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# Axed Catalan leader urges resistance to Madrid rule

## Spain seizes control of 'independent' Catalonia

### Fists fly at raucous Amiri Hospital brawl

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** A group of partygoers were involved in a late-night fight, which they continued after arriving at Amiri Hospital at dawn yesterday. After the video of the brawl went viral on social media, health ministry spokesman Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti said in a statement that the fight had nothing to do with the medical staff at the hospital.

He said that there was no damage caused except to a door, and an undertaking was made to repair it by those involved in the fight. Shatti added the brawl began at a party, then the revelers came to the hospital for treatment, where they resumed their fight. He said those involved were sent to the police station and were released after signing undertakings.

**BARCELONA:** Catalonia's secessionist leader Carles Puigdemont stood defiant yesterday against Madrid's moves to depose him, urging "democratic resistance" to direct rule imposed in a bid to stop the region breaking away from Spain. In a televised statement, Puigdemont accused the central government of trampling on the will of independence-seeking Catalans who rejoiced at Friday's vote by regional lawmakers to declare an independent republic.

Madrid's response to seize Catalan powers - the first curtailment of regional autonomy since Francisco Franco's brutal 1939-75 dictatorship - constituted an "aggression", he said, but insisted "democratic opposition" was the only response. The central government's intervention was "contrary to the will expressed by the citizens of our country at the ballot box," Puigdemont said. "In a democratic society, only parliaments can appoint or dismiss presidents." In a copy of his speech sent to AFP, Puigdemont signed off as "President of the Catalan government".

Spain is on a knife edge as it grapples with the worst constitutional crisis in its contemporary history, triggered by an unlawful Catalan independence referendum on October 1 that was shunned by many, and marred by police violence. Throwing down the gauntlet in the escalating standoff, Catalan lawmakers on Friday passed a motion, by 70 votes out of 135 in the regional parliament, to declare a Catalan republic. Opposition MPs refused to even vote on the issue and walked out in disgust. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy responded swiftly by axing the Catalan government and parliament, and calling Dec 21 elections to replace them. In an official government notice published yesterday, Rajoy's deputy, Soraya Saenz de Santamaria, was put in charge of administering the region. Saenz de Santamaria was due to meet secretaries of state who will likely take charge of regional ministries.

The world is now watching to see whether Puigdemont



**MADRID:** People hold signs reading "(Catalan regional president Carles) Puigdemont to prison" while waving Spanish flags during a demonstration calling for unity at Plaza de Colon yesterday, a day after direct control was imposed on Catalonia over a bid to break away from Spain. — AFP

and his team will willingly step aside for caretaker envoys to be sent from Madrid. Analysts warn that upheaval is likely, as civil servants may defy direct orders, or worse. "We are likely to see more sustained unrest, possibly including strikes, as

well as more serious clashes between national police and pro-independence activists," said Federico Santi, an analyst at Eurasia Group, a US-based think-tank.

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### Blast kills Bahrain policeman; Amir sends condolences

**DUBAI:** A Bahraini policeman was killed and eight others wounded on Friday in a "terrorist" bomb attack on the bus in which they were travelling, the interior ministry said. The eight wounded policemen sustained serious to medium injuries and were admitted to hospital, the ministry said on its Twitter account. It said the attack was carried out by a "terrorist" group which remotely detonated a home-made bomb. Shiite militants applauded the attack and attributed it to a little-known group.

The attack took place near the Shiite town of Jidhafs outside the capital Manama. Authorities opened an investigation into the attack and police began a manhunt to find and arrest the assailants, the ministry said. A ministry-released photograph showed shrapnel pelted the bus. A statement later released by the Mukhtar Brigade, a Shiite militant group that has claimed several similar attacks, said the bombing "gave the enemy a taste of what they've been doing to us all along". It said



**BAHRAIN:** The shrapnel-ridden bus hit by a blast is seen in this handout photo. — KUNA

the God's Promise Brigade, which carried out a 2015 attack on police, was responsible.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to Bahraini King Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa over the terrorist attack. In the cable, Sheikh Sabah expressed Kuwait's strongest condemnation towards the attack. HH the Amir also voiced Kuwait's support and solidarity with the Bahraini leadership and people.

Continued on Page 11

### Traffic laws to be vigorously enforced: MoI

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The interior ministry's assistant undersecretary for traffic affairs Maj Gen Fahd Al-Showai said in a bid to achieve traffic control and deter violating motorists, it has been decided to activate article 169 of the traffic code which bans parking vehicles in pedestrian crossing zones or on sidewalks.

Showai said effective today (Sunday, Oct 29, 2017), all violating vehicles will be impounded for a maximum of two months and fined a maximum of KD 15 for parking on pavements and sidewalks. Showai explained that according to article 207 of the traffic law, "All types of vehicles can be impounded if found parked on a spot blocking or jeopardizing traffic flow or found parked on pavements or entirely or partially on public roads."

Showai added owners will be charged KD 10 for towing their vehicles plus KD 1 per day during the



Fahd Al-Showai



Adel Al-Hashash

impoundment period. "According to articles 208 and 210 of the traffic code, the traffic department will not be liable for any damage that occurs during the impoundment process," he underlined.

The ministry's relations and media security department manager Brig Adel Al-Hashash stressed that in collaboration with the traffic and the operations sectors, his department will conduct a public awareness campaign to explain the aim of activating the aforementioned articles and penalties. "These measures aim to intensify deterrent measures against law violators as well as protect motorists themselves," he said, noting that the awareness campaign will cover all audiovisual media, in addition to various social media networks.

### Saudi agenda shifting power

**DUBAI:** The Saudi crown prince is charting a new, more modern course for a country so conservative that for decades there were no concerts or film screenings and women who attempted to drive were arrested. Since catapulting to power, Mohammed bin Salman has pushed forth changes that could usher in a new era for one of the United States' most important allies and swing the kingdom away from decades of ultra-conservative dogma and restrictions. He's introduced musical concerts and movies again and is seen as the force behind the king's decision to grant women the right to drive as of next year.

Prince Mohammed's agenda is upending the ruling Al Saud's longstanding alliance with the kingdom's clerical establishment in favor of synchronizing with a more cosmopolitan, global capital-



Prince Mohammed bin Salman

ism that appeals to international investors and maybe even non-Muslim tourists. The prince grabbed headlines in recent days by vowing a return to "moderate Islam". He also suggested that his father's generation had steered the country down a problematic path and that it was time to "get rid of it". In his sweeping "Vision 2030" plan to wean Saudi Arabia off of its near total dependence on petrodollars, Prince Mohammed laid out a vision for "a tolerant country with Islam as its constitution and moderation as its method".

Continued on Page 11

### Intriguing details in JFK files - but no bombshells

**WASHINGTON:** Cuban and Russian spies, false leads, strippers, bizarre CIA murder plots and a furious FBI director. Newly released secret records are full of intriguing details surrounding the assassination of president John F Kennedy. But Kennedy scholars say the thousands of documents do not appear to contain any bombshell revelations about the Nov 22, 1963 murder that shocked the world.

US President Donald Trump ordered the release on Thursday of 2,800 classified Kennedy assassination records but held back other "sensitive" documents under pressure from the CIA and FBI. That last-minute decision left many Kennedy historians frustrated - and provided more fuel for the thriving conspiracy industry around the shooting of the charismatic 46-year-old president in Dallas, Texas. "I was very disappointed," said Philip Shenon, author of "A Cruel and Shocking Act: the Secret History of the Kennedy Assassination."



**DALLAS:** In this Nov 22, 1963 file photo, US President John F Kennedy waves from his car in a motorcade. — AP (See Page 9)

"Most of the documents that were released last night are documents we'd already seen before," Shenon told AFP. "We just saw them in redacted form previously. The really important documents, sort of the super-secret documents, most of them are not part of the release," he said. The Warren Commission, which investigated Kennedy's murder, determined that Lee Harvey Oswald - a former Marine Corps sharpshooter - acted alone but

that conclusion has failed to quell years of speculation that others were involved.

Hundreds of books and movies such as the 1991 Oliver Stone film "JFK" have examined scores of conspiracy theories, pointing the finger at Cold War rivals the Soviet Union or Cuba, the Mafia and even Kennedy's own vice president, Lyndon Johnson. While the records released on Thursday by the National Archives

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# Fitch affirms Kuwait rating at AA with stable outlook

## Generous state, large public sector's role present increasing challenges

**NEW YORK:** Fitch Ratings affirmed its rating for Kuwait's sovereign wealth funds in 2017 at AA with a stable outlook. The agency's latest report noted that a credit rating is used by sovereign wealth funds, pension funds and other investors to gauge the credit worthiness of Kuwait thus having a big impact on the country's borrowing costs. Kuwait's key credit strengths are the sovereign's exceptionally strong fiscal and external metrics and, at a forecast \$50/bbl, one of the lowest fiscal breakeven Brent oil prices among Fitch-rated oil exporters.

A generous welfare state and the large economic role of the public sector present increasing challenges to public finances, given robust growth of the Kuwaiti population. Assets and performance of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) are not disclosed. "We estimate that KIA's assets exceeded \$514 billion or 453 percent of GDP at end-2016," according to the report. Of this amount, the Reserve Fund for Future Generations (RFFG) accounted for almost \$400 billion and continues to increase, due to investment income and the statutory transfer of 10 percent of government revenue.

### General Reserve Fund

Meanwhile, the value of the General Reserve Fund (GRF), which holds the accumulated government surpluses of previous years, is estimated to have fallen for a third year in a row, to \$116 billion, as the government tapped the GRF for financing. In a hypothetical scenario where fiscal deficits remain at the level expected for the fiscal year ending March 2018 (FY17/18), the transfer to the RFFG continues and the GRF remains the sole source of financing, the GRF would be exhausted within about 10 years, while tapping the RFFG would allow Kuwait to sustain its current deficits for decades. The government met its FY16/17 financing need by issuing around KD 2.2 billion (\$7.3 billion) of net new local debt, \$8 billion of Eurobonds and taking around \$4 billion from the GRF.

"We expect the financing mix in FY17/18 to have a similar debt component, although this is conditional on the passage of the new debt law in the National Assembly, doubling the government's borrowing cap to KD 20 billion. Assuming that the law will be passed, we

see debt approaching the new cap in FY19/20, when it would be equivalent to 48 percent of GDP.

"We estimate the general government balance at KD 74 million (0.2 percent of GDP) in FY16/17, including estimated investment income worth around KD 4.7 billion and excluding the statutory transfer of 10 percent of revenue to the RFFG, worth around KD 1.3 billion," the reports says.

The government does not count investment income and treats the RFFG transfer as an expenditure in its own presentation, resulting in a deficit of more than KD 5.9 billion. The balance in FY16/17 was almost unchanged from FY15/16, as a further three percent drop in oil revenue was offset by a similar decline in current spending. A mild decline in current spending masked significant under-spending relative to the budget (nearly KD

1.2 billion, or 6.3 percent).

"Under our baseline Brent oil price assumption of \$52.5/bbl in 2017-2018, we expect the fiscal balance to be broadly unchanged at KD 57 million (0.2 percent of GDP) in FY17/18. According to the government's reporting convention, our forecast deficit would be KD 6.4 billion, which roughly corresponds to the government's financing need, as the government does not intend to touch the RFFG. The government's own headline budget deficit is KD 7.8 billion for FY17/18, mainly due to a lower oil price assumption of \$45/bbl," the report reads

### Slow progress

Progress on the government's "Program for Economic and Fiscal Sustainability" has been slow, partly due to a strengthening of parliamentary opposition after elections in November 2016. The September 2016 fuel price hike has remained in place and has been upheld by courts. Utility price hikes came into effect gradually between May and September 2017 but are far lower than initially approved by parliament, remain below production costs and international rates and, as expected, did not directly apply to Kuwaiti citizens, the biggest consumers. The government has been working on non-legislative measures to limit spending, including by cracking down on employee absenteeism in the public sector, tightening bonus rules, stopping the cre-



## KIA's assets estimated at over \$514 billion

ating in a deficit of more than KD 5.9 billion. The balance in FY16/17 was almost unchanged from FY15/16, as a further three percent drop in oil revenue was offset by a similar decline in current spending. A mild decline in current spending masked significant under-spending relative to the budget (nearly KD

ation of new allowances and limiting budgetary entities' fiscal discretion. "We expect that the government will continue to enjoy some success on measures that do not require major new legislation, such as multi-year budgeting, expenditure ceilings and further tightening of rules for hiring and compensation in the civil service," according to the report.

Progress will be slower on more comprehensive measures such as a new public sector wage law, privatization and VAT and excise tax laws. This is due to strong political opposition in a fractious parliament and due to capacity constraints in the parliament and in the public sector. In particular, we do not factor in VAT or excise tax revenue into our forecasts.

The government commands an effective majority in parliament as its unelected ministers also have voting rights and because the authority of His Highness Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who appoints the government, is respected. However, members of parliament can and have obstructed the government's agenda by resorting to hearings of ministers and votes of no confidence.

### Controversial challenges

"Despite a degree of consensus in many parts of society on the structural challenges that Kuwait is facing, the government's proposed answers to these challenges remain deeply controversial," the report reads. "We expect Kuwait's real GDP to fall 3.5 percent in 2017 (after 3.5 percent growth in 2016) as oil production cuts in line with the OPEC agreement will imply an 8.3 percent drop in production from 2016 average levels. We expect non-oil growth to pick up to three percent in 2017-2019 from two percent in 2016 amid higher government spending, particularly on investment."

Despite increases to fuel prices, inflation has been muted, which along with higher oil prices and continuation of government spending should help retail trade and confidence indicators recover from their dip in mid-2016. A record number of land grants under the government's housing program in 2016 will support residential construction activity in the coming years. Banks remain adequately capitalized, liquid and profitable, the report added. — KUNA

## One week's roundup of Kuwait's int'l humanitarian action

**KUWAIT:** Living up to its UN-bestowed status as an International Humanitarian Center, Kuwait continued to provide aid to needy people across the world throughout the week. Starting from Bangladesh, Kuwait's Red Crescent Society, in cooperation with Turkey's Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH), handed out 600 food parcels and 600 cleaning products to Rohingya refugees in the country as part of an ongoing aid campaign. The aid comes in response to the tough humanitarian conditions experienced by the Rohingya refugees after making the difficult journey to Bangladesh after fleeing violence in Myanmar, a Kuwaiti Red Crescent (KRC) official said. The humanitarian aid consisted of the urgent needs any refugee would require, including food and cleaning products, added Shamlan Fakhro, who is in charge of the organization's field operations. He pointed out that KRC plans to disperse further aid across the city's refugee camps in the Bangladeshi city of Cox's Bazar, located about 70 kilometers north of the Myanmar border. Most of the refugees have lost their homes, some of which were burned down due to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar, said Fakhro.

They have had to walk for days without food or shelter to reach Bangladesh and are now living in makeshift camps. KRC is committed to aiding people across the world, regardless of their race, creed or faith, and responding to the needs of the fleeing Rohingya families - consisting mostly women and children, he added.

### 17,000 families

A Bangladeshi army officer tasked with aid distribution and security in Balukhali, one of the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, said that 17,000 families currently reside in the camp, but these numbers are increasing. The army makes sure that there are no irregularities in the distribution process to the refugees, who have each been handed documents in order to ensure that rations are allocated evenly, said Nafees bin



A Syrian refugee who underwent an open-heart surgery in Lebanon, funded by Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRC).

Ahmed. However, he said that despite the hard work put in by the Bangladeshi authorities this has not prevented several challenges the refugees are presented with, including the lack of toilets, power, lighting and disinfectants.

"Their situation is a difficult one," he said, "they need much more." Aisha Mohammad, a mother of 12, said she escaped killing and pillaging to make it to the camp, where she has been living for two weeks now. She had to walk for three days to make the journey across the border while the lack of food and water made her children suffer from malnutrition. At the camp, she said that "women dare not leave their tents at night" in fear of their safety.

This forces Aisha to cook indoors making it difficult for her and her children to breathe due to the rising coal fumes. Along with the problem of malnutrition, her children have also been affected with other sicknesses due to the scarcity of clean water.

According to UN estimates, around 3,000 Rohingya refugees escape across the border every day from Myanmar. The total number of these refugees has reached a total half a million, including 300,000 children.

### Donations to Gaza

In Palestine, Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing signed on Thursday several agreements related to Kuwait's donation to the Gaza Strip. Some

270 factories, which were destroyed during the war on Gaza in 2014 by the Israeli occupation forces, will be restored, thanks to \$200 million previously donated by Kuwait.

Palestinian Minister of Public Works and Housing Mofeed Al-Hasayna said Kuwait had provided great assistance to construction of the Gaza Strip. He revealed that \$75 million from the donation would be used in the housing sector, where 2,270 houses were built.

Hasayna added that Kuwait has been the primary sponsor for the reconstruction of Palestine. He expressed his gratitude to the Kuwaiti people and government, led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Moreover, President of the General Federation of Industries Ali Al-Hayek said that Kuwait has been supporting the strip, since the war in 2014, and aiding the Palestinian people, hoping for more aid to assist other industrial sectors.

### Open-heart surgeries

In Lebanon, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRC) covered Friday the



Rohingya refugees camps in Bangladesh.

expenses of the open-heart surgeries of two Syrian child refugees residing in Lebanon. Director of the Rachaya Governmental Hospital Dr Yaser Ammar said that Sidra Abu Suwaid, five years old, has left hospital while Hussein Ziyad Hussein, 11 months old, is still at hospital.

The KRC support has helped the two children to overcome heart defects that they were suffering from, said the director, thanking the Kuwaiti society for its urgent response to save lives of the children.

Parents of the children said that the suffering their children faced before operations, stressing that the KRC support saved lives of children.

The parents thanked Kuwait and its people for providing immediate medical assistance, affirming that this effort is appreciated.

Meanwhile, Head of the KRC mission in Lebanon Dr Musa'ad Al-Enezi said the society would always provide support to those who are in need especially when the matter concerns young children. Enezi affirmed that KRC would pounce on any opportunity to aid the Syrian refugees in Lebanon, adding that the society was also

keen on offering help to Palestinians residing in the fellow Arab country. A month ago, the KRC covered the surgery expenses of three Syrian refugees who suffered from hearing loss.

### School bags

In Yemen, the "Kuwait by your side" campaign distributed 18,000 school bags and needed tools to students of different academic grades in the Yemeni governorate of Taiz. Abdel-Qawi Al-Mekhlafi, undersecretary of the governorate, lauded Kuwait's efforts in this regard since the start of the crisis, the campaign said in a statement. He thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, confirming that Taiz is facing major sufferings in several fields. As a result, he calling for further support.

Meanwhile, Raed Ibrahim, a member of the Kuwaiti-Yemeni relief body, said the aid aims to support the Yemeni families and mitigate their suffering. This will curb the issue of dropping out of school due to tough conditions facing the Yemeni families, mainly in Taiz, he said. The campaign seeks to provide the pressing needs of Yemenis and to respond urgently to ensure such needs through carrying out a package of projects in different vital sectors, he stressed. Ibrahim thanked deeply the State of Kuwait, a "Humanitarian Center", and His Highness the Amir, a "Humanitarian Leader", for backing and standing by their brothers and sisters in Yemen. — KUNA

“ Their situation is a difficult one ”

Local

# KD 4 billion to fund 24 new road projects

## Financial affairs committee meets to discuss priorities

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) intends to offer 24 new road projects for bidding in the coming years, said a statement the ministry issued, without mentioning any further details about the projects except stating that the total cost of the projects would be KD 4 billion. The ministry explained that Kuwait had commenced road projects with a total value of \$15.7 billion over the past 10 years including projects worth \$3.97 billion in 2016 alone. The statement added that some of the projects signed in 2016 have been delayed. It explained that the largest road projects to be offered for bidding soon involve building South Mutlaa infrastructure and southern and the northern regional roads.

### Financial committee

Rapporteur of the parliamentary financial affairs committee MP Saleh Ashour said the committee has already set its priorities for this term. Ashour stressed that the government can resort to national alternatives other than borrowing or seeking funds from international markets to cover the budget deficit. Ashour added that the committee will convene today to discuss priorities before discussing the bills and proposals under study to report on them.

Ashour explained that the committee has a busy

agenda including the government's request to borrow from international markets, the strategic alternative project, leading positions, protecting competence, demographic imbalance, writing off retirees' loan interest, reducing the age of retirement, establishing shareholding companies for electricity and water desalination, turning Kuwait Airways into a shareholding company, governance in government establishments, the government's reaction to requesting exceptional pensions for military retirees, increasing children's allowance to KD 75 and rent allowance to KD 275.

### Local products

Kuwait Municipality's deputy director for projects affairs Nadia Al-Shereeda rejected a proposal made by Kuwait Farmers Association to license a building to market local agricultural products at the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resource's (PAAAFR) premises in Ardiya. Shereeda explained that a market has already been built in Sulabiya for fruits and vegetables and services other sub-markets in various governorates. She added that this market already houses units representing all concerned ministries to have more control on products, in addition to a special lab to monitor product quality. She added that building another market would jeopardize the state's credibility in offering build-operate-transfer (BOT) projects in collaboration with the private sector.



KUWAIT: This file photo shows construction works at the Jamal Abdul Nasser Road. — KUNA

local spotlight

## Modernization in Saudi Arabia

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Statements by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that he wants to return Saudi Arabia to moderate Islam sparked much discussion, enthusiasm and optimism. It is a rare and important statement with repercussions at the local, Gulf and international levels. These remarks by the crown prince came during a panel discussion on the first day of the "Future Investment Initiative" forum in Riyadh last week.

The prince's comments were an attack on hardliners. Saudi Arabia in recent months has seen signs of social openness, notably allowing women to drive. It has often raised eyebrows about the reasons for preventing this. Conservative men there have denied this request for years and even submitted fatwas to scare the public, but this barrier is forever gone now.

I believe youth leadership and decision-making in the Gulf region have become a demand and a choice. Gulf societies are predominantly young societies and are looking forward to keeping pace with modernity in the world, at least in terms of technological development. The rejection of extremist laws and the abolition of laws that are biased against women or racist - this is what most young men and women want. It's a just and natural demand.

Prince Mohammed added "we are just going back to what we were - a moderate Islam that is open to the world, to all religions, to all traditions and peoples," adding that 70 percent of the Saudi population is under 30. "We want to live a normal life," he said, vowing to eradicate the remnants of extremism. Prince Mohammed pointed out that "destructive ideas" began to enter Saudi Arabia in 1979 as part of a religious "awakening" project coinciding with the Islamic revolution in Iran.

It is clear that the Saudi crown prince's remarks send a strong message not only to the Saudis, but to the entire world - that the kingdom is preparing for change and will not allow extremism. The remarks of the crown prince seemed controversial to some not because they simply presented reality as it is without fear or hypocrisy, but because there are those who fear modernity and change, so they speculate over the possibility of change in the kingdom or worry about the possible negative consequences.

Everybody knows that modernizing any system brings better security along with improvements in efficiency. But it seems some people don't believe in this and this is why they are raising doubts over this step. The fear is unjustified.

I want to clarify the meaning of change - what I mean is positive change in order to keep pace with the demands of the times and to elevate ourselves towards further progress and development. But unfortunately, many people refuse to even think about it or imagine it. And therefore, they have a desire to keep the situation as it is, and the victim has to remain silent. This obsolete political culture should not be considered anymore. Modernism means leadership for institutions and the law, which is true democracy. Prince Mohammed's statements confirm that he is pushing for positive change. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will witness big change in the short and long term.

## European Parliament member lauds Amir's humanitarian role

**KUWAIT:** European Parliament member Michele Alliot-Marie lauded Friday His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's humanitarian and international role. Marie, also Chair of delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula, made her remarks while meeting with First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at the ministry.

She expressed her admiration towards Kuwait's foreign policy characterized by its wisdom and equanimity, praising the solid relationship between the EU and Kuwait. The European parliamentarian also expressed her aspiration to boost the current European-Kuwaiti coordination, and enhance their ties in all fields and on all levels. Marie is currently in the country in an official visit as part of a round that also include Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister on European Affairs Ambassador Waleed Al-Khubaizi, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Deputy Foreign Minister's office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar, Assistant Minister for the Foreign Minister office Affairs Ambassador Saleh Al-Loughani, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Belgium and Head of Kuwait mission to the EU and NATO Jaseem Al-Budaiwi and a number of foreign ministry's senior officials. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Chair of delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula EP member Michele Alliot-Marie. — KUNA

## Kuwait places two Yemeni entities, 11 persons on terror list

**KUWAIT:** A senior source at the Foreign Ministry has announced the designation of two Yemeni entities and 11 individuals as terrorist. In line with Kuwait's efforts to counter terrorism and dry up terrorist groups' financial resources, the anti-terror committee, chaired by the Foreign Ministry has placed two Yemeni entities and 11 Yemeni individuals on Kuwait terror list for leading, financing, or supporting Al-Qaeda and the so-called Islamic State (IS) terrorist groups, the source said.

The source pointed out that the move was taken in coordination with the United States and within the framework of the newly-formed Riyadh-based Terrorist Financing Targeting Center (TFTC), which is co-chaired by the US and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The designation of these entities and individuals comes also in implementation of the UNSC resolution No. 1373 of 2001, which was issued under article seven of the UN charter, the source stated.

The source emphasized that the measures taken-by the government in this regard — are in line with the state's constitution, law and regulations. The source identified the designated entities as Yemeni Rahmah Charitable Organization and Al Khayr Supermarket and named the individuals as: Nayif Salih Salim al-Qaysi, Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad Abd al-Wahhab al-Humayqani, Hashim Muhsin Aydarus, Nashwan al-Adani, Khalid Abdullah Salih al-Marfadi, Sayf Abdulrab Salem al-Hayashi, Adil Abduh Fari Uthman al-Dhubhani, Radwan Muhammad Hasan Qanan, Wali Nashwan al-Yafi'i, Khalid Sa'id Ghabish al-Ubaydi and Bilal Ali al-Wafi. — KUNA

# CONDOLENCES

*The Management and Staff of Sefeena express their Deepest Condolences to*

**MR. JAMES M. MATHEWS  
(MANAGING DIRECTOR)**

on the sad demise of his Sister

**MS. ANNIE MARY MATHEWS (JEENA)**

(ASST. GENERAL MANAGER - SEFEENA GEN. TRAD. & CONT. CO. W.L.L.)

(ELDEST DAUGHTER OF MRS. MARY MATHEWS & LATE MR. M. MATHEWS)



**(24.01.1966 - 27.10.2017)**

May our Almighty God grant comfort and strength to the bereaved family members.

Prayer at home on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 at 03.00pm, followed by burial at Hosur Cemetery, Gate 1 at 04.30pm.

Address: 67/3C, 4<sup>th</sup> Cross Lavelle Road, Bangalore, India.

**SEFEENA GROUP OF COMPANIES**



Local



Al-Anbaa

# Kuwait Festival for Arab Youth Theater

By Nermin Al-Houti

The theater that combines sadness with joy personifies the reality of a human being and the emotions that he carries, which means theater and reality are two sides of a coin, due to what it simulates from human reality. The start of last week marked the beginning of the theatrical feast of 'Kuwait Festival for the Arab Youth Theater 2017' from Sunday night at Abdelhussein Abdelredha Theater. This year's festival has a special flavor and many considerations that all are related to the youth, pushing them forward to polish their talents.

Kuwait is the 2017 Arab Youth Capital, so the festival enjoyed having the Arab world's youth under its banner. Through this festival we can inspire the youth and instill in them the principles that were instilled in us by our ancestors. This column today is a message to officials responsible for youth and those who bear the difficult task to build the future. This article today sheds light on the negatives and positives of the festival:

Abdullah Abdelrasoul, the skipper who established the youth festival along with several other individuals despite him not having a government job, yet he continues to guide the ship of the theatrical youth to develop the Kuwait theatrical movement to stay shining in the Arab theatrical atmosphere, thank you so much.

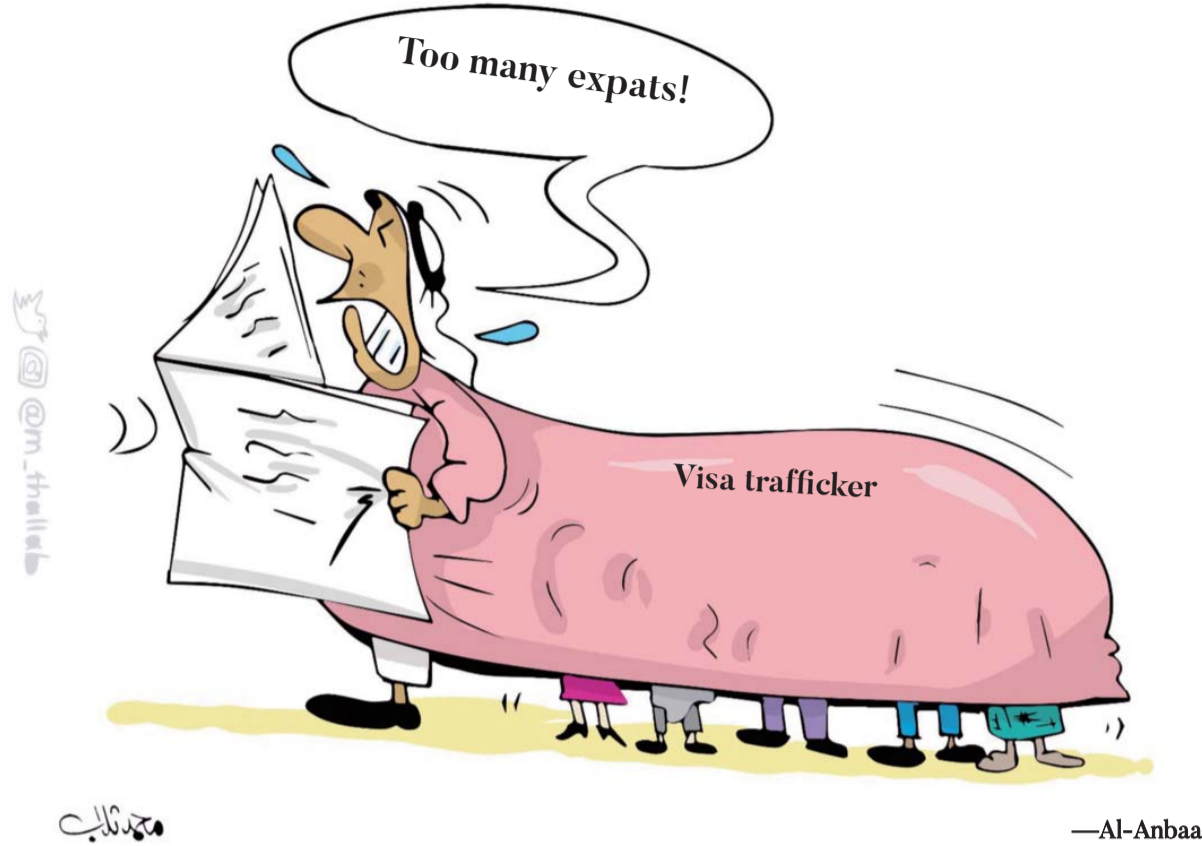
To those responsible for organizing the ceremony, which the youth were supposed to be trained on how to receive guests and how to usher them to their seats, it was rude to ask a guest to get up after he was seated on the wrong seat.

Also to the organizers, it is not right to distribute water to guests during the play. The theater is a commitment and respect for the actor who is performing in the theater. It was enough with the delay that took place. Is it realistic to disturb one's performance?

Bravo to the people who selected and made the festival's logo, it indeed carried all the meanings of the festival as this is the well-known theater mask since ancient civilizations, and the eyes in the logo represent the eyes of youth who are looking forward in a future in theater, and its elements written in blue emphasizes the color of hope.

Thanks to the theatrical team that made "Ya Sada... Ya Kiram," particularly my student the director Yousuf Al-Hashash for his outstanding effort, but the play was too long and many pioneers of Kuwait theatrical movement, including playwrights, directors, actors and critics were not mentioned in the documentary. It would have been much better to document the film with all pioneers or just limit it to the dean of comedy the late Abdelhussein Abdelredha.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



—Al-Anbaa

## Man storms son's school, assaults principal

**KUWAIT:** A citizen entered the room of a school principal and very angrily demanded to see a teacher who "insulted" him, according to his son, who is a student at the school. The principal attempted to calm the father down, but matters escalated and the father insulted the principal and beat him before others intervened and stopped the fight. The principal then went to the police station and lodged a complaint, and investigations have begun in the case.

