our diverse associates who have led

us to accomplish so much in making the world smarter, safer and more mobile every day.

Customers can take any of these cars on a test drive by visiting one of the two Honda Alghanim showrooms located in Al Rai and Shuwaikh. The Honda Alghanim showroom in Al Rai operates from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Saturday to Thursday, and from 9:30 AM until 10:00 PM on Fridays. The Shuwaikh showroom operates from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM. The cars’ service center waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers, digital satellite TV, free wireless internet and relaxing massage chairs. The service center, located in Al Rai, operates 7 days a week from Saturday to Thursday from 8:30am to 8:30pm, and from 10:00am to 8:00pm on Fridays.

Alghanim Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda automobiles, motorcycles, power products, and marine products in Kuwait, is committed to providing customers with flexible payment solutions and efficient and cost-effective services.



Business

# Jazeera Airways takes off to India this season!

## Four new exciting routes starting from Nov 2017

**KUWAIT:** Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low cost airline, operating regionally and internationally, is delighted to announce its arrival into India with the launch of four new destinations in Q4 2017. Starting with Hyderabad as the first route from 16th November followed by Kochi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad by mid-December.

"This move comes as part of Jazeera Airways' commitment to addressing increasing travel demands with low cost fares at convenient frequencies that suit all. India is a dynamic business and tourist destination that has shared close ties with Kuwait for many years. Stepping into a new territory is always exciting as it holds tremendous potential for our growing customer base and brings diverse cultures closer together," said Rohit Ramchandran, CEO of Jazeera Airways. Hyderabad, the 400-year-old city rich with history and tradition is backed by intriguing attractions such as the Chowmahalla Palace and Ramoji Film City, the world's largest film studio. Home to many upscale

restaurants and shops, its other popular landmark sites also include Golconda Fort, a former diamond-trading center and the Charminar, a 16th-century mosque whose 4 arches support towering minarets. Jazeera Airways will operate daily flights to Hyderabad departing 18.40 arriving 01.35, making it possible to travel to India without wasting a working day. Schedules for other routes to the subcontinent will be announced shortly.

Fares from Kuwait to Hyderabad start from KD 32 one way and are on sale now with a baggage allowance of 30kg in economy class and 50 kg per passenger in business class. Travelers can book now via Jazeera's revamped website - Jazeeraairways.com, or through the dedicated app or from all travel agents. Jazeera has just launched its refurbished cabin interiors in both economy and business class on the first aircraft of its A320 fleet, together with a bold new livery and stylish new crew uniforms. The complete fleet will receive the cabin upgrades by the end of the year.



## VIVA launches new prepaid offer: Unlimited calls when recharging online

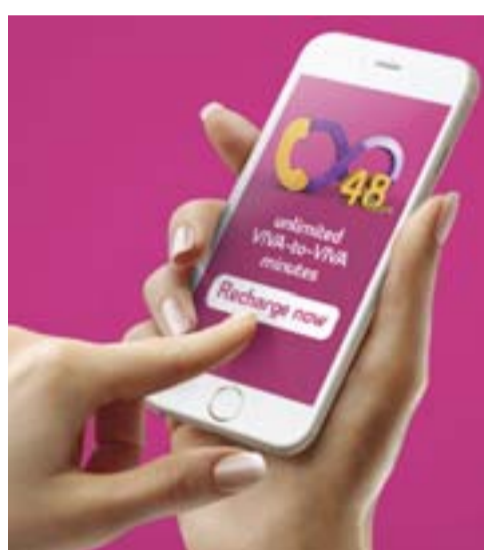
**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launches a new offer "Bonus on Digital Recharge" for prepaid customers, across voice and data, to provide them with a distinctive experience through VIVA's online channels.

This new offer allows customers to enjoy a bonus of free unlimited VIVA-to-VIVA minutes when recharging online. The bonus minutes are valid for 48 hours starting the moment of recharging through the VIVA App or website www.viva.com.kw.

VIVA's vision is embodied in a fundamental and detailed understanding of the Kuwait market and focusing on the needs of customers in everything it says and does. VIVA has pledged to work to enrich the lives of its customers through telecommunications, entertainment and

information, and data transfer services.

To find out more about VIVA's new prepaid offer, visit one of VIVA's 71 branches, or VIVA's official website at www.viva.com.kw, or access round the clock assistance from team of specialists available on the VIVA's customer care line 102. 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 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.

## Grab the opportunity to 'buy any Infiniti Luxury Car in 2017 and pay in 2018'

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, is delighted to announce that customers can still avail of the exciting offer that allows purchasing any Infiniti vehicle in 2017 and pay in 2018. Ending on 31 October 2017, Infiniti Al-Babbain in cooperation with selected finance companies will pay the four months installment on behalf of its customers.

On offer is the premium Infiniti line up that is famed for its distinctive design, premium motor experience and high performance, owing to the brand's human centric approach to manufacture.

These include the Infiniti Q30, representing Infiniti's first entry into the fast-growing premium compact segment last year features signature design cues, with a double-arch grille with 3D mesh.

The dramatic curves and turbulent lines flow up the bonnet, over the fenders and across the body line into the strong shoulder of the car.

The Infiniti Q30 is available with 1.6L or 2.0L Turbo variants in a 2WD configuration. The 2.0L Turbo is also offered with an

optional AWD drivetrain. The 2.0L Turbo engine delivers 208hp and 350Nm torque.

Luxury model - the Infiniti Q50 comes with a pulsing heart beat that is the quiet but powerful engine. Built with a consistent, confident and engineering design that welcomes a new generation of discerning young customers looking to enjoy Infiniti's unique integration on the whole. Expressing signature Infiniti design, the double arch grille is prominently placed front and center.

Another special edition favored by families is the QX60, which reflects the concept of high-end hybrid cars, and is designed to be a masterpiece of all standards. This innovative icon is a role model for the future in Infiniti's pioneering automotive technologies, incorporating a range of advanced technologies that the manufacturer has adopted in its research to create exceptional, high-performance cars.

Infiniti Al-Babbain urges all its customers to benefit from this special offer by visiting the Infiniti showroom located in Al-Rai area, which is open every day except Fridays.

## Malabar Gold & Diamonds raffle draws



Bengali film actress Bidita Senha Saha Mim giving away the prize 1/4 KG gold to Niranjan Chhatoi, the raffle draw winner of 'Win up to 100 kilos of Gold' campaign in the presence of Najeeb K- Regional Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Muhsin, P - Branch Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds and other officials of Malabar Gold & Diamonds. (Right) Indian film actor Anil Kapoor giving away the prize 1/2 KG gold to Shamshad Begum, the raffle draw winner of 'Win up to 100 kilos of Gold' campaign 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 and other management team members from Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

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

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 15 October 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 8 October - 12 October 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

**The winners are:**  
(Sunday 8/10): Khaled Abdulrahman Sulaiman Al-Farhoud, Abdullah Mefleh Al-Azmi  
(Monday 9/10): Najwa Ahmad Yousef Ibrahim Al-Banai, Manar Sabri Mostafa Akash- Minor  
(Tuesday 10/10): Bipin Sebastian Narively, Fahad Abdulrahman Khudhur Al-Doghaji

(Wednesday 11/10): Salwa Ali Ahmed Al-Mousa, Badriya Amir Ahmad Ali  
(Thursday 12/10): Husain Nori Jbara Ijbara, Ali Fadel Essa Hussain Al-Saiegh

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

Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is avail-



able on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million and the largest international bank prize according to Guinness World Records
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year.

the next set of people have the set of experiences that allows them to do that? Will they have a test?"

The changing of the guard could veer in unpredictable directions. China's president is considering a provincial official to succeed Zhou Xiaochuan, a veteran policymaker who has led the central bank since 2002 and whom analysts regard as a champion of reforms that could falter without his leadership.

In the United States, President Donald Trump will have the opportunity to infuse his "America First" sensibility at the Fed, an institution with an undeniable global role, when Chair Janet Yellen's term ends in early February. BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda's shock-and-awe record monetary stimulus gets credited for helping Japan snap out of years of stagnation. He will see his term end next April with the economy expected to keep growing, but inflation still far from his target, fueling doubts about the overall effectiveness of his policy. — Reuters

## As the quartet breaks up, Fed leadership flux looms

**WASHINGTON:** The leaders of the world's top central banks who risked trillions of dollars and their reputations to rescue the global economy are now set to walk off stage at a time when the lingering effects of the crisis, evolving technology and a combustible political landscape will challenge their successors. The Federal Reserve, the Bank of Japan and the People's Bank of China may all have new bosses in early 2018 and there will be a new head of the European Central Bank the following year.

The new leaders will have to deal with the hangover from the 2007-2009 crisis and its immediate aftermath as well as newly emerging risks. Some \$10 trillion in assets bought by the

Fed, the ECB and the BOJ to prop up their economies remains on the books and will have to be pared back. Stubbornly low global inflation and weak growth complicate the return to more conventional policies.

There are unfinished reforms in China and Europe, while the rise of nationalism could erode central bank independence. Further ahead, the spread of cryptocurrencies and other technologies threatens to weaken central bank control over the financial system.

"The bad news is that in a crisis people learn by doing," said Vincent Reinhart, chief economist at investment firm Standish Mellon and a longtime official at the Federal Reserve. "Will

## Hong Kong skyscraper sold for record \$5.15bn

**HONG KONG:** A landmark skyscraper owned by Hong Kong's richest man Li Ka-shing has sold for a record of more than \$5 billion, according to a report said yesterday, indicating that the city's booming property sector shows no sign of slowing down. Li's CK Asset sold its 75 percent stake in The Centre, which is located in the city's bustling Central district, to a consortium led by a Chinese energy firm, the Hong Kong Economic Journal said, citing unnamed sources.

The city's fifth tallest skyscraper would become Hong Kong's most expensive commercial building ever sold if the HK\$40.2 billion (\$5.15 billion) deal goes through, the paper reported.

The sale would surpass a transaction earlier this year, where a prime commercial lot-occupied by a multi-storey car park also in Central-was sold off for HK\$23.28 billion by the government to Henderson Land, which is owned by the city's second

richest man, Lee Shau-kee.

A spokeswoman from CK Asset said no immediate information was available. Shares in CK Asset, Li's flagship property company, rose 2.62 percent to HK\$66.50 in Hong Kong trade yesterday.

The deal will soon be announced and the name of the building may be changed, the report added. Hong Kong's surging property market has become a political issue as costs in one of the world's most expensive metropolises continue to soar, forcing some small businesses to close owing to sky-high rents while many residents cannot afford to buy or rent decent homes. Commercial and residential property prices have been fuelled by an influx of money from wealthy mainland Chinese investors and developers.

The 89-year-old Li announced a sweeping reorganization of his businesses in early 2015, saying he wanted to secure stability in future. — AFP



**HONG KONG:** This photo taken on September 8, 2017 shows The Centre skyscraper (center left), located in the city's bustling Central district of Hong Kong. A landmark skyscraper owned by Hong Kong's richest man LI Ka-shing has sold for a record of more than \$5 billion. — AFP

## Technology

# Infiniti Al-Babtain displays the Q60 Coupe at the Gate Mall

## 3-day demonstration grabs customer's attention

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, recently showcased the INFINITI Q60's exquisite features at the popular Gate mall from October 12 - 14, 2017. Born with a vision to be different that is 'everything to some people', the INFINITI Q60 is a driver centric, passenger minded Coupe with powerful elegance and striking performance.

Combining the best of both worlds to celebrate bold thinking with fine modern materials, the driver can enjoy a totally in-control experience in the high-back, high-bolster seats that are newly-designed to lower the load on the spine and support the shoulders. The exterior's flowing sculptural lines and strong, muscular proportions communicate dynamism, representing a daring visual expression of the car's performance. Starting from KD 13,500 the 2.0-liter 4 turbocharged engine promises optimal power and efficiency, to glide forward confidently. The turbo spools quickly to produce 208hp at 5,500 rpm and outputs a stirring 350 Nm of torque.



**A driver centric, passenger minded coupe**

At Infiniti, performance is more than delivering a heightened driving experience, as the INFINITI Q60 Red Sport 400 ensures that its speed and power are duly felt with its 3.0-liter V6 twin-turbo engine. Generating a staggering 400hp, the all-new Q60 engine is designed to offer enhanced performance while maintaining high levels of efficiency. Direct Injection Gasoline (DIG), water-cooled air charging, a turbo speed sensor and advanced turbine blade design make for quicker response and a higher peak.

The Q60 delivers a confidence-inspiring and personalized experience behind the wheel, which epitomizes INFINITI's dedication to developing new and innovative driving technologies. The Q60 is fully customizable through the Drive Mode Selector (DMS) - accessed through the 8-inch upper touchscreen. The system allows the drive mode to be selected from the following available options: 'Standard', 'Snow', 'Eco', 'Sport', 'Sport+' (new for certain models), and 'Personal'.

The Q60 features newly-designed 19-inch aluminium alloy



wheels as standard. The 'Red Sport 400' models - more performance-oriented versions of the car - have wider wheels and tires at the rear, contributing to a more aggressive stance while also improving handling and grip with a higher capacity for lateral G-forces.

The Q60 is equipped with INFINITI's InTouch advanced infotainment setup, allowing occupants to personalize the interior environment of the Q60 according to their preferences, and can store profiles for multiple drivers. InTouch is able to memorize more than 200 settings that the individual can pro-

gram themselves including a Vehicle Health Report, providing a monthly overview of the car's status regarding ABS, airbags, brakes, engine, oil pressure, and tire pressure. InTouch then alerts the driver if any action or servicing is required.

Never compromising on safety factors, the Q60 is equipped with six airbags and includes safety technologies that actively protect people in and around the car. Customers can view and test drive the INFINITI Q60 coupe by visiting the Infiniti showroom located in Al-Rai area, which is open every day except Fridays.

## Daimler plans new structure for Mercedes, truck business

FRANKFURT: German automaker Daimler says it is moving toward implementing a new structure in which its Mercedes-Benz car division and truck and bus business would become legally independent entities under Daimler's overall roof. The company said yesterday that the changes would give the divisions the entrepreneurial flexibility to react to a rapidly changing business environment.

It said there were no plans to divest the divisions and that the new structure still needed approval from top management and the board of directors before it could take effect. The earliest final approval could come would be at the company's 2019 shareholder meeting.

Nonetheless, the company's initial discussion of the plan in July led to speculation that the changes could be a prelude to a separate stock market listing for parts of the company. If the changes are approved, Mercedes-Benz Cars and Vans and Daimler Trucks & Buses would then be like the company's financial services division, which already has a legally independent structure. All three would keep their registered offices in Germany.