### Students 'insulted'

A citizen lodged a complaint against a headmistress for locking up and insulting his two daughters. He said his daughters were insulted as they left school, as the two girls claimed. He said the girls were detained in a classroom for three hours as a disciplinary action.

### Spoiled vegetables

Coordination between Ahmadi police and Kuwait

Municipality resulted in destroying spoiled vegetables in a market in an open area in Fahaheel. The hawkers escaped as soon as they saw police patrols. The area was cleaned after the goods were destroyed.

### Bootleggers arrested

Police arrested three people with nearly 200 bottles of liquor in Bneid Al-Gar. The suspects escaped when they saw the police, but they were arrested before being able to sell and distribute the locally made liquor they had.

### Blackmailers

The interior ministry warned citizens and expats against responding to Arab blackmailers, adding that such people may be both women and men, who draw persons into committing compromising acts, then give them the option of paying large amounts of money or publishing the clips on social media. The cybercrimes department warned not to respond to such suspicious calls. An informed source said several citizens complained to the department that they were blackmailed, adding that such cases are highly complicated because they are considered intercontinental crimes. The source said there are two particular countries to which most blackmailers belong.

## 4,411 tickets issued in state-wide traffic campaign



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Traffic police conducted wide-scale inspection campaigns in various governorates, where police at checkpoints issued 4,411 tickets, impounded 207 vehicles and bikes, referred 46 motorists to traffic police detention and seven juveniles to relevant authorities.

### Fire

A fire broke out in the early hours of Friday in the basement of a nine-storey building in Farwaniya. Security sources said firemen from Farwaniya and Jleeb rushed to the scene, where they evacuated the entire building and dealt with the fire in the basement, which had been used as a lumber storehouse.

### Forgery

Two Egyptians were arrested for forging vehicle technical examination documents in Ahmadi, said security sources, who strongly denied social media reports saying that a police officer was bribed by a major company to commit the forgery. The sources explained that one of the two suspects works as a company representative (mandoub), while the other works as a building janitor. Further investigations are in progress. The sources noted that the officer might be involved in administrative negligence as he endorsed the renewal documents without verifying them.

### Spas raided

Upon instructions from Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al-Jabri, municipality inspection teams raided a number of spas and massage centers in Hawally and Capital governorates, which resulted in filing 22 citations in Salmiya. Within the same campaign, the Capital municipality inspection team leader Zaid Al-Enezi stressed that a store was closed, 20 citations were filed for hiring laborers without getting health certificates, two for allowing laborers sleep overnight inside stores and five for violating the municipality's original structure plans.



## Jordan grateful for Kuwaiti \$1.2 billion grant

**AMMAN:** Contributing to first priority development projects in Jordan within the upcoming five years, Kuwait has allocated a sum of \$1.2 billion as part of the GCC grant. The Kuwaiti contribution helped the Jordanian authorities to execute some vital projects in the country despite the political and security instabilities in the region resulting of the Syrian crisis.

Speaking on the Kuwaiti contributions, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad Fakhoury lauded the outstanding support provided by the State of Kuwait to his country. Although the government was under considerable pressure caused by the regional status quo, Jordan will continue its road for development, said the minister who applauded Kuwait for providing assistance in this regard.

The GCC grant, which Kuwait is part of, plays an integral part in offering finances to the various projects being carried out in the country, said Fakhoury who pointed out that of the \$1.2 billion, Jordan had used around \$1.1 billion until last September.

Fakhoury said projects funded by the Kuwaiti grant would finish by 2018, adding that the Kuwait

Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) handled most of the transactions. Combating poverty as well as developing agriculture and municipal services took around 43 percent of the grant, revealed the minister, adding that 17 percent was allocated for the sector of energy and mineral resources, 10 percent for road development, seven percent for the health sector, another seven percent for water and irrigation, as well as four percent for transportation.

Minister Fakhoury took the chance to thank Kuwait's KFAED contributions to aid the Syrian refugees between 2014 and 2016, saying that the fund's \$58 million contribution have help the Jordanians to better deal with the crisis.

The minister also touched on the history of cooperation between the Jordanian government and the KFAED, revealing that the fund had left a memorable impression through contributing a sum of \$579 million to some 26 economic and social projects between 1962 and 2017.

Meanwhile, a report by the Ministry of Planning revealed that the Kuwait grant had contributed chiefly to the development of a liquefied gas project, which was opened in 2015. The project cost around \$65 million.

A wind-powered station in Ma'an area also benefited from the Kuwait project with a sum of \$150 million allocated for its construction. It is still under construction. A total of \$218 million of the Kuwaiti grant was allocated to water and other projects of vital importance. The 2011 GCC summit in Riyadh agreed to provide a \$5 billion grant to first priority development projects in Jordan. —KUNA



Al-Anbaa

## Geniality of time

By Saleh Al-Shayegi

There is no limit to a man's ambitions nor to achieving them; life is full of such ambitions. Nonetheless, we often reminisce about 'the golden days' and feel sorry for losing them to the extent that we start looking like crows on a wasteland. Our time is filled with genius and creative people. It's untrue that the time of the genius is long gone.

Elon Musk is a perfect of an ambitious, determined, capable and strong-willed genius. This 46-year-old man had big hopes ever since childhood. In his little head and great mind, he carried great messages for humanity. Elon has three main goals which kept growing with him. These goals were not personal, religious, nor for his folks, country, nation or followers; they were for the benefit of all mankind.

Elon's three goals were helping people to stop using manufactured power and use solar power instead, using electric vehicles instead of those using petrol and turning Mars' environment to become fit for man's habitation, which is too fanciful and the wildest of all. Elon grew up in a poor family. He founded his first company with his brother when he was in his twenties at the apartment he lived in. He did not have enough money to lead a better life. He had to cut down on nourishment expenses and thus used to look for the cheapest food available.

However, this state of poverty ended quickly when he sold his company for \$27 million a few years after he established it and thus shifted from poverty to extreme wealth. Towards the beginning of the third millennium, he founded PayPal which also achieved remarkable success before he sold his shares for further millions. For the sake of achieving his own goals, he founded a company that manufactures vehicles run only on electricity.

I personally have been to an automobile fair in Dubai displaying those vehicles which seemed so luxurious, beautiful, clean and environment-friendly as they do not produce exhaust fumes. Musk also founded a company for refurbished ballistic missiles, this missile can be used more than once for peaceful purposes, of course. Elon Musk's resume confirms for sure that man's powers and capabilities are unlimited as long as he possesses enough will and self-contingence. —Translated by Kuwait Times

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Afghan Shiites under attack

‘Masterminds’ evading Kim Jong Nam murder trial

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TEKNAF, Bangladesh: Rohingya refugees rest after crossing into Bangladesh from Myanmar at Shah Porir Dwip Island near Teknaf yesterday. — AFP

# Bangladesh eyes sterilization to curb Rohingya population

## Efforts to encourage birth control failed

**PALONGKHALI:** Bangladesh is planning to introduce voluntary sterilization in its overcrowded Rohingya camps, where nearly a million refugees are fighting for space, after efforts to encourage birth control failed. More than 600,000 Rohingya have arrived in Bangladesh since a military crackdown in neighboring Myanmar in August triggered an exodus, straining resources in the impoverished country.

The latest arrivals have joined hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees who fled in earlier waves from Myanmar's Rakhine state, where the stateless Muslim minority has endured decades of persecution. Most live in desperate conditions with limited access to food, sanitation or health facilities and local officials fear a lack of family planning could stretch resources even further. Pintu Kanti Bhattacharjee, who heads the family planning service in the district of Cox's Bazar where the camps are based, said there was little awareness of birth control among the Rohingya.

"The whole community has been deliberately left behind," he said, citing a lack of education in Myanmar, where the Rohingya are

viewed as illegal immigrants and denied access to many services. Bhattacharjee said large families were the norm in the camps, where some parents had up to 19 children and many Rohingya men have more than one wife. District family planning authorities have launched a drive to provide contraception, but say they have so far managed to distribute just 549 packets of condoms among the refugees, who are reluctant to use them.

They have asked the government to approve a plan to launch vasectomies for Rohingya men and tubectomies for women, Bhattacharjee said. But they are likely to face an uphill struggle. Many of the refugees said they believed a large family would help them survive in the camps, where access to food and water remains a daily battle and children are often sent out to fetch and carry supplies. Others had been told contraception was against the tenets of Islam.

Farhana Sultana, a family planning volunteer who works with Rohingya refugees in the camps, said many of the women she spoke

to believed birth control was a sin. "In Rakhine they did not go to family planning clinics, fearing the Myanmar authorities would give medicine that harms them or their children," Sultana said. Volunteers said they

large family. "I spoke to my husband about birth control measures. But he is not convinced. He was given two condoms but he did not use them," she said. "My husband said we need more children as we have land and property (in Rakhine). We don't have to worry to feed them," she said.

of the Rohingya, who are excluded from the census in Myanmar.

But many of the ethnic Rakhine Buddhists accused of taking part in attacks on Rohingya villages that have driven hundreds of thousands into Bangladesh say they fear being displaced by the Muslim minority. The Rohingya face official restrictions on the number of children they can have in Myanmar, although this has not been widely enforced. Rights activists working in the camps in Bangladesh said some believed pregnancy provided protection against rape or other attacks in Myanmar, where the military has been accused of sexual violence against Rohingya women and girls.

"Some of them told us that if a woman was pregnant, she had less chance of being targeted by the military or attackers," Bangladesh officials say some 20,000 Rohingya women are pregnant and 600 have given birth since arriving in Bangladesh, though this may be an underestimate as many births take place with no formal medical help. "Sterilization of the males is the best way to control the population," said Bhattacharjee. "If a man is sterilized, he cannot father a child even if he marries four or five times." — AFP



### Contraception against tenets of Islam?

struggled to sell the benefits of birth control to Rohingya women, most of whom came to them for advice on pregnancy complications or help with newborns.

Sabura, a mother of seven, said her husband believed the couple could support a

### Population control

Bangladesh has for years run a successful domestic sterilization program, offering 2,300 taka (\$28) and a traditional lungi garment to each man who agrees to undergo the procedure. Every month 250 people undergo sterilization in the border town of Cox's Bazar. But performing the permanent procedure on non-Bangladeshi nationals requires final approval from a committee headed by the health minister.

The idea is particularly contentious given the sensitivity of the issue in Myanmar. The widespread perception that the Rohingya population is mushrooming is a key source of the tensions that have spiralled in recent months. No official data is available on birth rates among

## Catalonia: What does it mean to declare UDI?

**THE HAGUE:** Spain's Senate on Friday voted to grant Madrid powers to impose direct rule on Catalonia, shortly after the semi-autonomous region's parliament approved a motion declaring independence. Herewith are five questions about what it means to make a unilateral declaration of independence:

### What is UDI?

Unilateral declaration of independence, known by its acronym 'UDI', was first coined in 1965 when the former Rhodesia's minority white government declared unilateral independence from British colonial rule. The process itself is when a new state is established within an existing country, declaring itself sovereign and independent without the consent of the entity, country or state from which it is seceding.

"Any entity has the right to declare its independence. But to become a state that of course requires a territory, a population and authorities," said Jean-Claude Piris, a Brussels-based international law consultant and former EU legal services director for 23 years. "But what matters most is recognition by the international community," he said. "Everyone has the right to issue a declaration of independence, but that in itself has no international consequence." Piris said very few countries will recognize Catalonia and "I guarantee you no one will recognize them" in the EU. "Therefore it will remain an empty declaration: Catalonia will not be represented in international organizations, they will not sit in the EU, they will not be able to do anything and legally they will remain part of Spain," he said.

### Is Catalonia's UDI legal?

That is a complicated question, and two important legal findings may help determine the answer, the experts say. The first is a 2010 advisory opinion by the UN's highest tribunal, the International Court of Justice, on Kosovo's declaration of independence from Serbia. The second is a 1998 opinion by the Canadian Supreme Court. After being asked by the UN General Assembly

to rule on the issue, the ICJ concluded that Kosovo's declaration "did not violate international law" or Security Council resolutions. In a written opinion to the court, Spain argued Kosovo's declaration was "not in accordance with international law" saying it ignored "Serbia's right to sovereignty and territorial integrity."

### Is Quebec case a model?

In the case of Quebec, the Canadian Supreme Court advised in 1998 that people only have a right to secede when they are victims of colonization, oppressed and exploited or are denied access to a federal government. "It's really reserved for oppressed people who do not have the right to democracy, who are badly treated. But this is not the case at all for Catalonia, which enjoys democratic rights," said Piris, noting the Catalans are acting outside of the Spanish constitutional framework. "I cannot imagine any international tribunal that would say that the right to self-determination applies to the Catalans. It's unimaginable," said Piris.

### What happens next?

"What matters now is what will happen nationally and in the streets," said Piris. "Are



BARCELONA: The Spanish (left) and Catalan Senyera flags flutter over Catalonia's Generalitat Palace in Barcelona, a day after direct control was imposed on the region over a bid to break away from Spain. — AFP

there going to be demonstrations, barricades? Will people accept and submit" if Spain triggers Catalan guardianship... "or will there be violence?" Spain "experienced a civil war not so long ago and just before World War II," Piris pointed out. If Catalonia becomes an independent state the implica-

tions "cannot be underestimated" said Narin Idriz, a researcher at the Hague-based Asser Institute. "All European Union member states cherish their territorial integrity, they will not want the same thing to happen to them, therefore it will be very difficult to find any support," she said. — AFP

## International

# Afghan Shiites under attack; IS stirs up sectarian violence

‘To hell with the government, they don’t care about us’

**KABUL:** The massacre at a Kabul mosque last week highlighted the vulnerability of the country’s Shiite minority, increasingly the target of the Sunni Islamic State group that is trying to stir up sectarian violence. Victims of last Friday’s suicide blast inside the Imam Zaman prayer hall said they saw the bomber but no sign of security checks, despite the government’s promise to beef up protection of Shiite mosques. Dozens of men, women and children died in the explosion, just the latest in a series of attacks that have killed more than 200 Shiites in the past year.

“There were no body checks that day,” Ali Gul said at his home in a Shiite neighborhood of the Afghan capital, where he is recovering from shrapnel wounds and burns. “There was tight security during (the holy month of) Muharram but afterwards there was no checking.” Afghanistan has largely escaped the sectarian violence that has ripped apart other Muslim countries such as Iraq and Syria, but IS attacks have been increasing in the past year and experts worry Shiites might retaliate.

Shiites, who number around three million in overwhelmingly Sunni Afghanistan, have for months been calling for more protection for their religious sites in Kabul and across the country, where civilians and security forces are taking huge casualties as authorities struggle to beat back insurgents. In September, ahead of Muharram—the mourning period for the seventh-century killing of the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) the government announced a plan to arm more than 400 civilians to help defend Shiite mosques.

But the deadly attacks continued. “It is 100 percent the government’s fault for failing to protect us,” said Haji Ramazan Ali, who suffered shrapnel wounds to his face and shoulder in last Friday’s attack. Rasoul

Haidari, a shopkeeper, said: “To hell with the government, they don’t care about us.” Shiite MP Mohammad Akbari said security at mosques may have slackened after the Ashura holy day on October 1, which has become a major target in recent years, and the latest attack should serve as a “wake-up call” for everyone.

## ‘Explicitly sectarian’

The Taliban greatly outnumber the Islamic State in Afghanistan. But despite its relatively small presence, the Sunni extremist group has been able to carry out devastating attacks against Shiites across the country. Ibrahim, a community elder in the same Shiite neighborhood as the Imam Zaman mosque, said the militants were trying “to create discord between Sunnis and Shiites but they will not succeed”.

“Afghanistan has largely been spared from the sectarian violence that convulsed it in earlier decades but ISIS is trying to tear those sectarian divides back open,” said analyst Michael Kugelman of the Wilson Center in Washington, using a common abbreviation for the group. It would be a tragic development in a country that has suffered through Soviet occupation, civil war and now the Taliban’s 16-year insurgency. Ordinary Afghans have paid a heavy price in the current conflict, with UN data showing 8,019 civilian casualties in the first nine months of this year, with militants responsible for more than 60 percent of the civilian deaths and injuries.

“I think we are far from that point (of sectarian violence) but that is the game IS is playing. They are trying to differentiate themselves from the Taliban by being far more explicitly sectarian,” said Vanda Felbab-Brown, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Repeated deadly attacks on Shiite

mosques underscore the impotence of Afghanistan’s security forces, demoralized by desertions, killings and corruption, as they try to get the upper hand against the Taliban and IS, and protect civilians. The government’s poor intelligence capability exacerbates the problem. “Improvements on that front could go a long way toward bringing a measure of relief to vulnerable Afghan civilians,” Kugelman said. IS has proved resilient despite Afghan and US forces stepping up attacks on their stronghold in the eastern province of Nangarhar, which borders Pakistan. In April, the US military dropped the so-called Mother Of All Bombs on IS hideouts in a complex of tunnels



**KABUL:** The ceiling of a damaged mosque is covered with blood at the Imam Zaman Shiite mosque after a suicide attack during Friday evening prayers, in Kabul. —AFP

## Massacre at Kabul mosque highlights the vulnerability



## The ‘hand of God’ saved Indonesian from deadly fire

**TANGERANG:** The explosion came first, shocking 17-year-old Fitriyah and sending her running for the only exit of the Indonesian fireworks factory where she started work just the week before. Next came the heat from the fires and then the choking smoke, which made navigating the chaos impossible. As more explosions rang out and the flames spread, there appeared to be no escape. She could feel the skin on her hand start to peel off.

Then a co-worker appeared and told Fitriyah to follow him and to jump in a nearby pool used to wash factory equipment. “That pool was like a hand of God,” Fitriyah, who goes by one name, said Friday from the hospital room where she was being treated for burns. “It rescued us.” Thursday’s inferno at the factory in Tangerang, near Jakarta, killed at least 47 people, including a 14-year-old girl. It has raised questions about safety regulations and possible child labor in this poor and sprawling archipelago nation where worker rights are often treated as a lower priority than economic growth and jobs.

Most of the factory’s 103 employees were young women earning about \$3 a day. Police said Friday that they were questioning the owner of the factory but didn’t want to speculate about the cause before the investigation is completed. The government has said it will investigate allegations of underage workers at the factory.

Fitriyah was one of five workers who survived by jumping into the pool, where police and other rescuers were able to reach them after about 30 minutes. All of them are being treated in the same hospital room for burns covering from 5 to 40 percent of their bodies. As investigators tried to piece together what happened, relatives crushed by grief went to a police hospital’s morgue in eastern Jakarta on Friday morning to identify loved ones.

Officials said bodies were found piled at the rear of the factory and many were burned beyond recognition. Pramujoko, the head of identification at the hospital, said one victim had been identified through dental



**TANGERANG KOTA:** This picture shows a general view of a firecracker factory that burned down in Tangerang Kota, Banten province. —AFP

records: a 14-year-old girl who police said was known as Surnah. Pramujoko, who uses one name, appealed to the dozens of families waiting for loved ones to be identified to provide their dental information.

Some 46 injured people were taken for treatment at three hospitals. As of Friday evening, 28 remained hospitalized, some in critical condition. Three workers were missing. The death toll could rise as many of those who escaped suffered extensive burns, according to police. Tangerang police chief Harry Kurniawan said they were “intensively questioning witnesses including the factory owner and manager.”

Survivors told authorities the fire started in a section of the factory where fireworks are dried. Witnesses heard a huge explosion about 10 am Thursday, followed by smaller blasts as orange flames jumped from the building and columns of black smoke billowed across a nearby residential neighborhood. Drone footage showed about two-thirds of the 65-by-40-meter complex was burned, its roof largely collapsed. There was a smashed wall on the left side of the main entrance that rescuers had broken down to help people escape.

Survivor Ahmad Safri said the workers had poor working conditions in a hot warehouse with noisy engines, but did not think the building was locked when the fire spread. “Many panicking workers ran in the wrong direction ... maybe to a generator room that was locked,” Safri said. He said some workers were young women and teenagers, but he was not sure if any were underage. The legal age to work in Indonesia is 15, but climbs to 18 if the work is considered hazardous. Like many of the dozens of other women at the factory, Fitriyah said she was working on a casual basis, without any contract.

Their supervisor divided them into groups of five workers and gave them a target of wrapping 1,000 packs of fireworks per day. If they reached their target, they would be paid 40,000 rupiah, or about \$3, a day. If they missed it, they would be paid about half that. For a girl like Fitriyah, who had dropped out of high school to help her impoverished family, it was better than other options. “It’s easy to get a job there,” she said. “The factory didn’t require an educated person or certain skills.” —AFP

diplomats at diplomatic residences and hotels in Cuba from November 2016 to August of this year—may have been carried out with some kind of covert acoustic device.

The documentary aired Thursday night refutes that. It said there is no evidence to confirm what may have caused these symptoms. Cuba says its experts analyzed samples taken from around the residences and hotels in question and came up with no evidence, having considered the possibility of other causes like toxins, electromagnetic waves or even insects.

Last week US news outlets broadcast what one victim said was a cricket-like sound recorded on their cell phone. But experts said the recording did not clarify anything. “As it is, the sound does not seem to be able to produce any damage,” said Kausik Sarkar, a professor of engineering at George Washington University, who studied it in his lab. —AFP

## Bizarre ‘attacks’ drama rolls on between US, Cuba

**HAVANA:** The probe into mysterious attacks that sickened US diplomats in Cuba is still causing tension, with Havana now accusing the United States of impeding its attempts to probe what happened.

### Back and forth accusations

Since the case was first revealed in August, the US has stopped short of formally blaming the Cuban government. But US President Donald Trump said in mid-

October that he holds Cuba responsible—and the White House has said it believes Cuba could bring the attacks to a halt. Cuban state TV aired a documentary Thursday night that smacked of a counter-offensive, with a senior Interior Ministry official rejecting any responsibility and accusing the Americans of failing to cooperate.

A doctor on the investigative team, Manuel Villar, said Washington has refused to share the medical records of those affected by the attacks or let US doctors talk to Cuban ones. “There was zero cooperation and we have had only communications about these events that, in our opinion, were not expert-level, said Villar. Cuba insists it has shown good will by letting FBI investigators visit the island three times this year.

Ignoring these arguments, in late September Washington withdrew more than half of its diplomatic staff in Cuba and

expelled 15 Cuban diplomats from Washington. For a month now the Americans have stopped issuing visas for Cubans to go to the United States, a move Cuba calls unjustified. By adopting these measures without waiting for the results of the investigation, President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson “are putting relations with Cuba in a real jam, with no prospects for a way out of the crisis,” said Arturo Lopez-Levy, a lecturer at the political science department of the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley.

### So what happened?

Beyond the diplomatic crisis, the two sides disagree on what is at the root of these weird happenings that are the stuff of a spy thriller. Those affected have exhibited physical symptoms including hearing loss, headaches, nausea, cognitive issues, and difficulty sleeping. US officials have said the attack—which affected at least 24

and bunkers in province, killing over 90 militants.

Since President Donald Trump’s renewed commitment to America’s longest war in August, the US has ramped up aerial bombardments on insurgents, dropping 751 bombs and missiles in September, the most since October 2010. But the attacks continue—though observers such as Kate Clark, a senior analyst at the Afghanistan Analysts Network, believe Afghans will continue to resist IS efforts to spark sectarian violence. “In Afghanistan most areas have been through really nasty communal violence,” Clark said. “People have got very strong personal memories of just how nasty that gets and how everyone suffers.” —AFP

### News in brief

#### Bus plunges into river

**KATHMANDU:** A bus carrying passengers returning from a Hindu festival to the Nepali capital of Kathmandu skidded off the main highway and plunged into a river yesterday, killing at least 31 people and leaving others trapped, officials said. The accident occurred around dawn, around 50 km west of the city on the Prithvi Highway that connects Kathmandu with the southern plains. “We have recovered 31 bodies and are looking for more,” government official Ram Mani Mishra told Reuters from the scene. “It’s highly unlikely for anyone to survive for so long under water.” Rescuers on rubber boats and police divers managed to spot the bus hours after the crash and were trying to lift it from water with the help of a crane, Mishra said.

#### British Navy fires 9

**LONDON:** Nine British sailors assigned to a nuclear submarine have been discharged from the Royal Navy after failing compulsory drug tests, Britain’s ministry of defense has confirmed. The service personnel, stationed aboard HMS Vigilant—one of four Royal Navy submarines equipped with nuclear missiles—were dismissed after all tested positive for an illegal substance. “We do not tolerate drugs misuse by service personnel,” a Royal Navy spokesperson said. “Those found to have fallen short of our high standards face being discharged from service.” The spokesperson also confirmed the navy had launched an investigation into other service personnel on HMS Vigilant over allegations of inappropriate relationships, detailed in British media reports this month.

#### ‘Promoting homosexuality’

**NAIROBI:** Tanzania has deported three South African lawyers arrested last week for “promoting homosexuality”, their organization said in a statement. The Initiative for Strategic Litigation (ISLA) in Africa said that the three had been “deported earlier this evening”, in the statement dated Friday. The lawyers were amongst a group of 13 people, including a Ugandan and Tanzanians, who were arrested last Tuesday at the Peacock hotel in Dar es Salaam. Local police chief Lazaro Mambosasa said they had been “promoting homosexuality”. “Tanzanian law forbids this act between people of the same sex, it is a violation of our country’s laws,” said Mambosasa.

#### Remains of WWI soldiers

**DEHRADUN:** Indian defense authorities will travel to France in November to identify and bring back remains of two Indian soldiers killed during World War I, an army official said yesterday. The remains of two unnamed soldiers of the Garhwal Rifles along with their regimental insignia were found in September 2016 in a field near the northwestern French town of Laventie, nearly 70 kilometers from Dunkirk. The remains of a British and German soldier were also found from the site during civic work by local authorities. The combatants are believed to have been killed in a battle with Germans, nearly a hundred years ago. France informed India about the discovery, and Delhi said it would send a team of four officials, including a brigadier from the regiment, to identify the soldiers and artefacts found with them and bring back their remains.

## International

# US won't accept a nuclear North Korea: Defense Secretary Mattis

## Series of nuclear and missile tests sparks tensions

SEOUL: US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said yesterday that he could not imagine United States ever accepting a nuclear North Korea, warning that it is rapidly advancing nuclear and missile programs would undermine, not strengthen, its security. Mattis has been at pains during his week-long trip to Asia to stress that diplomacy is America's preferred course, a message he returned to after top-level military talks in Seoul yesterday and at the tense border area with North Korea on Friday. Still, he warned Pyongyang that its military was no match for the US-South Korean alliance, and that diplomacy was most effective "when backed by credible military force."

"Make no mistake - any attack on the United States, or our allies, will be defeated. And any use of nuclear weapons by the North will be met with a massive military response that is both effective and overwhelming," Mattis said. Mattis's South Korean counterpart, Defense Minister Song Young-moo, dismissed the idea of deploying tactical nuclear weapons to the peninsula as a response to the North's advances. But the US-Korean alliance had the ability to respond, even in the event of a nuclear attack from the North, Song added.

Tension between North Korea and the United States has been building after a series of nuclear and missile tests by Pyongyang and bellicose verbal exchanges between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump. The CIA has said North Korea could be only months away from developing the ability to hit the United States with nuclear weapons, a scenario Trump has vowed to prevent. Mattis, too, said Kim's behavior had left no room to imagine accepting Pyongyang's nuclear status.

"I cannot imagine a condition under which the United

States can accept North Korea as a nuclear power," Mattis told a news conference. Trump - who has threatened to destroy the North if necessary leaves on his first trip as president to Asia next week, including a stop in South Korea to meet President Moon Jae-in. Moon, after talks with Mattis on Friday, said the "aggressive deployment" of US strategic assets in the region, which have included overflights by US bombers, had been effective in deterring the North Korean threat.

### Denuclearize?

US intelligence experts say Pyongyang believes it needs the nuclear weapons to ensure its survival and have been skeptical about diplomatic efforts, focusing on sanctions, to get Pyongyang to denuclearize. Mattis suggested, however, that Pyongyang needed to understand that its weapons programs would not strengthen its defenses. The North says it wants a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the United States.

"If it remains on its current path of ballistic missiles and atomic bombs, it will be counter-productive," Mattis said, adding North Korea would be "reducing its security." Still, any attempt to force the North to denuclearize could have devastating consequences, thanks in part to the large amount of artillery trained on Seoul. During Mattis' trip to the inter-Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on Friday, he was briefed on the posture of North Korean artillery. Defense Minister Song suggested that US and South Korean missile defenses simply could not stop all of the weapons trained on the South.

"Defending against this many LRAs (long-range artillery) is infeasible in my opinion," Song told Mattis at



SEOUL: (Left to right) Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford, US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, South Korea's Defense Minister Song Young-Moo and Chairman of the South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff General Jeong Kyeong-Doo salute during a welcoming ceremony at the Defense Ministry in Seoul yesterday. — AFP

the DMZ, citing a need for strategies to "offensively neutralize" the artillery in the event of a conflict. Mattis replied: "Understood."

Still, Mattis reaffirmed to reporters in South Korea that

military options do exist to deal with the North Korean threat that spare the South's capital, Seoul. Mattis, who has made such assurances in the past, did not disclose what those options were. —Reuters

“Any attack on US, allies, will be defeated”

## EU spurns Catalan declaration, backs Spain government

BRUSSELS: The European Union on Friday spurned Catalonia's declaration of independence, voicing staunch support for Madrid in a crisis threatening the stability of a key member of the bloc as Brussels grapples with Brexit. President Donald Tusk said Madrid "remains our only interlocutor" after Catalan lawmakers voted to secede from Spain and appealed for a peaceful resolution to the rapidly escalating standoff.

Brussels and EU member states have been steadfast in their backing of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy since the Catalan crisis erupted, fearing it could pose a fresh threat to European unity as the bloc haggles with Britain over the terms of Brexit. "For the EU nothing changes. Spain remains our only interlocutor. I hope the Spanish government favors force of argument, not argument of force," Tusk tweeted.

Britain, France and Germany all swiftly closed ranks behind Rajoy and European Parliament chief Antonio Tajani tweeted that "nobody in the EU will recognise" the Catalan declaration. Senior EU officials have been candid in their opposition to Catalan independence, warning of a domino effect in a continent with numerous separatist movements from Britain to Belgium to Romania. European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker warned Friday that the 28-member bloc "doesn't need any more cracks, more splits" during a trip to French Guiana in South America.

"We shouldn't insert ourselves into what is an internal debate for Spain, but I wouldn't want the European Union to consist of 95 member states in the future," he added. With the bloc only just beginning to contemplate an end to years of crisis from the Greek debt nightmare to the tragedy of the Mediterranean migrant influx-and still shuddering from the earthquake of Brexit, a new blow to unity is the last thing the EU needs.

### 'A question of Europe'

An EU source stressed Friday that the bloc's treaties "only recognise Spain and its government as our member and only interlocutor on all issues related to Spain and its territory and constitution". "Further escalation must be avoided as this is bad for the Catalans, for Spain and for all of Europe," the source said. "The European Union is a community of Member States based on the rule of law." The bloc has also refused all calls to offer itself as mediator in the crisis, resisting Catalan efforts to internationalize the issue and backing Madrid's position that the October 1 referendum was unconstitutional and therefore meaningless.

Spain is an important player in the EU-its fifth largest economy, part of the euro-zone and the Schengen passport-free travel zone and home to more than nine percent of the bloc's population. As a result, Brussels could not be seen to go against Madrid, though the crisis has trapped the bloc between its principle of non-interference in member states' internal affairs and its much-vaunted role as a champion of democracy and freedom of expression.

Earlier on Friday a senior EU official said Friday resolving the crisis in Catalonia was crucial to the whole of Europe, while again reiterating support for Rajoy. "We have to respect the constitution and that's extremely important for Europe-so it's not a question of Spain, it's a question of Europe," Carlos Moedas, the European Commissioner for research, science and innovation, told reporters. "We, as a European Union, have to be on the defense of the constitutional order of Spain." — AFP

## Fighting to farming: New life for former Colombian rebels

LA MONTANITA: Felix Salcedo lost an arm fighting during Colombia's half-century civil war which ended in August. Today, he uses his remaining arm to grow pineapples. Like dozens of other former FARC guerrillas in his village, Salcedo is trying to earn a living legally after his rebel movement disarmed under a December peace deal with the government. Salcedo, 38, thinks back on the half of his life he spent with Colombia's largest rebel force, which in September transformed into a political party. An anti-personnel mine tore off Salcedo's left arm, he explains as he sprays pesticides at the plantation of 20,000 young pineapple plants.

Peace hasn't come easily to the country where for decades the FARC controlled areas where coca leaf and cocaine production flourished. Not only have there been delays in implementing the peace accord but the ex-combatants face strong temptations to join dissident rebels, keep their weapons, and traffic drugs. Last week, UN assistant secretary-general for human rights Andrew Gilmour said "reintegration is not going so well" because "there is nothing" for returning FARC fighters.

La Montanita village, with its houses of

metal sheeting and zinc roofs surrounded by emerald green plantations, is considered a success for the peace plan. In the country's south, it is one of 26 demobilization zones for the 7,000 ex-members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. His fighting days are over but Salcedo has found renewed motivation from the esprit de corps that kept FARC going for 53 years. "To be united, that's what it takes to work, to carry out future projects," he says of the pineapples, planted thanks to a fund created by 150 former rebels assisted by public subsidy.

### 'Harder' than war

In this jungle zone which was a historic bastion of FARC, about 250 ex-rebels came together to start their lives anew in agriculture, fish farming, or as cobblers. Some have opened bookstores or bakeries. The aim is to transform the demobilization zones into villages for former FARC members and their families, so they can put into practice the socialist ideals on which their movement was founded.

FARC and another rebel group were formed in 1964 to fight for land rights and protect poor rural communities. Over subsequent decades, the conflict drew in paramilitary groups and state forces in what became a many-sided war fueled by drug trafficking. It left about 260,000 people dead, 60,000 unaccounted for and seven million displaced in Latin America's longest conflict. "This process we are going through is harder than the war itself... We have to invent (these projects) and a whole lot more," says Danilo Ortiz, who spent 20 of his 34 years in FARC. Now he repairs shoes. "What we see here is



COLOMBIA: A monkey plays with the rifle of a Colombian police woman in an unarmed zone known as territorial spaces of training and reincorporation (ETGR in Spanish). — AFP

a good example of how the reintegration process should be carried out," says Jean Arnault, a Frenchman who heads the United Nations mission in Colombia. The UN was tasked with supervising the guerrillas' disarmament and return to civilian life. But elsewhere in the country, ex-guerrillas have quit the reintegration program, deciding to find their own ways of making a living, or to join dissident rebels.

Between 500 and 800 have turned to the dissidents, said State Ombudsman Carlos Negret. "If people in the countryside don't see state aid arriving, it's going

to be very difficult to have the conditions needed for the peace process," he cautioned during an interview with AFP.

FARC's former commanders criticize the government of President Juan Manuel Santos for not respecting what was negotiated. The government attributes delays in implementing the accord to bureaucratic and logistical problems. "The state must be reintegrated in all the regions that were left aside," says Pastor Alape, one of the former commanders. Salcedo and Ortiz, the two ex-guerrillas, share Alape's frustration but want to be more hopeful. —AFP

## After scandals, Iceland heads back to polls

REYKJAVIK: Icelanders were voting yesterday in the second snap election in a year marked by deep distrust in the scandal-hit political class despite a thriving economy bolstered by booming tourism. Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson of the conservative Independence Party called the vote last month after a junior member of the three-party centre-right coalition quit over a legal dispute involving his father. Yesterday's election is Iceland's fourth since 2008.

Opinion polls published Friday by public broadcaster RUV and the daily Morgunbladid show the Independence Party could win 17 seats in the 63-seat parliament, the Althingi. The rival Left-Green Movement and its potential partners-the Social Democratic Alliance and the anti-establishment Pirate Party-would together win 29 seats, short of an outright majority.

But with help from a fourth party, they could dethrone the centre-right and become Iceland's second left-leaning government since its independence from Denmark in 1944. "If these are the election results, it's a call for the opposition to form a government," Left-Green leader Katrin Jakobsdottir, 41, told Morgunbladid. People were standing in line inside the modern Reykjavik city hall as polls opened, but some were weary of endless votes and cronyism entangling the establishment. "I hate the election and it's the last time I'm going to vote! I want change! We have the same crooks coming back again and again," said Jonsson Hjortur, 55.

"It's a good thing to have a second snap vote. I'm happy to see a chance for Iceland to form a new government," added Ragnar Veigar Gudmundsson, a 39-year-old manager. Under the Icelandic system, the president, who holds a largely ceremonial role, tasks the leader of the biggest party with trying to form a government. "The fear is



REYKJAVIK: Outgoing Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson (center) of the Independence Party votes at a polling station during the election yesterday. — AFP

whether there will be a possibility to form a government," Arnar Thor Jonsson, a law professor at Reykjavik University, told AFP, recalling that negotiations to form a coalition after the October 2016 election took three months.

### Low unemployment

Since the 2008 financial crisis, when Iceland's three major banks collapsed and the country teetered on the verge of bankruptcy, it has made a spectacular recovery with robust growth of 7.2 percent in 2016 and unemployment at an enviable 2.5 percent. But anger and lack of trust in the financial elite and several politicians, who were implicated in the Panama Papers scandal that revealed global tax evasion networks, has shaken up politics on the island. "People are rising up since the 2008 collapse and standing up against corruption and lack of transparency,"

Steinunn ragnarsdottir, an opera director in her 50s said. A year ago, snap elections were called after then-prime minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson was pressured to resign when he was named in the leak which exposed offshore tax havens.

More than 600 Icelanders-a surprisingly high number in a country of 335,000 — were also named in the documents, including Benediktsson, then finance minister. Despite that, Benediktsson was able to build a coalition with the centrist Bright Future and centre-right Reform Party, holding a one-seat majority in parliament before becoming the shortest-lived government in Iceland's history. Independence Party supporters still view it as the main force for economic stability and growth.

Nearly half of the postwar prime ministers came from the eurosceptic party. Iceland's EU membership bid ended in acrimony in 2015 over fishing rights. —AFP



International

# Quran, boots, scarves all that remain in militia leader's den

## Bomb-battered structure tell the story of ferocious battle

**MARAWI CITY:** Prayer mats, chequered scarves, black fatigues, and bullet-ridden walls mark the hideout where the "emir" of Islamic State in Southeast Asia spent months preparing the most brazen and devastating militant attack in the region. A four-storey house in a quiet alley of Marawi City in the southern Philippines was the secret lair of Isnilon Hapilon until late May. After a botched military raid to apprehend him, a thousand-strong rebel alliance held large parts of the city for five months. Hapilon's death in a military operation elsewhere in Marawi on Oct 16 was the catalyst for the end of Philippines' longest and most intense urban battle in recent history.

Security forces moved in on the house on May 23, trying to capture the country's most wanted man, but came under sustained attack from rebels firing rocket-propelled grenades. A bomb-battered structure, shattered windows and wall-to-wall holes from machine gun fire tell the story of the ferocious three-day battle that erupted at Hapilon's hideout, and prompted the call to hundreds of fighters to expedite the planned takeover of Marawi. Hapilon escaped through a large hole that was blasted out of a rear wall, making his way across a rice field to a mosque next to the vast Lake Lanao. From there, he joined the guerrillas.

Community volunteers on Thursday showed Reuters the house in the now empty, narrow street where the military believes Hapilon had lain low for several months. All other properties were intact and neighbors had fled long ago. "At the time, no one knew who these people were. People saw them about but there was no reason to suspect anything," said Mohammed Seddick Raki, who lived nearby. Other volunteers said women and children stayed at the rented

house and visitors were frequent. Children's shoes were scattered amid the debris and a woman's robe was hanging from a window.

### Battle ready

Inside the house, black shirts, pants and plaid scarves synonymous with Islamic State were strewn across rooms littered with broken floor tiles and chunks of rock from blasted walls. Left behind were waterproof boots, a balaclava, medical supplies and camouflage bags and waistcoats typically used by soldiers to carry rifle magazines.

Coated in a thin layer of dust on floors of every room were pocket-sized copies of the Quran, some with pages stained by water leaked through gaping holes in the roof. A mosque, about 100 meters behind the house, was the venue for an annual gathering in Marawi of Tablighi Jamaat, a Sunni missionary movement, just days before the fighting erupted. Military officials say the foreigners who fought in Hapilon's alliance - among them Indonesians, Malaysians and some from Arab states - had used that event as a cover to slip into Marawi without raising suspicion.

The deputy task force commander in Marawi, Colonel Romeo Brawner, said Hapilon evaded security forces because rebels had a network of lookouts and gunmen ready to defend him. "They put up heavy resistance. They were spread across a large area. They were strategically placed," he said. "They were prepared for it." Hapilon's escape in the last week of May led to anarchy in the city of about 200,000. Rebels took hostages, set fire to buildings, ransacked churches, broke into the local jail to free inmates and looted an armory. The government had insufficient security forces in Marawi to prevent the fighters from fanning out across the city and seizing



**MARAWI:** Photo shows bombed-out buildings inside the main battle area between government troops and IS-inspired Muslim militants in Marawi. —AFP

hundreds of buildings. Hapilon was wanted by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and had a bounty on his head of up to \$5 million.

He was killed by army rangers in a night operation and his body was retrieved from the battle zone in the heart of the city. His identity was confirmed by the FBI's DNA analysis. The city

of Marawi was all but destroyed by government air strikes and shelling that leveled commercial areas and crushed thousands of shops, homes and vehicles. "No one could have known what would happen," said Mohamed Faisal Mama, a resident in the same Basak Malutlot district where Hapilon was hiding. "No one knew them. They weren't famous then." —Reuters



## The end of Philippines' longest urban battle

with two of the three other suspects about 90 minutes ahead of the Feb. 13 attack. Security cameras then captured him meeting both of those men and the third suspect, all separately, at an airport cafe before the attack. Police say Hanamori, who initially wore a purple shirt but changed after the attack, not only came to the airport with two of the suspects but he met with all three just before the plan was put into action. He then left after the attack in a vehicle with two of the three and was seen later that day - and for the last time - with two of them in the departure hall of the main terminal.

### James

He allegedly recruited Aisyah. Aisyah's lawyer, Gooi Soon Seng, told reporters before the trial that she was recruited in early January by this man, who was known to her only as James, to star in what he said was a video prank show. The lawyer said James and Aisyah went to malls, hotels and airports, where she would rub oil or pepper sauce on strangers' faces. James recorded the encounters on his phone and paid Aisyah between \$100 and \$200 for each prank.

Police official Wan Azirul testified in court that James was seen heading to the Sama Sama airport hotel, which is in the terminal not far from where the attack took place. Wan Azirul said security videos show James entering the hotel room, but quickly checking out. He said James is later seen at the departure hall of the main airport terminal, where the other three suspects went. What his role was on the day of the hit isn't yet clear - an examination of the airport security camera footage in court Thursday was cut short when Judge Azmi Ariffin ruled more time was needed to digest the information. The prosecution is expected to return to the videos in the next session, scheduled for Nov 6.

### Chang

He put the liquid poison on Aisyah's hands, according to Wan Azirul's testimony. On the morning of the killing, Chang met up with Aisyah at the same cafe where he



**SEPANG:** Vietnamese defendant Doan Thi Huong (right) and Indonesian defendant Siti Aishah (2nd left) are escorted by police personnel during a visit to the scene of the murder as part of the trial process for their alleged role in the assassination of Kim Jong-Nam. —AFP

had earlier met with Hanamori. Wan Azirul said Chang handed Aisyah an airport taxi voucher during their short meeting and he was believed to have later applied the deadly VX nerve agent poison to her hands just before the attack, which happened at about 9 am. The bespectacled Chang wore a dark baseball cap and carried a backpack and a white plastic bag. But after the hit, he ditched his belongings, changed his shirt and even managed to shave off his goatee. He was seen instead carrying an orange plastic bag. Defense lawyer Gooi has said before the trial it was Chang who had pointed Kim out to Aisyah as the target and put a substance in her hand.

### MR Y

Prosecutors claim he put the poison on Vietnamese defendant Huong's hands. On the day of the killing, after arriving with Hanamori and the others, he was seen walking around the airport with a woman prosecutors claim was Huong near the area where Kim was attacked. He also

wore a baseball cap and had a backpack and water bottle. Video footage shows that after the attack, Mr Y also changed his shirt and discarded his belongings. Police say he then left the budget terminal in the same vehicle with Chang and Hanamori. Not much else about him has been revealed.

### The escape?

Police say the four suspects fled out of the country the day of the killing and are believed to have made their way back to Pyongyang. At Malaysia's request, Interpol has issued a "red notice" - the closest equivalent it has to an arrest warrant - for four North Koreans wanted in connection with the killing: Ri Ji Hyon, 33; Hong Song Hac, 34; O Jong Gil, 55; and Ri Jae Nam, 57. But it is not entirely clear if they are the same four whose actions are now being detailed in the court testimony. Help from Pyongyang is highly unlikely. North Korea has denied any involvement. And it's not a member of Interpol. —AP

## The 'masterminds' evading Kim Jong Nam murder trial

**KUALA LUMPUR:** At a trial that could send two Southeast Asian women to the gallows, Malaysian prosecutors are shining a light on several men at large they say masterminded and played crucial roles in carrying out the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong's Un's estranged half brother. The lone defendants at the Shah Alam High Court - Siti Aisyah, 25, of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong, 29, of Vietnam - say they are innocent, duped by the men into participating in February's attack at Kuala Lumpur's international airport, which they say they thought was a harmless prank for a TV show. If found guilty, they face a mandatory death sentence. In Malaysia, that means they would be hanged.

But since the trial began on Oct 2, the alleged role of the four missing suspects has come to dominate the proceedings. Both the prosecutors and the defense team say a lot more is going to be revealed in the weeks ahead about the men, who outside of court they acknowledge are believed to be North Korean citizens. The prosecution this week also stressed that authorities reserve the right to take more formal action against the four if they can gather enough evidence. A look at what's come out so far about the missing men, who are referred to officially in court only by their aliases, and what's known about their actions:

### Hanamori

Police are now calling him the "mastermind." According to chief investigating officer Wan Azirul Nizam Che Wan Aziz, this man, who sometimes went by the nicknames "Grandpa" and "Uncle," orchestrated the operation on the ground. Wan Azirul said airport security video shows that he arrived at the terminal in the same vehicle

## Long way home for the war-torn city's residents

**BALO-I:** Cradling her baby in a muddy tent camp, Jamalia Pindaton has no idea if she can return home to Marawi in the southern Philippines after the end of a five-month war launched by Islamic State supporters. More than 350,000 people from in and around Marawi, the mainly Catholic Philippines' Islamic capital, were displaced because of the conflict, which ended on Monday when soldiers killed the remaining gunmen inside a mosque. But, with the eastern half of Marawi almost totally destroyed and worries over bombs planted by the militants, authorities have said it could be months or even years before most people would be able to return.

"We don't know if our house is still there," Pindaton, 29 said on Thursday as she held her six-month-old daughter at an evacuation centre in a coconut grove at Balo-i, 20 kilometers from Marawi. "It is difficult here. We don't have income and can only rely on relief." About 10,000 Marawi residents have been allowed to return so far, mostly those who lived near the Mindanao State University that was well outside the battle zone, according to local authorities.

About 33,000 others, whose homes are in so-called "controlled areas" that were spared the worst of the war, are set to follow next week, regional social welfare chief Zorahayda Taha said. Many of the displaced are living with relatives and friends, but tens of thousands without such support networks like Pindaton have been forced to live in makeshift evacuation centers. Signaling how long it will take to rebuild Marawi, the government is building new low-cost housing for this group. It has also launched cash-for-work schemes and given families a 200-peso (\$4) daily cash allowance to help them out with groceries.

Pindaton's husband, a former construction worker, has been planting corn on government land in one of the cash-for-work schemes. But she said he would only be paid when the corn went to market, leaving them totally reliant on handouts. The Philippines has a long experience of managing large, seasonally displaced populations due to frequent natural disasters such as typhoons, floods and earthquakes, and the government has sought to quickly start a rehabilitation program for Marawi.

But while there are also long-running Muslim insurgencies in the south, the Philippines has not experienced such an enduring and devastating man-made catastrophe since the World War II Japanese occupation. Aside from claiming the lives of 920 militants, 165 troops and 47 civilians, according to government figures, thousands of buildings were destroyed with entire districts turned into piles of concrete rubble.

### Rebuilding to cost \$1.1 bn

Rebuilding Marawi's basic infrastructure alone, including power, tap water, and roads, will cost \$1.1 billion, according to Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. The International Committee of the Red Cross, which has been helping the displaced, expects between 30,000-40,000 of the "most vulnerable" residents to require food, shelter, livelihood and housing assistance for up to several years. "It's something very unusual that we unfortunately see in other parts of the world, like in the Middle East or even in Africa," Roberto Petronio, the ICRC's southern Philippines chief said. Even for those who have managed to return home in recent days, widespread looting and the general devastation in the city has quickly doused their sense of relief.

"Our door was broken down and I found our clothes scattered on the floor. Our food stocks are also gone," elderly shopkeeper Nurhana Sangcoan told AFP as she inspected her house in Marawi's East Basak district on Thursday. Another key concern is the disruption of children's education. The Mindanao State University reopened before the end of the conflict, but many grade schoolers and high school students have nowhere to go. —AFP

## Kennedy's files and the theories galore

**WASHINGTON:** Who was behind President John F Kennedy's assassination, which stunned the world on November 22, 1963? Thousands of files newly released from the investigation shows there was no shortage of theories at the time, and the FBI and CIA doggedly chased all of them - while finding themselves the target of suspicion as well. The files show all arms of the US government following up each rumor and suspicion, taking them to a right-wing militia's shooting camp, probing both Nazis and communists, and tracking down New Orleans nightclub strip-pers named "Candy Cane" and "Kitty DeVille."

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or USSR - the predecessor of modern-day Russia - was the first suspect. Documents showed shooter Lee Harvey Oswald's contact with "a member of the Soviet KGB Assassination Department" at the Soviet embassy in Mexico in September and October 1963 drew much of the attention, immediately after Kennedy was killed.

A US intelligence report issued days after the assassination shows the White House learned quickly that Moscow believed Oswald to be a "neurotic maniac" serving a right-wing conspiracy trying to poison US-Soviet relations. That did not assuage all suspicions, however,

even as Moscow continued to press that view. An intelligence report said that in Cairo on May 24, 1964, Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev made the case to celebrated newspaper columnist Drew Pearson, who was influential across Washington and whose wife had family connections to the CIA.

Khrushchev told Pearson he could not believe the simple story that both Oswald and Jack Ruby, the nightclub owner who fatally shot him, had acted alone. "He did not believe that the American security services were this inept," according to a CIA report of the discussion. Pearson "got the impression that Chairman Khrushchev had some dark thoughts about the American right-wing being behind this conspiracy" and rejected all arguments to the contrary.

### Johnson's bizarre theory

The CIA itself was suspect. According to a memorandum written in 1975, rumors that gunman Oswald worked for the spy agency erupted within days of the assassination. Indeed, CIA documents have shown the agency was aware of Oswald. By November 27, 1963, the agency felt the necessity to conduct its own internal probe. In the memorandum, counterintelligence chief Paul Hartman says he combed the CIA's records, its branch offices and outposts, station chiefs and covert operations, and came up with nothing, as he reported to the agency directors a week later. "The results showed that Lee Harvey Oswald had never had any connection whatsoever with the agency," the memo read. But the memorandum also



**WASHINGTON:** This file photo taken shows US President John Fitzgerald Kennedy signing the order of naval blockade of Cuba. —AFP

showed that suspicions had not died by the mid-70s. It notes CBS television was preparing a story on the CIA-Oswald connection. Richard Helms, deputy director and then director of the CIA from 1962 to 1973, was broadsided by constant conspiracy talk.

In a previously classified 1975 deposition to the Rockefeller Commission, which investigated the CIA's assassinations of foreign leaders, Helms said that even Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy as president, was given to bizarre theories. —AFP

## Analysis

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EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
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## Washington Watch

## Balfour Declaration: Zionist ambition and British imperialism

By Dr James J Zogby

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration in which Great Britain's Foreign Secretary, Lord Balfour, stated in a note to his colleague, Lord Rothchild, that "His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object..."

Zionists have long viewed this document as a "promissory note" giving a Great Power "seal of approval" to their quest to establish a state in Palestine. They will, therefore, be celebrating this anniversary. In reality, however, there is nothing to celebrate.

The Balfour Declaration was nothing more than a shameful display of the arrogant self-interest of the colonial mindset and its racist insensitivity to the rights of indigenous peoples. In effect, Balfour promised to give away the rights for a land to which Britain had no legitimate claim against the wishes of the people who lived there.

The Declaration didn't come out of the blue. It had a history and a political and cultural setting that was grounded in a meeting of minds of both the Zionist movement and the British colonial enterprise. For their part, Zionists sought a homeland where they could construct their national community away from the pogroms of Europe. After failed attempts to plant their roots in other locales, they set their sights on Palestine, which one of their leaders, Israel Zangwill, described as "a land without a people... for a people without a land".

Even after it became all too clear that Palestine had a people who rejected their aspirations to create a Jewish home, the Zionist leaders were undeterred. Zeev Jabotinsky noted: "If you wish to colonize a land in which another people are already living, you must provide a garrison or find a benefactor to maintain the garrison on your behalf...Zionism is a colonizing adventure...it stands or falls on the question of armed force."

The benefactor they turned to was Great Britain. To the British, they sold themselves as the ideal colonial agent - in the words of Max Nordau, "a people more industrious and more able than the average European, not to speak at all of the inert Africans."

Hertzl described his effort as creating a colony that could serve as "a rampart of Europe against Asia...an outpost of civilization against barbarism". While Jabotinsky carried this further arguing that "as the loyal bearers of Western culture" the Zionist colony would "expand the British Empire even further than intended by the British themselves". At one point, Hertzl even consulted with Cecil Rhodes, "a colonial expert", on how to win British support for their venture.

### 'Agents'

The British needed little convincing. At stake was their interest in protecting their position in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Suez Canal, and access to trade and the resources of the Gulf and the East. Building on their model of establishing "companies" to act as their "agents" (as they had done in Africa and South Asia), as early as 1876, Lord Shaftesbury addressing Parliament observed:

"Syria and Palestine will before long become very important...The country needs capital and population. The Jews can give it both. And has not England a special interest in promoting such restoration? It would be a blow to England if either of her two rivals should get hold of Syria...Does not policy there...exhort England to foster the nationality of the Jews and aid them to return...To England then naturally belongs the role of favoring the settlement of Jews in Palestine."

Building on this theme, a few years before the Balfour Declaration was issued, a prominent British military analyst wrote: "On general strategic grounds it is exceedingly desirable that the present too constricted frontiers of Egypt be extended...that a buffer state [be established in Southern Syria...and that if this buffer state became [our] dominion or genuine colony it would be a source of great strength...and the only possible colonizers on a great and worthy scale are the Jews."

The fit between the British and Zionist designs was so perfect that Max Nordau later commented that if Political Zionism hadn't existed, "Britain would've invented it". With the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, Britain was making clear its intent to not only foster a Jewish home, but, more to the point, a colonial outpost that would project and protect its interests in the Eastern Mediterranean.

What was to happen to the Arab inhabitants of that land was of little consequence to either the British government or the Zionist movement. The second part of the Declaration read "it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of the non-Jewish communities in Palestine". But as the history of that region played out, it became clear that neither Britain nor the Zionists had any intention of allowing the Arabs to stand in the way of their colonial enterprise. More on that next week.

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

JFK  
FILE  
RELEASE

HA, HA, HA! WHO ARE YOU FOOLING?!  
NOT EVEN A WORD ON THE  
LINCOLN-KENNEDY COINCIDENCES!!!



## Deaths highlight US presence in Niger

The killing of four US soldiers in Niger has highlighted the geostrategic role the mainly desert west African nation plays in the American fight against Islamist groups in Africa. In the aftermath of the soldiers' deaths, the US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph Dunford, revealed that about 800 US troops are now based in Niger - more than in any other African country. Many Americans were shocked to learn of such a large US military presence in the country, three-quarters of which comprises arid territory on the southern edge of the Sahara.

Niger's landlocked position in northwest Africa makes it vulnerable to armed violence coming from neighboring countries. It shares borders with Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali and Nigeria. In the southeast, Niger faces constant attacks from Boko Haram, whose Islamist insurgency at a cost of thousands of lives has spilled over from Nigeria, where the movement seeks to set up a caliphate.

Regions in the north and west of Niger are prey to groups allied with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which emerged in 2007 from a radical movement fighting the Algerian government. Jihadists including the Islamic State group have also established a presence in the southwest near the border with Mali. It was on the Niger-Mali border that the four US soldiers, along with five Niger troops, died in an attack carried out by

locals associated with IS in early October, according to Dunford.

A total of 6,000 US troops are deployed in 53 African countries, Dunford said on Monday, but many of them safeguard embassies. Africa also has the greatest number of US special forces after the Middle East. The number of the elite troops across the continent rose from 450 in 2012



**6,000 US troops  
are deployed  
in 53 African  
countries**

to 1,300 in 2017, official figures show. These units train local forces in counter-terrorism and "will only accompany those forces when the prospects of enemy contact is unlikely", Dunford said.

### 'More actions in Africa, not less'

"Niger is close to two major threats, Boko Haram and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb," said a security source in the region. The United States has "trained and equipped" a battalion of the Niger army and "they do a lot of joint missions", the source said. Niger has also allowed the United States to build a large drone base at an estimated cost of \$100 million near the central trading city of Agadez.

Despite its troubled regions, the country of 18 million is seen as politically stable, the security source said. One of the world's poorest nations but rich in uranium mined notably by French giant Areva, Niger is at the heart of trafficking in drugs, migrants and weapons because of its crossroads location in west Africa. "The terrorist networks are financed by trafficking," a French military source said.

After IS lost its de-facto capital Raqqa in Syria this month, and its Iraqi stronghold of Mosul earlier in the year, the group "has aspirations to establish a larger presence" in Africa, Dunford said.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, indicated that the United States may increase its military presence. "The war is morphing. We're going to see more actions in Africa, not less," Graham said last Friday. —AFP

## Nervous Europe girds for next Trump salvo

Following Donald Trump's decision to decertify the Iran nuclear deal this month, shaken European capitals are asking themselves what the U.S. president will do next. Diplomats have sketched scenarios they fear could plunge transatlantic relations into crisis: a trade war, military conflict over North Korea, or the collapse of a Cold War-era arms treaty. They wonder if their post-war alliance can survive if any of them come true. Since Trump took office nine months ago, governments in Berlin, Paris and London have wavered between alarm at his rhetoric and a shaky sense that his worst instincts can be contained by the "grown ups" in his cabinet and pressure from allies. But the Iran decision, taken despite personal appeals from France's Emmanuel Macron, Germany's Angela Merkel and Britain's Theresa May, has changed the calculus in Europe, according to diplomats, politicians and analysts.

No longer is there an underlying confidence that Europe can muddle through three more years of Trump without fear of major, and possibly lasting, disruptions to the relationship. Nor is there faith that Trump, when the stakes are high, will listen to what his advisers and partners tell him. The anxiety is especially acute in Germany, whose own identity is anchored in its relationship with the United States and whose reliance on Washington, particularly in defence and security matters, runs deeper than that of France or Britain.

"There is a sense of desperation in Berlin, a sense that Trump does not know what is at stake, that he doesn't understand the historical factors that are at play here," said Wolfgang Ischinger, a former German ambassador to Washington and chairman of the Munich Security Conference. "The transatlantic relationship is all about trust. In that sense, the Iran decision takes us to a new level. It is a breach of trust," he said.

### Standing in the rubble

Trump's decision to decertify the Iran deal will not necessarily kill it. That depends on Congress, which must now decide to impose new sanctions against Tehran. But

the consensus in Europe is that a landmark diplomatic achievement has been seriously undermined. Merkel alluded to the breakdown in trust back in May, when she said Europe might not be able to rely on the United States and must take its fate into its own hands.

That came after a contentious G7 meeting in Sicily at which Trump ignored pleas from allies to stick with another multilateral agreement, the Paris climate accord. Since then Merkel, focused on an election and efforts to form a coalition, has said little about the transatlantic relationship or Trump. Macron meanwhile, has done his best to charm the American president, inviting him to Paris for Bastille Day celebrations and meeting him again at the United Nations last month. "I don't despair of making him change his mind," Macron said in New York of Trump's stances on climate and Iran.

In private however, European officials say they are worried that Trump's rejection of the Iran deal could be a harbinger of other disruptive salvos from Washington. One senior European diplomat said the next conflict would likely be over trade, describing Trump's attempt to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) - and his threats to abandon it - as a "litmus test".

European firms, especially German car-makers who produce in Mexico and export to the United States, could be hit hard by a breakdown of NAFTA. There are also fears that Trump could carry out a threat to introduce steel import tariffs, which would hit European exporters as well as the Chinese. "So far there has been a lot of bark and no bite from Trump on trade, but that doesn't mean it will stay that way," said the European diplomat. "We have to be prepared for real protectionist measures. Any steps that penalise European firms directly or indirectly would create a downward spiral."

North Korea is another area of concern. Thorsten Benner, director of the Global Public Policy Institute in Berlin, believes the reaction in Europe to a military conflict on the Korean peninsula could be "as messy as the Iraq war". The European public could view Washington as the aggressor in such a conflict. This could fuel anti-American sentiment, making it difficult for European leaders to stand with Trump and emboldening voices that are already calling for a break from Washington - no matter how unrealistic that looks in practice.—Reuters

## Hirak seeks relief from crackdown

It all began with a fish seized by the police. Morocco is marking one year since a fisherman's gruesome death spanned a social protest movement against police abuse - an event that has drawn comparisons to the 2010 death of a Tunisian vendor that sparked the Arab Spring democracy uprisings. Since October 2016, the northern Moroccan town of Hoceima in the ethnically Berber Rif region has seen unrest stemming from the death of 31-year-old Mouhcine Fikri, an impoverished local fish seller.

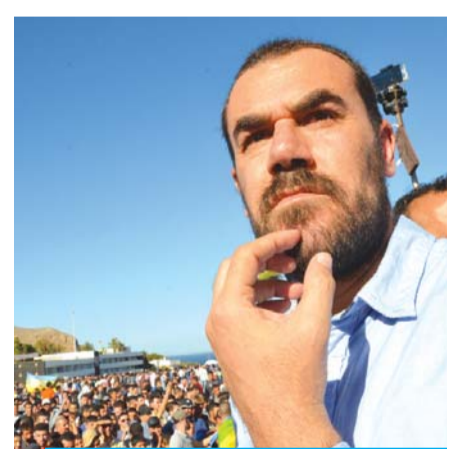
Fikri was crushed in a garbage truck while trying to retrieve a valuable swordfish seized by police, who said its sale was illegal. Since then, a protest movement called Hirak Rif has held demonstrations to demand social justice and economic development. In May, Moroccan authorities cracked down on Hirak Rif's leaders and a large number of protesters, arresting between 330-400 people, according to the Moroccan Human Rights Association (AMDH). Yet the movement's influence is still being felt.

On Tuesday, Moroccan King Mohammed VI fired four government officials following alleged delays in development programs for Hoceima. Last week also saw the start of the trial of Hirak Rif's charismatic leader, Nasser Zefzafi, which is being closely followed by Moroccans.

The Rif region enjoys a strong regional identity and has historically always enjoyed some level of independence from the central government. In 1921, when Morocco was colonized by France and Spain, the legendary rebel leader Abd el-Krim installed a republic in the region after defeating the Spanish army. Although the Rif Republic was dissolved just five years later in 1926, it deeply marked the collective memory.

In 1959 and 1984, uprisings broke out in the Rif that were brutally suppressed by King Hassan II, the current king's father. The Hirak Rif movement has its roots in the region's marginalization, as well as in the evolution of a political consciousness and a desire for social justice, a redistribution of wealth and respect for the rule of law.