Daimler AG's CEO, Dieter Zetsche, said in a statement that "whoever aims for sustainable competitiveness and profitability must continuously evolve and adapt to rapidly changing surroundings - technologically, culturally and also structurally."

Zetsche said the new structure would "make sure we are optimally prepared for the challenges in the new automotive era." He is also the head of Mercedes-Benz Cars in addition to his CEO title.

The truck and bus division includes truck brands Freightliner, part of the company's North American truck business headquartered in Portland, Oregon, Western Star and FUSO. It also makes Thomas Built school buses in High Point, North Carolina.

Major automakers are gearing up for what is expected to be a period of disruptive change spurred by digitalization and government pressure to reduce air pollution from car exhaust pipes. The new challenges facing the industry include the development of autonomous or driverless cars, a push to make lower-emission electric vehicles more attractive to consumers, and the use of digital technologies such as smartphone apps that, for instance, let consumers use autos only when they need one. — AP



In this file photo the logo of Mercedes is photographed in Stuttgart, Germany. — AP

## Young Chadians develop digital cures for social, economic ills

N'DJAMENA: In a dusty alleyway in Chad's capital, veiled women sell peanuts laid out on handkerchiefs and children bring home firewood on donkeys, as if from another era. But behind tall iron gates, a group of twenty-somethings, armed with laptops, business books and a red motor bike have established a digital start-up, aiming to help propel their country into the 21st century.

MossoSouk (Chadian Arabic for "trade-market"), Chad's first online store for merchants, shopkeepers and individuals

## Worn down by censors, Iran's Facebook shuts down

TEHRAN: Iran's oldest social media network announced yesterday it is shutting down after years of battling censors, saying they had allowed foreign sites such as Instagram to take over.

Cloob website was launched 12 years ago as the Iranian answer to Facebook and Google's now-dead Orkut, and at its peak had some two million users in the country. But the challenge of monitoring the deluge of photos from women not to show hair and removing politically sensitive comments led to frequent clashes with the authorities. "Cloob.com was entirely blocked three times and the last

time it took 28 days to unblock it," said company director Mohammad Javad Shakouri Moghadam in a blog post.

"Like a farmer, a webmaster knows how hard it is to rejuvenate a land that has dried up for 28 days," he wrote, adding that his team no longer had the "energy or enthusiasm" to keep fighting.

Iran banned Facebook primarily due to lack of oversight, especially women sharing photos of themselves without a headscarf, which is illegal under the country's Islamic laws. But sites such as Instagram are not banned and have boomed in Iran, while messaging service

Telegram has some 25 million users in the country. Officials say they cannot ban popular online services as long as there is no local alternative. "Cloob was one of the top three services in Iran but its flourishing tree has withered," said Shakouri. He said he also faced frequent legal battles over his other companies, such as video sharing site Aparat and streaming service Filmio.

"These days, some have started to... sue the new wave of content creators such as Aparat and other services—a source of domestic content creation which would definitely be of benefit to our country and culture," he said.

President Hassan Rouhani was re-elected in May promising to soften social restrictions. He appointed the Islamic republic's youngest-ever minister, 36-year-old Mohammad-Javad Azari Jahromi, to head the communications portfolio. Jahromi said in August that negotiations were underway to lift a ban on Twitter, though no progress has since been announced. — AFP

## T-Mobile-Sprint: A merger without asset divestitures

NEW YORK: T-Mobile US Inc and Sprint Corp plan to announce a merger agreement without any immediate asset sales, as they seek to preserve as much of their spectrum holdings and cost synergies as they can before regulators ask for concessions, according to people familiar with the matter.

While it is common for companies not to unveil divestitures during merger announcements, T-Mobile's and Sprint's approach shows that the companies plan to enter what could be challenging negotiations with US antitrust and telecommunications regulators without having made prior concessions. Reuters reported last week that some of the US Justice Department's antitrust staff were skeptical about the deal, which would combine the third and fourth largest US wireless carriers. However, regulators can only begin reviewing a corporate merger once it has been agreed to and announced.

T-Mobile and Sprint are preparing a negotiating strategy to tackle demands from regulators regarding asset sales, including the divestment of some of their spectrum licenses after their deal is announced, the sources said. The companies' announcement of a merger agreement, currently expected to come either in late October or early November, will focus on the potential benefits of the deal for US consumers, including the advancement of next-generation 5G wireless technology, which requires considerable investment, the sources added.

The sources asked not to be identified because the deliberations are confidential. T-Mobile and Sprint declined to comment. "It is better for Sprint and T-Mobile to listen and learn the concerns of regulators first, and see whether there is anything that can be done to address those concerns," MoffettNathanson research analyst Craig Moffett said. A combination of T-Mobile and Sprint would create a business with more than 130 million US subscribers, just behind Verizon Communications Inc and AT&T Inc. Companies often chose not to make any pre-emptive announcements on divestitures when they announce mergers. For example, when US health insurers Anthem Inc and Aetna Inc separately announced deals two years ago to acquire peers Cigna Corp and Humana Inc, they did not reveal which assets they would be willing to



divest. US federal judges shot down both mergers on antitrust grounds earlier this year.

Some media and telecommunications deals in recent years have been announced with divestitures, such as US cable operator Comcast Corp's proposed takeover of Time Warner Cable in 2014, which was later called off after regulatory pushback. When US TV station owner Sinclair



cap in their merger agreement, though it is possible they will do so, one of the sources said.

### Spectrum holdings

UBS research analyst John Hodulik said in a research note earlier this month that the U.S. Federal Communications Commission will likely force T-Mobile and Sprint to make some divestitures of spectrum, since the combined company would have the most airwaves in its sector with more than 300 MHz, putting it ahead of Verizon's and AT&T's holdings. T-Mobile spent \$8 billion in a government auction of airwaves earlier this year. Sprint stayed out of the auction, touting its holdings of high-band spectrum, which it says can move large volumes of information at high speeds. Having access to a lot of spectrum is particularly important for the 5G wireless offerings that AT&T and Verizon hope to launch to better compete with high-speed Internet services from cable companies.

T-Mobile and Sprint believe that the US antitrust enforcement environment has become more favorable since the companies abandoned their previous effort to combine in 2014 amid regulatory concerns, according to the sources. The two companies have not yet introduced a breakup fee in their merger negotiations that would compensate one side if regulators reject the deal, though it is possible one will be agreed to by the time the deal is signed, the sources said. — Reuters

“ Combined business could create 130m US subscribers ”

Broadcast Group announced its acquisition of peer Tribune Media Co in May, it said it might sell certain stations to comply with regulators.

Companies often also choose to place caps in their merger agreements on the size of divestitures they would be willing to accept in their negotiations with regulators. T-Mobile and Sprint have not yet agreed to include such a

have agreed to give it a go. In September, the company won the Digital Innovation Prize, a national award worth \$18,000 run by Swedish non-profit group Reach for Change and mobile network provider Tigo.

For those unsure about e-commerce, MossoSouk provides training based on expertise Koumato gained while studying at Illinois-based Northwestern University as a participant in the Young African Leaders Initiative run by the US State Department. While developing MossoSouk, Koumato and his team are training other young Chadians in digital entrepreneurship. Koumato is also a founding member of Chad's "Generation ABCD" (AnyBodyCanDream) venture, funded by UN children's agency UNICEF, which seeks to promote innovation and pro-active citizenship among youth. "Our basic message is don't wait for the government to do something, don't wait for someone else - do something with the means you have and ask for partnership," said Koumato.

### Opportunity in a crisis

Yet entrepreneurship is not easy in Chad. In 2015,

N'Djamena's main bazaar was the target of suicide bombings by Islamist militant group Boko Haram, whose stronghold in Nigeria's Borno state lies less than 50 km (31 miles) away. And the country's leadership, headed by President Idriss Deby since 1990, has often been criticised for high levels of corruption. Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index ranks Chad as Africa's sixth most corrupt country, jointly with Central African Republic, Burundi and Congo Republic.

Out of a population of 14.2 million, almost half of Chadians live below the poverty line, with life expectancy at just 51.6 years, one of the lowest in the world.

The travel ban imposed last month by the United States on nationals of Chad, among other countries, presents yet another hurdle, making it harder to learn from the American example, said Koumato. It was met with frustration among the capital's community of young activists and entrepreneurs, he added. Moreover, due to a 50 percent slump in crude oil prices since 2014, Chad has faced an economic crisis that has shuttered many businesses and rendered tens of thousands unemployed. — Reuters

Health

# Madagascar plague outbreak now threatens largest cities

## Schools been canceled, public gatherings are banned

**ANTANANARIVO:** As plague cases rose last week in Madagascar's capital, many city dwellers panicked. They waited in long lines for antibiotics at pharmacies and reached through bus windows to buy masks from street vendors. Schools have been canceled, and public gatherings are banned. The plague outbreak has killed 63 people in the Indian Ocean island nation, Madagascar's government says. For the first time, the disease long seen in the country's remote areas is largely concentrated in its two largest cities, Antananarivo and Toamasina.

Global health officials have responded quickly. The World Health Organization, criticized for its slow response to the 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa, has released \$1.5 million and sent plague specialists and epidemiologists. The Red Cross is sending its first-ever plague treatment center to Madagascar.

On Wednesday, Madagascar's minister of public health rallied doctors and paramedics in a packed auditorium at the country's main hospital, saying they're not allowed to go on vacation. "Let's be strong, because it's only us. We're at the front, like the military," Mamy Lalatiana Andriamanarivo said. The outbreak could continue until the end of infection season in April, experts warn.

Madagascar has about 400 plague cases per year, or more than half of the world's total, according to a 2016 World Health Organization report. Usually, they are cases of bubonic plague in the rural highlands. Bubonic plague is carried by rats and spread to humans through flea bites. It is fatal about the half the time, if untreated. Most of the cases in the current outbreak are pneumonic plague, a more virulent form that spreads through coughing, sneezing or spitting and is almost always fatal if untreated. In some cases, it can kill within 24 hours. Like the

bubonic form, it can be treated with common antibiotics if caught in time.

### 'Disease of poverty'

The WHO calls plague a "disease of poverty" caused in part by unsanitary living conditions. Madagascar has a per capita GDP of about \$400, and national programs to control the disease have been "hampered by operational and management difficulties," according to a report by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. But the airborne pneumonic plague, which accounts for about 75 percent of cases in the current outbreak, makes no class distinctions.

"Normally, the people who catch the plague are dirty people who live in poor areas, but in this case we find the well-to-do, the directors, the professors, people in every place in society, catching the disease," said Dr Manitra Rakotoarivony, Madagascar's director of health promotion.

The current outbreak began in August, earlier than usual, when a 31-year-old man who had spent time in a village in

the central highlands, Ankazobe, traveled by bush taxi to the east coast, unaware that he had the plague. He died en route and was buried without any safety precautions in Toamasina. Four people in contact with him also died. Residents of the capital began to relax in recent days amid the global response to the outbreak, but the disease remains a serious threat with the number of new cases per day remaining steady.

### Century long fight

Madagascar has fought the disease for more than a century. It was introduced to the island in 1898 when steamships from India brought rats infected with the bacteria that causes the disease. The plague nearly disappeared from Madagascar for 60 years, starting in 1930, but re-emerged in recent decades. The black rats

To be certain, they weighed him again after doctors brought him to mum's hospital room. The scales didn't lie. "He was 7.2 kilograms with some clothes on, so a bit heavier than when he came out of mummy!" Quan added.

Hospital staff confirmed the baby's weight to AFP, declining to comment. The family have named the not-so-little-guy Tran Tien Quoc, and Quan said both mother and son are healthy and happy. The last big baby to make headlines in Vietnam was in 2008, when a woman gave birth to a daughter weighing nearly seven kilograms in central Gia Lai province.

The heaviest baby ever born to a healthy mother clocked in at 10.2 kilograms in 1955 in Aversa Italy, according to Guinness World Records. Baby Quoc is expected to go home in a few days with mum, who is recovering from a Caesarean section. This is the couple's second son. Their first was born in 2013 and weighed a comparatively modest 4.2 kilograms. —AFP



ANTANANARIVO: In this photo taken Tuesday Oct 10, 2017, a child wears a face mask inside a hospital in the capital. —AP

that carry the disease in the highlands have gradually developed resistance to it. Unsafe burial practices that involve touching corpses are another reason the disease spreads, according to a 2015 study by scientists at the Pasteur Institute in Madagascar.

The outbreak has alarmed neighboring countries. A 34-year-old man in another Indian Ocean island nation, the Seychelles, contracted the pneumonic plague while in Madagascar. He was treated in his own country and no longer has symptoms. It was the first-ever plague case in the Seychelles, said the country's public health commissioner, Dr Jude Gedeon. Another Seychellois, a

49-year-old basketball coach, died of the plague last month while in Antananarivo for a tournament.

Seychelles authorities have established a plague isolation ward and announced that schools will be closed through Tuesday. Foreign travelers who have recently visited Madagascar are not being allowed into the country. While the WHO says the risk of the epidemic spreading beyond the region is very low and does not advise restrictions on travel to Madagascar, Air Seychelles has canceled all flights to and from the island until further notice. "The situation is still not under control in Madagascar," Gedeon said. —AP

## Big bundle of joy: Vietnamese gives birth to 7 kg baby

**HANOI:** A Vietnamese mother had the shock of her life when her newborn son weighed in at a whopping 7.1 kilograms, one of the heaviest births ever reported in the Southeast Asian nation. The very large bundle of joy was born Saturday to his beaming-and-stunned-parents in northern Vinh Phuc province. "When the doctor said my child was 7.1 kilograms, we all couldn't believe it," father Tran Van Quan said yesterday.

Doctors had earlier told mother Nguyen Kim Lien that her baby would be around five kilograms, but she hadn't bargained for the extra two.



VINH PHUC PROVINCE: Baby boy Tran Tien Quoc (top) next to an unidentified baby at the Vinh Tuong district medical center. —AFP

## India to close colonial-era military farms

**ALLAHABAD:** Under a hot afternoon sun workers scrub down cows at the Allahabad Military Farm, the latest hangover of India's colonial past being forced into the 21st century. The 700-acre (285-hectare) farm in the city of 1.1 million people, along with 38 other military farms set up by the country's former British rulers, is to be closed in coming weeks. The yellow and white Victorian-era buildings will probably be demolished while the 500 cows face an uncertain future. The Allahabad farm, set up in 1889, is the oldest of those once used by the British to house the cows transported to Asia to provide milk for the troops in city barracks. The government announced in August that it would shut the military farms to cut costs and better use its vast defence land portfolio. —AFP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

## What's On

# Jumeirah indulges guests with Aromatherapy Associates wellness pioneer at Talise Spa

## Luxury brand offers customized treatments

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa invites Spa-lovers to a truly therapeutic experience with the famed Aromatherapy Associates brand in its luxurious haven of tranquility, Talise Spa. Nestled in the beautiful resort, Talise Spa invited highly-trained therapists to incorporate the exclusive Aromatherapy Associates brand in to their range of signature treatments. Guests visiting the Spa will benefit from a choice of all-natural and tailor-made bath and skincare Aromatherapy experiences derived from precious oils and botanical ingredients native to remote places around the world.

Based on a philosophy which embraces the importance of positively transforming physical and emotional wellbeing, the luxurious brand offers one of the most advanced natural formulas to suit every guests' needs following a personalized consultation. For more than three decades, the modern pioneer of Aromatherapy has used the pure and effective powers of oils such lavender, rosemary and almond to soothe and rejuvenate minds and bodies.

Talise Spa's ever-expanding portfolio of international luxury brands can be enjoyed in the serenity of 17 treatment rooms and private suites. After or prior to their treatments, guests can take time to relax in the Spa's exclusive facilities including the signature Himalayan Salt Room, steam room, sauna, snow room and hydro pool.



## BSK reception students welcome new sensory play equipment

The reception outdoor learning environment at the British School of Kuwait (BSK) has been transformed into a new sensory play environment, with activities focusing on refining the students fine motor skills and developing their emergent writing skills. Students are also encouraged to describe and discuss the activities with one another to develop their communication skills.

The equipment purchased includes wooden outdoor texture kitchens to be used with wet sand and salt dough. Texture kitchens are popular in outstanding early years settings in the UK as they stimulate communication and imaginative play. They encourage joint planning where children work together to come up with a plan, negotiation with joint discussions that lead to an agreed end result and problem-solving, taking time to think together or alone to solve a problem or issue.

Bamboo weaving wigwams for weaving ribbons, support developing fine motor skills and help children to identify and create patterns, whilst a selection of wall mounted blackboards develop emergent writing skills.

Miss Jessica, class tutor for Reception 8, says "The students were very excited to explore our outdoor area. It has sparked their interests, inspiring new creative ideas; alongside developing and extending their language. They have been able to form new friendships with children from other classes who share similar interests. It is wonderful to watch!"



## Al-Mulla Exchange organizes Rangoli competition

Al-Mulla Exchange organized a Rangoli competition for their customers in American International School on October 12, 2017. The hotly contested event saw nearly 50 customers along with their families taking part.

The customers unleashed their creativity and imagination crystallizing some very beautiful designs. The competition took place for nearly two hours with the contestants painstakingly putting colors and giving life to wonderful art forms.

The event was judged by Hufirish Davar, Amita Desai and Avan Davar. The designs were evaluated for creativity, aesthetics and appearance. The first prize for the competition went to Praveen Raval who created a lovely design showcasing a sunset surrounded by coconut trees. The second prize winners were the duo Ashwini and Nishita Aglave who produced an astounding and colorful rangoli compilation. The third prize went to Vishwanath Shetty and Priya Devadiga for their ingenious design.

The winning designs were also showcased at the Al-Mulla Exchange musical concert which happened subsequently the next two days. Customers were happy with the entire event and applauded Al-Mulla Exchange's efforts in bringing communities together.



## LAPA hosts concerts at Shaheed Park



In collaboration with LOYAC's Academy of Performance Arts (LAPA), Al-Shaheed Park recently launched its Peace Festival on the park's amphitheater. The festival ends on Monday, October 23, 2017. The festival includes a number of local, Arab and international song performances starting with the Jordanian singer, actress and performer Hind Hamed who hosted an event on Saturday, October 14 then the Moroccan Ibn Arabi band performance to be held on October 19. Salman Al-Anmari and Ehab Younis will perform on October 21 before the activi-

ties are concluded with artist Amal Mathlouthi on October 23rd.

During the first concert, Hamed enchanted her audience with several Arabic and English songs that highly appealed to all tastes. Hamed also expressed gratitude to LAPA and LOYAC's support. In this regard, Al-Shaheed Park's Manager Yousif Al-Buajjan stressed that the concerts are free to attend, provided that tickets are booked beforehand at LAPA's website: [www.lapa.loyac.org](http://www.lapa.loyac.org).





TV



01:20 Nick Of Time
02:50 Crimson Tide
04:45 Bermuda Tentacles
06:20 Street Fighter
08:00 Nick Of Time
09:30 Crimson Tide
11:25 Armageddon America
12:55 Knight And Day
14:50 Street Fighter
16:30 Snake Eyes
18:10 Echo Effect
19:40 Sherlock Holmes



21:50 The Rock
00:45 Trechouse Masters
01:40 Rugged Justice
02:35 Dark Days In Monkey City
03:00 Dark Days In Monkey City
03:25 Expedition Mungo
04:15 Mountain Monsters
05:42 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
05:49 Lone Star Law
06:36 Night
07:00 Night
07:25 Dark Days In Monkey City
07:50 Dark Days In Monkey City
08:15 Trechouse Masters
09:10 Rugged Justice
10:05 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
11:00 Dark Days In Monkey City
11:28 Dark Days In Monkey City
11:55 Expedition Mungo
12:50 Catching Monsters
13:45 Rugged Justice
14:40 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
15:35 Lone Star Law
16:30 Trechouse Masters
17:25 Pit Bulls & Parolees
18:20 The Lion Queen
19:15 Rugged Justice
20:10 Dark Days In Monkey City
20:38 Dark Days In Monkey City
21:05 Pit Bulls & Parolees
22:00 The Lion Queen
22:55 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
23:50 Lone Star Law



00:30 Doctor Foster
01:25 Paula
02:25 Class
03:15 Class
04:05 New Tricks
05:00 Casualty
06:00 Casualty
06:50 Father Brown
07:40 Stella
08:30 Casualty
09:25 Casualty
10:15 Father Brown
11:05 The Coroner
11:55 Stella
12:45 New Tricks
13:40 Casualty
14:35 Father Brown
15:30 Stella
16:15 New Tricks
17:15 The Coroner
18:15 Holly City
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 Line Of Duty
21:05 New Tricks
22:00 Silent Witness
23:00 Holly City
23:55 Line Of Duty



00:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
01:00 It Takes A Killer
01:30 It Takes A Killer
02:00 Cold Case Files
03:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
04:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
05:00 It Takes A Killer
05:30 It Takes A Killer
06:00 Cold Case Files
07:00 Cold Case Files
08:00 It Takes A Killer
08:30 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
11:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
12:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
13:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
14:00 It Takes A Killer
14:30 It Takes A Killer
15:00 Cold Case Files
16:00 The First 48
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
19:00 It Takes A Killer
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 The First 48
23:00 Evil Up Close



00:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
01:20 Free Ride
02:10 Dirty Jobs
03:00 Ultimate Survival
03:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
07:50 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Mythbusters
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 React To That
11:35 React To That
12:00 World's Top 5
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Mythbusters
14:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
15:20 Storm Chasers
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie
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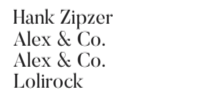
03:00 Ultimate Survival
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22:00 World's Top 5
22:50 Ultimate Survival
23:40 Storm Chasers



00:35 Ghost Asylum
01:22 Sin City Justice
02:10 Chandra Levy: An American Murder Mystery
03:00 I Am Homicide
03:48 Disappeared
04:36 California Investigator
05:01 California Investigator
05:24 I Almost Got Away With It
06:12 Southern Fried Homicide
07:00 Disappeared
07:50 California Investigator
08:15 California Investigator
08:40 I Almost Got Away With It
09:30 Beauty Queen Murders
10:20 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
11:10 Betrayed
12:00 Disappeared
12:50 California Investigator
13:15 California Investigator
13:40 I Almost Got Away With It
14:30 Southern Fried Homicide
15:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
16:10 Disappeared
17:00 Disappeared
17:50 California Investigator
18:15 California Investigator
18:40 I Almost Got Away With It
19:30 Southern Fried Homicide
20:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
21:10 Grave Secrets
22:00 Chandra Levy: An American Murder Mystery
22:50 True Nightmares
23:40 Ghost Brothers



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:40 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks S1
06:00 Splits
06:10 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 The Zhuzhus S1
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Stuck In The Middle
08:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
09:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
09:25 Lolirock
09:50 Lolirock
10:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
10:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:05 Hank Zipzer
11:30 Alex & Co.
11:55 Alex & Co.
12:20 Lolirock
12:45 Lolirock
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
14:00 K.C. Undercover
14:25 K.C. Undercover
14:50 Bizaardvark
15:15 Elena Of Avalor
15:40 Stuck In The Middle
16:05 Liv And Maddie
16:30 Bizaardvark
16:35 Bunk'd
17:00 K.C. Undercover
17:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
18:40 Bizaardvark
18:45 Best Friends Whenever
19:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Elena Of Avalor
20:05 Jessie
20:30 Crackle
20:35 K.C. Undercover
21:00 K.C. Undercover
21:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
21:50 Sunny Bunnies
21:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:20 Alex & Co.
22:45 Lolirock
23:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster



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00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster

01:35 Calimero
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 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 Sofia The First
07:30 Puppy Dog Pals
08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers

08:30 Doc McStuffins
09:00 PJ Masks
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
10:00 Goldie & Bear
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:30 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
12:00 Puppy Dog Pals
12:30 Sofia The First
13:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:30 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 Doc McStuffins
15:00 Puppy Dog Pals
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 Doc McStuffins
17:00 PJ Masks
17:25 Puppy Dog Pals
17:55 Sofia The First
18:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
18:55 PJ Masks
19:25 The Lion Guard
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:25 Doc McStuffins
20:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:45 Doc McStuffins
22:15 Goldie & Bear
22:45 Puppy Dog Pals
23:15 PJ Masks
23:45 Loopdidoo



00:20 Street Customs Berlin
01:05 Gold Rush
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Deadliest Job Interview
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Outback Truckers
06:45 Street Customs Berlin
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Deadliest Job Interview
09:00 Garage Gold
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Gold Rush
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Garage Gold
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Deadliest Job Interview
14:40 Outback Truckers
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Street Customs 2008
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Garage Gold
18:20 Garage Gold
18:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Ed Stafford: Left For Dead
21:40 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
22:50 Boy To Man
23:30 Fast N' Loud

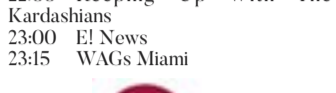


06:00 Disney II
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Right NOW Kapow
07:40 Mech-X4
08:05 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
08:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
08:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Walk The Prank
10:20 Walk The Prank
10:45 Gravity Falls
11:10 Gravity Falls
11:35 Lab Rats
12:00 Lab Rats
12:30 Phineas And Ferb
12:55 Phineas And Ferb
13:20 Zeke And Luther
13:45 Zeke And Luther
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
14:40 Gravity Falls
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law
15:55 Right NOW Kapow
16:25 Walk The Prank
16:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
18:05 Supa Strikas
18:30 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
18:35 Disney II
19:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
19:25 Right NOW Kapow
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Walk The Prank
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Gravity Falls
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats Elite Force
22:10 Lab Rats Elite Force
22:35 Phineas & Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
01:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Hollywood & Football
04:40 Hollywood & Football
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 La Clippers Dance Squad
06:55 El News
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

08:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
09:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
12:00 El News
12:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
13:10 Eric And Jessie
15:00 El News
15:15 Botched
19:00 El News
20:00 Eric And Jessie
20:30 Eric And Jessie
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
23:00 El News
23:15 WAGs Miami



00:00 Restaurant Stakeout
01:00 Mystery Diners
01:30 Mystery Diners
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
14:00 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
09:55 Cooking For Real
10:25 Cooking For Real
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Bake With Anna Olson
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Reza, Spice Prince Of India
17:30 Reza, Spice Prince Of India
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Halloween Wars
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Man Fire Food
21:30 Man Fire Food
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped



00:10 Guess This House
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
02:50 Catchphrase
03:25 Victoria
04:20 Granchester
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:10 Guess This House
07:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
07:25 Catchphrase
08:00 Victoria
09:00 Granchester
10:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
10:55 Guess This House
11:45 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
12:10 Catchphrase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:10 Guess This House
15:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
15:25 Catchphrase



16:00 Doc Martin
16:55 The Jonathan Ross Show
17:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
18:45 Emmerdale
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Coronation Street
20:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
20:25 Catchphrase
21:00 Doc Martin
21:55 The Jonathan Ross Show
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street
H2 HD
10:00 Decoding The Past
10:10 Weapons At War
12:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
12:50 Ancient Aliens
13:40 Ancient Discoveries
14:30 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
16:10 Decoding The Past
16:20 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
17:00 Weapons At War
18:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
18:50 Ancient Aliens
19:40 Ancient Discoveries
20:30 Decoding The Past
21:20 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
22:10 Engineering Disasters
23:00 Weapons At War
24:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 Ancient Discoveries
17:00 The Universe
18:00 Decoding The Past
19:00 Patton 360
20:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Ancient Aliens
23:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar



00:20 American Ripper In London
01:10 Mountain Men
02:00 Mountain Men
02:45 Pawn Stars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Swamp People
10:12 Leapt And Pitbull
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
09:20 Aussie Pickers
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 Time Team
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
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 Detroit Steel
18:30 Aussie Pickers
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Mountain Men
21:50 Forged: Iron & Fire
22:15 Milwaukee Blacksmith
22:40 Ice Road Truckers
23:30 Mountain Men



00:15 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
00:45 Places We Go
01:10 Places We Go
01:40 Restoration Man
02:35 My Pacific Quest
03:30 The Shelbourne
03:55 Mega Food
04:50 Places We Go
05:20 Places We Go
05:45 Glamour Puds
06:15 David Rocca's Dolce Vita
06:40 David Rocca's Dolce Vita
07:10 Restoration Man
08:05 My Pacific Quest
09:00 The Shelbourne
09:25 Mega Food
10:20 Places We Go
10:50 Places We Go
11:25 Glamour Puds
11:45 David Rocca's Dolce Vita
12:40 David Rocca's Dolce Vita
12:40 Restoration Man
13:35 My Pacific Quest
14:30 The Shelbourne
14:55 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
15:25 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
15:50 Places We Go
16:20 Places We Go
16:45 Glamour Puds
17:15 David Rocca's Dolce Vita
17:40 David Rocca's Dolce Vita
18:10 This Is Brazil
19:05 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
19:30 Places We Go
20:00 Places We Go
20:30 Glamour Puds
21:00 David Rocca's Dolce Vita
21:30 David Rocca's Dolce Vita
22:50 This Is Brazil
22:55 Restoration Man
23:50 My Pacific Quest