Inspired by the Hirak Rif, activists from other marginalized areas have launched



In this May 18, 2017 file photo, Moroccan leader activist Nasser Zefzafi addresses supporters during a protest in Al-Hoceima. —AP

their own groups. In southern Morocco, the city of Zagora has seen multiple protests in recent weeks over access to clean water - and the Zagora Hirak was able to get the city's drinking water service back to normal. "The Hirak has put a spotlight on the lack of local democracy," said KENZA AFSABI, a sociologist at the University of Bordeaux and the author of several works on the Rif.

But Afsahi said the movement's achievements have limits. "Despite Hirak's popularity in national and international public opinion, the movement has failed to reverse the balance of power. The authorities continue to be relatively repressive. There is also a widespread concern about the decline of human rights," she said.

Several local and international organizations are now looking to the monarch as the person who can free the Hirak detainees. "In the parliament, we have discussed the possibility of addressing a request for pardon of the Hirak detainees to the king" but it does not yet have enough support, said Abdellatif Ouahbi of the PAM opposition party. Abdellah Bouanou of the ruling Justice and Development Party (PJD) suggested "we must go ahead and make a reconciliation" for the arrested activists so the situation in Hoceima does not fester. A call for "the immediate release of all Hirak prisoners and the cessation of the repression" against protesters was released Saturday by the Committee for Solidarity, based in Casablanca. —AFP

News

## Saudi agenda shifting power...

Continued from Page 1

Prince Mohammed, or MBS as he is widely known, used a rare public appearance on stage at a major investor conference in the capital, Riyadh, this week to drive home that message to a global audience. "We only want to go back to what we were: Moderate Islam that is open to the world, open to all religions," he said in the ornate grand hall of the Ritz-Carlton. "We will not waste 30 years of our lives in dealing with extremist ideas. We will destroy them today."

His remarks were met with applause and a front-page article in Britain's Guardian Newspaper. In expanded remarks to the paper, the 32-year-old prince said that successive Saudi monarchs "didn't know how to deal with" Iran's 1979 revolution that brought to power a clerical Shiite leadership still in place today. That same year Saudi rulers weathered a stunning blow: Extremists laid siege to Islam's holiest site in Makkah for 15 days. The attack was carried out by militants opposed to social openings taking place at the time, seeing them as Western and un-Islamic.

The ruling Al Saud responded to the events of 1979 by empowering the state's ultraconservatives. To hedge the international appeal of Iran's Shiite revolution, the government backed efforts to export the kingdom's foundational Wahhabi ideology abroad. To appease a sizeable conservative segment of the population at home, cinemas were shuttered, women were banned from appearing on state television and the religious police were emboldened.

Much is now changing under the crown prince as he consolidates greater powers and prepares to inherit the throne. There are plans to build a Six Flags theme park and a semi-autonomous Red Sea tourist destination where the strict rules on women's dress will likely not apply. Females have greater access to sports, the powers of the once-feared religious police have been curtailed and restrictions on gender segregation are being eased. Unlike previous

Saudi monarchs, such as King Abdullah who backed gradual and cautious openings, Prince Mohammed is moving quickly.

More than half of Saudi Arabia's 20 million citizens are below the age of 25, meaning millions of young Saudis will be entering the workforce in the coming decade. The government is urgently trying to create more jobs and ward off the kinds of grievances that sparked uprisings in other Arab countries where unemployment is rampant and citizens have little say in government.

The prince has to find solutions now for the problems he is set to inherit as monarch. "What MBS is doing is a must requirement for any kind of economic reform. Economic reform requires a new Protestant ethic if you will, a new brand of Islam," said Maamoun Fandy, director of the London Global Strategy Institute. This new Saudi version of "moderate Islam" can be understood as one that is amenable to economic reforms: it does not close shops at prayer time or banish women from public life, Fandy said.

In other words, Saudi Arabia's economic reforms require social reforms to succeed. Buzzwords like "reform," "transparency" and "accountability" - all used by the prince in his promotion of Vision 2030 - do not, however, mean that Saudi Arabia is moving toward greater liberalism, democracy, pluralism or freedom of speech.

The government does not grant licenses to non-Muslim houses of worship, and limits those of its Shiite citizens. The prince has also made no mention of human rights concerns. If anything, dozens of the prince's perceived critics have been detained in a warning to others who dare to speak out. Some of those arrested were seen as critics of his foreign policies, which include severing ties with Qatar, increasing tensions with Iran and overseeing airstrikes in Yemen.

Meanwhile, Prince Mohammed faces a Saudi public that remains religiously conservative. That means he still needs public support from the state's top clerics in order to position his reforms as Islamic and religiously permissible. These clerics, many of whom had spoken out in the past against women working and driving, appear unwilling or unable to publicly criticize the moves. In this absolute monarchy, the king holds final say on most matters and the public has shown it is welcoming the changes. — AP

## Can Qatar deliver on worker 'revolution'?

**DOHA:** When the labor minister of World Cup 2022 host Qatar met one of the country's most vocal critics on worker rights this month, the fact they were talking was a surprise. But the outcome of the apparently hours-long discussion between Issa Saad Al-Jafali Al-Nuaimi and International Trade Union Confederation general secretary Sharan Burrow was entirely unexpected. They shook hands and agreed a wholesale package of labor reforms which - if implemented - represent a massive change in conditions for Qatar's two million migrant workers helping to ready the country for the World Cup.

Since being controversially chosen to host the event, for which it is spending \$500 million a week, Qatar has been routinely accused of forcing workers to toil in conditions likened by critics to modern-day slavery. Those critics remain skeptical that Qatar will actually deliver on these latest promises, claiming they have backtracked before. But Burrow believes this is a game-changer. "For workers it's a revolution," she told AFP. "Being free to choose to work in the Gulf with appropriate rights and conditions."

The reforms agreed include the introduction of a minimum wage, job contracts being lodged with the government so they cannot be changed on arrival in Qatar and, crucially, employers no longer being able to stop staff from leaving the country. This last point has been one of the major criticisms of Qatar by human rights groups and unions, including ITUC. Qatar also announced that the Cabinet had agreed to establish a "workers insurance and support fund".

ITUC said the proposals meant the beginning of the end for "kafala" - under which all foreign workers need a local sponsor in order to work, maintain residency, and leave the country. Burrow added that the minister had given "commitments" that the reforms would be carried out and change would begin in the "first couple of months of next year". She even praised the "courage" shown by Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and Nuaimi in agreeing to the reforms.

It is a remarkable turn of events. The formidable Burrow was once described to AFP, anonymously, as being "hated" by officials in Qatar and it was ITUC who first published the headline-grabbing figure of 1,200 workers dying building World Cup facilities. The reforms, now agreed by Qatar and

the International Labor Organization, came ahead of a meeting that could have seen the launch of an embarrassing formal investigation by the UN agency into the World Cup host's treatment of migrant workers.

On the surface it appears to deliver all that critics have long campaigned for. However, there remains scepticism that Qatar will really deliver true change. Mustafa Qadri, executive director of Equidem, a human rights research organization, said the reform package was "a positive sign" but also stressed the need to wait for results. "We have heard this before in 2014 when the government came out and said it would abolish kafala and get rid of the exit permit," he told AFP. "Then what we saw was that reform was slow and there were some changes but not the abolition of kafala."

There is concern among campaigners that Qatar could still fail to deliver on its promise to let workers leave the country without permission of employers. "The big question is if Qatar does not quickly demonstrate that they have acted in good faith and that they are serious about reform," said Nicholas McGeehan, an expert on migrant workers. "I would have been a lot more confident if they had promised a lot less."

In a statement, Amnesty International's James Lynch said it would ultimately be the actions of the Qatari government which would determine "whether this is a true game changer". Responding to the emerging scepticism, Saif Al-Thani, the director of Qatar's Government Communications Office, tweeted that the hugely wealthy emirate would develop its labor laws in line with international standards.

There may also have been another factor at play for Doha's apparent concessions - the ongoing Gulf crisis, which has seen Qatar boycotted by neighboring countries. Qatar has repeatedly claimed the boycott has impacted on the human rights of its citizens, and arguably the most vocal body during the nearly five-month-old dispute has been its National Human Rights Committee. Claiming rights abuses by others, while being accused of the same thing with regards to migrant workers, is not an easy thing for Qatar to explain.

By radically overhauling its treatment of migrant workers, Qatar would also distinguish itself from other states in the region and present itself as more progressive than its neighbors. But despite the optimism, one organization remains beyond Burrow's praise. "FIFA sat on the sidelines for more than five years," she said. "They had the power to work effectively and did nothing. Now we can look forward to a World Cup with workers' rights. 'FIFA becomes a beneficiary but no thanks to them.' — AFP

## Blast kills Bahrain policeman...

Continued from Page 1

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Kuwait stands firmly with the Kingdom of Bahrain and supports all measures to preserve security and stability, a Kuwait foreign ministry source also said in a statement. He said these criminal acts would not dis-

courage the people of Bahrain from their quest to defeat terror. The source extended condolences to the family of the victim and wished rapid recovery for the wounded.

Bahrain has seen sporadic violence since a crackdown in 2011 on a protest movement demanding a constitutional monarchy and an elected prime minister. Last week, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashed Al-Khalifa accused Iran of harboring 160 Bahrainis convicted of terrorism and stripped of their citizenship. He accused Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards of having trained the group, who were convicted of attacks that killed 25 security personnel and wounded 3,000 others. Bahrain is home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, and a British army base is currently under construction. — Agencies

## Intriguing details in JFK files - but...

Continued from Page 1

contain reams of new information it will be months before the rest of the files are seen - if ever.

Trump gave the CIA, FBI and other agencies six months - until April 26, 2018 - to make their case for why the remaining documents should not be made public. In a tweet on Friday, the president said the JFK files were being "carefully released". "In the end there will be great transparency," he said. "It is my hope to get just about everything to public!" Later, Trump clarified in a tweeted statement that he would "be releasing ALL JFK files other than the names and addresses of any mentioned person who is still living". "I am doing this for reasons of full disclosure, transparency and in order to put any and all conspiracy theories to rest."

Gerald Posner, author of "Case Closed", which determined that Oswald did indeed act alone, said the release was "frustrating" and that much of what is in the files has been known previously. Shenon said that while there were no new revelations in the documents there were nevertheless some "interesting tidbits". He pointed to one record in which then-FBI director J. Edgar Hoover expressed his anger with the "inexcusable" failure of Dallas police to protect Oswald despite repeated FBI warnings that his life was at risk.

Oswald was shot by a striptease club owner, Jack Ruby, on Nov 24, 1963 - two days after the Kennedy assassination - while being moved to a county jail. Hoover goes on to add that the FBI had hoped to obtain a confession to "convince the public that Oswald is the real assassin". Many of the records are raw intelligence including scores of reports from FBI agents following up leads that

led nowhere. Much of what they contain is previously known, such as that the communist-obsessed CIA cooked up several outlandish plots to murder Cuba's Fidel Castro.

One document detailed how in the early days of Kennedy's presidency the CIA offered \$150,000 to Italian-American mob boss Sam Giancana to organize the killing of Castro. Giancana in return sought the CIA's help to place a listening device in the room of his mistress - a Las Vegas entertainer - whom he thought was having an affair. Other possible ideas to kill the Communist leader - said to be a keen diver - included contaminating his diving suit with disease-causing bacteria, or booby-trapping a seashell with a bomb. The plan was scrapped when it was determined "there was no shell in the Caribbean area large enough to hold a sufficient amount of explosive".

The files also contain new - if inconclusive - details about an intriguing chapter in Oswald's life: A trip he took to Mexico City seven weeks before he killed Kennedy and his meetings there with Cuban and Russian spies. In his memo, Hoover referred to some of Oswald's contacts with Cubans and Russians but dismissed them as being only about visas for him and his Russian-born wife. While many theories over the years are linked to Oswald's ties to Cuban or Soviet operatives, an FBI memo in 1963 indicated Kennedy's death was source of deep mourning in the Soviet Union.

According to a source, "officials at the Communist Party of the Soviet Union believed there was some well-organized conspiracy on the part of the 'ultra-right' in the United States to effect a 'coup'." The Soviets feared the killing would be used as a pretext to "stop negotiations with the Soviet Union, attack Cuba, and thereafter spread the war". The Soviets also insisted that they had "no connection whatsoever" with Oswald, who defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 but returned to the United States in 1962. Oswald, according to the Soviets, was "a neurotic maniac who was disloyal to his country and everything else". — AFP

## Axed Catalan leader urges resistance...

Continued from Page 1

"We will continue to work to build a free country," Puigdemont said. But this must be done "without violence, without insults, in an inclusive way," he insisted, and urged supporters to respect the opposition of pro-unionists - thousands of whom marched in central Madrid.

The streets of Barcelona were largely empty yesterday after a night of firework-lit celebrations. Emmanuel Torcal, a 52-year-old businessman walking his dog, said he was sympathetic to independence but worried about the escalation and possible consequences. "I sympathize but I have my life, my work, and this is affected. But I am Catalan and I say if we have to go, let's go." In Madrid, several thousand people gathered on the central Plaza Colon, waving the Spanish flag as loudspeakers blared the popular song "Y viva Espana" (long live Spain). A small child was pushed by his father in a buggy sporting a sign proclaiming: "Together", and some in the crowd waved placards calling for Puigdemont to be jailed.

"It is a shame what happened in Catalonia," lamented anti-secessionist protester Carlos Fernandez, a 41-year-old mining engineer.



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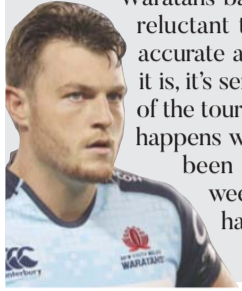
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## Sports

## Dempsey ruled out of Wallabies' tour

SYDNEY: Flanker Jack Dempsey has been ruled out of Australia's northern hemisphere tour with a serious leg injury suffered in the Wallabies' 31-28 victory over the Barbarians on Saturday. Coach Michael Cheika was expected to announce his touring squad today for Test matches next month against Japan, Wales, England and Scotland. There were reports the NSW Waratahs backrower had badly torn a hamstring, but Cheika was reluctant to go into specifics. "I don't think that would be an accurate assumption, it's so fresh," he told reporters. "Whatever it is, it's serious. When I say serious, there's no doubt he'll be out of the tour. "And he's in a fair bit of pain too, so let's just see what happens with it. It's unfortunate his season's over." Dempsey has been one of Australia's best-performing players in recent weeks and yesterday Cheika said the Wallabies could not have won without him. — AFP

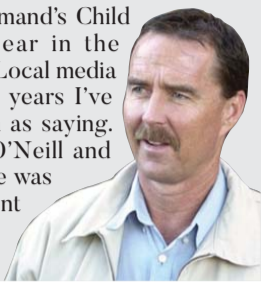


## Cubs' Anthony Rizzo given Roberto Clemente award

LOS ANGELES: Anthony Rizzo of the Chicago Cubs was named the recipient of the 2017 Roberto Clemente Award on Friday for his charitable work on behalf of children with cancer. Rizzo's selection was announced by Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred at a news conference prior to Game Three of the World Series between the Houston Astros and visiting Los Angeles Dodgers. The Cubs first baseman has been a champion for pediatric cancer patients and their families, especially following his own experience as a survivor of Hodgkin's lymphoma. Rizzo was a minor league player in the Boston Red Sox organization when he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2008. Through treatment, he beat the disease, and has since devoted many hours to helping others. "It means a lot to me when I go into a hospital room and say hello to a kid and they light up like a Christmas tree, for five minutes of escaping the reality, because they're going through treatment," said Rizzo. —Reuters

## Volkers charged with child sex offences

MELBOURNE: Australian swimming coach Scott Volkers, a former mentor to Olympic and world champions, has been arrested and charged with multiple counts of child abuse, state media reported. Volkers was arrested on Friday and is due to appear in court next month in Queensland state, the report said. "A 59-year-old Sunshine Coast man has today been charged with five counts of indecent treatment of a child," Queensland police said in a statement. "The man was arrested by State Crime Command's Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group. He will appear in the Maroochydore Magistrates Court on Nov 13, 2017." Local media said Volkers would fight the charges. "It's been 15 years I've been subject to this," News Ltd media quoted him as saying. Volkers coached twice Olympic champion Susie O'Neill and two-times world breaststroke champion Sam Riley. He was arrested in Australia in 2002 on charges of indecent behaviour. —Reuters



## Imperious Johnson powers into six-shot Shanghai golf lead

## Reigning champion Hideki Matsuyama had another poor day

SHANGHAI: Dustin Johnson charged into a handsome six-shot lead at the \$9.75 million WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai yesterday after an anticipated third-round battle with close friend Brooks Koepka failed to materialise.

In breezy conditions Johnson's four-under-par 68 stretched his one-shot overnight lead on his fellow American, who shot an error-strewn 73, leaving the world number one in pole position for the final day today. Third at Sheshan International Golf Club, on 206 overall and seven shots off the imperious Johnson, was last year's runner-up Henrik Stenson of Sweden.

American Brian Harman and Englishman Justin Rose, the Rio 2016 Olympic champion, were joint fourth. "I'm not worried about what anyone else is doing, I've got enough to worry about with just myself," said Johnson on his mindset going into the decisive day with such a big lead.

"I'm not going to change my game plan playing no matter what Brooks does, Henrik, whoever is out there playing. "I'm going to stick to it and hopefully execute."

Johnson and Koepka live near one another in Florida and are fishing and gym buddies. But the niceties were left in the clubhouse and reigning US Open champion Koepka was immediately on the front foot, grabbing a birdie at the first while Johnson carded just his third bogey of the week.

That immediately wiped out Johnson's slender overnight lead and was the first of three birdies on the spin for the 27-year-old Koepka to propel him briefly

into the lead. But that was as good as it got for Koepka.

Johnson made birdies at holes two, four, seven and then at eight, where Koepka's challenge faltered badly with a horror triple bogey. The 33-year-old Johnson, the 2013 Shanghai champion and 2016 US Open winner, made the turn having opened up a four-shot lead on his rival.

Johnson gave a subtle shake of the head after a double bogey at the par-four 10th, but Koepka failed to capitalise with a bogey of his own and Johnson was always in control after that despite the tricky wind.

Hideki Matsuyama, the reigning champion from Japan, had another poor day with a 72 to leave him firmly out of the reckoning.

## 'VERY BLAH'

Johnson identified the eighth hole as the turning point and Koepka called holes eight to 12 "a disaster". "I don't know what happened from eight on,"

said a deflated Koepka, ranked 11 in the world.

"It was kind of very disappointing—very blah. I didn't really make any putts, like those momentum putts. I didn't make one of those." Koepka also said he had been put off on the 18th hole, where he stumbled to a third bogey of the day, by multiple cameras going off.

Rose carded a 72 and similarly struggled in the wind, having started the day in tied third and still in the hunt. "Wasn't good enough, is what it was, but it was tricky out there," he said. "But all in all, DJ (Johnson) played great golf today and obviously stretched out a little too far ahead."

“I'm not going to change my game plan”

”

## Kuwait Disabled Sport Club continues making achievements

By Abdellatif Sharrah

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Board of Kuwait Disabled Sports Club Shafi Al-Hajiri, lauded the support of Acting Director General of Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Dr Humoud Fulaiteh for teams and athletes for the club, which left a great influence on making unprecedented achievement, most important of which, taking third place in the international globally tournament for the blind which was held in Jordan, in addition to the two bronze medals in the international table tennis tournament in Thailand, that in addition to the Olympic gold that proceeded those. Al-Hajiri said this support materialized in having PAS provide all facilities for an outstanding



Shafi Al-Hajiri

preparation for athletes that in addition to easing procedures to participate in international events, which led to presenting a civilized image of the Kuwait disabled sports. He said, this policy being adopted by Dr Fulaiteh as a former athlete, knows close hand and aware of athletes requirements and needs.

He said Kuwait disabled sport is rich with talent that is able to continue making achievements, adding that the club administration is keen on carrying out a process of replacement in many technical and administrative areas and injecting new blood of young players in all teams of the club within an ambitious plan to raise the level of the disabled sports and be at par with developments at the international level.

He said the board of directors formed a committee of specialized technicians to carry out field visits to special needs school and select athletes from each sport, then they are examined by the medical committee and will be medically categorized according to the disability. They will then follow a program to polish their talent through camps and participating in tournaments.

Al-Hajiri said the board will focus on categorizing the sports disability for each game, out of the principle that it is not that every disabled is an athlete.

## 'Squash Heroes Open 2017' first tourney a success

KUWAIT: The First Squash Academy for youngsters in Kuwait held its first "Squash Heroes Open 2017" tournament in complete triumph and joy this weekend.

Last Thursday, Squash Heroes Academy hosted a fierce and a joyful competition among 52 players all under the age of 13, who were divided into four categories, (A,B,C and G) all playing at the Squash hall building at Kazma Sporting Club (KSC), with organizers in high spirits carrying their tournament slogan, "At Squash Heroes, We Are Family." The tournament winner of class A, category for the most skilled and advanced players, regardless of their age but must be up to 13 years, was Ammar Askar, 11.

The winner of class B, which lists the second best players, was Abdulwahab Al-Badah, 12 years old.

The winner of class C, which was a category for players below 11 years old, was Wafa Al-Qatami, seven years old. The winner of class G, a focused group on young girls only, was Jana Al-Khurafi, 13 years old.

In an interview with KUNA, academy creator and Kuwait's Squash National Team player Shamlan Ali said it "was a joyful and a beautiful time to be able to organize the event, the first tournament for the academy with such amazing players."

"We established the academy after I returned from studying abroad. Before graduation, I was in the US and I was asked by Kuwait's Squash national team Coach to help as an assistant in setting up the academy in Kuwait. I was reluctant at first, but since I was in the US I was able to review the types of structure of squash academies, the culture of competition created for youngsters, how the academy works in general,

and goals for each system, and how each academy creates hero players, or even for those who want to play the game" said Ali.

"Later, when I returned home, I decided to make it a full time job and establish the academy, and it became official on July 10th 2017, the idea behind the academy was to bring awareness, especially to kids, to the world of racket sports, like Tennis, Squash, Badminton, Table Tennis to all over Kuwait," Ali added.

"My vision was to make squash a game more recognizable to children between the ages of six years up to 13 years old," Ali added.

When asked why did the academy picked these particular ages as a condition to be able to register for the academy, Ali said because it is the prime time for kids to learn the needed skills, and to become fit for high-level training, whether at a professional level, or just to be able to practice sport for the rest of his or her life.



SHANGHAI: World number one golfer Dustin Johnson tees off at the third round of the 2017 WGC-HSBC Champions golf tournament held at the Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China, yesterday. —AP

The 37-year-old at least had the consolation of a birdie at the final hole, but said he was only really chasing second behind Johnson today. "You kind of walk away, the course didn't beat me today," he said of mak-

ing a last-gasp birdie.

"I feel like that birdie can hopefully make dinner taste good and come out and try and do something special." — AFP



Group picture of the participants and winners of Squash Heroes Open 2017 tournament held in Kuwait. —KUNA

On a different front, establishing an academy do faces different and wide range of problems, since it is a new concept. Ali noted "at first when I established the academy, we had to deal with various issues, things like choosing a local staff for the academy, to find Kuwaiti trainers was a must, and the reason for that is because we wanted to have the strongest connection between the kids and trainers as possible.

"Again children usually come stressed out already after school or from home, and we wanted them to have fun playing such sport," Ali said, stressing that with Kuwaiti trainers "we were able to understand more the conditions of each player."

"We don't try to push them hard in training. One of our main goals is to become close to players, like their older brother," Ali added. Other problems they faced was a procedural one such as in dealing with various organizations, such as traditional sporting clubs in terms of acceptance to academies in general.

"Squash heroes' academy was in a different club at the start, and we did face obstacles in the beginning, but later when we moved to Kazma SC procedures got easier. Reserving training courts was another problem, but I don't blame the clubs for this, because it's still the academy as a concept was new to adopt."

However, Ali said now "there are two other Squash academies established, and I think Qadsia SC will be having one soon."

Squash Heroes was the first academy in Kuwait, when asked about other rackets sports academies Captain Ali said there are three Tennis academies in Kuwait, but sadly none for Badminton so far. —KUNA



The winner of class G Jana Al-Khurafi.

Sports

# Green, Beal ejected in Warriors' comeback win over Wizards

## DeRozan has 24, Lowry triple-double, Raps beat Lakers

OAKLAND: Kevin Durant had 31 points, 11 rebounds and six assists to help rally the Golden State Warriors from 18 points down and beat the Washington Wizards 120-117 on Friday night, a game marred by a fight between Golden State's Draymond Green and Washington's Bradley Beal shortly before halftime that led to both being ejected. Stephen Curry added 20 points and eight assists, hitting two 3s and two free throws in the final minute of the third quarter to get Golden State within 97-87 heading into the final 12 minutes. Then Klay Thompson and Durant made 3s early in the fourth for a four-point game. Thompson scored 18 points. Durant's jumper with 1:20 to go put Golden State up by five, but the defending champions still needed his two free throws with 9.4 seconds left. John Wall missed an off-balance 3 then Washington couldn't capitalize on one final chance. With 19.5 seconds left in the second quarter, Beal held the front of Green's jersey with his left hand while grabbing Green around the jaw with his right. That enraged Green, who threw his right arm in frustration and wrapped arms with Beal as if hugging, then other players joined the scum.



### Beal held the front of Green's jersey

Houston made 22 of 57 3-point attempts in a victory over Charlotte. The Rockets nearly broke their own NBA regular season records of 24 3-pointers made and 61 3-pointers attempted set last December. Eric Gordon and Ryan Anderson led the 3-point barrage. Gordon was 6 of 16 from beyond the arc and had 26 points, while Anderson was 6 of 15 and finished with 21 points. The Rockets took advantage of the Hornets' cold shooting in the first half and took a 10-point lead at halftime.

The Hornets started the second half on an 8-0 run but could never get the lead and the Rockets pulled away in the fourth quarter.

### KNICKS 107, NETS 86

Kristaps Porzingis had 30 points and nine rebounds, and New York beat Brooklyn for its first victory of the season. Rookie guard Frank Ntilikina also broke the ice with his first NBA points and finished with nine as the Knicks became the last team in the league to get a win this season. They did it with a surprisingly strong defensive effort that shut down the NBA's highest-scoring team, holding the Nets about 35 points below their average. New York blew it open with a 25-6 run in the third quarter that turned a three-point lead into a 72-50 cushion and coasted from there. D'Angelo Russell returned from a one-game absence with 15 points for the Nets, who looked nothing like the team that beat Eastern Conference champion Cleveland two nights earlier.

### NUGGETS 105, HAWKS 100

Nikola Jokic recorded a double-double with 18 points and 15 rebounds. Will Barton and Gary Harris each scored 18 points and Denver beat Atlanta in the Hawks' home opener. Emmanuel Mudiay had 16 points for Denver. It was the Nuggets' first win in Atlanta in six years. Jokic, the third-year center from Serbia, helped Denver overcome Atlanta's 14 3-pointers. Paul Millsap, the former four-time All-Star for the Hawks, had 16 points and six rebounds for Denver in his return to Atlanta.

### MAGIC 114, SPURS 87

Evan Fournier scored an efficient 25 points and Orlando handed San Antonio its first loss. Fournier made 10 of 12 shots, including all four of his 3-point tries. It was the third straight win for the Magic, who got 17 points from Jonathon Simmons, 16 from Aaron Gordon and 15 from Nikola Vucevic. Orlando shot 57.1 percent while limiting the Spurs to 33.7 percent. San Antonio lost for the first time in five games, and it wasn't close. Orlando led by 14 after the first quarter, 27 points at halftime and by 36 points during the second half. LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and 11 rebounds for San Antonio. Patty Mills added 12 points, and Pau Gasol scored 12 points with 11 rebounds. —AP

### RAPTORS 101, LAKERS 92

DeMar DeRozan scored 17 of his 24 points in the second half and Toronto rallied late for the first victory on its six-game trip. Kyle Lowry added 11 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds in his eighth triple-double for the Raptors, who beat the Lakers for the fifth straight time. Serge Ibaka had 18 points and eight rebounds, and Pascal Siakam added 18 points for Toronto. The lead changed hands 15 times in the second half before Toronto took charge midway through the fourth quarter on a six-point flurry by DeRozan, the Compton native playing in his 600th game for the Raptors. Lonzo Ball had five points, six assists and seven rebounds on his 20th birthday for the Lakers, who haven't beaten Toronto since 2014.

### TIMBERWOLVES 119, THUNDER 116

Karl-Anthony Towns had 33 points and 19 rebounds as Minnesota held off Oklahoma City. Timberwolves guard Jimmy Butler, back after missing two games with an upper respiratory infection, came up big down the stretch. He scored nine points in the final 4:09 to help the Wolves close it out. Butler finished with 25 points and was 11 of 13 at the free throw line. Russell Westbrook led the way for Oklahoma City with 27 points. He had nine assists and eight rebounds, falling just shy of a triple-double. Carmelo Anthony added 23 points for the Thunder.

### ROCKETS 109, HORNETS 93

James Harden had 27 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, and



OAKLAND: Washington Wizards' Kelly Oubre Jr, left, guards Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, in Oakland, Calif. — AP

### NBA results/standings

Golden State 120, Washington 117; Toronto 101, LA Lakers 92; Minnesota 119, Oklahoma City 116; Denver 105, Atlanta 100; NY Knicks 107, Brooklyn 86; Houston 109, Charlotte 93; Orlando 114, San Antonio 87.

| Eastern Conference |   |   |      |     | Western Conference |   |   |       |     |
|--------------------|---|---|------|-----|--------------------|---|---|-------|-----|
| Atlantic Division  |   |   |      |     | Northwest Division |   |   |       |     |
|                    | W | L | PCT  | GB  |                    |   |   |       |     |
| Toronto            | 3 | 2 | .600 | -   | Portland           | 3 | 2 | .600  | -   |
| Boston             | 3 | 2 | .600 | -   | Minnesota          | 3 | 3 | .500  | 0.5 |
| Brooklyn           | 3 | 3 | .500 | 0.5 | Utah               | 2 | 3 | .400  | 1   |
| NY Knicks          | 1 | 3 | .250 | 1.5 | Denver             | 2 | 3 | .400  | 1   |
| Philadelphia       | 1 | 4 | .200 | 2   | Oklahoma City      | 2 | 3 | .400  | 1   |
| Central Division   |   |   |      |     | Pacific Division   |   |   |       |     |
| Cleveland          | 3 | 2 | .600 | -   | LA Clippers        | 4 | 0 | 1.000 | -   |
| Detroit            | 3 | 2 | .600 | -   | Golden State       | 4 | 2 | .667  | 1   |
| Milwaukee          | 3 | 2 | .600 | -   | Phoenix            | 2 | 3 | .400  | 2.5 |
| Indiana            | 2 | 3 | .400 | 1   | LA Lakers          | 2 | 3 | .400  | 2.5 |
| Chicago            | 1 | 3 | .250 | 1.5 | Sacramento         | 1 | 4 | .200  | 3.5 |
| Southeast Division |   |   |      |     | Southwest Division |   |   |       |     |
| Orlando            | 4 | 1 | .800 | -   | Houston            | 5 | 1 | .833  | -   |
| Washington         | 3 | 2 | .600 | 1   | Memphis            | 4 | 1 | .800  | 0.5 |
| Miami              | 2 | 2 | .500 | 1.5 | San Antonio        | 4 | 1 | .800  | 0.5 |
| Charlotte          | 2 | 3 | .400 | 2   | New Orleans        | 2 | 3 | .400  | 2.5 |
| Atlanta            | 1 | 5 | .167 | 3.5 | Dallas             | 1 | 5 | .167  | 4   |

## Rebensburg beats Worley for WCup GS win, Shiffrin 5th

SOELDEN: Viktoria Rebensburg took the season-opening women's World Cup race yesterday for her 14th career victory, seven years after winning her maiden giant slalom on the same hill. The 2010 gold medalist got the perfect start into the 2018 Olympics season, beating last year's World Cup discipline champion Tessa Worley of France in front of 14,500 spectators on the Rettenbach glacier.

"It's a great result and it makes me really happy," Rebensburg said. "I like steep pitches and Soelden certainly has that." Ranked third after the opening run, Rebensburg used a strong finish to her final run to edge Worley by 0.14 seconds. First-run leader Manuela Moelgg of Italy finished third, 0.53 behind.