00:10 I Am Rebel
01:00 Highway Thru Hell
02:00 Nazi Megastructures
03:00 Mega Factories
04:00 I Am Rebel
05:00 4 Babies A Second
06:00 Man v. Viral
07:00 Hooked
08:00 Brain Games
08:30 Brain Games
09:00 Inside The American Mob
10:00 Big Fish, Texas
11:00 Wicked Tuna
12:00 Air Crash Investigation
13:00 Man v. Viral
14:00 Brain Games
14:30 Brain Games
15:00 Pond Stars
16:00 Big Fish, Texas
17:00 Wicked Tuna
18:00 Air Crash Investigation
19:00 Seconds From Disaster
19:30 Seconds From Disaster
20:00 Big Fish, Texas
20:50 Wicked Tuna
21:40 Air Crash Investigation
22:30 Seconds From Disaster
22:55 Seconds From Disaster
23:20 Brain Games
23:45 Brain Games

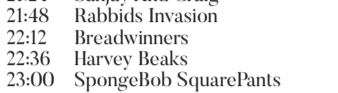


00:20 Snake Paradise
01:10 Ultimate Animal Countdown
02:00 Tiger Queen
02:50 Monster Fish
03:45 Predator Fails
04:40 Snakes In The City
05:35 Tiger Queen
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Predator Fails
08:20 Snakes In The City
09:15 Wild 24
10:10 Man v. Monster
11:05 India's Lost Worlds
12:00 Wild Untamed Brazil
12:55 Super Predators
13:50 Monster Fish
14:45 Speed Kills
15:40 Snakes In The City
16:35 Wild 24
17:30 Man v. Monster
18:25 In The Womb
19:20 Speed Kills
20:10 Snakes In The City
21:00 Wild 24
21:50 Man v. Monster
22:40 Wild Untamed Brazil

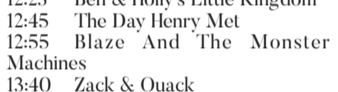


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
06:12 Get Blake
06:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud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

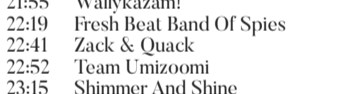
15:24 Breadwinners
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17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:01 Max & Ruby
00:23 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:44 The Day Henry Met
00:55 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:40 Zack & Quack
02:01 Shimmer And Shine
02:23 Olive The Ostrich
02:34 Paw Patrol
02:57 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:05 The Day Henry Met
04:11 Nella The Princess Knight
04:33 Shimmer And Shine
04:58 Wallykazam!
05:21 Zack & Quack
05:31 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:30 Shimmer And Shine
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:21 Paw Patrol
09:44 Rusty Rivets
09:55 Wallykazam!
10:19 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:41 Zack & Quack
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Shimmer And Shine
12:01 Max & Ruby
12:23 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:45 The Day Henry Met
12:55 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:40 Zack & Quack
14:01 Shimmer And Shine
14:23 Olive The Ostrich
14:35 Paw Patrol
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19:21 Bubble Guppies
19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
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17:30 Man v. Monster
18:25 In The Womb
19:20 Speed Kills
20:10 Snakes In The City
21:00 Wild 24
21:50 Man v. Monster
22:40 Wild Untamed Brazil



00:15 The Incredibles
02:15 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
02:15 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
04:45 Sky High
06:30 The Shaggy Dog
08:15 The Emperor's New Groove
09:40 The Incredibles
11:40 The Shaggy Dog
13:20 Kronk's New Groove
14:40 The Parent Trap
16:50 The Sorcerer's Apprentice
18:40 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
18:40 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
21:10 The Last Flight Of Noah's Ark
22:50 The Parent Trap



01:10 The Ladykillers
02:55 Miss You Already
04:45 Outside Bet
06:30 Trust Me
08:00 Holiday Joy
09:35 Miss You Already
11:25 Outside Bet
13:10 Trust Me
14:45 Mr. Deeds
16:25 Turner & Hooch
18:10 Life Or Something Like It
20:00 Spanglish
22:15 Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo
23:40 Broken Flowers



00:25 Masquerade
02:10 12 Angry Men
04:05 Before I Disappear
06:00 Wildlife
08:00 XY: Beyond The Tryline
09:45 Before I Disappear
11:30 Wildlife
13:20 Yosemite
13:20 Yosemite
14:50 The Education Of Little Tree
16:50 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
19:05 Waking Life
20:55 Blue Sky
22:45 Born To Be Blue

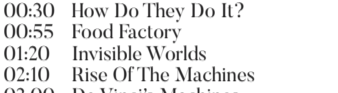


00:55 A Town Called Panic
02:15 Krazzy Planet
02:15 Krazzy Planet

03:35 Oops Noah Is Gone
05:10 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
06:40 The Tigger Movie
08:05 Rainbow Valley Heroes
09:45 Song Of The Sea
11:25 Vickie And The Treasure Of Gods
13:10 Krazzy Planet
14:30 Oops Noah Is Gone
16:05 Swan Princess: Royally Undercover
17:35 Song Of The Sea
19:15 Memory Loss
20:45 Ploddy Police Car
22:20 Swan Princess: Royally Undercover
23:50 Rainbow Valley Heroes



00:15 He Got Game
02:35 Ride Along
04:20 While You Were Sleeping
06:05 The Express
08:15 Before We Go
09:55 Leatherheads
11:55 The Blind Side
14:05 Die Hard
16:20 Spotlight
18:30 Calendar Girls
20:25 Spectre
23:00 End Of Days



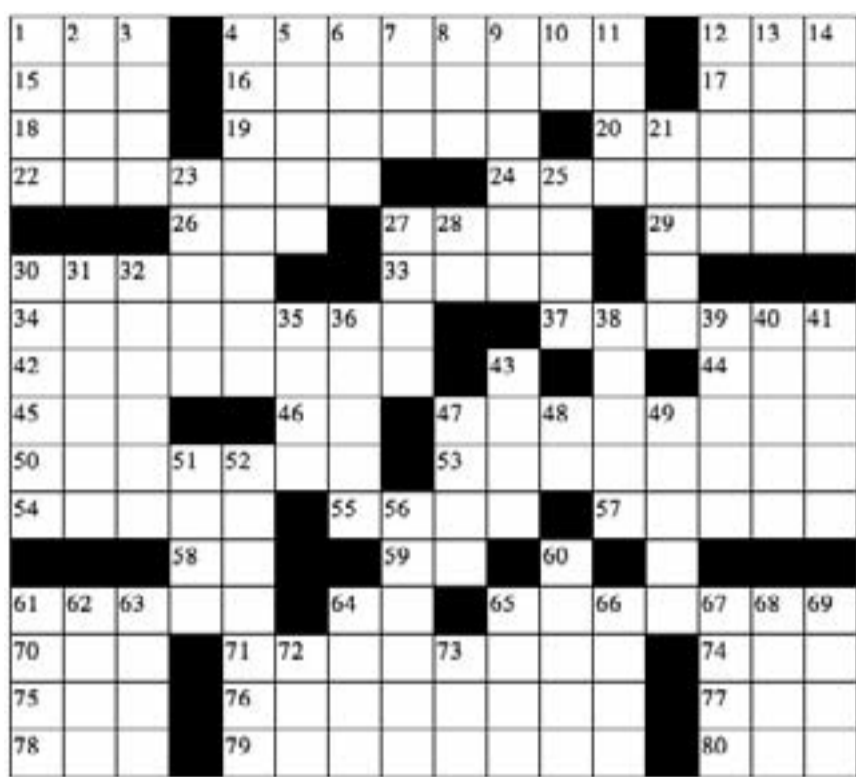
00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Invisible Worlds
02:10 Rise Of The Machines
03:00 Da Vinci's Machines
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Invisible Worlds
06:12 Rise Of The Machines
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Da Vinci's Machines
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Rise Of The Machines
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Invisible Worlds
11:26 Da Vinci's Machines
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Rise Of The Machines
14:38 Da Vinci's Machines
15:26 Invisible Worlds
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Rise Of The Machines
17:50 Da Vinci's Machines
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Rise Of The Machines
22:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
22:50 Da Vinci's Machines
23:40 Mythbusters



01:45 Whale Rider
03:30 One Day
05:45 Twice Born
08:00 Good Will Hunting
10:15 American Outlaws
12:00 Being Flynn
13:45 Whale Rider
15:30 Hollywoodland
17:45 The Good Shepherd
20:00 Paper Planes
21:45 Pretty Woman
23:45 A Long Way Down

Stars

CROSSWORD 1737



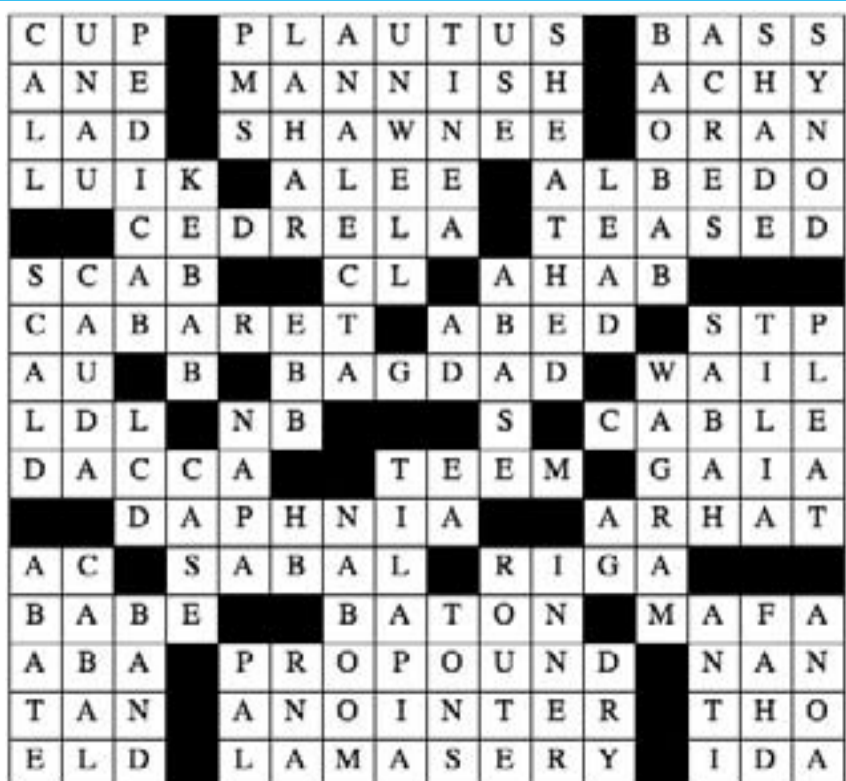
ACROSS

1. A United States unit of weight equivalent to 100 pounds.
4. Less than human or not worthy of a human being.
12. A container.
15. Grass mowed and cured for use as fodder.
16. Catch up with and possibly overtake.
17. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
18. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
19. Of or relating to or suitable for Lent.
20. State in northeastern India.
22. Any of various small short-tailed rodents of the northern hemisphere having soft fur gray above and white below with well-furred tails and large ears.
24. A republic in southeastern Europe.
26. The fatty flesh of eel.
29. A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
30. Hand shears for cutting sheet metal.
33. United States composer noted for his innovative use of polytonality (1874-1954).
34. Of or relating to a canton.
37. Characterized by obscenity.
42. Without mercy or pity.
44. 10 hao equal 1 dong.
45. The act of using.
46. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
50. French philosopher who proposed elan vital as the cause of evolution and development (1859-1941).
53. The state of being allied or confederated.
54. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
55. Type genus of the Anatidae.
57. Of or relating to or involving an area.
58. A nonmetallic largely pentavalent heavy volatile corrosive dark brown liquid element belonging to the halogens.
59. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
61. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
70. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
71. City in central Iran.
74. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
75. The use of nuclear magnetic resonance of protons to produce proton density images.
76. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
77. A user interface in which you type commands instead of choosing them from a menu or selecting an icon.
78. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
79. Sauce for pasta.
80. Related by blood.