Overall champion Mikaela Shiffrin, who was second after the opening leg, had a tough run and the American nearly skied out before finishing in fifth, 0.74 off Rebensburg's winning time.

Shiffrin's American teammate Lindsey Vonn, who only decided a week ago that she was going to race, failed to qualify for the final run. Last year's winner Lara Gut of Switzerland, who made an early comeback from knee injury, was among three racers out of the top seven who failed to finish. Italians Marta Bassino and Sofia Goggia also skied out.

"The second run was a wild ride. I never thought that this would be the result," Rebensburg said. Rebensburg won the Olympic GS title in Vancouver, even before triumphing in a World Cup race of that discipline. However, she quickly developed into a specialist and has meanwhile racked up 12 wins in GS while earning back-to-back season's titles in 2011 and 2012.

Shiffrin, who celebrated her first GS win here three years ago, was disappointed after a second run in which she needed to regain her balance after almost being thrown off course by a bump.

"I have been training really well but I was a bit stiff today," the American said. "I needed to be really loose in the second run when I skied through some of the bumps." Shiffrin trailed Italian veteran Moelgg by 0.12 after the opening leg after a strong finish to a rather conservative run.

"I know I can ski cleaner than that and be more simple," she said. "I was excited for that run. I didn't feel extremely nervous. I sometimes did too much almost, so I can just let my skis go a little bit more. I just can relax more and let the good skiing come out."

Due to strong winds in the upper part of the course, organizers lowered the start shortly before the race.

"To be honest, I really didn't notice (the wind) that much," Shiffrin said. The conditions hampered Vonn in her first GS in nearly two years. The four-time overall champion struggled for rhythm throughout her run and



SOELDEN: Germany's Viktoria Rebensburg celebrates on the podium after winning an alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom in Soelden, Austria, yesterday. — AP

came 3.31 off the pace in 34th.

"It's an awkward set. It had rhythm for three gates, than it was a kind of quick chicane to three gates," Vonn said. "I just didn't push myself enough. I was kind of too conservative where I could have let it go. But it was nice to get started." Vonn opted to start in the season-opening race although giant slalom is not a main discipline for her anymore.

Despite lacking sufficient GS training days, she expected to score points in order to improve her starting position for the Olympic GS in Pyeongchang in February. "Obviously I wanted to do better today, but I skied solid and I am healthy," Vonn said. "I was wishing to get some points but that's life." The men's World Cup is set to start today with a GS on the same hill. — AP

## 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' supports UNHCR's #Voices4Refugees

KUWAIT: The annual 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon', which is set to take place on 18 November at 7am Souq Sharq, is partnering with UNHCR - the UN Refugee Agency to support its #Voices4Refugees campaign.

#Voices4Refugees is an online awareness campaign launched by UNHCR with the belief that all refugees deserve to live in safety regardless of their religion, nationality or race, and should receive equal treatment for protection and assistance, and opportunities for resettlement. Moreover, this campaign urges to stand with millions of refugees around the world, including Syrian refugees, Rohingya refugees and other refugee communities to make their stories heard. Since its launch in early 2015, more than 50,000 individuals from the MENA region have given their voice through the campaign, a demonstration of solidarity from all around the region. Through its collaboration with UNHCR, Gulf Bank aims to increase the level of solidarity through the campaign.

Ms Laila Al-Qatami, Assistant General Manager for Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank noted the importance of the campaign, saying "Each year the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' partners with a leading organization to raise awareness on a worthy cause. This is the second year we are supporting UNHCR's #Voices4Refugees campaign to help people understand the conditions under which refugees live. Adding your voice is simple, please visit voices.unhcr.org and pledge your support. By adding your voice you will be calling for immediate and practical steps that can improve humanitarian access and the delivery of aid to those who

most need it. Additionally, signing up will give you the opportunity to receive refugee stories of endurance, resilience and survival. The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' will be donating a portion from each registration to the UNHCR."

Dr. Hanan Hamdan, Head of UNHCR's Kuwait Office, said: "The private sector has a significant role to play in reaching out to communities and raising awareness about social and humanitarian causes. Most recently, we are witnessing Kuwait's private sector stepping up its involvement in the humanitarian response to refugee crisis in the region. UNHCR is committed to strengthen partnerships with Kuwait's private sector entities and individuals interested in assisting refugees, which is in line with the directives of His Highness The Emir of Kuwait to highlight Kuwait's role as an international humanitarian centre"

Commenting on the role of Gulf Bank, Dr. Hamdan said: "We are pleased with Gulf Bank's choice to collaborate with UNHCR for the second year in a row through the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. We believe this to be a great opportunity to provide audiences in Kuwait with the platform to raise their voices in support of refugees."

Through this collaboration, the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' aims to spread awareness throughout the community about the needs of refugees and calls upon community members to sign up to UNHCR's #Voices4Refugees campaign. UNHCR works around the world to ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge, having fled violence, persecution, war or disaster at home. Since 1950, UNHCR has been protecting the rights and well-being of refugees all over the world, totalling more than 50 million since its establishment. They have provided vital assistance to save lives and build better futures for millions forced from home. Their work and advocacy helps transform broken lives by providing protection, shelter, access to healthcare, and safeguarding individuals.

This walk/run event caters to all levels, from challenging athletes to beginners and even families, this includes four different distances/categories: Family Fun Walk/Run (5KM); Souq Run for regular runners (10KM); Half Marathon for more advanced runners (21KM); and Kuwait's only Full Marathon (42KM).

**GULF BANK 642 MARATHON**  
18 November 2017, SOUQ SHARQ

In support of  
**UNHCR**  
القطرية للصحة العالمية للاجئين  
الأمم المتحدة

**SIGN UP AND RAISE YOUR VOICE FOR REFUGEES**  
<https://voices.unhcr.org>

**VOICES for refugees**  
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**Give refugees your voice, so the world can hear theirs.**  
A portion from every registration will be donated to UNHCR

## Sports

# Ageless Venus Williams, Wozniacki set for WTA season-end final

## Seven-time grand slam winner will be the oldest finalist in WTA history

**SINGAPORE:** Ageless Venus Williams continued her remarkable renaissance with a three-set semi-final victory over Caroline Garcia to set up a mouthwatering WTA Finals decider with in-form Caroline Wozniacki.

Williams, 37, came from a set down to triumph 6-7 (7/3), 6-2, 6-3 in two hours and 29 minutes at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. The American will be aiming to end a nine-year WTA Finals title drought when she plays Wozniacki today.

Garcia, playing in her WTA Finals debut, looked gassed at times as the match wore on, having played a two hour and 19 minute marathon against Wozniacki on Friday. Williams claimed the decisive break in the eighth game of the third set before her clutch serving saw her overcome three break points and claim a memorable victory.

"Every time I thought I was close, she (Garcia) would play amazing," Williams said after the match. "It is hard to produce your best tennis at the end of the year because you've given so much. Nothing is easy. It's amazing to almost be in the winner's circle."

Both players were coming off impressive victories to qualify and continued their rich

form during a high-octane opening set. They traded breaks early before Garcia squandered a set point in the 10th game.

Consecutive double faults from Williams early in the tiebreak handed the world number eight the initiative and she capitalised to win the first set lasting 65 minutes. Williams looked in grave trouble when she faced

two break points in the first game of the second set but she fought back to hold serve and then broke Garcia in the next game.

Williams' trademark serve and her powerful groundstrokes started dictating, as she stormed through the second set in just minutes.

### OLDEST FINALIST

The seven-time grand slam winner will be the oldest finalist in WTA Finals history when she plays Wozniacki. Even though she had a stellar season reaching two grand slam finals, the world number five will be seeking her first title of the year.

She has now won two of three against Garcia in the pair's first clash since 2014. Earlier, a tireless Wozniacki stormed into the final with a straight sets victory over Karolina Pliskova, ending the Czech's dreams of finishing world number one.

The world number six prevailed in a roller-coaster match 7-6 (11/9), 6-3 in one hour and 57 minutes to reach the decider of the WTA Finals for the first time since 2010. Wozniacki said she kept "fighting" through a marathon 82-minute first set, where

she held off three set points in the 10th game and almost blew a 6-1 lead in the tieback.

"It went back and forth," she told reporters after the match. "It was very important to win the first set. I think that broke her a little bit. I think it was important for both of us to get that first one." Pliskova said she would not stew over missing out on the top ranking. "I'm



**SINGAPORE:** Venus Williams of the United States serves the ball to Caroline Garcia of France during their semi-final match at the WTA tennis tournament in Singapore. — AP

absolutely fine with that," she said. "This is the last thing that I'm thinking about now."

Long rallies, with both in-form players slugging from the baseline, highlighted a grinding start. There was little separating the pair with holds of serve hard to come by. Wozniacki seemingly had a stranglehold of the match with an early break in the second set only for

Pliskova to storm back. But she had a decisive break in the eighth game and then served it out to book her spot in the final.

Pliskova needed to lift the trophy on Sunday to overtake world number one Simona Halep in the rankings. Even though she didn't make the semis, Halep has now secured the year-end world number one ranking. — AFP



### Both players were coming off impressive

## Astros down Dodgers to grab 2-1 World Series edge

**HOUSTON:** Houston's Yuli Gurriel smashed a home run off Japan's Yu Darvish, who endured the shortest start of his career in the biggest game of his life, and the Astros downed the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-3 Friday in the World Series.

Darvish lasted only 1 2/3 innings, the 31-year-old right-handed pitcher surrendering four runs on five hits in a nightmare second inning as the Astros seized a 2-1 edge in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final.

The 113th World Series continues Saturday at Houston with Dodgers left-handed pitcher Alex Wood (16-3) facing Astros right-hander Charlie Morton (14-7). The Astros, who unleashed a 12-hit barrage against Los Angeles, seek the first crown in their 55-year history while the Dodgers try for a seventh championship and their first since 1988.

With the victory, the Astros matched the best home playoff start in major league history, Philadelphia's 7-0 run from 2008. Darvish, obtained in a July trade with Texas, became only the second Japanese starting pitcher in a World Series game after former Boston Red Sox star Daisuke Matsuzaka in 2007.

Darvish had been 2-0 in this month's playoffs with 14 strikeouts and two runs allowed until his Houston humbling. Cuban Gurriel began the second-inning onslaught with a solo homer. Josh Reddick followed with a double off the left-field wall. Evan Gattis walked and Venezuela's Marwin Gonzalez singled to score Reddick.

Brian McCann, Houston's weakest batter, singled to right field to drive in Gattis. Alex Bregman's sacrifice fly scored Gonzalez from third base for a 4-0 lead. Jose Altuve followed with a double and Los Angeles ended Darvish's misery, replacing him with compatriot Kenta Maeda.

Darvish threw 31 strikes in his 49 pitches but only one was a batter's swinging miss, that a botched bunt attempt by Gonzalez. The Dodgers scored a run in the fourth after Astros starter Lance McCullers Jr walked three batters to load the bases with none out, but Corey Seager's run-scoring double play and a Justin Turner ground out ended the threat.

Another Los Angeles chance fizzled in the fifth as Joc Pederson doubled, took third base on a ground out but was stranded when Chris Taylor flew out to end the inning.

### PEACOCK SHINES

Houston stretched the lead to 5-1 in the fifth when Reddick singled and scored from first when Evan Gattis chopped an infield hit and Dodgers relief pitcher Tony Watson made an errant throw allowing the runners to advance.

The Dodgers answered in the sixth when Seager walked, took third on a Turner double and scored on Yasiel Puig's ground out to shortstop. Turner later scored on a wild pitch from Astros reliever Brad Peacock to pull Los Angeles within 5-3.

Houston, whose 12 stranded base runners included at least one in every inning, left the bases loaded in the seventh when George Springer's fly ball to centerfield was gloved by Taylor just shy of the wall for the last Astros out. Peacock baffled Dodgers batters over the final 3 2/3 shutout innings, allowing no hits with four strikeouts. — AFP

## Martina Hingis ends career with 25 grand slam wins

**SINGAPORE:** Martina Hingis ended her career on a losing note when the retiring Swiss great and her partner Chan Yung-jan of Taiwan were beaten 6-4 7-6(5) by Timea Babos and Andrea Hlavackova in the WTA Finals doubles semi-final yesterday.

Hingis announced on Thursday that she was hanging up her racket for a third and final time following this week's event, bringing an end to an illustrious career that has garnered 25 grand slam wins-five in singles, 20 in doubles. The top seeds had hoped to send Hingis off with a fourth WTA Finals doubles crown after two triumphs with Anna Kournikova and one with Sania Mirza, but Hungary's Babos and Czech Hlavackova proved too strong at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

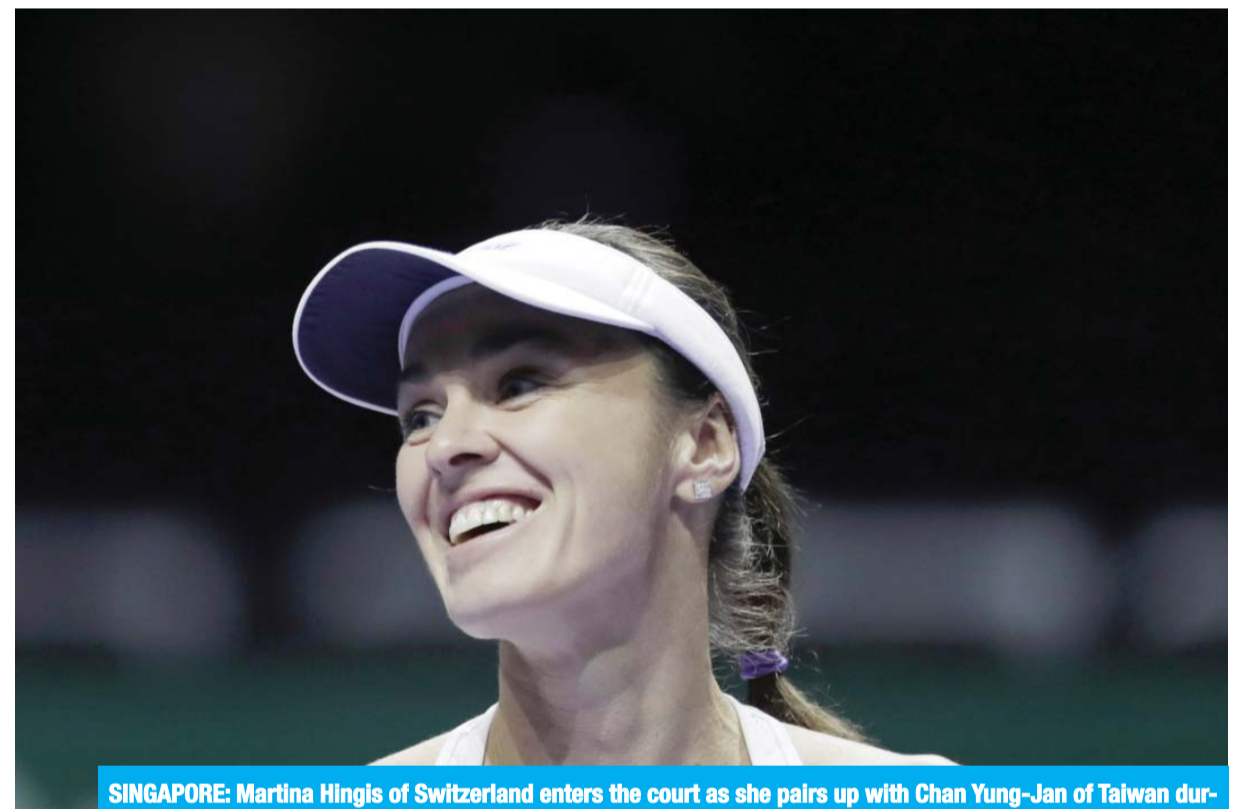
The Hungarian-Czech duo edged a high-quality opening set but were given an almighty scare when Babos tumbled to the ground at 5-5 in the second set while trailing 30-0, twisting her left ankle and requiring a lengthy medical break for treatment.

Both pairs remained strong on serve to send the contest into a tiebreak and the top seeds were beaten when Hingis sent a backhand long on the first match point to end both her and Chan's interest in the competition and her own career.

"Of course it's disappointing to finish a tournament like this. I'm sure we both wish for a better ending and, you know, winning the trophy but they were just too good today," Hingis told reporters.

"Overall we tried to really give it a great fight. We tried to come back. We had our chances, but every time, like even I feel like in the second set when I had that break point, I hit the tape and it would slow down instead of maybe being up 3-1.

"A lot of things were working against us, whether it was the lets or the calls. But we can't be too disap-



**SINGAPORE:** Martina Hingis of Switzerland enters the court as she pairs up with Chan Yung-Jan of Taiwan during their doubles semifinal match. — AP

pointed about it. We still had an awesome year. Winning nine titles, going all the way, coming here, I think we can be still very proud."

### NOT GOODBYE

Despite the defeat, Hingis will go out on at least one high after the WTA confirmed on Friday that the Swiss had secured the year-end number one ranking in women's doubles alongside Chan after the pair won nine titles in 2017, including the US Open.

"This is definitely one thing I won't miss: waking up, having to go train, like doing all of this over and over again," the Swiss added. "It's something probably I won't miss at first, definitely not, having to answer

questions in the media. I mean, this is nice when you win but maybe today is not as pleasant," she joked.

"No, you guys have been amazing over the last 20 years. I think, you know, you gave me joy and tennis gave me so much happiness. "You have defeats but it still gives you a lot. I think it's been an amazing journey and an amazing career that I can be proud of. I'll definitely miss it at some point in my life.

"But like I said, it's not really goodbye. I hope I'll still be part of the game. We already made plans. I mean, if she (Chan) needs me, I can come and be a hitting girl or whatever at some point. "I definitely will come and watch and be still part of this tour and whatever you want to call it." — Reuters

## IEAS wins a thriller against IPS in under 19 CBSE soccer tournament

**KUWAIT:** Indian English Academy School (IEAS) created history by winning the under 19 CBSE soccer tournament for the first time.

The match started with attack from Yusuf Haji, Wenge Ferrao and Ruben tested Indian Public School (IPS) keeper with a curling shot, but keeper parried it to safety. IEAS came out strong right from the kick-off and just before the whistle for the first half a throw-in taken by Gilchrist Noel Fernandes to Reuben Cherian Kadanthottu who passed it back to Gilchrist Fernandes whose cross was back headed by Wenge Dave Ferrao for a perfect finish for Ghislaine Dwayne Pereira placing the ball on the keepers right top corner totally out of reach for the keeper.

IPS team of young talent and skills, looked for the equalizer and in the 14th minute in the second half was awarded a penalty. IPS young star Ali stepped forward



**KUWAIT:** Winners IEAS team with their coach.

only to shoot over the crossbar. Ahmed Abdikarim Kerow of IEAS with some excellent defending insured IPS forwards was kept at bay. IEAS made another brilliant move and found the nets from a corner taken by

Gilchrist Fernandes directly in the goal. Stuck by reverse, IPS tried their level best to get into the game but managed to pull a goal back in the 22nd minute through Ali. The match ended 2-1 in favor of IEAS.

Sports

# Arsenal rally to mark Wenger landmark with Swansea win

## Gunners record their 10th successive home win

LONDON: Arsenal celebrated Arsene Wenger's 800th Premier League game as manager with a win but only after coming from a goal behind to beat Swansea City 2-1 at the Emirates Stadium yesterday. The Swans went ahead in the 22nd minute when Sam Clucas scored his first goal for the Welsh club since a pre-season transfer from Hull City. But Sead Kolasinac equalised six minutes after half-time and Aaron Ramsey put Arsenal ahead seven minutes after that as the Gunners recorded their 10th successive home win in the Premier League.

There were few signs early in the game of the struggle in store for Wenger's men and such was Arsenal's command in the first 20 minutes they felt free to pass the ball with all the intensity of a five-a-side training match. Their lack of urgency, however, meant that Arsenal's only significant efforts on goal in that period came when Per Mertesacker headed an Alexis Sanchez free-kick straight at former Gunners keeper Lukasz Fabianski and Hector Bellerin's shot was blocked by Federico Fernandez. Perhaps the feeling that it was all too easy was responsible for the error by Laurent Koscielny that led to Swansea taking the lead. As he stepped forward to clear a long diagonal ball from Mike van Der Hoorn, the Frenchman stumbled and then fell, leaving Swansea's on-loan Chelsea forward Tammy Abraham in possession and in space. Abraham instantly turned and slipped the ball between Bellerin and Mertesacker for Clucas to run onto and

roll his shot under Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech. The shock should have roused Arsenal, but they were still lethargic. Mesut Ozil was unable to reach a pass over the defence by Sanchez and Clucas might have had a second goal as a gap suddenly opened up in front of him before he shot just wide of Cech's right-hand post.

### Swansea had chance to double their lead



Fabianski did not have to make a serious save until the 40th minute, when Sanchez exchanged passes with Nacho Monreal and fired a fierce shot towards the far top corner. Fabianski, though, flung out his right arm to push the ball over the crossbar.

Swansea had yet another chance to double their lead when Mertesacker was caught in possession by Jordan Ayew, who advanced and saw his shot saved by Cech at the expense of a corner. Whatever veteran French boss Wenger said at half-time seemed to inspire his players and a more aggressive Arsenal were level six minutes after the break. Alexandre Lacazette forced his way into the Swansea penalty area and both he and Ozil had shots blocked. The ball ran loose to Kolasinac and although Fabianski got a hand to his shot he could not keep it out. If Arsenal expected Swansea to collapse, they were disappointed. They had the ball in the net barely a minute later only for Abraham's close-range finish to be ruled out for offside.

But in the 58th minute Arsenal were ahead. This time Kolasinac was the creator, chesting the ball down and finding Ramsey in an unusual amount of space in



LONDON: Swansea City's Polish goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski saves at the feet of Arsenal's French striker Alexandre Lacazette during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Swansea City at the Emirates Stadium in London. — AFP

the Swansea defence. The Welshman's first-time left-foot shot was not powerfully struck, but too well-placed for Fabianski to save.

Suddenly full of running, Arsenal made chances to

extend their lead. Lacazette was inches from connecting with Bellerin's cross from the right, and Bellerin's shot at full stretch from Ramsey's pass sent the ball looping over Fabianski but against the bar. — AFP

## Leaders Dortmund crash to shock defeat at Hanover

BERLIN: Bundesliga leaders Borussia Dortmund crashed to a 4-2 defeat at Hanover yesterday, collapsing at the back after the sending-off of teenage defender Dan-Axel Zagadou. Togo striker Ihlas Bebou scored twice for the hosts as Dortmund were picked off on the counter-attack, slumping to a loss that is the last thing coach Peter Bosz needed before Wednesday's Champions League home match against APOEL.

Dortmund are winless in their last three Bundesliga games and will be knocked off the top later with their two nearest rivals, Bayern Munich and RB Leipzig, meeting each other at the Allianz Arena.

Bayern go into that game behind Dortmund on goal difference, with Leipzig a point back in third. Former Ajax coach Bosz has been criticised for using a 4-1-4-1 system that leaves his side vulnerable against counter-attacks, but he found explanations elsewhere.

"It's got nothing to do with the system, it was because

Hanover defended high up the field, not Dortmund," he told Sky. "There is always space in football, but we lost because Hanover were more aggressive than us and we didn't manage to create goal chances."

Dortmund's star striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had another quiet game as Hanover became the latest team to expose a frail defence that has now conceded nine times in three league games. Hanover took the lead on 20 minutes when Brazilian striker Jonathas converted a penalty. Replays showed Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Burki stood his ground and Felix Klaus charged into him, but the penalty stood despite a review from the video assistant referee. Dortmund equalised seven minutes later when an awful clearance by Hanover's Marvin Bakalorz carried only as far as Zagadou, who smashed home.

However, they were caught on the break as Hanover regained the lead five minutes before the break. Klaus released Jonathas, whose final pass found Bebou to fire home. Dortmund levelled for a second time when Senegal defender Salif Sane's headed clearance this time found Andrey Yarmolenko, who finished.

Nevertheless, the game swung away from Dortmund when Zagadou, 18, was sent off on the hour after bringing down Jonathas, who was through on goal.

Klaus rifled home the resulting free-kick for Hanover's third goal on the hour mark and Bebou's second of the game secured the points late on as the newly-promoted side climbed to fourth.

"That's a setback for us, we were leading the league

and we have to talk about what isn't working", admitted captain Marcel Schmelzer with Dortmund having now thrown away a five-point lead.

### HOFFENHEIM SHOCKED

Hoffenheim missed the chance to go fourth by crashing to a 3-1 defeat at home to Borussia Muenchengladbach. Kerem Demirbay gave the hosts a first-half lead, but Gladbach scored three unanswered goals in the last half hour by Thorgan Hazard, Matthias Ginter and Jannik Vestergaard.

Hertha Berlin enjoyed their first win in eight games with a 2-1 home victory against Hamburg, who remain in the bottom three. Defenders Niklas Stark and Karim Rekik scored for the hosts at the Olympic Stadium before 17-year-old striker Jann-Fiete Arp came off the bench to score Hamburg's late consolation.

Meanwhile, Cologne remain bottom after losing the Rhine derby 2-1 at Bayer Leverkusen. French striker Sehrou Guirassy gave Cologne an early lead at the BayArena, but the hosts pulled level when winger Leon Bailey timed his run to perfection to fire home. Sven Bender's shot then sealed the win before Kevin Volland had a goal disallowed.

A 93rd-minute equaliser by on-loan Liverpool striker Divock Origi earned Wolfsburg a 1-1 draw at Schalke after Nabil Bentaleb had converted a first-half penalty for the Royal Blues. Mario Gomez missed a penalty for Wolfsburg. — AFP



### Matches on TV (Local Timings)

| ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE                                   |       |
|--|-------|
| Brighton & Hove Albion v Southampton<br>beIN SPORTS HD 2 | 16:30 |
| Leicester City v Everton<br>beIN SPORTS HD 2             | 19:00 |
| SPANISH LEAGUE   |       |
| Getafe v Real Sociedad<br>beIN SPORTS HD 3               | 14:00 |
| Girona v Real Madrid<br>beIN SPORTS HD 3                 | 18:15 |
| Eibar v Levante<br>beIN SPORTS HD 3                      | 20:30 |
| Malaga v Celta de Vigo<br>beIN SPORTS HD 3               | 22:45 |
| ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE                                    |       |
| Benevento v Lazio<br>beIN SPORTS HD 4                    | 14:30 |
| Napoli v Sassuolo Calcio<br>beIN SPORTS HD 4             | 17:00 |
| Udinese Calcio v Atalanta<br>beIN SPORTS HD 12 EN        | 17:00 |
| Sampdoria v Chievo Verona<br>beIN SPORTS HD 8            | 17:00 |
| Crotone v Fiorentina<br>beIN SPORTS HD 7                 | 17:00 |
| Spal v Genoa<br>beIN SPORTS                              | 17:00 |
| Torino v Cagliari Calcio<br>beIN SPORTS HD 4             | 22:45 |
| GERMAN LEAGUE  |       |
| Werder Bremen v Augsburg<br>beIN SPORTS HD 5             | 17:30 |
| Stuttgart v Freiburg<br>beIN SPORTS HD 5                 | 20:00 |
| FRENCH LEAGUE  |       |
| Olympique Lyonnais v Metz<br>beIN SPORTS HD 6            | 17:00 |
| Toulouse v Saint Etienne<br>beIN SPORTS HD 6             | 19:00 |
| LOSC Lille v Olympique Marseille<br>beIN SPORTS HD 6     | 23:00 |

## England clinch maiden U-17 World Cup

KOLKATA: Manchester City midfielder Phil Foden struck twice as England came from behind to thrash European champions Spain 5-2 and clinch their maiden Under-17 World Cup title in Kolkata, India yesterday.

After Morgan Gibbs-White nearly put England ahead early on, Spain took the lead as Barcelona's Sergio Gomez beat the offside trap to tap in on 10 minutes. He then struck his fourth of the tournament and Spain's second with a powerful shot from inside the box after the half hour mark. England hit back through Liverpool's Rhian Brewster close to half-time and levelled at 2-2 when Gibbs-White latched on to Foden's pass and finished on 58 minutes. Foden put England ahead before Marc Guehi made it 4-2. The City youth then scored his second to seal the win.

Earlier, midfielder Alan's fortuitous 55th-minute opener and substitute Yuri Alberto's late goal helped three-times champions Brazil overcome fellow beaten semi-finalists Mali 2-0 for their second bronze medal at this stage. — Reuters



KOLKATA: England's players celebrate after winning the final FIFA U-17 World Cup football match against Spain at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan stadium in Kolkata. — AFP

## Stoke hold on to secure victory at Watford

WATFORD: Stoke upset the form book to earn a first Premier League away win of the season as they battled to a 1-0 victory over high-flying Watford at Vicarage Road yesterday. Darren Fletcher scored his first goal for Stoke with a superb volley from a Xherdan Shaqiri corner to put the visitors into a 16th minute lead.

Watford created plenty of chances in the second

half, but failed to find an equaliser, with Brazilian Richarlison guilty of missing promising chances. Marco Silva's side have now lost back-to-back games in the league and slip to seventh in the standings, while Stoke climb out of the bottom three and up to 13th after an impressive sixth win in seven visits to Vicarage Road.

Watford started well in the Hertfordshire sunshine, but were caught cold as Fletcher brilliantly controlled a volley into the net from the edge of the box after Shaqiri had picked him out from a corner.

Having played so well at Chelsea last week, the home side struggled to find any rhythm in the opening 45 minutes and did not muster a single shot at goal as Stoke, who had only 34 percent of the possession, eased into a half-time lead. "We didn't play in the first half," Watford boss Silva said. "We gave them a 45

minute advantage. The goal we conceded was a gift, too." The hosts came out for the second half with more impetus, and were denied a potential equaliser by a superb Ryan Shawcross block at the near post three minutes after the interval.

Watford continued to press, and again came close to a leveller in the 56th minute, but Richarlison could only find the side-netting from a tight angle. Stoke's Joe Allen then scuffed a shot wide on the hour mark, before Richarlison again missed a glaring opportunity, heading wide at the other end.

The chances kept coming for Watford, with substitute Andre Gray the next guilty party, slicing a half-volley wide from a good position. Tempers ran high late in the game, with Hornets captain Troy Deeney grappling with midfielder Allen. — Reuters

## Liverpool get back on track with win over Huddersfield

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool put their recent Premier League frustrations behind them to breeze past Huddersfield Town 3-0 yesterday with Daniel Sturridge's goal setting up the victory. Mohamed Salah missed a first-half penalty but that was largely forgotten by the end as Jurgen Klopp's side produced a vibrant second-half display with Roberto Firmino and Georginio Wijnaldum on target after Sturridge broke the deadlock.

Their first win in four league games kept Liverpool in touch with the top four, moving them up to sixth spot with 16 points from 10 games, three behind fourth-placed Arsenal. "The manager told us not to get frustrated because they were dropping real deep," Wijnaldum said.

"Every win is a big win for us and it was important because we had to give a reaction from the match last week. "I think we did well." Liverpool's home form contrasts sharply with their away results and they have now conceded only once at Anfield compared to the 15 they have let in on their travels - the most recent setback being last week's 4-1 loss at Tottenham Hotspur.

Huddersfield are also finding it tough on their travels and rarely worried Liverpool's defence. They defended resolutely, though, and reached the interval at 0-0 thanks to Jonas Loss's save to stop Salah's spot-kick. — Reuters

**13** Rebensburg beats Worley for WCup GS win, Shiffrin 5th



**14** Martina Hingis ends career with 25 grand slam wins



**15** England clinch maiden Under-17 World Cup



## City surge on, Man Utd down Spurs

LONDON: Manchester City maintained their charge towards the Premier League title with a 3-2 win at West Bromwich Albion as Manchester United kept within five points of their neighbours with a crucial 1-0 win over fellow contenders Tottenham Hotspur.

Goals from Leroy Sane, Fernandinho and Raheem Sterling moved the leaders on to 28 points-equaling the best return after 10 matches of a Premier League season-as irresistible City took their campaign's tally of league goals to a remarkable 35.

Earlier, Jose Mourinho received the response he had demanded from his United side following their humbling defeat at Huddersfield Town the previous week as an 81st minute goal from substitute Anthony Martial preserved their perfect home record.