DOWN

1. A wad of something chewable as tobacco.
2. A city in east central Texas.
3. Type and only genus of the family Tytonidae.
4. An artificial language.
5. Of or relating to the uvea of the eye.
6. Altered from an originally straight condition.
7. Hormones (estrogen and progesterin) are given to postmenopausal women.
8. A member of the Shoshonean people of Utah and Colorado and New Mexico.
9. Any animal or plant material used to fertilize land especially animal excreta usually with litter material.
10. A state in northwestern North America.
11. Not far distant in time or space or degree or circumstances.
12. An oil port in southern Iraq.
13. A native or inhabitant of Iran.
14. Verbal abuse.
21. (Hinduism) An ascetic holy man.
23. Extent downward or backward or inward.
25. A caress with the lips.
27. A fractional monetary unit in Bahrain and Iraq and Jordan and Kuwait and Southern Yemen and Yemen.
28. A unit of potential equal to one thousandth of a volt.
31. The state that precedes vomiting.
32. An advanced student or graduate in medicine gaining supervised practical experience (houseman' is a British term).
35. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
36. (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
38. Type genus of the Meliaceae.
39. A feudal lord or baron in Scotland.
40. Genus of tropical plants with creeping rootstocks and small umbellate flowers.
41. Not very intelligent or interested in culture.
43. A master's degree in library science.
47. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
48. Being nine more than forty.
49. Found along western Atlantic coast.
51. An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
52. Witty language used to convey insults or scorn.
56. A syllabic script used in writing Sanskrit and Hindi.
60. (Norse mythology) Race of ancient gods sometimes in conflict with the Aesir.
62. A United Nations agency created to assist developing nations by loans guaranteed by member governments.
63. A sudden short attack.
64. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
65. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
66. A small cake leavened with yeast.
67. The state of needing something that is absent or unavailable.
68. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
69. Most important element.
72. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
73. The habitation of wild animals.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Finances are a plus today. You may be able to value your own life situation. Someone may compliment you on your tastes or belongings. Close relationships take on more emotional depth, power and importance. Harmonious ties to others are what you yearn for; refinement and elegance are what you seek. The ideal partnership, the perfect balance, the highest standards of truth and beauty—these are some of the things that quicken your pulse. Home, family or real estate will be an interest that requires a lot of discipline and responsibility now. If you get serious about these things and think long-term, you will be pleased with the outcome; otherwise, you could find yourself in a tight situation. Take care to avoid quick decisions.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a significant day that you can use to your best advantage. This is a day that is not too lazy or too stressful—time for accomplishing tasks or setting things up to work in your favor. You are very determined when it comes to security and you seldom make a move that does not strengthen your position. This easygoing day can certainly work in your favor, without taxing the nervous system or pushing you to extremes. You pursue responsibilities the way others pursue pleasure. Stop to smell the flowers this evening. Truth, religion and philosophy are subjects that will become more of a focus for you now. You may find that travel or the study of a particular country or ethnic group will bring you insight. Plan your next adventure now.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Work, achievement and ambition are important to you and come almost automatically. You appear very comfortable in your job. Everything seems to be working together and when interrupted, you can still maintain a balance. This is a really good talent to learn as it is something you have worked hard to achieve. It has been difficult for you to deal with interruptions or difficult people but you have learned to achieve and overcome these difficulties. Later this afternoon the art of expression is fine-tuned as you enjoy companions or best friends. A lover or child who is bright and articulate plays a big role in your life. When you teach fair play, chaos is seldom seen. Tonight you make contact with someone who lights your fire.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There are several opportunities available now to gain greater authority and prestige in the workplace. You will probably impress someone that could influence your life in large ways. You are especially active, dynamic and ready to tackle challenges. You influence others with your confidence—not excessively or pompously. There may be some concern over finances but if you remain the practical person that you are, you will see some positive results from your investments. Take the long view and map out a future plan for an early retirement. To ensure peace this evening—maintain low tones. Patience, fortitude and repeated reminders of love are important on the home front. The nurturing of those you love helps to deepen relationships.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Power struggles in the workplace may be disconcerting but inevitable when it comes to competition. This is what separates the adult from the juvenile. Attracting support from others can help provide the resources you need to achieve your aims. This is a good day to start a diet, or perhaps, a new and positive habit. All the energies are working in your favor for this to be a successful endeavor. An appreciation for creative insights that are quite otherworldly is upon you. It is easy for you to love and be compassionate and to value what life offers. You have a sense of unity and brotherhood that will stay with you. You may gain a renewed set of values. The spiritual aspect of a relationship becomes deep. Schedule a massage for the two of you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You could find yourself in a detached frame of mind this morning, as though you are viewing things from the outside. Your friends and loved ones would be happier if you took a more personal attitude. Making your mark on the world has special significance for you now. Achievement has greater meaning for you. Organizing and administering people and projects puts you on an even keel and you are back to work quickly. Challenging authority and striving for success may be on your agenda as well. Ambition is a powerful motivation—try and stay aware and focused on the present. You will find the results of your efforts are achievement and recognition. This evening is a good time for having a good time.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Challenge gives you the opportunity to pull on many choices. It is a good idea to remove the emotions and see the situation in a technical and truthful avenue. This is a good time to be creative and secure the positive. A period of great forethought and planning has begun. You have a lot on your mind and feel a strong need to communicate and gather ideas. You may run into an ethical disagreement this afternoon that could damage your faith in a work situation unless you know clearly where you stand. Changes in the neighborhood may get on your nerves this evening and excessive mental frustrations like this can make it difficult to relax. This evening would be a good time to drive to a nearby park or mall with a loved one. Listen to music.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your most exciting, life-fulfilling dreams can be met during this time. You may come to an understanding of just where you are in your life and where you want to go next—create a focal point, achieve and appreciate. The energies that are available are hot and ready to be utilized; however, you must choose the direction you want, since these energies could be negative as well as positive. Habits are in a cycle of change; variety satisfies a deep inner need. You keep alert to any possible changes and you manage to move a few steps ahead. Satisfying that instinctive itch comes when you communicate. Others value you for your ability to make practical decisions concerning group issues. You have a natural sense of what the public wants at this time.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

The good life and all that is fine and luxurious may be what you value just now. You enjoy finding solutions to whatever problems you find. Circumstances should work together to help bring out your ideals and make it easier to make your dreams real. You may find yourself examining and testing ideas and offering opinions or ideas of your own. All in all, this is a good time to project your image. It is easy to organize your thoughts and make your plans for the next phase, project or research. Money that someone owes you may be repaid to you now. This evening is good for relaxation and for enjoying the people around you; laughter comes easily. If nobody wants to cook, consider a call-in order for your evening enjoyment.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are driven and passionate in your pursuit of change and inner growth. You possess, at the core, an intensity that burns through superficialities, searching for opportunities to face the truth and render the hidden to view. Careful... This ceaseless investigative activity, while central to your nature, may be the source of discomfort to others. Emotions and drive take the heat as far as being a prime focus for action in your personal sphere. You may be moved to appreciate and discover the beauty in your life and in those around you, particularly when you slow down this afternoon to enjoy the simple things in life. Everything conspires to reveal you at your most elegant, particularly in social situations this evening. You may meet some new people tonight.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Pace yourself today, since you may feel like you are running a race. You are entering a period of emotional change; feeling two ways at once without getting too deeply into either polarity is possible. Habits are in a cycle of change; variety satisfies a deep inner need. Learning and communicating relieve an instinctive urge to move forward in your life path. You teach others to think outside the box; now it is your turn to think in creative ways. An understanding attitude on your part could have far-reaching effects on your own life-path and career during this time. A little patient endurance and restraint just now could really pay off in the relationship department this evening. A good conversation with those you love is possible.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find opposition in the workplace today; however, the exchange of ideas becomes a way to reach a positive result. You are developing a knack for organizing things and your skills will not go unnoticed. Your people skills are improving and there is a sense of ambition and self-confidence that improves with each day. Work, achievement and ambition mean a lot to you now. Saying and writing things with style counts for a lot—the social butterfly in you emerges and you are able to accomplish quite a lot for your company. You may be a buyer for your company and you know just what the public wants. Neighbors or brothers and sisters will likely bring all kinds of good experiences your way. Humanitarian efforts can affect your life-path.

Wordsearch Puzzle

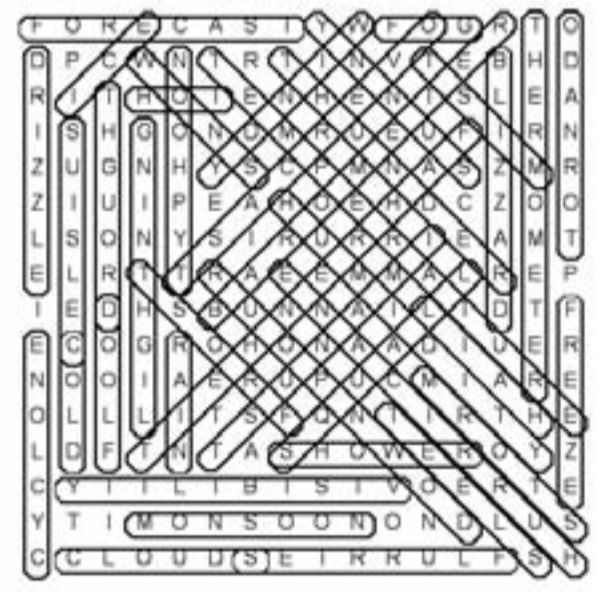
Winter

Find and circle all of the Winter related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Japanese proverb.



- |           |                |             |            |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| BLACK ICE | HEADBAND       | SEASON      | SNOWBOARD  |
| BLIZZARD  | HIBERNATION    | SKATES      | SNOWFLAKE  |
| BOOTS     | HOCKEY         | SKI DOO     | SNOWMAN    |
| CARNIVAL  | HOLIDAYS       | SKI PANTS   | SNOWSHOES  |
| CHRISTMAS | ICE FISHING    | SKIING      | SOLSTICE   |
| COLD      | ICICLES        | SLED        | SOUP       |
| EGG NOG   | KNIT CAP       | SLEET       | STEW       |
| FIREPLACE | LONG UNDERWEAR | SLIPPERY    | STORM      |
| FIREWOOD  | MITTENS        | SNOW CASTLE | SWEATSHIRT |
| FOG       | OLYMPICS       | SNOW FLOW   | TOBOGGAN   |
| FREEZE    | PARKA          | SNOW SHOVEL | VACATION   |
| FROST     | SCARF          | SNOW TIRES  | WIND CHILL |
| GLOVES    |                | SNOWBALL    | WOOL SOCKS |

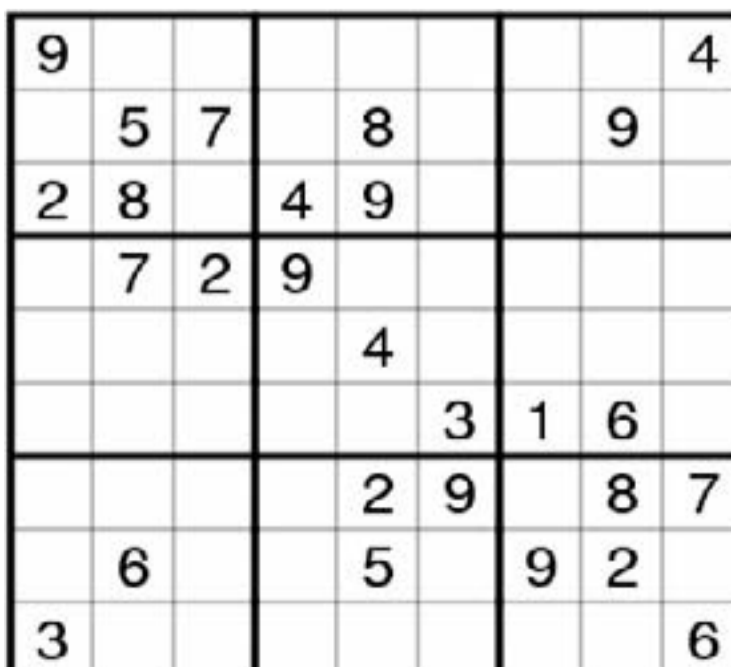
Weather



- |            |           |           |             |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| BAROMETER  | FLOOD     | ICE       | STORM       |
| BLIZZARD   | FLURRIES  | LIGHTNING | SUNNY       |
| CELSIUS    | FOG       | MIST      | TEMPERATURE |
| CLOUDS     | FORECAST  | MONSOON   | THERMOMETER |
| COLD       | FREEZE    | OVERCAST  | THUNDER     |
| CYCLONE    | FROST     | RAIN      | TORNADO     |
| DOWNPOUR   | HAIL      | SHOWER    | TSUNAMI     |
| DRIZZLE    | HOT       | SLEET     | TYHOON      |
| DROUGHT    | HUMIDITY  | SNOW      | VISIBILITY  |
| FAHRENHEIT | HURRICANE | SQUALL    | WINDY       |

The hidden word is: PRECIPITATION

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Roman theater uncovered at base of Western Wall

Israeli archaeologists yesterday announced the discovery of the first known Roman-era theater in Jerusalem's Old City, a unique structure around 1,800 years old that abuts the Western Wall and may have been built during Roman Emperor Hadrian's reign.

The edifice's elegant masonry was found during excavations carried out in the past two years below the Western Wall tunnels, a warren of ancient subterranean passageways running alongside a contested Jerusalem holy site built by King Herod in the first century BC. The excavations plunged over 6 meters below ground, exposing eight previously uncovered courses of the Temple Mount's western retaining wall.

Jews consider the Temple Mount the holiest site on earth, while Muslims refer to the walled compound as the Noble Sanctuary and consider it the third holiest after Mecca and Medina. It was the site of two Jewish temples in antiquity - the second renovated and expanded by Herod - and today is home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock. Joe Uziel, an Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologist heading the dig, said that the theater-like structure is believed to date to the second or third centuries - the period after Rome razed the city in 70 and the Emperor Hadrian rebuilt it in the mid-second century as a Roman colony, Aelia Capitolina. Ancient historical accounts mentioned the presence of theaters in Roman-era Jerusalem, but until now archaeologists had not found any of the structures.

## A venue for performances

Uziel speculates that the unfinished semi-circular theater may have been intended to serve as a small odeon, a venue for musical or theatrical performances, or a bouleuterion, a place of assembly for the colony's municipal officials. It was relatively small, and might have been designed to seat around 200 people. The excavations have exposed the first row of seats, orchestra area, and part of the stage. Wilson's Arch, part of a monumental causeway leading into the temple that soars above the theater, may have been employed for its acoustic properties.

"One of the amazing things is that because we're beneath an arch, they would have had the arch to use as their roof," Uziel said. What remains unanswered is why the building wasn't finished. "After putting in all this effort of building such a grandiose building, what would cause them to stop," Uziel wondered and suggested that the



Israel's Antiquities Authority's Joe Uziel stands in an ancient Roman theater-like structure in the Western Wall tunnels in Jerusalem's old city. — AP

outbreak of the second Jewish revolt against Rome, from 132-135, could have halted construction and left the theater unfinished.

Zeev Weiss, a Roman archaeologist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who wasn't involved in the excavation, said the discovery of such a central civic building

was "a great find." Most of the major public structures from Roman Jerusalem - the large theater, forum, basilica and bathhouse - remain undiscovered.

"Hopefully one day those will be found as well," Weiss said. Uziel hopes further excavation of the theater will better inform scholars about daily life in Roman Jerusalem

in the decades after Jerusalem and its temple were razed. "I believe that this is one of the indications that also during that period between the Second Temple and between the rise of Christianity, Jerusalem was also an important Roman colony, not just a wasteland, no-man's land where the legion sat around," he said. — AP

## Hogwarts Express rescues stranded family in Scotland

As if by magic, the Hogwarts Express has come to the rescue of a stranded family in Scotland. The train that took Harry Potter to school was played onscreen by the Jacobite steam train, which runs on a remote and scenic route through the Scottish Highlands. On Friday, it made an unscheduled stop to pick up a family of six that was stranded when a storm washed away their canoe.

Jon Cluett, his wife and four children between the ages of 6 and 12 were staying in a lakeside hut on Loch Eilt when they awoke to find their canoe was gone. Faced with walking several miles over boggy ground to get back to the family car, Cluett called police to see if any form of rescue was available. "The policeman said, 'We've arranged for the next train passing to stop for you, and you're not going to believe this but it's the Hogwarts Express steam train. Your kids are going to love it,'" Cluett said Sunday.

Cluett said his children, all Harry Potter fans, were "really excited" by the adventure. "They know the Harry Potter films and they know that are filmed in the Highlands," he



In this photo taken on Friday, Oct 13, 2017, children run towards a train near Loch Eilt in the Scottish Highlands. — AP

said. "But they hadn't put all of that together in their heads until they saw the train." Cluett, the pastor of a church in Stirling, central Scotland, is hopeful someone will find his

canoe and give the story a perfect happy ending. "It's got to turn up at some point. The thing is 16-foot-long, red and floats," he said. — AP

## Should kids be banned from watching screens?

Regulators and program makers are at odds over whether small children should be banned from watching television or using tablets and smartphones. France urges parents not to allow children under three to watch TV, and American pediatricians also favor a total ban on screen time until at least 18 months.

Carole Bienaime-Besse, who sits on France's TV regulator, the CSA, claimed Sunday that overexposing babies and small children to digital devices has become a "public health issue." "People are realizing that screens can cause addiction even among very small children, and in extreme cases autistic problems, what is called virtual autism," she said. "Silicon Valley also knows this. There are lots of educational apps for babies, but in the end the results are counterproductive," Bienaime-Besse said.

Studies show that "children overexposed to them are the ones who find it hardest at school," she said. France banned its broadcasters from targeting under-threes in 2008, and blocked Fox-owned BabyTV from launching there. But some program makers insist that bans do not work, especially with so many parents using television and devices to "babysit" their children.

## 'Digital Wild, Wild West'

"It is admirable, but probably unrealistic" to try to keep small children away from screens, said Alice Webb, who heads the BBC's children's arm, CBBC, and the CBeebies network for pre-school children. "Those times are long gone. Digital is everywhere. This is a tide you cannot get ahead of," she told top TV executives Sunday at the MIPJunior gathering at Cannes on the French Riviera.

That said, the British public broadcaster is so worried about the digital "Wild, Wild West" children are growing up in that it is holding a global summit in December to try to put heads together on how they might be better served and protected. "We need to have this conversation now because we don't want to be saying to ourselves in 10 years time, 'What did we do to our children?'" Webb told AFP. She said the BBC aimed CBeebies at children from two upwards, "but we know children younger than that are watching. So we have to be realistic about this, and bear those children in mind" knowing that the TV or a tablet may be their "babysitter."

"We have games and apps that are about helping children develop the cognitive skills that a two-year-old needs. This is about learning on screen and in the real world at the same time, it is not an either/or and it's all about moderation," Webb argued.

## Social media giants in denial

For older children, Webb said it was "impossible to think we can control what goes online". She said the only answer was to "teach children what is and is not for them... how to develop critical thinking and how to cope when they see things they don't want." She said the BBC is setting up



This file photo taken on April 20, 2013 shows a child using a smartphone at Caulfield Racetrack in Melbourne. — AFP

a new online resource called "Own It" to help children deal with the dangers and challenges of social media.

While Instagram, Twitter and Facebook claim that only teenagers over 13 are allowed onto their networks, Webb said that in the UK 75 percent of 10-year-olds and above are on social media. Despite what the social media giants say, "statistics suggest otherwise and they are finding it harder to stand behind that line," Webb said.

Bienaime-Besse said regulators need stronger powers so they can act against inappropriate online content in the same way as they do with traditional broadcasters. "I think it is absurd that the likes of

Facebook and Twitter are not regulated like other content suppliers." And she was skeptical that the industry would regulate itself when it came to younger children. However, "if you go to Silicon Valley, all the big tech executives send their children to Montessori schools without screens and just blackboards."

"And Steve Jobs of Apple did not allow his children to use an iPad," Bienaime-Besse said parents had to wake up to "what we are holding in our hands. A child who cannot defend themselves should be protected from the harm that these very useful tools can bring. "Kids should become masters of technology by learning coding" rather than being slaves to it, she said. — AFP

## Thomas the multiracial Tank Engine gets gender balanced

Thomas the Tank Engine is set to chug into a whole new age of diversity in its next series with steam engine characters from Africa, India, China and Australia. The much-loved children's television series based on the books of English vicar Reverend Wilbert Awdry will come out of the Tidmouth Sheds late next year almost gender balanced, with two new female steam engines, Rebecca and Nia from Kenya.

Makers Mattel said the new "Steam Team" will have three girls and four boys alongside Thomas, replacing the previous crew which had only one girl. "Henry and Edward will move out to live in other parts of Sodor," Mattel said as the new series was launched at the MIPJunior television industry gathering in Cannes, which ended late Sunday.

Christopher Keenan, of Mattel Creations, said Thomas will leave the fictional island of Sodor in the Irish Sea for the first time to "experience new cultures and countries, including China, India and Australia." Along the way he will make new friends-Ashima from India, Yong Bao from China and Shane from Australia. Keenan said the major overhaul had come after research involving hundreds of parents and children.

But he insisted the new girl-friendly series "maintains all the core values and attributes that has kept 'Thomas & Friends' on track for over 70 years, but it broadens Thomas' world to reflect the global community in which we all live." Keenan later told a MIPJunior debate on diversity that "children's entertainment has an enormous responsibility to lead the way. We are talking about the global citizens of tomorrow. I think it is important for us to boldly go where no toy company has ever gone before."

Despite the fact that Thomas is a steam engine, the new shows will also have storylines which will help pre-school children understand the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Another innovation is that Thomas will break the so-called "fourth wall"-the imaginary barrier between the actors and audience-by directly addressing his young fans. — AFP

## Lifestyle | Gossip

# Joe Jonas engaged to Sophie Turner

The 28-year-old singer and the 'Game of Thrones' actress have only been together since November last year, but people close to Joe are convinced he's making the right decision in marrying the 21-year-old beauty, who's said to be mature "beyond her years". An insider shared: "Everybody's very, very happy for them and their family and friends are all thrilled. Everyone loves them together." The dark-haired hunk has previously dated a string of famous women, including the likes of Gigi Hadid and Demi Lovato. But Joe is said to feel much more strongly about Sophie than any of his previous partners. The source told PEOPLE: "She's young but is beyond her years and is crazy, crazy mature. He's nev-

er been like this with a girl. "He was such a dater before her but their relationship was much different from the start. She was just the one for him." Sophie - who announced her engagement via Instagram on Sunday - previously admitted dating Joe can be "frustrating" because of the scrutiny surrounding their love life. She explained: "You do feel like you're living in a fishbowl. It's frustrating [that] it's the most mundane things that make the news - how boring!" The actress also revealed she has been desperately trying to keep her relationship with the singer as private as possible.



## Ed Sheeran involved in a cycling accident



The 'Shape of You' hitmaker was reportedly rushed to hospital after the incident, and he's now admitted his upcoming tour dates may be in jeopardy because of the crash. Sharing a picture of himself with one arm in a cast and the other in a sling, he wrote on Instagram: "I've had a bit of a bicycle accident and I'm currently waiting on some medical advice, which may affect some of my upcoming shows. Please stay tuned for further news. Ed x (sic)" It is believed the accident happened in London yesterday morning, and though it was originally reported he'd been hit by a car, it now seems that isn't the case. Australian radio DJ

Smallz, tweeted: "Sources in LDN @edsheeran telling me he's been hit by a car while riding a bike. Sending healing vibes.(sic)" Ed's manager, Stuart Camp, replied: "No, he hasn't. Please check your facts before running stories like that (sic)" He then added: "Calm down dears, just a bike fall. More news as we can share it." The 26-year-old singer is scheduled to play a series of shows in Asia from October 22, before wrapping up his world tour in Mumbai, India, on November 19 and Dubai on November 23. The 'Castle on the Hill' singer has been riding high on the success of his album 'Divide', which has been breaking records

left right and centre, including becoming the first artist to ever hold all top five positions in the Official UK chart, with all 16 of the tracks from record making it into the top 20. Ed's next studio venture has been heavily tipped to be titled 'Subtract' - following the pattern of his three previous records, 'Divide', 'Multiply', and 'Plus'. The titles of his future albums are already tattooed on his body. He said recently: "It's kind of like 'Prison Break'. It's all there."

## Gabrielle Union believes sexual harassment can happen to anyone

The 44-year-old actress was raped when she was working at her part-time job at a Payless Store in 1992 and in a series of messages on Twitter, Gabrielle has tried to clarify some of the myths surrounding assault cases. Gabrielle - who was speaking in light of the sexual harassment allegations regarding Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein - wrote: "Sexual violence & harassment can happen to anyone at any time anywhere. "Ppl remain silent 4 many different very personal reasons. Judgment, victim shaming/blaming, loss of job/S, fear of violence, retaliation. "Folks are also very open and obvious about what kind of victim should be prioritized & believed. To think otherwise is to be willfully dim. "In Hollywood meetings in homes, hotel lobbies/restaurants/suites, private isolated office space is the norm. NO ONE ASKED FOR IT!!" "Sexual or physical violence,

harassment, demeaning language is NOT the price one should pay for seeking or maintaining employment. Period. (sic)" Gabrielle was raped at gunpoint when she was 19 and she's pointed out that each case is different. But the Hollywood star insisted her own experience of being sexually assaulted is proof that what a woman wears has no bearing on their personal safety. Gabrielle - who has been married to basketball star Dwyane Wade since 2014 - explained on Twitter: "Reminder. I got raped at work at a Payless shoe store. I had on a long tunic & leggings so miss me w/ "dress modestly" s\*\*t. "Though I was raped by a stranger who raped me at gunpoint after robbing the store, I was still asked by a female "friend" what I had worn."



## Gigi's Maybelline make-up line sold out

The 22-year-old model launched the Jetsetter Palette on Friday as part of her Gigi Hadid x Maybelline capsule, after having been the face of the cosmetics giant for two years since 2015, and the star took to social media to announce how quickly her line was snatched up. Alongside a photograph of the beauty product, which featured contour powder, blusher, a highlighter, concealer, as well as a lip gloss, eye shadow, a miniature mascara and mirror, which was shared on the catwalk icon's Instagram account, she wrote: "OUR EXCLUSIVE UK Jetsetter Palette DROP - @BOOTSUK ONLINE - SOLD OUT IN LESS THAN 90 MINS THIS MORNING!!!! THANK YOU SO MUCH!! Stay tuned to @maybelline for launch dates for your country!" The blonde-haired beauty - who is dating former One Direction band member Zayn Malik - has admitted she has "always" wanted to create her own make-up palette that she could take with her everywhere to complete her "light-everyday look quickly and easily" without spilling the entire contents of her beauty bag in public. She explained: "INTRODUCING THE #GIGIXMAYBELLINE JETSETTER PALETTE: I always wanted a palette that I could throw right in my purse or travel bag and know I have everything to do a light-everyday look, quickly and easily. I didn't want to have to open my makeup bag in the car or on a plane and take all the products out and worry about dropping anything or having somewhere to set it while I held my mirror. The Jetsetter Palette includes contour powder/bronzer, blush, powder highlight, concealer, lip gloss, eye shadow, black powder liner, a mini mascara, mini blush/contour and liner/eyeshadow brushes AND a mirror!!! (sic)." Gigi has revealed she experiments with the various products in the palette, and will occasionally wear put the lipstick on her cheeks.

## Rihanna thinks social media is 'the death of all trends'

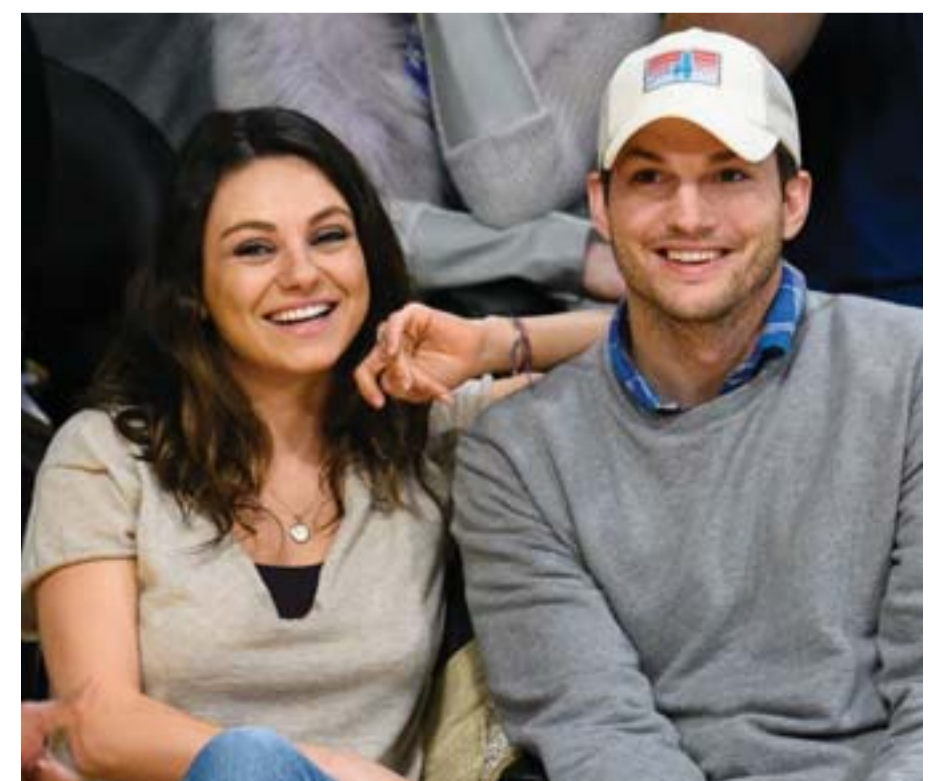


The 29-year-old singer thinks Instagram is killing the fashion industry, as she believes as soon as a popular style is seen on the photo-sharing site it is "too late" and she then dislikes the look. Speaking to The Cut about the fashion business, the brunette beauty said: "Instagram is the death of all trends. Once it gets there, it's too late. It's gone. I'm so over it. I can't; I can't deal." The 'Work' hitmaker has revealed her fashion sense will vary because of her "fluctuating body type", and she has to "really pay attention every day" when she is getting ready to make sure she selects something that suits her shape. She said: "I actually have had the pleasure of a fluctuating body type, where one day I can literally fit into something that is bodycon, and then the next day - the next week - I need something oversized; I need a little crop here and a high-waist there to hide that part, you know? "I really pay attention every day when I go into the closet about what's working for my body that morning. I feel like that's how everyone should go after fashion, because it's an individual thing. And then, if you take it further, it's like: What week are you having? You having a skinny week? You having a fat week? Are we doing arms this week? We doing legs this week? We doing oversized? "I love to play with silhouettes as well, but I think it's important to make sure that you wear the thing that works for your body the best, and that's flattering." And Rihanna - who is currently dating billionaire boyfriend Hassan Jameel - has admitted she loves a "man in black" because she thinks the color makes them look "so sexy and mysterious", although she doesn't like the socks and sandals trend. Speaking about the outfits she finds attractive on men, she said: "I love a man in black. It's so sexy and mysterious: confident and secure - all the things I love about a man. So, I'm into that."