The win, their sixth straight victory in the league at Old Trafford without conceding a goal, moved United on to 23 points, three clear of Spurs. Arsenal marched to within a point of Tottenham with Arsene Wenger left to celebrate a successful 800th Premier League match in charge as his side

fought from one down to beat Swansea City 2-1 with second-half goals from Sead Kolasinac and Aaron Ramsey.

Liverpool's Juergen Klopp got the better of his best friend, Huddersfield boss David Wagner, in a 3-0 win at Anfield where Daniel Sturridge, Roberto Firmino and Georginio Wijnaldum scored in the second half to push the Reds to sixth on 16 points.

Watford's giddy ascent, though, was checked with a 1-0 home defeat by struggling Stoke City-Darren Fletcher hit the target in the 16th minute-that drops them to seventh on 15.

At the other end of the table, Crystal Palace escaped with an astonishing 2-2 draw with West Ham United, coming back from two down and earning a draw in the seventh minute of stoppage time through Wilfried Zaha.

Pep Guardiola's Man City continue to look unstoppable at domestic level, having opened up in brilliant fashion with Sane scoring his sixth goal in seven league games after just 10 minutes.

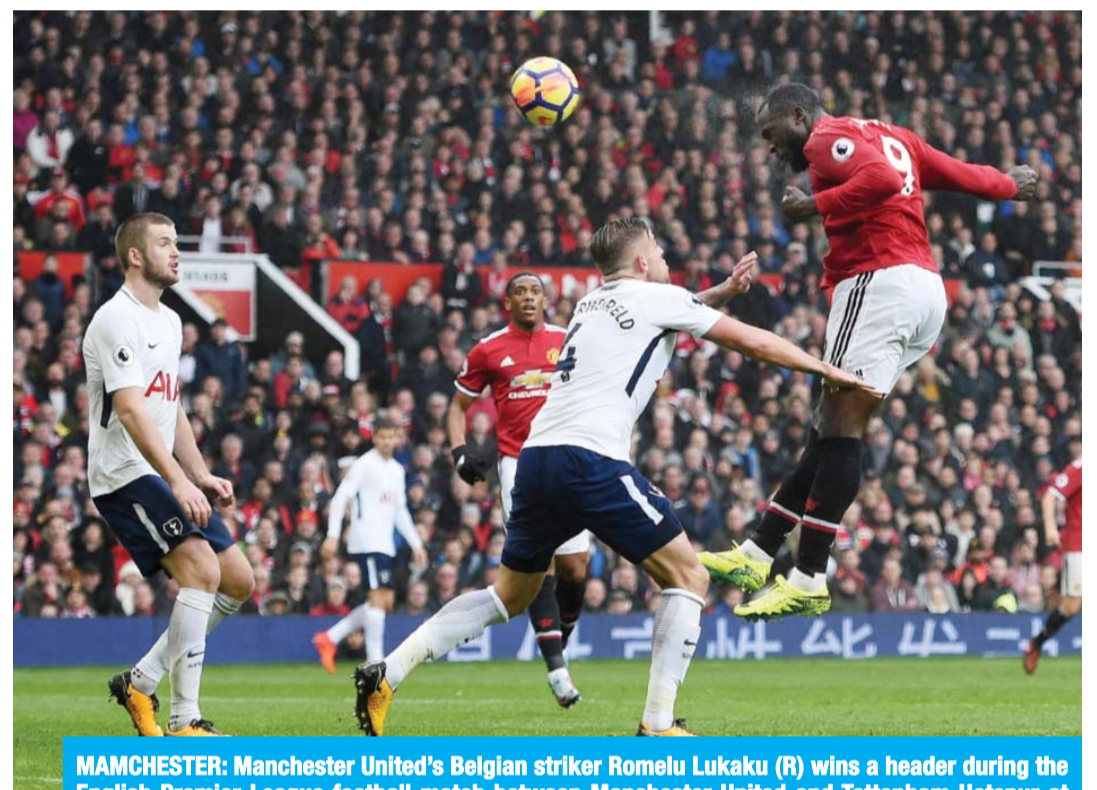
Though Jay Rodriguez equalised quickly, City were in complete control once Fernandinho's deflected effort

put them ahead after 15 minutes. Substitute Sterling scored his ninth of the season in all competitions four minutes after coming on in the second half with City's only late moment of concern en route to a 13th straight win coming when careless defending from Nicolas Otamendi let in Matty Phillips for a consolation.

City's 28 points equalled the tally accrued by Chelsea in 2005 and City themselves in 2011 — and both those sides went on to win the title. Mourinho hailed United's win in difficult windy and rainy conditions in the lunchtime fixture between the second and third-placed teams as "deserved" after they had created the lion's share of chances.

The best one had come when Romelu Lukaku headed against the foot of the post. Eventually, Martial struck 10 minutes after coming on, latching on to Lukaku's flicked header from David de Gea's goalkick.

It was a scruffy left-foot finish from the Frenchman, leaving Mourinho to smile: "Martial scores with a bad shot-but the bad shots can be the most beautiful." —Reuters



MAMCHESTER: Manchester United's Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku (R) wins a header during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England. — AFP



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# Business

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017

**18** Venezuela's PDVSA pays bond, default jitters ease

**19** EasyJet clinches parts of Air Berlin for German expansion

**21** NBK signs cooperation agreement with KFIC



## Zain Group records KD 40m net income for Q3

### Revenues reach KD 767m for first 9 months of 2017

**KUWAIT:** Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces its consolidated financial results for the nine-month and third-quarter periods ended 30 September 2017. The company ended the period serving 45.3 million customers.

For the first nine months of 2017, Zain Group generated consolidated revenues of KD 767 million (\$2.5 billion), down 7 percent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) in KD terms, while consolidated EBITDA for the period reached KD 316 million (\$1.04 billion), down 19 percent Y-o-Y, reflecting a healthy EBITDA margin of 41 percent. Consolidated net income reached KD 122 million (\$404 million), reflecting a 2 percent Y-o-Y decrease. Earnings Per Share amounted to KD 0.031 (\$0.10) for the nine-month period.

For the first nine months of 2017, foreign currency translation impact, predominantly due to the 61 percent cur-

rency devaluation in Sudan from average rate of 6.4 (SDG/USD) in the year to date to September 2016 to 16.5, cost the company \$441 million in revenue and \$76 million in net income.

Excluding this currency translation impact, Y-o-Y revenues and net income would have grown by 8 percent and 16 percent respectively for the first nine-months of 2017.

For the third quarter of 2017, Zain Group generated consolidated revenues of KD 259 million (\$860 million), down 6 percent Y-o-Y. EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 104 million (\$346 million), a decrease of 23 percent Y-o-Y, reflecting a 40 percent EBITDA margin. Net income for the period amounted to KD 40 million (\$133 million), reflecting 6 percent Y-o-Y decrease. Earnings Per Share for the quarter reached KD 0.010 (\$0.03).

For the 3rd quarter of 2017, foreign currency translation impact, predominantly due to the 63 percent currency devaluation in Sudan cost the company \$148 million in revenue and \$20 million in net income. Excluding the above-mentioned currency translation impact, Y-o-Y revenues and net income would have grown by 11 percent and 9 percent respectively for Q3, 2017.

representing 25 percent of the Group's total revenues.

2. Zain sold 425.7 million treasury shares to Omantel for KD 255.4 million (\$846.1 million) representing 9.84 percent of Zain's fully paid up and issued share capital at K\$0.600 per share

3. On October 10, 2017, Zain announced an agreement to sell and lease back its telecom towers in Kuwait for KD 50 million (\$165 million) to IHS Holding Limited, in partnership with Towershare Management Limited in a regional first

4. Quarter highlighted by notable 10 percent net income growth in Kuwait, robust customer growth of 16 percent in Iraq, healthy revenue and data growth in Saudi Arabia and Jordan, plus Sudan continuing to perform exceptionally well in local currency terms

5. Zain Group's smart city arm NXX (formerly neXgen) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Digitization Unit (NDU) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia marking NDU's first step towards harnessing open data to help accelerate the digital transformation of the Kingdom. The MOU underpins an existing partnership between the two entities to support and develop NDU's digital transformation agenda in the domains of digital services development and activation, platform innovation and most importantly data governance.

**Operational review of key markets for the nine months ended 30 September 2017**  
**KUWAIT:** Maintaining its market leader-

ship, Zain Group's flagship operation saw its customer base serve 2.5 million in a very challenging nine-month period that witnessed intense price competition. Nevertheless, revenues reached KD 249 million (\$820 million), EBITDA amounted to KD 100 million (\$329 million) and net income came in at KD 62 million (\$206 million). Specifically, for the 3rd quarter of 2017, Zain Kuwait's revenues and net income grew 6 percent and 10 percent year-on-year respectively. Data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) formed 32 percent of the operation's total revenues. Zain Kuwait remains one of the most efficient operations within the Group with a 40 percent EBITDA margin.

**IRAQ:** Despite the exceptional socio-economic circumstances coupled with the continuation of intense price competition, Zain Iraq achieved \$811 million revenues due to the impressive growth in data usage and numerous customer acquisition initiatives in the northern regions of the country. The operation's efficiency drive saw EBITDA reach \$281 million, reflecting a 35 percent EBITDA margin. Net income amounted to \$24 million for the period. Zain Iraq leads the market serving 13.7 million customers, which represented an impressive 16 percent Y-o-Y increase.

Continued on Page 19



Mohammad Al-Kharafi



Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi

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#### Key Operational Notes for Q3, 2017

1. Group data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) witnessed a 3 percent growth for the first nine months of 2017,

representing 25 percent of the Group's total revenues.



## Nine Months 2017 Results

### for Mobile Telecommunications Company - Zain

The Board of Directors of Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P. would like to announce to its shareholders that the company achieved a Net Profit of **KD 122 million (USD 404 million)** for the nine months ended 30 September 2017.

The Board would like to express its gratitude to its customers and stakeholders for their confidence and assures them of the company's commitment to excellence and profitable growth.

Board of Directors

|                          |                             |                             |                           |                    |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>45.3</b><br>MILLION   | <b>2,529</b><br>USD MILLION | <b>1,042</b><br>USD MILLION | <b>404</b><br>USD MILLION | <b>10</b><br>CENTS |
| <b>767</b><br>KD MILLION | <b>316</b><br>KD MILLION    | <b>122</b><br>KD MILLION    | <b>31</b><br>FILS         |                    |
| CUSTOMERS                | REVENUES                    | EBITDA                      | NET INCOME                | EPS                |

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Business

# Venezuela's PDVSA pays bond, default jitters ease

## PDVSA transfers \$841.88m in principal to JPMorgan accounts

CARACAS: Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA began making a major bond payment due on Friday, easing short-term worries about default but leaving the socialist government with less cash to attend to food shortages and economic depression.

Investors had fretted this week that cash-flow problems and regulatory hurdles resulting from US sanctions on the government of President Nicolas Maduro might leave the company unable to make the nearly \$1 billion payment. Venezuela's socialist policies have resulted in an economic depression, soaring inflation, and shortages of food and medicine, despite being an OPEC country with among the largest oil reserves in the world.

Bondholders have for years shrugged off Venezuela's economic implosion, insisting Maduro's willingness to pay and Venezuela's substantial offshore assets made the high-yield debt a good bet.

But sources close to the government this week said Maduro had considered not paying, and that the last-minute approval came after intense discussions among cabinet members about the potential benefits of defaulting. PDVSA "has knocked down the doomsday voices that were betting on economic meltdown and attacking the Venezuelan people, in conspiracy with the global economic oligarchy, with the aim of destabilizing and sabotaging the Bolivarian government's economic advances," PDVSA said in a statement.

PDVSA transferred \$841.88 million in principal on the 2020 bond to accounts at JPMorgan, the statement said, without mentioning the outstanding \$143 million coupon payment also due.

Late Friday Vice President Tarek El Aissami confirmed the payment, adding, "They were not able to block us." PDVSA did not immediately respond to a further request for comment. JPMorgan also declined to comment.

Clearing house Clearstream, which facilitates pay-

ment to bondholders, did not respond to a request for comment on whether it had received the money.

Two operators, requesting anonymity told Reuters the money has been sent but had not yet arrived. Several financial sources said Monday would bring clarity.

Venezuela and PDVSA bond prices rose earlier Friday following a Reuters report that the payment had been initiated. PDVSA's 2017N bond, which comes due on Thursday, was up 7.150 points to a bid price of 96.500, according to Thomson Reuters data, while Venezuela's 2022 bond was up 3.8750 points to bid 44.250.

The 2020 bond, which was issued last year as part of a refinancing effort, is backed by shares of PDVSA's Citgo US refining and marketing subsidiary.

Separately, on Friday Venezuela said it had appointed Simon Zerpa, PDVSA's chief financial officer, as the OPEC member's acting economy minister.

### Future burden

Investor concerns will now turn to the company's next looming large debt commitments. PDVSA faces a \$1.2 billion debt pay-

ment next week, while Venezuela and PDVSA have around \$10 billion in bond service next year. "At some point down the road, if it's not tomorrow it's going to be, who knows, in some months, in one year - the risk of a (default) is very high," said Mauro Roca, sovereign analyst at asset manager TCW, which has \$201.6 billion under management.

Roca added that US sanctions against Maduro, which bar banks from providing new financing to Venezuela, will make a debt restructuring impossible, further clouding the long-term panorama.

Cash-strapped Venezuela has cut food imports and sales of US dollars through official mechanisms to ensure Friday's bond payment. Partly as a result, the bolivar currency has tumbled 34 percent on the black market in the last month.



## Future burden remains a concern



CARACAS: Workers unloads bananas at a street market in Caracas, Venezuela on Friday. Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA began making a major bond payment easing short-term worries. —AP

"After today's payment of financial debt, the social debt remains unpaid, with a population dying of hunger, stricken by illnesses, and hopeless," said opposition lawmaker and economist Jose Guerra.

Opposition political parties claim the late President Hugo Chavez recklessly issued bonds during an earlier decade-long period of high oil prices but that many of the proceeds evaporated in mismanaged projects and corruption. "Bondholders shouldn't be blamed... The blame goes to those who irresponsibly indebted Venezuela," added Guerra.

### Last-minute decision?

Sanctions this year by US President Donald Trump's administration block US banks from provid-

ing new financing to Venezuela but allow them to carry out routine operations, including making bond payments for Venezuela-based entities. Since the sanctions, financial institutions have insisted on greater documentation for Venezuelan transactions.

Russia on Friday separately said it was ready to restructure \$3 billion in debt between the two countries, which included the possibility of postponing a debt repayment.

Venezuela has borrowed billions of dollars from Russia and China over the years, primarily through oil-for-loan deals that over time have crimped the country's hard currency revenue by requiring oil shipments to be used as service on those loans. —Reuters

## Trump plans to make choice for Fed next week

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said on Friday that he has someone "very specific in mind" to be the next chairman of the Federal Reserve and he will be announcing his choice next week.

"It will be a person who hopefully will do a fantastic job," Trump said in a video address he tweeted out late Friday. "I think everybody will be very impressed. But most importantly, I think at the end of eight years, you really will be impressed because things are looking good."

Trump did not give any hints about the person he has selected but various media reports Friday said that current Fed Chair Janet Yellen most likely will not be offered a second term and Trump is instead leaning toward Jay Powell, a Fed board member who up until recently was the only Republican on the Fed board.

Asked about those reports during a White House briefing, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said she could confirm that the announcement is expected next week but "beyond

that I don't have any other details to offer."

In the video remarks he tweeted out, Trump said he knew that "people are anxiously awaiting my decision as to who the next head of the Fed will be."

Yellen's four-year term ends in February. Trump earlier this week said his choice was down to "two and maybe three people." That group is believed to include Yellen, Powell and John Taylor, a Stanford University economist.

The group of finalists had originally also included former Fed board member Kevin Warsh and Gary Cohn, head of the president's National Economic Council. But the White House let it be known this week that Trump wanted to keep Cohn in his current job to help push the administration's tax cut plan through Congress.

Trump said in the video that things were looking good for the country and the US economy. Earlier in the day, the government reported that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at an annual rate of 3 percent in the July-September quarter after 3.1 percent growth in the second quarter. It was the strongest back-to-back quarters of GDP growth in three years.

"We've got a lot of jobs coming into our country. Go out and get a good one," Trump said in the video. "Wages are going up, the economy is strong. Have fun. God bless America." —AP

## Mattel slump worsens as it reports big Q3 loss

NEW YORK: Shares of slumping US toymaker Mattel tumbled Friday after it reported sharply lower third-quarter sales as the Toys "R" Us bankruptcy added to its growing list of woes.

Mattel suffered sales declines in virtually every important product line, including Barbie, the Fisher-Price educational brand and American Girl, prompting it to suspend its dividend and announce additional cost cuts.

Shares finished down 8.9 percent at \$14. The stock

has lost 52 percent since January. Mattel was also downgraded by both S&P and Moody's following the report. "Our Q3 performance was clearly disappointing, led by compression in North America driven by Toys "R" Us filing for bankruptcy, tighter retailer inventory management and challenges with certain underperforming brands," said chief executive Margo Georgiadis.

"We are taking bold steps to simplify our business and right size our cost structure in alignment with our strategy."

Georgiadis, a former Google executive, was tapped in January to turn around Mattel, whose sales had been hurt by the loss of the key Princess dolls contract to rival Hasbro, which also makes toys under the lucrative "Star Wars" franchise.

Hasbro also cited the Toys "R" Us bankruptcy earlier this week as it cut its sales growth forecast. But Hasbro still reported slightly higher third-quarter profits. —AP

## US puts anti-dumping duties on Chinese aluminum foil imports

WASHINGTON: The United States on Friday imposed fresh import duties on Chinese aluminum, accusing exporters of dumping their product on the US market at prices below cost. The move follows a Commerce Department decision in August that also imposed import duties to counteract alleged unfair Chinese subsidies in the aluminum foil industry. President Donald Trump is due to visit China as part of

an 11-day trip to Asia beginning next week. The Trump administration has aggressively pursued trade remedies in commercial relations with Beijing—investigating Chinese trade practices on intellectual property and for aluminum and steel on national security grounds.

Perceived Chinese misdeeds in commerce were a mainstay of Trump's populist campaign for the White House but since taking office he has refrained from labeling Beijing a currency manipulator. Annually, the US runs a steep trade deficit in goods with China of about \$350 billion.

In 2016, US imports of Chinese aluminum were estimated at \$389 million, according to the Commerce Department. In a statement on Friday, the Commerce Department said an investigation had reached the preliminary determination that Chinese exporters were moving product at dumping margins of between 96.8 percent and 162.2 percent. —AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

| ASIAN COUNTRIES   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Japanese Yen      | 2.664   |
| Indian Rupees     | 4.655   |
| Pakistani Rupees  | 2.876   |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 1.966   |
| Nepali Rupees     | 2.920   |
| Singapore Dollar  | 223.520 |
| Hongkong Dollar   | 38.849  |
| Bangladesh Taka   | 3.681   |
| Philippine Peso   | 5.858   |
| Thai Baht         | 9.141   |

### GCC COUNTRIES

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Saudi Riyal    | 80.091  |
| Qatari Riyal   | 83.331  |
| Omani Riyal    | 787.942 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 805.630 |
| UAE Dirham     | 82.605  |

### ARAB COUNTRIES

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Egyptian Pound - Cash     | 19.500  |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 17.090  |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000      | 1.218   |
| Tunisian Dinar            | 132.500 |
| Jordanian Dinar           | 427.830 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000    | 2.021   |
| Syrian Lira               | 0.000   |
| Morocco Dirham            | 32.672  |

### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| US Dollar Transfer | 303.200 |
|--------------------|---------|

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Euro              | 359.140 |
| Sterling Pound    | 402.040 |
| Canadian dollar   | 240.600 |
| Turkish lira      | 81.950  |
| Swiss Franc       | 307.660 |
| Australian Dollar | 235.890 |
| US Dollar Buying  | 302.000 |

### GOLD

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 20 Gram | 249.070 |
| 10 Gram | 127.450 |
| 5 Gram  | 64.570  |

### Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

| Rate for Transfer | Selling Rate |
|-------------------|--------------|
| US Dollar         | 302.500      |
| Canadian Dollar   | 242.060      |
| Sterling Pound    | 402.500      |
| Euro              | 357.870      |
| Swiss Frank       | 297.040      |
| Bahrain Dinar     | 802.860      |
| UAE Dirhams       | 82.752       |
| Qatari Riyals     | 83.572       |
| Saudi Riyals      | 81.527       |
| Jordanian Dinar   | 427.936      |
| Egyptian Pound    | 17.180       |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 1.970        |
| Indian Rupees     | 4.668        |
| Pakistani Rupees  | 2.871        |
| Bangladesh Taka   | 3.716        |
| Philippines Peso  | 5.899        |
| Cyprus pound      | 18.000       |

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Japanese Yen          | 3.695  |
| Syrian Pound          | 1.590  |
| Nepalese Rupees       | 2.928  |
| Malaysian Ringgit     | 72.590 |
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 46.275 |
| Thai Bhat             | 10.130 |
| Turkish Lira          | 83.270 |

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

| CURRENCY        | BUY      | SELL     |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Europe          |          |          |
| British Pound   | 0.391379 | 0.401379 |
| Czech Korune    | 0.005895 | 0.017895 |
| Danish Krone    | 0.043787 | 0.048787 |
| Euro            | 0.350770 | 0.359770 |
| Georgian Lari   | 0.119188 | 0.119188 |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.033765 | 0.038965 |
| Romanian Leu    | 0.077336 | 0.077336 |
| Russian ruble   | 0.005256 | 0.005256 |
| Slovakia        | 0.009044 | 0.019044 |
| Swedish Krona   | 0.032758 | 0.037758 |
| Swiss Franc     | 0.299401 | 0.310401 |

|                    |          |          |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Australasia        |          |          |
| Australian Dollar  | 0.225500 | 0.237500 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.202619 | 0.212119 |

|                 |          |          |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| America         |          |          |
| Canadian Dollar | 0.233546 | 0.242548 |
| US Dollars      | 0.299100 | 0.303520 |
| US Dollars Mint | 0.299600 | 0.303520 |

| Asia              |          |          |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Bangladesh Taka   | 0.003312 | 0.003896 |
| Chinese Yuan      | 0.044196 | 0.047695 |
| Hong Kong Dollar  | 0.036758 | 0.039508 |
| Indian Rupee      | 0.004236 | 0.004924 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000018 | 0.000024 |
| Japanese Yen      | 0.002578 | 0.002758 |
| Korean Won        | 0.000258 | 0.000273 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 0.067768 | 0.073768 |
| Nepalese Rupee    | 0.003026 | 0.003196 |
| Pakistan Rupee    | 0.002689 | 0.002979 |
| Philippine Peso   | 0.005790 | 0.006090 |
| Singapore Dollar  | 0.217075 | 0.227075 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee  | 0.001630 | 0.002210 |
| Taiwan            | 0.009889 | 0.010069 |
| Thai Baht         | 0.008788 | 0.009338 |

| Arab             |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Bahraini Dinar   | 0.797249 | 0.805749 |
| Egyptian Pound   | 0.014235 | 0.020143 |
| Iranian Riyal    | 0.000084 | 0.000085 |
| Iraqi Dinar      | 0.000207 | 0.000267 |
| Jordanian Dinar  | 0.423038 | 0.432038 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar    | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound   | 0.000151 | 0.000251 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.021989 | 0.045989 |
| Omani Riyal      | 0.781112 | 0.786792 |
| Qatar Riyal      | 0.078992 | 0.083932 |
| Saudi Riyal      | 0.079767 | 0.081067 |
| Syrian Pound     | 0.001285 | 0.001505 |
| Tunisian Dinar   | 0.118596 | 0.126596 |
| Turkish Lira     | 0.076401 | 0.086701 |
| UAE Dirhams      | 0.081125 | 0.082825 |
| Yemeni Riyal     | 0.000985 | 0.001065 |

## Business

# EasyJet clinches parts of Air Berlin for German expansion

## EasyJet to become biggest carrier in Berlin

**BERLIN:** EasyJet has strengthened its position in Germany by agreeing to buy part of Air Berlin's operations at Berlin Tegel airport, ending uncertainty over the fate of the failed airline's remaining assets. EasyJet said late on Friday it would enter into leases for up to 25 A320 aircraft, acquire take-off and landing slots, and offer jobs to staff, making the announcement shortly after Air Berlin's final flight landed at Tegel. The purchase price is 40 million euros (\$46.43 million), but this does not include any transition costs and because Air Berlin planes are leased, those will have to be funded separately.

Air Berlin said yesterday that the deal meant it had successfully closed all negotiations for its carve-up. It added sale talks with easyJet had been held since the early summer. The British carrier declined to comment on the timeline. The deal will make easyJet, which currently operates only out of Berlin Schoenefeld airport, the leading carrier in the German capital, it said.

"This will enable easyJet to operate the leading short haul network at Tegel connecting passengers to and from destinations across Germany and the rest of Europe," easyJet said in a statement.

In comparison, Lufthansa, which is taking on Air Berlin operations with about 81 aircraft, expects to invest around 1.5 billion euros in total. That includes a purchase price of 210 million euros and fleet investments of around 1 billion.

The deal with easyJet, subject to regulatory approval, could help to ease some of the worries with the Lufthansa deal, because it gives Lufthansa a competitor in the domestic German market.

Air Berlin had been the main rival for inner-Germany routes, while others like easyJet and Ryanair had focused on routes to and from Germany.

Air Berlin was founded nearly 40 years ago and carried around 30 million passengers a year. It was beloved by Germans for its flights to holiday island Mallorca and also for the chocolate hearts it gives out after each flight, but filed for administration in August after years of losses.

Thomas Cook's German airline Condor, which had also been interested in some of Air Berlin, declined to comment yesterday. The grounding of Air Berlin from Saturday means passengers in Germany could struggle to find plane tickets this winter. Lufthansa is using bigger planes meant for intercontinental routes on some short trips but says it cannot make up the gap on its own. EasyJet said it would run a reduced timetable at Tegel during the winter, but would aim for a complete summer schedule in 2018. The airline will look to recruit around 1,000 Air Berlin pilots and cabin crew, on local contracts and has also written to crew at its Hamburg base, which it is closing, to say there is a place for them in Tegel if they want. — Reuters



### Final Air Berlin flight lands Friday night



**MUNICH:** An Airbus of German airline Air Berlin, the last scheduled flight, taxis to the run way before takeoff at Franz-Josef-Strauss airport in Munich, southern Germany, heading for Berlin Tegel on Friday. — AFP

## Zain Group records KD 40m net income for Q3

Continued from Page 17

**SUDAN:** A significant 61 percent currency devaluation in Sudan affected the operation's financial results in USD terms for the first nine months of 2017. Nevertheless, in local currency (SDG) terms, the operator continues to perform remarkably well as revenues grew by 40 percent Y-o-Y to reach SDG 5.2 billion (\$315 million, down 45 percent in USD terms) for the first nine months of 2017. EBITDA increased by 30 percent to reach SDG 2 billion (\$124 million, down 49 percent in USD terms) and net income increased by 29 percent to SDG 836 million (\$51 million, down 49 percent in USD terms). Data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) accounted for 15 percent of total revenues, with an impressive annual growth rate of 63 percent. The operation saw its customer base expand by 4 percent to reach 12.9 million.

**SAUDI ARABIA:** The turnaround and cost optimization program in place at the operation, combined with investment in network upgrades and the introduction of appealing data monetization initiatives bolstered all key financial indicators for the first nine-months of 2017. The operator recorded its third consecutive quarterly net profit, which reflected in the operation reporting \$15 million net profit for the first nine-month period, compared to net losses of \$225 million for the same period in



Zain HQ building

2016. Revenues for the nine-month period were up by 9 percent, reaching \$1.5 billion, with Zain KSA also recording a significant 48 percent increase in EBITDA to reach \$514 million. The company's EBITDA margin rose to 34 percent, up from 25 percent in 2016. The introduction of the biometric identification requirement over the past year, capping number of prepaid Sims to two for each unique identity and the impact of seasonality saw the operator's total customer base shrink by 21 percent, to stand at 8.3 million customers at the end of September 2017. Impressively, the operator witnessed a 42 percent rise in data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) Y-o-Y, representing 50 percent of total revenues.

**JORDAN:** Zain Jordan grew its customer base by 1 percent Y-o-Y, serving 4.2 million customers at the end of September 2017 and maintaining its market leading position despite

intense price competition. Y-o-Y revenues increased 2 percent to reach \$371 million, with EBITDA down 2 percent to reach \$174 million, reflecting an impressive 47 percent EBITDA margin. Net income decreased 9 percent to \$72 million for the nine-month period. With the continual expansion of 4G services across the country, data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) represented 37 percent of total revenues, up by 14 percent Y-o-Y.

**BAHRAIN:** Zain Bahrain generated revenues of \$148 million for the nine-month period of 2017, up 12 percent Y-o-Y. EBITDA for the period amounted to \$44 million, down 10 percent, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 30 percent. Net income amounted to \$7 million, reflecting an 8 percent decrease. Data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) increased 29 percent Y-o-Y, representing 44 percent of overall revenues.

## Pilots flying high as airline travel increases

**PARIS:** An increase in global air traffic means pilots are in high demand and are now often in a position to choose to work for airlines offering better wages or working conditions, a situation that could crimp some low-cost airlines. The rising demand for cockpit crew is linked to a wave of retirements of baby boomers and the growth of air traffic, which the International Air Transport Association (IATA) expects to nearly double to 7.8 billion passengers in 2036.

"What is certain is that there is a shortage" of cockpit personnel and they are now "going to the airline which offers the best conditions" said Marc Houalla, who was head of France's national civil aviation institute (ENAC) until mid-October.

The crisis has already been felt at Irish low-cost airline Ryanair, which was forced to cancel 20,000 flights between September and March as it found itself without sufficient pilots due to scheduling issues and a hemorrhaging of cockpit staff seeking better labor conditions elsewhere.

Currently "all airlines are hiring and in particular traditional airlines ... and as these firms offer better work conditions than those at Ryanair, so when pilots

have the choice they'll go where there is the better offer," said Christophe Tharot, head of the French airline pilots' union SNPL.

So far this year, low-cost Norwegian has said it has recruited 160 pilots who have left Ryanair, a quarter of the more than 600 it plans to hire in 2017. The shifting of the winds in the labor market began to be felt two or three years ago when US airlines sought to lure away pilots, including from Gulf-based airlines, said one pilot on condition of anonymity.

The captain left Ryanair for Air France less than a year ago after having failed to get a job with a Gulf airline.

"Today they are calling me to reconsider," he said.

### 'Insane' salaries in China

Meanwhile Chinese airlines are offering "salaries that are a bit insane", he added. China is expected to dethrone the United States as the world's biggest air travel market in 2022, according to the IATA "I get emails telling me 'We've improved our conditions, we're paying more than 300,000" for a captain, he added. He preferred to join Air France- even though he said it paid 1,500 euros per month less- because of the work-life balance.

The shortage of pilots has reached the point where they have lured away instructors at pilot schools like Enac, said Houalla. Even Air France, an airline that had a hiring freeze for seven years as it struggled to reduce its costs to face the onslaught from low-cost airlines, has started hiring again. — AFP

## Catalonia, a Spanish economic heavyweight

**MADRID:** The escalating crisis over Catalonia's declaration of independence from Spain has raised economic fears for one of the country's richest regions. Here are some key facts about money and business in Catalonia—a powerhouse of the Spanish economy.

### A rich region

Catalonia rivals Madrid as the richest region in the country. It contributed 19 percent of Spain's GDP in 2016. It has the fourth highest GDP per capita of Spain's 17 regions. Unemployment is below the national average at 13.2 percent in the second quarter of 2017. Spain's economy ministry says that if Catalonia broke away its GDP would fall by a quarter and unemployment would double. Separatists say Catalonia would be fiscally better off if it no longer had to pay taxes to Madrid.

### Top exporter

Catalonia is by far Spain's top exporting region: it accounted for a quarter of the country's exports last year. It attracted about 14 percent of Spain's foreign investment in 2015,



**PAMPLONA:** A man takes a Spanish newspaper which announce the breaking news in their front page the independence of the Catalonia region reading, in Pamplona, northern Spain yesterday. — AP

second only to Madrid. It has big food, chemical and logistics sectors. With Nissan and Seat (Volkswagen) factories, it was Spain's second-biggest car producer in 2016. But over 800 companies have shifted their legal headquarters out of Catalonia because of the crisis, including Spain's third-largest bank CaixaBank.

### Cutting edge of science

Since the 1990s Catalonia has invested heavily in research, particularly biosciences such as genetics, neurosciences and cell biology. It has cutting-edge hospitals and research centers, including a particle accelerator. It says it is number one in Europe for pharmaceutical companies per

capita. Of the top five Spanish universities in the annual ranking compiled by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, three are Catalan.

### Tourist magnet

With its capital Barcelona and Costa Brava beaches, Catalonia attracts more foreign tourists than any other Spanish region. More than 18 million visitors came last year—a quarter of all Spain's foreign tourists.

Tourist activity in Catalonia fell 15 percent in the first two weeks of October because of the independence crisis, industry lobby group Exceltur said. Hotel reservations through the end of the year are down by around 20 percent, it added. — AFP

## Saudi mega-city: Prince Salman's desert dream

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia's planned \$500 billion mega-city is an oasis of stunning cliffs, sandy beaches and high-tech projects powered by wind and solar energy where robots outnumber humans and a cosmopolitan lifestyle offers sports, concerts and fine dining.

That vision showcased in a promotional video at an international investment conference in Riyadh this week bears little resemblance to the kingdom's present where an oil "addiction" has created dependency on state handouts and a puritanical clergy imposes ultra-conservative mores.

It is the latest dream of 32-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who rose from relative obscurity two years ago to the top echelons of power, becoming heir-apparent in June. Ambitious and energetic, the modernizing prince is driven by regret that his kingdom, the largest Arab economy and the world's top oil exporter, has fallen behind smaller neighbors.

Early on, he laid out a plan to shake Saudi Arabia out of its slumber after decades of gerontocratic rule. But his aspirations are a tall order in a country where the royal family rules in a pact with austere and powerful Wahhabi clerics wary of modernization. His latest plan to build the 26,500 square km (10,000 square mile) business zone called NEOM—getting on for the size of Belgium—captures both the scale of his ambitions and the worries surrounding them.

Some executives at the conference—dubbed "Davos in the desert"—remained skeptical about Riyadh's ability to execute its grand design given its primitive legal system and sluggish bureaucracy.

The young prince acknowledges the difficulties but has pledged to push ahead. "This is a challenge. The dream is easy but making it come true is very difficult," he said.

### Double-edged sword

He described the Saudi youth he is counting on to achieve his vision as "a double-edged sword". "If they work and go the right way, with all their force they will create another country, something completely different ... and if they go the wrong direction it will be the destruction of this country," he said.

Under his Vision 2030, Prince Mohammed plans to float a stake in oil giant Saudi Aramco and privatize other state assets to create the world's largest sovereign wealth fund to invest in infrastructure and industrial projects. Hit by low oil prices, Riyadh has been cutting spending and trying to raise fresh revenues as it grapples with its budget deficit of \$98 billion in 2015. It has already dipped into recession. Future reforms are expected to cut subsidies, raise taxes, overhaul an outdated education system, trim the public sector and give women a bigger role. That challenges the religious conservatives who have posed the greatest threat to Al Saud rule in the century since it founded the modern kingdom.

The clergy has become more careful about publicly criticizing the ruling family. Some 30 clerics, intellectuals and activists were locked up last month in what rights groups described as a "crackdown on dissent". The official council of senior religious scholars praised the crown prince's NEOM plan and his comments on moderate Islam in a tweet this week.

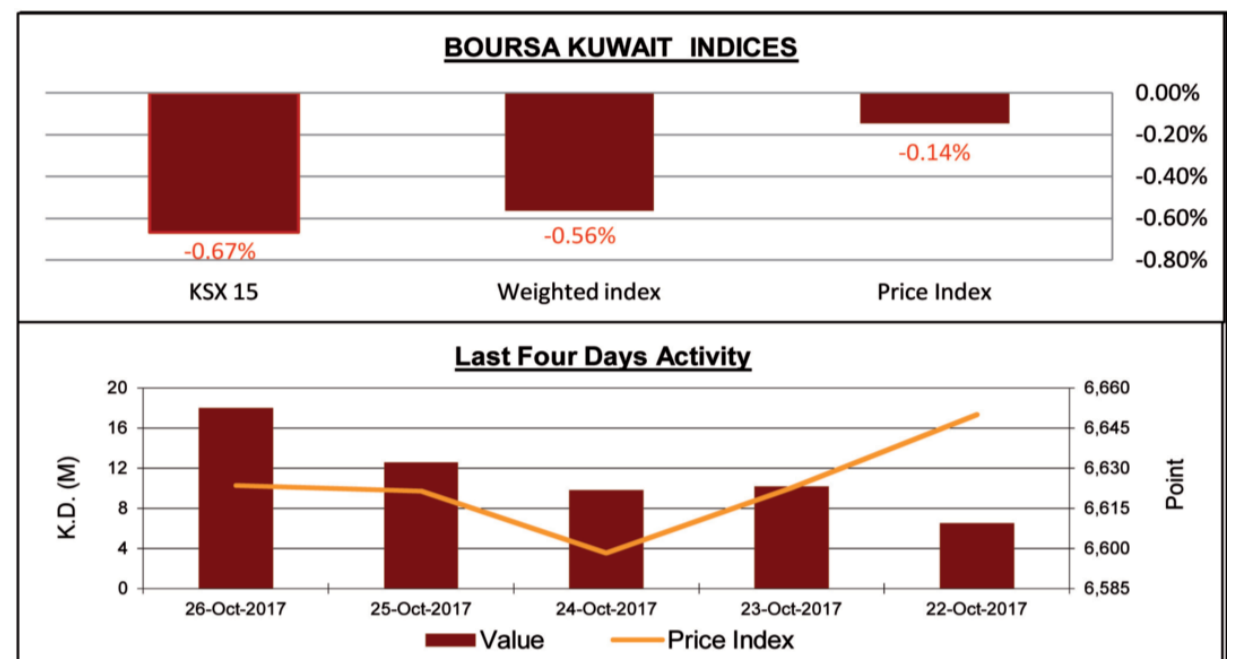
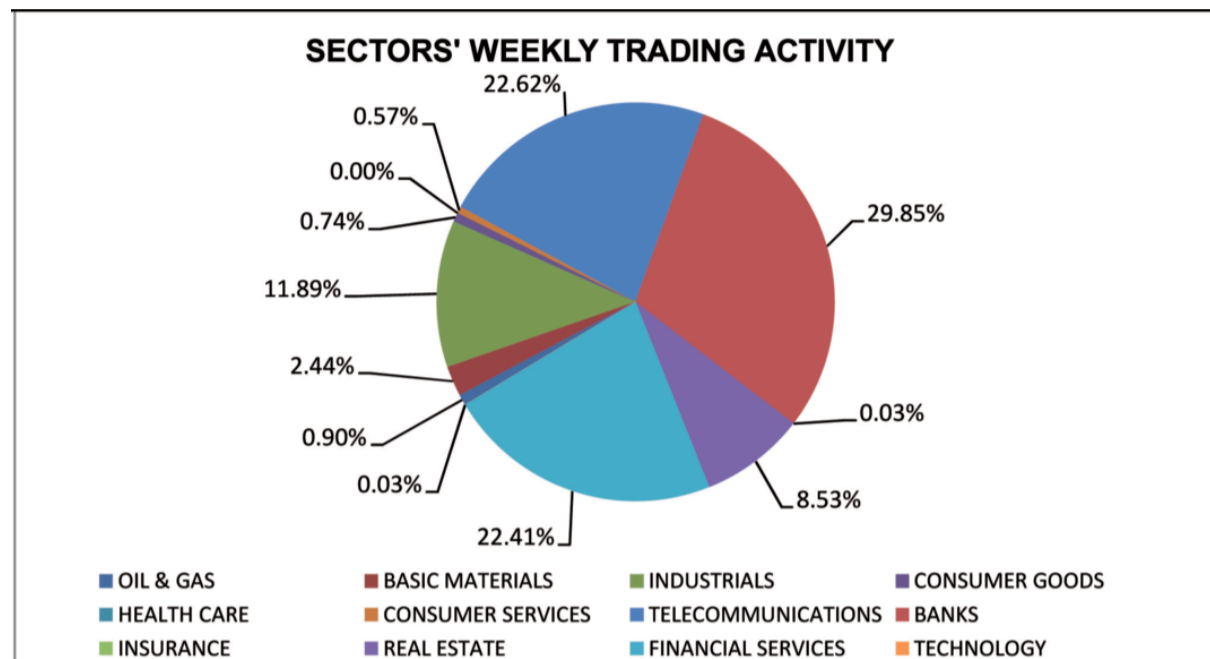
Whether MBS, as the prince is known, will achieve his modernizing vision, which relies on the private sector driving growth and providing the state with new revenue, was the subject of animated debate in conference halls. "The project is certainly a novel idea and one with a lot of potential but a lot of details still require clarification," said Raza Agha, a chief economist at VTB Capital. "Beyond the challenges of funding and building a project of this scale, the seemingly ad hoc nature of this, and other, announcements only serves to add to Saudi policy unpredictability," he said. Steffen Hertog, a leading scholar on Saudi Arabia, told Reuters the project is meant to draw on matching private investments "so if these for some reason are not forthcoming, the fiscal risks to the public purse should be limited." —Reuters

## Business

Bayan weekly market report

# Boursa Kuwait stocks edge lower amid selling pressure

## Three indices suffer losses on profit-booking



| Sector             | Volume      | To Market % | Value      | To Market % |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| OIL & GAS          | 13,291,401  | 4.00%       | 513,999    | 0.90%       |
| BASIC MATERIALS    | 2,671,868   | 0.80%       | 1,392,199  | 2.44%       |
| INDUSTRIALS        | 22,236,899  | 6.69%       | 6,786,225  | 11.89%      |
| CONSUMER GOODS     | 2,683,957   | 0.81%       | 423,520    | 0.74%       |
| HEALTH CARE        | 0           | 0.00%       | 0          | 0.0000%     |
| CONSUMER SERVICES  | 4,598,682   | 1.38%       | 324,572    | 0.57%       |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS | 30,120,826  | 9.06%       | 12,908,635 | 22.62%      |
| BANKS              | 47,000,431  | 14.13%      | 17,036,799 | 29.85%      |
| INSURANCE          | 171,064     | 0.05%       | 18,050     | 0.03%       |
| REAL ESTATE        | 95,152,826  | 28.61%      | 4,866,545  | 8.53%       |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | 114,514,249 | 34.43%      | 12,787,468 | 22.41%      |
| TECHNOLOGY         | 143,900     | 0.04%       | 14,683     | 0.03%       |

| Sector             | Last Week Closing | Previous Week Closing | Weekly Ch. % | Annual Ch. % |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| OIL & GAS          | 1,031.60          | 1,034.77              | -0.31%       | 32.14%       |
| BASIC MATERIALS    | 1,289.13          | 1,287.64              | 0.12%        | 28.30%       |
| INDUSTRIALS        | 1,798.73          | 1,780.33              | 1.03%        | 33.83%       |
| CONSUMER GOODS     | 978.36            | 1,016.84              | -3.78%       | -13.04%      |
| HEALTH CARE        | 1,510.51          | 1,510.51              | 0.00%        | 21.38%       |
| CONSUMER SERVICES  | 932.42            | 923.83                | 0.93%        | 0.85%        |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS | 585.39            | 596.09                | -1.80%       | -7.98%       |
| BANKS              | 952.72            | 961.88                | -0.95%       | 13.80%       |
| INSURANCE          | 1,111.26          | 1,103.29              | 0.72%        | 11.76%       |
| REAL ESTATE        | 948.52            | 955.03                | -0.68%       | 9.00%        |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | 679.92            | 685.75                | -0.85%       | 13.88%       |
| TECHNOLOGY         | 563.59            | 541.08                | 4.16%        | -7.17%       |

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 6,623.49 points, down by 0.14 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.56 percent after closing at 429.09 points, whereas the KXS-15 Index closed at 998.18 points down by 0.67 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 18.86 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 11.41 million, whereas trading volume average was 66.52 million shares, recording a decrease of 15.66 percent.

The Boursa continued its negative performance for the second consecutive week, and ended the last week's trading with different losses to its three indices, in light of the selling pressures and the profit collection operations that included many listed stocks headed by the leading ones. Such performance came amid a noticeable decrease in the trading levels, especially the cash liquidity that decreased rapidly and reached in one session of the week its lowest level in approximately four months. By the end of the week, the daily average for the trading value witnessed a drop by 18.86 percent to reach around KD 11.41 million, while the average trading volume declined by 15.66 percent to reach around KD 66.52 million.

In addition, Boursa Kuwait lost during the last week around KD 160 million of its market capitalization, as it reached by the end of the week KD 28.66 billion, down by 0.55 percent from its level in a week earlier, where it was KD 28.82 billion. Also, the market cap gains since the beginning of the current year contracted to reach 12.82 percent compared to its value at end of 2016, where it reached then KD 25.41 billion. (Note: The market cap of the listed companies in the primary market is calculated based on the average number of outstanding shares as per the latest available official financial data).

As far as the daily trading activity, the Boursa Kuwait initiated the first trading session of last week with mixed closing to its

three indices, whereas the Price Index recorded a limited growth as a result to the random purchasing operations executed on some small-cap stocks, while the Weighted and KXS-15 indices could not elevate by the end of the session in light of the profit collection operations that targeted some leading and operational stocks especially in the Consumer Goods sector. The second session witnessed a drop in all the market indicators affected by the losses recorded by many listed stocks of both leading and small-cap ones, which came despite the noticeable increase in the trading activity by the end of the session, where the value grew by 55.99 percent and the volume increased by 8.16 percent.

The Boursa continued recording grouped losses for its three indices in the mid-week session, where the Price Index continued its downward slope as a result to the selling operations that targeted a number of small-cap stocks, while the selling operations on the leading stocks continued in pushing the market weighted indicators to the red zone for the third consecutive session. On Wednesday's session, the market returned to fluctuate once again, whereas the Price Index was able to realize gains supported by the return of the purchasing operations on some small-cap stocks, while the Weighted and KXS-15 indices remained in the red zone with continuing control of the selling trend over the leading stocks' performance. Moreover, the Boursa was able on Thursday's session to break the declines series and its three indices were able to return to the green zone, supported by the return of the active speculations that concentrated on a number of small-cap stocks, in addition to the collection operations witnessed by some leading stocks.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 15.23 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 12.89 percent, and the KXS-15 recorded 12.79 percent growth.

### Sectors' indices

Six of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, five recorded increases, whereas the Health Care sector's index closed with no change from the previous week. The Consumer Goods sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 3.78 percent to end the week's activity at 978.36 points. The Telecommunications sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 1.80 percent, closing at 585.39 points, followed by the Banks sector, as its index closed at 952.72 points at a loss of 0.95 percent. The Oil & Gas sector was the least declining as its index closed at 1,031.60 points with a 0.31 percent decrease.

On the other hand, the highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 4.16 percent growth rate as its index closed at 563.59 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Industrial sector's index closed at 1,798.73 points recording 1.03 percent increase. The Consumer Services sector came in third as its index achieved 0.93 percent growth, ending the week at 932.42 points. The Basic Materials sector was the least growing as its index closed at 1,289.13 points with a 0.12 percent increase.

### Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 114.51 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 34.43 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 28.61 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 95.15 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value: with a turnover of around KD 17.04 million or 29.85 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Telecommunications sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 12.91 million representing 22.62 percent of the total market trading value. —Prepared by Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.

## Tech giants lead rally as stocks near records; Amazon surges

NEW YORK: Some of the biggest companies in the world had their best day in years Friday as Microsoft and Alphabet soared following strong third-quarter reports, as did online retail giant Amazon. US stocks set more records as their winning streak extended to a seventh week.

Intel made its biggest gains in three years, while Microsoft had its biggest jump in two years and Alphabet, Google's parent company, made its largest move in more than a year after each company's results were better than Wall Street expected. Amazon jumped 13 percent, its biggest move in two and a half years, after it got a big boost from its latest "Prime Day" promotion

and the purchase of the Whole Foods grocery store chain. "The transition to cloud computing really played a role in all of those tech results to some extent," said Brad Sorensen, the director of market and sector analysis for the Schwab Center for Financial Research. Technology companies get a lot of their profits outside the US compared to other industries, so the improving global economy is helping them more.

Other stocks were mixed: retailers fell after J.C. Penney cut its annual forecasts. Drugstores, drugmakers, health care suppliers and pharmaceutical distributors and retailers fell.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 20.67 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,581.07. The Dow Jones industrial average made a comparatively modest gain of 33.33 points, or 0.1 percent, to 23,434.19 as drugmaker Merck and oil company Chevron skidded after their third-quarter reports. The Nasdaq composite made its biggest gain since November as it soared 144.49 points, or 2.2 percent, to 6,701.26. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 10.86 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,508.32. —AP



SAN FRANCISCO: This file photo taken on June 14, 2015 shows a sign on the exterior of a CVS store in San Francisco. Shares of CVS Health tumbled on Friday with other drugstore chains following a report it could acquire insurer Aetna to fortify itself against a possible Amazon entry into the sector. —AFP

Business

# NBK signs cooperation agreement with KFIC

## First of its kind banking solutions in Kuwait, Gulf

**KUWAIT:** As part of its strategy to provide the best banking services to its customers by partnering with leading companies in Kuwait, the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) recently signed a cooperation agreement with Kuwait Finance and Investment Company (KFIC) whereby NBK will issue a prepaid card to customers who undertake an installments or consumer loan from KFIC.

Salah Al-Fulajji, CEO Kuwait at National Bank of Kuwait, said: "Through this new agreement, the loan proceeds (installments or consumer) undertaken by the customer from KFIC will be deposited in the prepaid card issued by our bank and delivered to the customer (free card delivery)."

Al-Fulajji added that the prepaid card can be used both inside and outside of Kuwait, as well as online shopping websites, noting that the limit that can be deposited in the card reaches up to KD 20,000. He explained that the prepaid card attains the needs of customers who are looking for easy banking solutions that ensures safe transactions and provide high levels of protection locally, internationally & online.

Al-Fulajji praised the cooperation between NBK and KFIC in providing the first of its kind banking solution in Kuwait and the Gulf region. He added that the Bank constantly seeks to partner with leading institutions in

its sector to offer enhanced banking services that exceed customer expectations.

On his part, Tareq Al-Bahar, CEO KFIC, said: "The card is the latest addition to the KFIC's financial services division (Tamwilia) Through which, we offer our customers a smart choice in managing their spending and payments in an easy and secure way."

Al-Bahar added that the cooperation between KFIC and NBK aims to enhance customer experience by providing innovative and advanced solutions in the field of banking services. The step comes as part of

KFIC's focus on raising its customer's awareness with the latest banking solutions available to increase the level of security and customer's satisfaction. It is worth mentioning that NBK is constantly improving the level of services and solutions provided to customers by launching innovative solutions that respond to the needs of customers and follow

the pace of advancement in the banking sector. NBK's aim is to provide flexible solutions that matches customers divers lifestyles and requirements, reflecting its ability to innovate and lead at the local and regional levels.

The NBK prepaid card offers customers a full range of services that cater their needs and convenience. The Bank provides its services with ease through its



**KUWAIT:** Salah Al-Fulajji, CEO Kuwait at National Bank of Kuwait (right) and Tareq Al-Bahar, CEO KFIC during the signing ceremony.



**Innovative, advanced solutions**

branches located in Kuwait, as well as around the world in London, New York, France, UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other countries, where customers can use NBK's services through any of its branches inside or outside the State of Kuwait or by calling the customer service center available around the clock.

NBK's prepaid cards are the most convenient way to pay for purchases. For more information, please

contact NBK's customer service center or visit nbk.com.

The Kuwait Finance and Investment Company (KFIC) provides innovative products and constantly in quest of new services that meet the needs of customers, KFIC values its partnership with NBK as a leading bank in Kuwait and the region, noting that the relationship with NBK is a privilege for both the company and its customers.

## KFH takes part in ArabNet conference

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the 2nd edition of ArabNet Kuwait held under the patronage of Khaled Al-Roudan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs. The conference is one of the biggest and most targeted to tech startups. It brings together top investors, and other potential partners working in the same industry in addition to entrepreneurs and financial experts. KFH participation comes as part of the bank's keenness to be present at forums and events concerned with the latest development in the digital world to be utilized in the financial industry and customer service.

Group General Manager Retail Banking at KFH, Fadi Chalouhi, stressed on the sidelines of a discussion panel themed "FinTech- Innovation and New Trends", the importance of keeping abreast of the latest technological developments in the financial industry, while adhering to the regulations and security standards. Digitalization can't replace banks, yet plays a key role in banking transactions and payment solutions. "Evolutions with FinTech and FinTech firms becoming increasingly important. Now we are living in a digitalized world. Technology is in our hands. We should utilize it for the best interest of our customers and operations," added Chalouhi.

He indicated that KFH increased its investment in technology, and launched unprecedented e-Services such as "KFH Wallet" where KFH is the first bank in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region to launch a mobile wallet powered by the MasterCard Digital Enablement Service (MDES), a revolutionary platform that helps transform any connected device into a commerce device to conveniently



**Fadi Chalouhi speaking during the panel discussion**



**Panelists**

make and receive payments. By replacing card numbers with a digital token unique to the mobile device, MDES creates EMV-like security for every transaction, giving cardholders peace of mind wherever they tap for payments.

KFH launched a novel approach of banking services: XTM that allows customers to conduct their transactions and perform many banking services round the clock in a very modern way using advanced tools through visual and audio communication options.

KFH, in association with Visa, is the first bank in Kuwait to launch Visa Checkout (VCO), a service, which enables quick, safe and secure online payment. The bank improved the competency of its ATMs, and launched a state-of-the-art website: kfh.com.

KFH won "Best Consumer Digital Bank in the Middle East 2017" Award from Global Finance Magazine in

recognition of its strategy for attracting and servicing digital customers, success in getting clients to use digital offerings, growth of digital customers, breadth of product offerings, evidence of tangible benefits gained from digital initiatives, and web/mobile site design and functionality.

KFH strategy focuses on offering the banking services round the clock to customers. KFH will continuously improve its services and keep abreast of the latest banking technology in order to meet the aspiration of its customers while maintaining its pioneering position as a world leading Islamic financial institution.

It is worth noting that ArabNet Kuwait focused on the Kuwaiti and GCC market. The conference offers a platform for stakeholders to discuss trends and developments across Adtech, Investment & Innovation, and Digital Commerce, bringing together over 70 speakers and 600 attendees.

## United launches longest flight to or from US

**LOS ANGELES:** United Airlines on Friday was set to launch the longest non-stop flight to or from the United States, an 8,700-mile (14,001-kilometer) journey connecting Los Angeles and Singapore. The nearly 18-hour flight will depart Los Angeles at 9:25 pm local time and will land on Sunday in Singapore at 6:20 am local time.

United officials said the daily service will be the longest non-stop flight from the US to anywhere in the world. Previously, the record was held by Qantas, which operates an 8,576-mile flight between Dallas and Sydney, as well as United's San Francisco-Singapore route (8,446 miles) launched last year. —AP

## VIVA wins 2017 Speedtest award

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, has been recognized as "Speedtest Award Winner 2017 - Kuwait's Fastest Mobile Network", based on Ookla's analysis of Speedtest Intelligence data in 2017, in Kuwait.

Eng. Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran, VIVA's CEO received the award from Mr. Alan Kerrigan, Ookla Director, at VIVA's Headquarters in presence of both organizations' executives. Al-Badran commented: "Reaping such privilege proves our exceptional performance and the high quality standards our professionals are providing to our customers. We endeavor at VIVA to foster our leadership in the telecom market with our innovative products, services and network that meet our customers' aspirations."

The Speedtest Award for top providers in speed is determined using a Speed Score that incorporates a measure of each provider's download and upload speed to rank network speed performance.

Speedtest by Ookla is the definitive way to measure your internet performance. With billions of active users to date, Speedtest is the dominant global leader in internet performance testing and metrics.

Ookla's mission is to help build a better and faster internet. The proven technology behind Speedtest is purpose-built for accurate and unbiased internet performance testing, which empowers people all over the world to gauge and troubleshoot the speed of their internet connections.



## Flydubai expands its footprint in Moscow



**KUWAIT:** Dubai-based flydubai yesterday announced the start of its new daily flights to Sheremetyevo International Airport (SVO) from 29 November. This will increase the airline's frequency to the Russian capital to double daily with the existing service to Vnukovo International Airport (VKO).

Flydubai first started operating to Moscow in 2014 and has grown its network in Russia to 11 unique points. Makhachkala, Ufa and Voronezh being the latest additions with operations commencing in October 2017. Along with these newest points on flydubai's network the airline operates direct flights to Kazan, Krasnodar, Mineralnye Vody, Moscow (VKO), Rostov-on-Don, Samara and Yekaterinburg.

Commenting on the launch, Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer of flydubai, said: "We are excited to be offering our passengers more options to access two different points of the Russian capital. The launch of our new daily flights to Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport is based on the increase in demand for more affordable and reli-

able direct links to the UAE and beyond."

The airline, which recorded a 45 percent growth in passenger numbers to Russia in the first half of 2017 compared to the same period in 2016 and is the first carrier to operate direct flights to Sheremetyevo International Airport from the UAE. The airport is one of the three airports serving the city of Moscow, along with Domodedovo International Airport and Vnukovo International Airport, and is one of the largest airports in Russia.

Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President Commercial (UAE, EU, ME, CIS) for flydubai, said: "Russia continues to be a very important market for flydubai. We have been committed to opening up underserved markets and adding frequency based on demand across our network. Our commitment is demonstrated by the increase of our operations to 11 points and 47 weekly flights to the Russian market. We are also looking forward to increasing our frequency to 52 weekly flights from mid-December which provide our passenger with more convenient tim-

ings and options for travel to and from Dubai."

Flydubai operates flights to more than 95 destinations in 44 countries offering passengers from Russia greater opportunity to connect onwards on the flydubai network to popular routes like Male (Maldives), Colombo (Sri Lanka) and Zanzibar (Tanzania) via Dubai's aviation hub. Business Class and WiFi are available on flydubai's flights to Russia.

Early this year, the UAE Cabinet granted citizens of the Russian Federation entry visa on arrival valid for 30 days for the first time, renewable one time only for another 30 days, which has contributed to the increase in passenger numbers from Russia as per Dubai Airports reports.

### Flight details

Flights between Dubai (DXB) and Sheremetyevo (SVO) will start on 29 November 2017 with flights on sale from 25 October. flydubai's FZ 917/918 will operate daily between Dubai International, Terminal 2 and Sheremetyevo International Airport.

## Technology

# US museum debuts first 3-D holograms of Holocaust survivors

## Exhibit uses voice-recognition to let visitors ask questions



ILLINOIS: A photo with Martin Luther King Jr. is displayed at the Take A Stand Center at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, Illinois. — AFP photos



ILLINOIS: Holocaust survivors Samuel R Harris, left, and Aaron Elster speak to reporters.



ILLINOIS: Students raise their hand as they direct questions to Holocaust survivor Adina Sella as she is displayed on a three-dimensional hologram.

CHICAGO: Seated onstage at a museum near Chicago, Adina Sella talks about her life as a Holocaust survivor. A group of young school kids is entranced—all the more so because Sella is not actually there. Her likeness is being beamed in the form of an interactive and moving hologram, part of a first-of-its-kind exhibition debuting this weekend at the Illinois Holocaust Museum, which aims to preserve accounts of a fast-disappearing generation. “She has their undivided attention,” teacher Samantha O’Neill of Chicago’s Northside Catholic Academy said. “It really does look like she is sitting on the stage in front of you.”

The exhibit uses voice-recognition technology and machine learning to let visitors ask questions about survivors’ World War II ordeals and hear answers that grow more relevant with time, as the technology learns. Thirteen Holocaust survivors, most living in the United States, but also from Canada, Israel and Britain, were recorded for the exhibit. They answered thousands of questions, each sitting for about a week of high-definition video recording. “It prepares us for the day when our survivors will not be here,” the museum’s chief executive Susan Abrams said.

The Nazis murdered some six million Jews, and millions of other people, in the Holocaust. As survivors age, organizations are grappling with the dilemma of how to preserve their stories. Famed movie director Steven Spielberg in 1994 established a foundation that video recorded 55,000 testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses. His organization eventually became the Shoah Foundation, a part of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. And it is that group that teamed up with the Illinois museum to create the holograms.

The project took nearly three years. Survivors were seated in the middle of a half dome studio filled with high-definition cameras and lights to capture them from multiple angles. The finished product makes its world premiere Sunday, and offers a real-time conversation with the likeness of a survivor. Early tests of the \$5 million exhibit have been encouraging, Abrams said. “Audiences feel even more comfortable asking their questions to the hologram, because they’re not worried that they’re going to hurt somebody’s feelings or make them upset. And so, this has really been a powerful tool,” she said.

In the museum’s auditorium before Sunday’s debut, dozens of elementary school children listened as Sella sat onstage in a red chair. The occasional sputter of her projected image was a reminder that she was not really there.

“How old are you now?” one child asked. A museum facilitator repeated the question into a microphone, and the technology powering the hologram offered a corresponding answer, recorded in such a way that it would remain relevant forever. “I was born December 1st, 1935, and so please figure out,” Sella answered with a heavy accent. The children quickly did the math and realized she was 81.

The museum, as with other institutions dedicated to the Holocaust, still holds regular in-person talks with survivors—a group known as its “Speakers’ Bureau.” One of the leaders of that group is Aaron Elster, who also was one of the first to sit through the hologram recording process.

“Most of us are concerned that within a short period of

### Realistic interaction

time when we’re gone, what happens,” Elster said. Would survivors become a historical footnote, “or are we still alive, in essence, to tell people what happened?” “We feel it’s really important. We want our families to be remembered,” he added.

The museum plans to eventually license the hologram project to other institutions, so they can also create exhibitions.

“We want this to be experienced globally,” Abrams said. The institution emphasized that the holograms are merely a part of its exhibition entitled “Take a Stand Center.” Geared toward school children, there are also touchscreen panels featuring historical and contemporary inspirational figures, among them Nelson Mandela of South Africa and teen activist Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan. —AFP

### ‘Experienced globally’

“She has their undivided attention”

## ‘Assassin’s Creed’ is back, this time in ancient Egypt

SAN FRANCISCO: Video game titan Ubisoft on Friday released a new installment of “Assassin’s Creed,” seeking to reignite passion for the game after a year off to freshen its top franchise. Breaking from its pattern of annually releasing sequels to “Assassin’s Creed,” which has sold more than 100 million copies since the first version debuted in a decade ago, Ubisoft took an extra year to craft “Assassin’s Creed: Origins.” The new installment is set in Egypt at a time when Cleopatra is ascending to the throne, and reveals how the brotherhood of assassins began.

“From the beginning, the ‘Assassin’s Creed’ franchise has always explored pivotal moments in history, from the Third Crusade to the

Italian Renaissance, and this year ancient Egypt,” said “Origins” creative director Jean Guesdon. Work on the game began four years ago, with the team setting out to provide a fresh, new experience to players in a franchise showing signs of waning enthusiasm given its perennial release schedule. “We really wanted to rework the major systems,” Origins producer Julien Laferriere said while providing AFP an early look at the game at the E3 video game trade show earlier this year. “We feel we have a meaty, very modern game.”

Pyramids and crocodiles The game’s fighting system was redesigned, and imbued with artificial intelligence making enemies more wily and giving characters virtual lives

of their own complete with responsibilities such as farms to tend and families to feed. In keeping with its style, Ubisoft made animals part of the action so tending to laundry at a river could lead to being attacked by a crocodile. “We wanted to be as authentic as we could,” Laferriere said of the game. “The world feels alive, and you can explore it at your own pace.”

Along with visiting pyramids and the Sphinx, players were promised “a front row seat” to the formation of the brotherhood of assassins. It will be available for Xbox and PlayStation game consoles as well as for Windows-powered PCs. An update to the game set for release early next year will add a “discovery tour” that gives players to option of taking virtual guided tours of ancient Egypt and learning its history, according to Guesdon. “Assassin’s Creed” is Ubisoft’s most popular franchise.