## Kutcher and Kunis keep kids out of the spotlight

The 39-year-old actor and Mila, 34 - who are parents to three-year-old daughter Wyatt and ten-month-old son Dimitri - are among the most recognisable married couples in the world, but the 'Jobs' star has insisted his children won't be appearing in any of their social media posts anytime soon. He explained: "We have a private social network that we share stuff with the families so the grandparents can see the kids and stuff. "But we don't share any photos of our kids publicly because we feel that being public is a personal choice." Ashton concedes dealing with public scrutiny is part and parcel of working in Hollywood. But he doesn't think the same logic should be applied to his children, neither of whom are old enough to determine what they wish to do with their own lives. He told The Thrive Global Podcast

with iHeartRadio: "My wife and I have chosen a career where we're in the public light, but my kids have not so I think they have the right to choose that. "I actually don't think that they should have images of them as children that somebody could potentially blackmail with or do whatever. "It's their private life, it's not mine to give away ... Your social profile is yours to create not for someone else to create for you." And despite being one of the most sought-after actors in Hollywood, Ashton revealed he considers being a parent to be his biggest priority in life. The star - who was previously married to Demi Moore from 2005 until 2013 - explained: "I am Wyatt and Dimitri's dad ... everything else is secondary."



Lifestyle | Gossip

# James Middleton and Donna Air have split up

The Duchess of Cambridge's brother, 30, and the TV personality are said to have gone their separate ways "some time ago" after dating for more than four years, with their final public appearance coming at his sister Pippa Middleton's wedding to James Matthews earlier this year. A friend said: "They broke up some time ago. They managed to keep it quiet." But James is hoping he and 38-year-old Donna - who has 14-year-old daughter Freya with her ex Damian Aspinall - will get back together soon. A close pal added to the Daily Mail newspaper: "James hopes the split will not

be permanent." Last November, James publicly declared his love for Donna, and admitted he would be keen to have children one day. He said: "We are thinking about where we are going next. I love Donna very much. Marriage is absolutely not something I'm scared of but it isn't necessarily the be-all and end-all. We are quite purposeful, forward-thinking people, so we needed wind in our sails in order to progress. She makes me very happy [and] I think I make her very happy. I want children. I've said that before. I will have children, but you'll have to wait." In September

2015, the pair insisted their relationship had not ended, despite such reports. They said: "Mark Twain once complained that reports of his death were exaggerated. A few days ago we were equally amazed to read the obituaries of our relationship in the national press. Happily, we can report that our relationship is not over. We are still very much a couple and have not parted ways." James declined to comment to the publication on Sunday.



# Katy Perry says being single is helping career



The 32-year-old singer - who was married to comedian Russell Brand from 2010 until 2012 and has also dated the likes of John Mayer and Orlando Bloom - believes being unattached has allowed her to balance her world tour with starring on 'American Idol'. Asked about how she balances her jam-packed working schedule, Katy explained: "I'm a bit younger in heart! I'm a bit more mature ... single! You know, when you're single, you got a lot of time to yourself and a lot of energy, and I'm just finding a delicate balance." The 'Roar' hitmaker also conceded that her fellow 'American Idol' judges, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan, have helped to ease some of the pressure on her. She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "These guys are pulling a lot of the weight!" By contrast, Charlie Puth recently revealed he turned down a role on 'American Idol' because the schedule was "too overwhelming". The 'We Don't Talk Anymore' hitmaker admitted he was "honored" to be asked to be a judge on the talent show, but said he had to turn it down when "life got crazy". Charlie shared: "The schedule got too overwhelming. It's nothing to do with [the network] ... ABC is wonderful and I told them I would love to be in business with them in the future. [I was in talks] and then things in my life got crazy. I can't wait to watch it. It's a huge honor that they asked me. The fact that they would even ask me to be a part of it is just beyond flattering because it's a show I grew up watching and I know it's going to be amazing without me."



# Lively likens daughter to a 'baby Viking'

The 30-year-old actress celebrated her and Ryan Reynolds' daughter Ines' first birthday with a little party and has revealed Ines preferred the steaks on offer than the Cookie Monster cake. During an appearance on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, she quipped: "I made a Cookie Monster cake ... and she just looked at it and reached for a steak. She was hand-fisting two steaks. Her sleeves were dripping in blood from steak." Meanwhile, Blake - who also has daughter James, two, with the 'Deadpool' star - previously revealed it is her family who give her "security and happiness". She shared: "We've both given up projects that we really love because we can't keep our family together. People often think their career is something they have to chase and maintain, but for us, we said, 'Let's always chase and maintain our personal life.' "This is a career that's like the stock market: You've got to stay hot while you're hot. But your family, that's the real thing that gives you security and success and happiness." And Blake is very keen to raise her kids in the same "normal" way her husband was brought up. She added: "Ryan had a nice, normal upbringing, and we want our kids to have the same normal life that we had."



# Madonna's daughter Lourdes is 'always in her heart'

The 'Like A Virgin' hitmaker posted a sweet message to mark her daughter's 21st birthday on Saturday. Sharing an old picture of the pair, she wrote on Instagram: "Whether you are In Cuba..... Or in Kenya .... Or in our own backyard!! You are always in my heart. Happy Birthday Lola. La Principessa (sic)" It comes after Madonna revealed she won't say 'no' to her children and would rather advise her kids than give them rules. Speaking about her eldest daughter, she said: "I'm not a fan of taking drugs, but I'm not gonna tell my daughter not to do things. I'm just telling her to be careful. [I tell her] never take a drink that you haven't seen somebody pour in front of you. Don't mix alcohol. Your basics, like be safe, do everything in moderation. That's it. That's all I can

do." And Madonna - who also has Rocco, 17, David, 12, Mercy, 11, and five-year-old twins Stelle and Estere - believes it is important not to be "judgmental" of her children because she feels it is discouraging for them. When asked if she talks about sex with her older children, she added: "It's just a fact of life isn't it? Somehow, it's gonna happen sometime. It happened to you, so it's gonna happen to [Lourdes]. "All you can do is [stress] safe sex. Have discussions about it and encourage her to be open with you about it and not judgmental. Because then they won't feel like they can come to you and talk to you - ask you for your advice and stuff."

# Katie Price cancelled gig after son 'blackmailed'



The 39-year-old star was due to bring her show to the northern city on Saturday but announced earlier today that she would have to postpone because of an "urgent family matter involving the police and one of her children". And now she has revealed she has rushed back to be with her family after an anonymous email was sent to her management company threatening to "smash Harvey's face in" unless she paid out £50,000 and delivered an Armani dress to an East London property. She said: "I'm terrified. This is clearly a blackmail threat, and I need to be at home with my family." Whilst a source added to The Sun newspaper: "This is all the more horrifying for Katie because she has experienced threats against her children before. On three separate occasions she has had to get the police involved. "The thought of anyone harming the kids sickens her to the core, and until the police have caught the perpetrator, she feels she just can't leave them. "Katie is really shaken by this and is hoping against hope that the police catch this person as soon as possible. She knows they will be living in fear until they do." Sussex Police have confirmed they are investigating and urged Katie's family to stay together at all times. Meanwhile, Katie - who has children Harvey, 15, Junior, 12, Princess, 10, Jett, four and three-year-old Bunny from three previous relationships - had previously revealed she had had "kidnapping threats" and was asked to pay "ransoms" of millions of pounds.

# Lauren Conrad's sole focus is motherhood



The 'Hills' star welcomed her first child, son Liam, back in July with her husband William Tell and ever since the baby was born, she has been putting all her energy into raising her little boy. A source told E! News: "She's really enjoying motherhood and doing great. She's feeling a lot more adjusted and settled into a good routine. Many of her friends have kids so they have been a wealth of knowledge as far as advice on how to deal with typical newborn issues like feeding and sleep. She has really taken time to be home and be a mom. That's her focus and where

her heart is right now. She is still working, but is home a lot with the baby and finding ways to work from home when she can." Meanwhile, Lauren previously admitted she feels "overwhelmed" being a mother. She explained: "I think that you can become a little overwhelmed, just being at home with your baby all day. Honestly, it's exactly as everyone describes it. It's the best and hardest thing you'll ever do. It's amazing. You fall so in love with your tiny person - it's a whole new life."

# Meghan Markle is set to quit 'Suits'

The 36-year-old actress plays paralegal Rachel Zane in the US drama series, but she is said to have told show bosses she will not be heading back to the office for next year's eighth series. A source said: "Meghan knows she can't really act at the same time as being a princess and is happy to make this career sacrifice." Meghan and Harry have been dating for more than a year and speculation has been rife recently that they will announce their engagement before Christmas. Should the actress become a full-time royal, the raven-haired beauty - who has been a global ambassador for international charity World Vision since 2006 - is said to be keen to pursue further charity work. The source told the Daily Star Sunday newspaper: "She really enjoys her charity work with Unicef and will broaden out her charity commitments when she becomes a full-time royal." Some speculation has sug-

gested Harry and Meghan are already engaged but are yet to announce their exciting news because they want to "enjoy" their special moment together. A source said: "Harry always planned to share the news only with fail at first so he could enjoy it before word spread. "But they will make an official announcement soon. "It'd be a security nightmare to do it sooner. "She'd be followed everywhere."



## 'Happy Death Day' scares off 'Blade Runner' at box office

The box office might be struggling this year, but the horror genre is alive and well. This weekend the "Groundhog Day"-like horror pic "Happy Death Day" scored a first-place finish, surpassing expectations and blowing the much costlier and star-driven "Blade Runner 2049" out of the water. Studio estimates Sunday show "Happy Death Day" took in \$26.5 million from 3,149 North American theaters. With a \$5 million production price tag, "Happy Death Day" is already a hit.



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Jessica Rothe in a scene from "Happy Death Day." — AP

With a PG-13 rating, the film scored big with younger audiences - 63 percent were under 25. It's the latest success story from Blumhouse Productions, which earlier this year released "Split" and "Get Out," with the help of Universal Pictures, which distributed. Jim Orr, executive vice president of domestic distribution for Universal, said "Happy Death Day" is an original film that's reimagining the genre.

"It's as much thriller as it is horror film. It's scary, it's funny, and it has an extraordinarily clever script that is very well executed," Orr said. "Blumhouse owns this space no doubt about it, and they do this better than anybody consistently." The film also had the benefit of coming on the heels of the massive success of "It," which has earned \$314.9 million domestically to date. The "Happy Death Day" trailer played in front of "It" at theaters, which "exponentially increased" audience awareness, said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

### Roller-coaster year

Horror continues to be one of the bright spots during a roller-coaster year at the box office. "This is a horror gold rush at the theaters," Dergarabedian said. "It's been perhaps the most consistently positive story this year." One film that does not look destined for a happy ending is "Blade Runner 2049," which fell 54 percent in its second weekend in theaters, adding \$15.1 million to bring its domestic total to \$60.6 million.

# Ai Weiwei on art, exile and refugee film 'Human Flow'

In the most tender moments of "Human Flow," Ai Weiwei's epic documentary on the worldwide migrant crisis, he is seen hugging, cooking with and cutting the hair of refugees. An ordinary filmmaker might be accused of getting too close to his subject but, as far as the Chinese dissident and internationally renowned artist is concerned, he is the subject.

"When I look at people being pushed away from their home because of war, because of all kinds of problems, because of environmental problems, famine, I don't just have sympathy for them," he tells AFP. "I do feel that they are part of me and I am part of them, even with very different social status." Ai, 60, opened up about his own displacement as a child in a recent interview with AFP, his trademark beard cut short and his blue and white sneakers color-coded to match his casual shirt and loose-fitting slacks.

The venue, a plush office in Beverly Hills, could have been a million miles away from the labor camps where he grew up, a refugee in his own country as the son of dissident poet Ai Qing. Shortly after Ai's birth, the People's Republic of China was founded, and Ai senior found himself at odds with the authorities, accused of being a "rightist" during Mao's anti-intellectual Cultural Revolution. The family was exiled for 20 years, first near the Russian border and then in the northwestern province of Xinjiang, where his father was forced into hard labor, including cleaning communal toilets. "He was doing that for years and our family were beaten and insulted, seen as the most dangerous species threatening the revolution," Ai remembers.

### Desperation

The family was allowed to return to Beijing after Mao's



A woman takes photos of the artwork of Chinese Artist Ai Weiwei during a press preview of his art installation exploring migration in New York.

death in 1976 and Ai moved to the United States for 12 years. After coming of age as an artist in early 1990s New York, he returned to Beijing, becoming an increasingly bold provocateur, chafing against the Chinese authorities. As his global reputation grew, he was watched relentlessly by the authorities, beaten by police and put under house arrest. Thrown in jail without credible charges for 81 days in 2011, he had his passport confiscated for four years.

Ai-whose lawyers in the case have both been jailed-tells AFP that when he looks back on his treatment, it is frustration he feels rather than anger. "I have so many friends who are detained without trial. Nobody knows where they are, no lawyer can see them. It's very common in China, even today," he says. Now a refugee in his own right in his new home in Berlin, the father of one young son only feels comfortable returning to China alone.

"Human Flow," his powerful expression of solidarity with refugees around the world, demonstrates the staggering scale of the refugee crisis and its profoundly personal human impact. Captured over a year in 23 countries, it follows a chain of human stories that stretches from Bangladesh and Afghanistan to Europe, Kenya and the US-Mexico border. Ai travels from teeming refugee camps to barbed-wire borders, witnessing refugees' desperation and disillusionment as well as hope and courage.

### 'Intimate approach'

"I'm so far away from their culture, their religion or whatever the background. But with a human being, you look at him, you know what kind of person he is," says Ai. "I have this natural understanding about human beings. So I try to



This file photo taken on September 1, 2017 shows Chinese artist and producer Ai Weiwei attending the photocall of the movie "Human Flow" presented in competition at the 74th Venice Film Festival. — AFP photos

grab them with this kind of approach, a very intimate approach. They can touch me, cut my hair. I can cut their hair. I can cook in their camp."

"Human Flow" is far from Ai's first work on the refugee crisis. Just last week he scattered over 300 outdoor works across New York as part of a new illustration of his empathy for refugees worldwide. Ai dismisses a common criticism that his work has little artistic merit and that he is more of a campaigner, telling AFP "a good artist should be an activist and a good activist should have the quality of an artist."

"Human Flow," which premiered at the Venice film festival last month and opens in Los Angeles on October 20, ends on the US-Mexico border that President Donald Trump has promised to turn into "a beautiful wall." Ai said the administration had brought "shame on the fundamental beliefs of what this nation is made of," killing the US reputation for "energy, imagination, creativity."

The artist has given up hope of returning home with his family but hopes his film will contribute to people seeing refugees as human beings. "I believe anybody sitting in the theater would come out with their own judgment," he said. "They look at those children and think about their own children, look at the elderly people there, think about their own parents." — AFP



People look at the installation of Chinese Artist Ai Weiwei entitled 'Good Fences Make Good Neighbors' in New York.

## Home Centre's new catalogue puts the joy into homemaking

Home Centre, the largest home retailer in the Middle East, has launched its much-awaited catalogue. Featuring a broad range of new trends and ideas, this 104-page catalogue fulfils Home Centre's promise of inspiring beautiful homes, enabling customers to find the joy of homemaking. Designed to appeal to Home Centre's diverse client base and offer a melange of vibrant furniture and home accessory solutions to live, dine, relax and play, the catalogue caters to every style and budget, helping customers create spaces they can call their own.

Introducing over 1,100 new products, the catalogue depicts 3 key themes - Inspired by Nature, Indian Sojourn and Geomatrix, to weave

harmony into homes. Inspired by Nature, comprising the Springfield and Lexington collections is about bringing the outdoors in and making nature a key feature in interior decoration. Indian Sojourn's Taj and Indiana collections take their inspiration from Indian design trends, featuring vibrant color palettes with modernized prints and patterns while Geomatrix's Mystique collection boasts of impactful graphics and futuristic designs played against the palette of monochromes. Home Centre's expanded offering includes 6 modular solutions this year such as Stellar day bed, Spazio storage units, Infinity wardrobe, Bradley bedroom and the in-house designed Eterno sofas & cabinetry and Kidit to

perfectly suit customers' space and personalities. In addition to exquisite classic accents for those seeking a glamorous feel, the catalogue presents a wide variety of value options for those looking for affordable home solutions and maximum functionality. The newly introduced Ready Rooms concept allows shoppers to purchase the complete set of furniture and home accessories from the catalogue at a packaged price.

Reiterating its commitment to ensuring value and savings, Home Centre is offering customers up to five-year warranty upon purchasing furniture and up to two-year warranty on home accessories. The new catalogue also reinforces the brand's focus on durability, internationally sourced materials and special features that ensure best-in-class product quality.

This year, Home Centre has also amplified engagement with customers on its digital platforms. A fully digitised version of the catalogue is available online, featuring interactive elements, a mobile responsive design and informative embedded videos. The catalogue will be available across all Home Centre stores, located at Al Rai, Shuwaikh, The Avenues, Kuwait City, Fahahel and Sama Mall (Fintas) as well as on the mobile application and online.



## OSN and Dubai Customs launch world's 1st anti-piracy game



OSN, the home of entertainment for the Middle East, and Dubai Customs today launched the world's first Content Protection Virtual reality (VR) game at KidZania(r) Dubai to boost awareness of the threats of content theft. The 60 second game, called 'Copycat Combat,' is a collaboration between OSN and Dubai Customs, who have a strong partnership in combating the import of illegal satellite and IPTV devices as well as championing intellectual property rights (IPR).

Copycat Combat is aimed at children between the ages of 5 and 12 and will be available to play at mall stands and other public spaces across the region managed by OSN. The game will also be toured in UAE schools by Dubai Customs as part of its ongoing educational initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of protecting IPR. In 'matrix-style' world content thieves zap OSN's precious collection of movies, TV series, kids shows and sports events with powerful laser rays. The game player must 'shield' the collection with armoured gloves during an adrenaline-accelerating and pulsating assault that requires fast reflexes and accuracy.

Sophie Moloney, Chief Legal Officer, OSN, commented: "This is super exciting for us at OSN, to be first in the world to launch a content protection game that helps children to understand the massive threats that the entertainment industry faces from content theft. What's more, the game is a lot of

fun and children can hopefully come away with the thought that content is really precious and worth protecting."

Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, Director of Dubai Customs, said: "This initiative uses virtual reality and is based on the latest advanced applications in the field. The result is Copycat Combat, which will not only raise awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property but will also help kids innovate. This initiative is one of many steps we have taken following the vision and directives of our wise leadership. We are happy to have partnered with OSN to come up with this innovative product." Conservative estimates put the loss of revenue to the entertainment industries in the MENA as being between US\$500m and US\$1.2bn per year owing to content theft.



Lifestyle | Features

# Fashionistas get military look in war-scarred Ukraine

In war-scarred eastern Ukraine, the military look is all the rage this season, with fatigues and Soviet regalia a must-have for those who dress to impress in the battered crucible of the Russian-backed insurgency. With international brands such as Zara and Levi's pulling out of the fighters' de facto capital of Donetsk, it has created valuable space for local designers who fill boutiques with clothes that reflect the bleaker realities of everyday life.

Designer Yulia Morozova, 27, says her most popular outfit for women in this industrial city is a number called "the little lump of coal" which she says symbolizes eastern Ukraine. The long black-and-grey gown is speckled with sparkles and topped off with a translucent scarf decorated in the blue-and-red motif of the flag of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR).

The two-headed eagle—the emblem of both the tsars and Vladimir Putin's Russia—also features on a locally-designed evening gown. The war in the European Union's backyard, which began in 2014, has claimed more than 10,000 lives—most lost to indiscriminate shelling or mines planted in exorbitant numbers by both sides. These days, the conflict has calmed to low-intensity fighting in which periodic truces are sometimes broken but eventually peter out. Some southeast-

ern regions of the former Soviet republic remain firmly under separatist—and Kiev claims—Russian control.

Clothes have inevitably come to reflect this reality and the military look along with old Russian standbys such as designs featuring nesting dolls loom large in adverts on the high street. One of Morozova's more eye-catching dresses is called "The Young Republic" which is overlaid in white embroidery and has full-length sleeves in the colours of the Donetsk flag. "We all live in a young republic—it is only starting to grow," Morozova explains to onlookers at a special outdoor exhibition of creations by local designers. Another dress features the hammer and sickle design on it "because we were all born in the Soviet Union," she says.



**Clothes have inevitably come to reflect reality**

**'War reflected in design'**

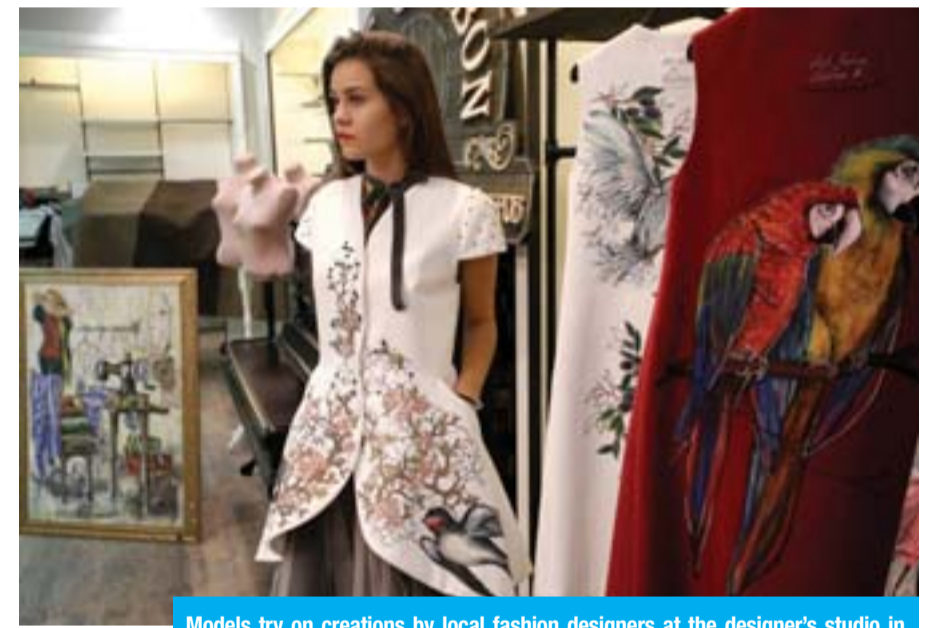
Not everyone is so happy about the replacement of global brands by fashion "a la Russe". Former languages student Yelena—now unemployed and unwilling to give her last name for fear of retribution from pro-Russian rebels—walks out of a large Donetsk shopping mall without making a single purchase.

"These military, pseudo-patriotic motifs, these nesting doll designs, embroidery 'A la Russe'—none of it is quality material. I do not like any of it," the 27-year-old says. "A lack of demand and warfare have simply pushed good clothes out of Donetsk." The bustling city which was once home to nearly a million people has today been taken over by local businesses and a plethora of stores selling cheap knockoffs from Turkey and China.

Designer Tatyana Protchenko says her latest style inspiration came two years ago when the conflict was claiming lives almost every day. "It was spring, trees were blooming, it was warm and beautiful outdoors but the shells were exploding and people were dying," Protchenko recalls. "The war has made a profound impact on my collection."

**'Why wear camouflage?'**

But she insists her designs are not meant to promote warfare. "The idea is that despite combat, the women of Donetsk remain delicate and feminine." But shopper Yelena questions why women would dress in military outfits or wear politically-charged flags of Russia and the two self-declared southeastern fiefdoms in times of war. "You need this type of clothing for camouflage on the battlefield or to express your patriotism," she says. "But why would young women dress up in camouflage, and how can she help her country by pulling on a dress that looks like a flag?" She shakes her head in disbelief. "I think these things should be left for the politicians and the army men." — AFP



A woman looks at creations by local designers during an open air fashion show in Donetsk.

Models try on creations by local fashion designers at the designer's studio in Donetsk. — AFP photos

## Amazon India Fashion Week



Models showcase the creations of Indian fashion designer Suneet Varma during the Amazon India Fashion Week Spring Summer 2017 finale in New Delhi. — AFP photos

# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017



A Nepalese vendor displays color powders ahead of Tihar Festival in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday. The five-day festival begins today. — AP

## Lisbon's first Syrian restaurant a welcome sign for new refugees

The queue outside Lisbon's first Syrian restaurant on its opening day showed an appetite not just for Syrian food but for integration in one of the few European countries trying to welcome more refugees. Syrian refugees run Mezze restaurant after money was raised to renovate a former butcher's shop on a market in the Portuguese capital's popular Arroios neighbourhood.

Leonor Rodrigues was one of the customers immediately won over when Mezze opened in September. "The chicken kebabs, the hummus, everything was exquisite. Next week I will be back, that's for sure," the translator said. "The place is really good and it's great to integrate the refugees this way." The restaurant is the result of a fundraising drive, which raised 23,000 euros (\$27,000), initiated by former journalist Francisca Gorjao Henriques, who founded the association "Pao a Pao" ("Bread to Bread") in 2016 to help refugees.

"As soon as I announced the restaurant project and said that it was intended for Syrian families, people immediately joined" the campaign to collect money to renovate and equip the building, the 45-year-old said. Inside it is impossible to ignore the delicious aromas coming from the kitchen, where a dozen Syrians work, with some of their stories told on the menus.

One of the staff, Rafat, admits that Lisbon was not his dream destination when he fled Syria nearly three years ago,

living first in Egypt before moving to Portugal a year ago. The 21-year-old now lives in Lisbon's northern suburbs with his mother, Fatima, and two sisters, Rana and Reem, who also work at Mezze. Rafat's father, who ran a traditional restaurant in Damascus, died in the civil war that has killed more than 330,000 people since 2011.

### 'Portuguese are very tolerant'

"All I knew about Portugal was the footballers Cristiano Ronaldo and Nani. I thought it was a rather poor country. My priority was Germany," Rafat, who did not want to give his last name, told AFP. But he said he is "very happy" to have finished his journey in Portugal, where he hopes to be joined by his older brother, who lives in Turkey with his wife and their small boy.

"We feel good here. The Portuguese are very tolerant and we have never had a problem. My sisters can go to the beach wearing a hijab without feeling judged," Rafat said, in hesitant but already very good Portuguese. Many European countries have been resistant to taking in more refugees in the wake of the migrant crisis that hit the continent in 2015, but Portugal has gone in the opposition direction.

The European Commission asked Portugal to take in 5,000 migrants—the majority from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan—under a plan to relocate 160,000 asylum seekers from overstretched Greece and Italy to most of the other

The restaurant is the result of a fundraising drive



Clients sit outside the Syrian refugees-owned restaurant 'Mezze' in Lisbon. — AFP photos

28 EU member states. While the quotas have proved unpopular with some former communist eastern European governments, the Portuguese government offered in February last year to double its quota to 10,000.

But the country has only received 1,400 so far. And of those, more than half have already left Portugal, according to the latest official estimates. Portuguese authorities say the refugees left due to the appeal of countries with better economic prospects, such as Germany or Britain. Of those who stayed in Portugal, only a third have entered the job market, the government said, acknowledging too many remain unemployed.

### 'Language is the key'

Rafat says Pao a Pao, which helps refugees find jobs and integrate, has helped his mother and sister feel at home. "For my part, I was already working in a kebab restaurant. But for the women, who often stay at home, it was more difficult," he

said. But he said he could not understand why other Syrian refugees left Portugal.

"I have Syrian friends who left without understanding that language is the key to a country. They did not try to learn it and that's why they could not integrate," he said. Mezze serves up traditional Syrian dishes such as yalanji, fattoush salad, kibbeh and baklava that the staff have been cooking for a long time, but they still had to learn how to work under the conditions required for restaurants in Portugal. The country's welcoming spirit again came to the rescue, with a hospitality school in Lisbon offering to train them and, at the same time, give the refugees the opportunity to learn some of the secrets of European gastronomy. — AFP



Mezze, run by a dozen refugees, serves up traditional Syrian dishes such as yalanji, fattoush salad, kibbeh and baklava.



One of Mezze's chefs working in the kitchen.