Putting out a new version of the game each year stretched the overarching storyline, which features modern-day descendants of assassins whose genetic memory is being mined to solve a bigger mystery. The previous installment, “Assassin’s Creed Syndicate” released in 2015, was set in London during the Industrial Revolution. The action role-playing games are known for historical fiction, setting adventures at significant points in time such as the Crusades and the French and American revolutions. The franchise has grown to include novels, comic books, mobile games and films.

Blockbuster video game sequels, like movies, face the challenge of adding new excitement while remaining true to old aspects loved by fans. “Assassin’s Creed” has been credited with inspiring other games, such as “Middle-earth: Shadow of Mordor,” by Warner Brothers Interactive Entertainment.

A total of \$1.2 billion was spent in the US on video game hardware, software, and accessories in September in a 39 percent increase from the same month last year, according to industry tracker NPD. The amount of money spent on video game software alone was up 49 percent to \$744 million in the same comparison, with “Destiny 2” the top-selling game, NPD reported.—AFP



LOS ANGELES: This file photo shows Jean Guesdon as he introduces Assassin’s Creed Origins at the Microsoft Xbox E3 2017 Briefing, at the Galen Center in Los Angeles, California. — AFP



ILLINOIS: Art work by Anna Bialobroda is displayed.

## Controversy battered Uber hires top legal officer

SAN FRANCISCO: Uber on Friday said it has hired a new top legal officer as the ride-sharing star battles controversy in the workplace as well as on the streets. Tony West will begin working at San Francisco-based Uber next month, leaving a post as chief legal officer at Pepsi, Uber chief executive Dara Khosrowshahi said in an email to employees, a copy of which was obtained by AFP. West’s experience as a former federal prosecutor and a senior Department of Justice official while Barack Obama was US president make him “well equipped to handle the investigations into our past practices,” according to Khosrowshahi.

Uber’s image has been dented by a litany of controversies about a cut-throat workplace and unscrupulous tactics with regulators and rivals. Uber board member Arianna Huffington earlier this month blamed a “burnout culture” for fueling sexism at the world’s leading smartphone-summoned ride sharing service. Uber launched an “urgent investigation” early this year after an engineer who worked at the company until late 2016 alleged that her manager made sexual advances shortly after she joined.

She wrote in a blog post that she complained to more senior managers and the company’s human resources department, but was told that it was the man’s “first offense” and that they wouldn’t feel comfortable punishing a “high performer.” The woman said she met other female Uber engineers who said they had experienced similar harassment. Uber hired former attorney general Eric Holder to review workplace conditions after the allegations. The probe resulted in firings and an outline for needed changes.

West will be starting at Uber the same month a trial is to begin in a civil suit filed by Waymo, the self-driving car unit of Google-parent Alphabet. The case stems from a lawsuit filed in February by Waymo, which claimed former manager Anthony Levandowski took a trove of technical data with him when he left to launch a competing venture that went on to become Otto and was later acquired by Uber.

Waymo argued in the lawsuit that a “calculated theft” of its technology netted Otto a buyout of more than \$500 million and enabled Uber to revive a stalled self-driving car program. — AFP

## Facebook moves toward revealing political ad backers

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook said Friday it would take steps to deliver on a promise to reveal backers of political advertisements to boost transparency in the wake of criticism of the social network’s role in the 2016 US election. The leading social platform said it will begin testing and refining political ad transparency tools next month in Canada, with a goal of having them in place in the US before elections next year. Under the plan unveiled by Facebook vice president Rob Goldman, people will be able to click “view ads” on a page to determine the source.

“Transparency helps everyone, especially political watchdog groups and reporters, keep advertisers accountable for who they say they are and what they say to different groups,” Goldman said in a blog post. “People should be able to tell who the advertiser is and see the ads they’re running, especially for political ads. That level of transparency is good for democracy and it’s good for the electoral process.” Facebook founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said in a separate post this is more transparency than required for other media.

“We’re making all ads more transparent, not just political ads,” Zuckerberg said. Additionally, he noted that political advertisers “will now have to provide more information to verify their identity.” Facebook in September announced a plan to increase “transparency” regarding political advertising and hire more than 1,000 people to thwart deceptive ads crafted to knock elections off course including “dark” messages crafted for specific demographic groups but invisible to others.

Facebook has turned over to Congress some 3,000 Russia-linked ads that appeared to use hot-button issues to turn people against one another ahead of last year’s US election. Facebook’s second-ranking executive, Sheryl Sandberg, has acknowledged that “things happened on our platform in this election that should not have happened, especially foreign interference.” According to Facebook, some 10 million people may have viewed the ads placed by a Russian entity that appeared aimed at sowing division and mistrust.

Some 470 accounts spent a total of approximately \$100,000 between June 2015 to May 2017 on ads that touted fake or misleading news, according to Facebook. Goldman said Canada is a “natural choice” to test the new system. “Testing in one market allows us to learn the various ways an entire population uses the feature at a scale that allows us to learn and iterate,” Goldman said. Twitter this week unveiled similar steps that will disclose the sources of political ads. The messaging platform separately said it would ban ads from Russia-based RT and Sputnik, accused of spreading disinformation during the 2016 campaign.—AFP

Health

# Hopes dashed for giant new Antarctic marine sanctuary

## Key conservation summit fails to reach agreement

SYDNEY: Hopes for a vast new marine sanctuary in pristine East Antarctica were dashed yesterday after a key conservation summit failed to reach agreement, with advocates urging "greater vision and ambition". Expectations were high ahead of the annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) - a treaty tasked with overseeing protection and sustainable exploitation of the Southern Ocean. Last year's summit in Hobart saw the establishment of a massive US and New Zealand-backed marine protected area (MPA) around the Ross Sea covering an area roughly the size of Britain, Germany and France combined.

But an Australia and France-led push this year to create a second protected area in East Antarctica spanning another one million square kilometer zone failed. Officials said that Russia and China were key stumbling blocks, worried about compliance issues and fishing rights. Consensus is needed from all 24 CCAMLR member countries and the European Union. Greenpeace called for "greater vision and ambition" in the coming year while WWF's Antarctic program chief Chris Johnson said it was another missed opportunity.

"We let differences get in the way of responding to the needs of fragile wildlife," he said. Australia's chief delegate Gillian Slocum described the failure as "sad". She also bemoaned little progress on addressing the impacts of climate change which was having a "tangible effect" on the frozen continent. "While CCAMLR was not able to adopt a

Climate Change Response Work Program this year, members will continue to work together ahead of the next meeting to better incorporate climate change impacts into the commission's decision-making process," she said.

### Vital to move forward

Plans were set out in 2009 to establish a series of MPAs in the Southern Ocean allowing marine life to migrate between areas for breeding and foraging, but it has been slow going. Antarctica is home to penguins, seals, toothfish, whales and huge numbers of krill, a staple food for many species.

They are considered critical for scientists to study how marine ecosystems function and to understand the impacts of climate change on the ocean. Andrea Kavanagh, head of The Pew Charitable Trusts' Antarctic and Southern Ocean work, said after last year's historic Ross Sea designation it was "disappointing that CCAMLR could not agree to protect more of the vast and biologically diverse Southern Ocean". She said it was vital to "continue moving forward in the coming years by agreeing to further protections ... or risk jeopardizing the health of the region's intact ecosystems".

A third German-backed plan is in the works to protect the Weddell Sea, which extends from the southeast of South America over some 2.8 million square kilometers. But it has been sent back for amendments. A proposal for a fourth zone of 94,000 square kilometers around the Western Antarctic Peninsula was presented by Argentina



### Advocates urge 'greater vision and ambition'



EAST ANTARCTICA: This undated handout picture shows emperor penguins in East Antarctica. — AFP

and Chile, conservationists told AFP. The East Antarctica plan originally comprised seven large marine areas but was reduced to three as a compromise-MacRobertson, Drygalski, and the D'Urville Sea-Mertz region.

The plan was for D'Urville to be a no-catch zone, which WWF said would aid a stricken Adelie penguin colony near the French Antarctic research station there. Mass starvation wiped out thousands of chicks in the

colony this year, with unusually thick sea ice linked to the break up of the Mertz glacier forcing their parents to forage further for food. Only two survived. While the East Antarctica proposal failed to get over the line, a research and monitoring plan to oversee the implementation of the Ross Sea MPA so scientists can better understand how it affects the ecosystem's health was endorsed. Protection of the Ross Sea takes effect from December 1. — AFP

## Polish health sector 'needs treatment'

WARSAW: A month into a hunger strike by young Polish doctors, whose call for more public health spending the public backs, and the results are in: the medical sector needs treatment. Wearing black shirts bearing the legend "hunger strike," the doctors have been taking turns fasting while camping out in the hallway of a children's hospital in Warsaw since October 2. The conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party government has already introduced some reforms since coming to power in 2015, including extending public access to hospital care and creating a hospital network meant to improve patient follow-up.

But the striking doctors want the government to raise public healthcare spending from the current 4.7 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) to 6.8 percent within three years. They insist that politics play no role in their initiative and that they are not just looking for higher salaries but also want an increase in healthcare spending

across the board. "We need to reduce queues and improve access to healthcare," said one strike leader, Lukasz Jankowski. The wait to see a doctor in Poland can sometimes take months or even a year or more for those who do not qualify for urgent care.

"We need to move forward on digitisation, which is at a standstill, to create a central register of medical services as well as to have a record of patient history," Jankowski said. A Facebook page devoted to the cause has attracted 37,000 followers. The strikers have both the backing of patients and the body representing the profession, the Chamber of Physicians and Dentists (NRL). "If junior doctors are receiving lower salaries than supermarket cashiers, then there's a problem," NRL president Maciej Hamankiewicz said. "They work between 300 and 400 hours a month, often in a state of chronic fatigue." According to Jankowski, 82 people are now fasting in eight cities.

### Too little, too late

The government is listening. After meeting with the protesters, Health Minister Konstanty Radziwill got a bill passed to raise healthcare spending to 6 percent of GDP in 2025. But for the young doctors in training towards their specialization it is too little, too late. They may be resigned to accepting the six percent level, but want it reached in 2021.

Radziwill, who himself is a doctor by training, has said the earlier timeline would be "impossible on account of state finances."

"We're under pressure to reach a compromise. The hunger strike has almost run its course, a general strike is planned but runs the risk of being poorly received by the public," Jankowski said. "We'd be happy if the government expressed its willingness to work towards reaching the 6 percent of GDP level earlier." Even those not on strike agree there is a problem. "Sometimes we run out of bandages for IV infusions... At times we even run out of medicine. We put in orders on time but don't get the deliveries because the previous bill wasn't settled," said Anna Borkowska, a young Warsaw doctor who is training to become an anaesthetist.

She "wholeheartedly backs" her colleagues' protest. "If we're paid so little, maybe it's in order to force us to take on three jobs... Without that, a third of the country's hospitals would shutter." There is also the painful problem of brain drain. Young doctors are leaving, mainly because of insufficient pay. The basic monthly salary for trainee doctors is 500 to 700 euros (\$580 to \$810), which they can supplement a little by taking on night shifts. According to Hamankiewicz, around 25,000 Polish doctors currently work abroad, including 13,000 in other EU states. — AFP

## In Ohio, overdose deaths soar even with ad campaign

COLUMBUS: Anti-opioid abuse campaigns have targeted Ohio communities for years even as drug overdose deaths continue to soar in the hard-hit state. The effectiveness of such campaigns is under scrutiny as President Donald Trump proposes a "massive advertising campaign" as part of his administration's response to the opioid epidemic killing thousands annually.

More than 2,500 people died of overdoses in 2014 in Ohio, the same year Republican Gov John Kasich launched his anti-substance abuse "Start Talking" campaign encouraging parents and adults to talk to children about the dangers of drugs and other substances. Last year, Ohio's numbers jumped to 4,050 overdose deaths, many attributable to heroin and deadly synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Ohio launched a \$200,000 campaign in 2016 urging drug users' relatives and friends and other members of the public to know the signs of an overdose and obtain an antidote.

Next month, the state launches "Take Charge

Ohio," a \$1 million public awareness campaign targeting prescribers, their patients and the public. The campaign will include TV, radio, newspaper and online ads, along with billboards, social media postings and targeted emails. The approach "is closely aligned with Ohio's comprehensive initiatives to fight prescription pain medication abuse," said Eric Wandersleben, a spokesman for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Experts say the key to successful campaigns are approaches that produce changes in behavior, not just an emotional reaction. Above all, avoid scare tactics. "Substance abuse is much more complicated than a simple choice of yes or no," said Lori Criss, chief executive officer of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers. Richie Webber, an ex-addict who survived a fentanyl overdose three years ago, speaks as often as possible to schoolchildren. He believes relating his experience - a prescription painkiller addiction leading to heroin - is more effective than the widely derided "Just Say No" campaign of a generation ago.

"When you actually have a lived experience, you kind of explain things, rather than just saying, 'Hey, drugs are bad. Don't do them,'" Webber said. Among other Ohio campaigns: "All Roads Lead to Home," a public awareness campaign in development including an opioid addiction treatment website and a mobile app. — AP

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## What's On

## Yousif Mohammed Abuljebain wins 1st place in International Astrolabe Science Competition



Representing Kuwait in the International Astrolabe Science Competition held at Princess Sumaiya University for Technology in Jordan on October 22, 2017, mechanical engineering student, Yousif

Mohammed Ali Yousif Abuljebain won the first place beating 54 other participants with his project on 'Water Purification and Power Generation through Solar Power'.

## Salman Al-Ammari performs at Peace Festival



With a large audience and lovers of Kuwaiti folkloric songs, the Kuwaiti folkloric singer, Salman Al-Ammari recently participated in the Peace Festival organized by LAPA at Al-Shaheed Park. With

his passion towards the traditional sailors' music in the Gulf Region and Kuwait Folklore, his performances revived the audiences' authentic past sounds that are enjoyed by today's generation. Al-Ammari expressed joy

over performing at Al-Shaheed Park and described as 'an unprecedented audience'. Al-Shaheed Park manager, Yousif Al-Bu'aian said that the park will witness several cultural, art and recreational activities in 2017.

## Easa Husain Al-Yousifi &amp; Sons Company, Panasonic introduces meat grinders

Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company and Panasonic introduces the latest made in Japan meat grinders, MK-ZJ3500 and MK-ZJ2700 to the Kuwait market, as food preparation takes centre stage this festive season. Family kitchens across the region will have to rely on state-of-the-art products, and Panasonic's two versatile meat grinders, pumping out 3500W and 2700W of grinding power will be a welcome addition to any kitchenette. The MK-ZJ3500 is one among the most powerful meat grinder available for home use in the world with a peak power of 3500 watts, a feature unique to this Panasonic product. Both MK-ZJ3500 & MK-ZJ2700 possess a high torque DC motor, which grinds meat faster & smoother with less noise.

"Meal preparation during festive season takes special precedence, and the right kitchen appliance is a joy to have in the kitchen. Our meat grinders are designed for this very purpose, to help create a variety of dishes, all the while making the whole process from preparation to cooking, very seamless in the kitchen. This line-up comes with many unique features such as the powerful high torque DC motor. The long-lasting sharp Japanese samurai blade and extra storage for accessories, all add to the uniqueness of the product, and we are confident that our customers will appreciate this truly wonderful product from Panasonic," said Keisuke Nakagawa- Director, Consumer Marketing Division, Panasonic Marketing MEA.

Another feature that makes both the meat grinders unique is the use of Panasonic's 'Japanese samurai blade' cutters, which allows a large amount of meat to be grinded, it's also extremely durable and stays sharp for life. These Panasonic's blades are the direct descendant of the traditional art of the Japanese bladesmith. Made of the finest steel, they are forged and ground to become exceptionally strong, and sharp. Highest-level of technology and skill has come together to produce these blades of incomparable quality. Capable of handling high load capacity, both the grinders have very low operating noise.

Another user-friendly feature of the grinder is the dial speed control. The MKZJ3500 comes with two optional speeds, thus allowing for a variety of meat preparations. MKZJ3500 also comes with a sleek and stylish blue LED screen through which all the operations of the meat grinder can be monitored.

These products also come with three interchangeable cutting plates to match various requirements. Other accessories like sausage and kubbe



attachments are all part and parcel of the meat grinders.

The aesthetically appealing designs of the grinders are complemented by industry leading cleaning tools, and all the tools, including the cable and five attachments, can be stored in an in-built storage space inside the main body, thus avoiding clutter on the kitchen surface, and minimising storage space. Cleanliness of the meat grinders is also a focus for Panasonic. The cleaning tools are designed to fit into the nodes of the cutting plates, insuring that they are free of any leftover or sticking raw meat. The two meat grinders also feature a flexi lever making it easier to remove the head from the main body for easy cleaning. The product is available at all Best Al-Yousifi electronics showrooms and authorized distributors.

## Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait appoints new Director of Sales &amp; Marketing

Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait, the Quorvus Collection flagship hotel in Kuwait, has welcomed Maged Hanna to the position of Sales and Marketing Director. With more than

16 years' experience in driving sales and operations across the GCC hospitality sector, Maged began his career in hospitality with the Intercontinental Hotels Group in Kuwait, serving as Assistant Director of Sales and Marketing for the Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn.

He also served as Managing Director of AAA Housing Furnished and Serviced Hotel Apartments from 2006-2008, before taking up the position of Director of Sales and Operations at Holiday Inn Kuwait, a position he held before joining Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait. With an extensive network and a desire to explore new avenues to maximize growth potential in the hospitality sector, Maged along with the experienced sales and marketing team who are fully aware of the Kuwait market, will together work on developing the hotel's strategies to enhance its position in Kuwait and international market.



Maged Hanna

## ACK 'Goes Pink' to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Throughout the month of October, formally recognized as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month", the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) focused on raising awareness on the importance of early detection and treatment of breast cancer. As part of ACK awareness efforts, students and staff members were wearing pink bracelets and pink T-shirts to support Breast Cancer Awareness month and cancer survivors, in

addition building decorations and social media posts were created to educate individuals about breast cancer and to encourage women and men not be afraid to get checked frequently and that early detection can save lives. Raising awareness on this topic is important to the college and ACK strongly believes that it is responsible for taking an active role in educating its community and will continue to highlight essential issues that affect the community.

## Canadian Embassy in Kuwait holds 'Study in Canada Fair'

The Embassy of Canada in Kuwait is pleased to announce that the 12th annual Edu-Canada Middle East and North Africa (MENA) tour, composed of approximately 10 leading Canadian institutions and colleges, will be visiting Kuwait from October 29 to 30, 2017. Representatives from the institutions will be available to meet with students, parents and other members of the education community, and provide information about study opportunities in Canada. The tour includes school visits and a Study in Canada fair at the Symphony Style Hotel, Salmiya on October 29, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Quality education is available throughout Canada, and each of our 10 provinces has something exciting to offer. Canadian higher education offers superior academic curricula, cutting-

edge research, state-of-the-art campuses, and professional and personal experience to last a lifetime. Canada is home to a safe, multicultural, vibrant society and a dynamic 21st century economy.

With almost all of the world's ethnic groups represented in Canada, students interact with many different cultures; this broader, more international perspective is also a valuable attribute that is attractive to employers worldwide. The enthusiasm shown by international students for post-secondary studies in Canada gives testimony to the superior quality of our education system. Students recognize that Canada offers them the opportunity to earn academic qualifications that are recognized and respected around the world, while being part of a tolerant and vibrant multicultural community.

The schools participating on the tour will be:

College of New Caledonia, British Columbia  
Thomson River Island University (TRU), British Columbia  
Sheridan College, Ontario  
University of Waterloo, Ontario  
University of Manitoba, Manitoba  
Brock University, Ontario  
Huron University College, Ontario  
University of Windsor, Ontario  
Algonquin College, Ontario  
Golden Hills International School

## Kuwait City Mar Thoma Parish Salmiya Zone holds 10th Kudumba Sangamam



Kuwait City Mar Thoma Parish Salmiya Prayer groups held its 10th annual Kudumba Sangamam with colorful events at Indian Community School, Salmiya. The program started with an opening prayer by Rachel Oommen and P M Mathew. Rev Dr Joseph Thomas presented the presidential address and inaugurated the program. Parimanam Manoj (General Convener) welcomed the guests and gathering, which was followed by felicitation speech by Thomas Varghese (senior member). Jacob Thomas (former Head Master) gave the condolence message for the untimely demise of the beloved mother of Parish Vicar Rev George Varghese who travelled to India and was unable to attend the Kudumba sangamam. A one minute silence was observed by the attendees during the function.

Later on a souvenir was inaugurated to mark the occasion of the 10th Anniversary by handing over a copy to Thomas Varghese by the Chief Guest Rev Joseph Thomas. CA Mathew Varkey worked as the souvenir convener. During his speech, Mathew acknowledged the support and participation of various organization and members of the prayer groups in bringing out the Souvenir in such a manner. There were choral renditions by Salmiya Zone prayer groups and Sevika Sangam, variety of programs included drama, magic

show, fusion music, skit, dance, solo and group songs.

During the short breaks between each performance, the audience was quizzed and those who responded with the right witty answers were awarded prizes. The grand attraction was the one hour drama named "Alochana" meaning "Proposal" written by Joseph M A. The theme of the play was - Any marriage proposal should be carefully evaluated before jumping to a conclusion. The family of middle class Achayan weighed more about money material aspects than the character of the boy. The drama conveyed a strong message.

Around 650 members participated in the family get-together, which concluded with a sumptuous dinner. The grand success of the event was due to the untiring efforts of the committee members under the leadership of Raju Kurukavellil and Joseph M A (program conveners), Alex Lukose and Ronnie T Varghese (finance conveners), Rajan C Kulakada (volunteer convener), Anil P Thomas (Light and sound convener), Chechamma Sunu (arrangement convener), Tinu Thomas and Johnkutty Oommen (stage conveners), Reji Varghese & John Mathai (food conveners), and Mathew Varkey (souvenir convener). The program ended with a closing prayer by Babu Johnson, Raju Kurukavellil proposed the vote of thanks while Nitya John hosted the program.



TV



00:15 Revenge Of The Green Dragons
02:00 Life On The Line
03:45 Crimson Tide
05:45 The Huntsman: Winter's War
07:45 Mission To Mars
09:45 The Viral Factor
11:55 Crimson Tide
13:55 The Huntsman: Winter's War
15:55 Nick Of Time
17:30 X-Men: First Class
19:45 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
22:05 Never Back Down: No Surrender
23:55 Assassins Tale



00:45 Escape To Chimp Eden
01:40 Escape To Chimp Eden
02:48 Escape To Chimp Eden
05:00 League Of Monkeys
05:45 Rugged Justice
06:30 Rugged Justice
07:15 Rugged Justice
08:00 Gorilla School
08:25 Whale Wars
09:15 Treehouse Masters
10:10 Treehouse Masters
11:05 Treehouse Masters
12:00 Treehouse Masters
12:55 Treehouse Masters
13:50 The Lion Queen
14:45 Cats 101
15:40 Dogs 101: New Tricks
16:08 Dogs 101: New Tricks
16:35 Escape To Chimp Eden
17:03 Escape To Chimp Eden
17:30 Escape To Chimp Eden
17:58 Escape To Chimp Eden
19:20 Monsters Inside Me
20:15 Catching Monsters
21:10 Pit Bulls & Paroles
22:05 Mutant Planet
23:00 Mutant Planet
23:55 Lone Star Law



00:00 EastEnders
00:30 The Durrells
01:20 The Durrells
02:10 Kat & Alfie: Redwater
03:05 The Collection
04:00 Doctors
04:30 EastEnders
05:00 Death In Paradise
06:00 Father Brown
06:50 EastEnders
07:20 Dickensian
08:10 Call The Midwife
09:10 Doctors
09:40 EastEnders
10:10 Father Brown
11:00 The Corner
11:50 Dickensian
12:35 Call The Midwife
13:30 Doctors
14:00 EastEnders
14:30 Father Brown
15:25 Dickensian
16:10 Call The Midwife
17:10 The Corner
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:45 Father Brown
21:00 Kat & Alfie: Redwater
22:00 Line Of Duty
22:45 Unforgotten
23:00 Unforgotten
23:30 Doctors



00:00 Paranormal State
00:30 Paranormal State
01:00 The Haunting Of...
02:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back
03:00 Escaping Polygamy
04:00 Paranormal State
04:30 Paranormal State
05:00 The Haunting Of...
06:00 The First 48
07:00 Homicide Hunter
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
10:00 Cold Case Files
11:00 Cold Case Files
12:00 Evil Up Close
13:00 Evil Up Close
14:00 Evil Up Close
15:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
16:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Homicide Hunter
19:00 Cold Case Files
20:00 Cold Case Files
21:00 The First 48
22:00 Homicide Hunter
23:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers



00:05 Problematic With Moshe Kasher
00:30 The Half Hour
00:55 Tosh.0
01:45 Anthony Jeselnik: Caligula
02:35 South Park
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 Another Period
04:15 Kroll Show
04:40 Nathan For You
05:05 Tosh.0
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:25 Framework
07:15 Lip Sync Battle
07:40 Lip Sync Battle
08:05 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:30 I Live With Models
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Kroll Show
09:45 Nathan For You
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Framework
11:20 Disaster Date
11:45 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Lip Sync Battle
13:05 Lip Sync Battle
13:30 Nathan For You
13:55 The Jim Gaffigan Show
14:20 I Live With Models
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Friends
15:35 Disaster Date
16:00 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Workaholics
17:20 I Live With Models
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show
18:35 Lip Sync Battle
19:00 Lip Sync Battle
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Friends
20:12 Friends
20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

21:30 Ridiculousness Arabia
22:00 The Half Hour
22:25 South Park
22:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:15 Detroiters
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
02:10 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
03:00 Beverly Hills Groomer
03:25 Beverly Hills Groomer
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Ultimate Survival
05:30 Storm Chasers
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Storm Chasers
07:50 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 How It's Made
10:45 How It's Made
11:10 How It's Made
11:35 How It's Made
12:00 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things
13:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
13:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
14:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
14:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
17:00 How It's Made
17:25 How It's Made
17:50 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
18:15 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
18:40 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie
19:30 Serious Desert
19:55 Serious Desert
20:20 Weather Gone Viral
21:10 Keiko: The Untold Story Of The Star Of Free Willy
22:00 Storm Chasers
22:50 Storm Chasers



00:45 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
01:40 Chandra Levy: An American Murder Mystery
02:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
03:00 I Am Homicide
04:00 I Am Homicide
05:00 American Monster
05:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
06:20 Disappeared
07:10 Fatal Encounters
08:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
08:25 Disappeared
09:15 Disappeared
10:10 Disappeared
11:05 Disappeared
12:00 Disappeared
12:55 I Almost Got Away With It
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:45 I Almost Got Away With It
15:40 I Almost Got Away With It
16:35 I Almost Got Away With It
17:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
18:25 Obsession: Dark Desires
19:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
20:15 Obsession: Dark Desires
21:10 Obsession: Dark Desires
22:05 Lone Star Mystery: A Disappeared Special
23:00 Disappeared
23:55 Hear No Evil

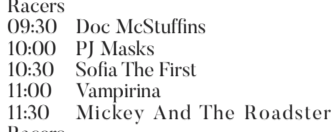


00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 Alex & Co.
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 The Hive
03:00 Hank Zipzer
03:25 Hank Zipzer
03:50 Rolling With The Ronks S1
04:00 Alex & Co.
04:25 Alex & Co.
04:45 Rolling With The Ronks S1
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:25 Binny And The Ghost
06:45 The Hive
06:50 Rolling With The Ronks S1
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Liv And Maddie
07:50 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
07:55 The Zhuzhus S1
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
09:10 Girl Meets World
09:35 Bizaardvark
10:00 Stuck In The Middle
10:25 Disney Cookabout
10:50 K.C. Undercover
11:15 Bunk'd
11:40 Wizards Of Waverly Place - The...
13:10 The Zhuzhus S1
13:20 Bizaardvark
13:45 Bizaardvark
14:10 Bizaardvark
14:35 Bizaardvark
15:00 Bizaardvark
15:25 The Scariest Story Ever: A Mickey Mouse Halloween
15:50 K.C. Undercover
16:15 Jessie
17:05 Descendants Wicked World
17:10 Disney Cookabout
17:35 Girl Meets World
18:00 Austin & Ally
18:50 Descendants 2
20:40 The Zhuzhus S1
20:55 Elena Of Avalor
21:20 The Scariest Story Ever: A Mickey Mouse Halloween
21:45 HalloweenTown 2: Kalabar's Revenge
23:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:10 Rolling With The Ronks S1
23:55 Alex & Co.
23:50 LoloRock



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
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 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopdidoo
07:00 Henry Hugglemonster
07:15 Calimero
07:30 Loopdidoo
07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
08:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
08:30 Puppy Dog Pals
09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:30 Doc McStuffins
10:00 PJ Masks
10:30 Sofia The First
11:00 Vampirina
11:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:00 PJ Masks
12:30 PJ Masks
13:00 PJ Masks
13:30 Sofia The First: The Mystic Isles
14:15 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
14:30 Sofia The First
15:00 Sofia The First
15:30 Sofia The First
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 Doc McStuffins
17:00 Vampirina
17:30 Puppy Dog Pals
18:00 The Lion Guard
18:30 Sofia The First
19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:30 Vampirina
20:00 Sofia The First: The Mystic Isles
20:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
21:05 Goldie & Bear
21:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
22:05 Doc McStuffins
22:35 Miles From Tomorrow
22:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
23:00 Sofia The First
23:50 PJ Masks



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



00:15 Supertruckers
01:00 Fast N' Loud
01:45 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
02:30 Street Customs
03:15 Fast N' Loud
04:00 Ed Stafford: Left For Dead
04:50 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Outback Truckers
06:45 Street Customs 2008
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
09:00 Deals, Wheels And Steals
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Alaskan Bush People
10:55 Alaska: The Last Frontier
11:40 Supertruckers
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Extreme Collectors
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
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 Extreme Collectors
18:20 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 Idris Elba: Fighter
21:50 Mega Trains
22:40 What On Earth?
23:30 Fast N' Loud



06:00 Disney11
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
07:15 Right NOW Kapow
07:40 Walk The Prank
08:05 Marvel's Ant-Man
08:10 Gravity Falls
08:35 Gravity Falls
09:00 Kirby Buckets Warped
09:25 Kirby Buckets Warped
09:50 Supa Strikas
10:20 Supa Strikas
10:45 Mech-X4
11:10 Mech-X4
11:35 Right NOW Kapow
12:00 The Scariest Story Ever: A Mickey Mouse Halloween
12:30 Walk The Prank
12:55 Supa Strikas
13:20 Kirby Buckets
13:45 Marvel's Spider-Man
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 Gravity Falls
18:05 Supa Strikas
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man
18:35 Milo Murphy's Law
19:00 Lab Rats
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
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas & Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

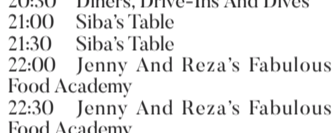


00:00 Botched
00:55 The Platinum Life
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Mariah's World
04:40 Mariah's World
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
06:50 El News

07:20 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 El News
09:05 Botched
10:00 Botched
10:55 Botched
11:55 WAGs Miami
12:50 WAGs Miami
13:40 WAGs Miami
14:30 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
15:20 The Platinum Life
16:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 El News
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 The Platinum Life
23:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians



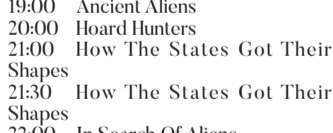
00:15 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
00:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
02:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
02:35 Dog Whisperer
03:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
03:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
04:50 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
05:20 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
05:45 Croatia's Finest
06:15 Restoration Man
07:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
07:35 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
08:05 Rustic Adventures Argentina
08:30 Rustic Adventures Argentina
09:00 Cesar To The Rescue
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19:00 Cold Water Goid
20:50 Hell On Earth
22:30 Big Fish, Texas
23:20 Taboo Compilations



00:20 Gorilla Murders
01:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
02:00 Ultimate Animal Countdown
02:50 Man v. Monster
03:45 South Africa
04:40 Speed Kills
05:35 Hook Rivals: Hippo v. Lion
06:30 Hooked
07:25 Hooked
08:20 Wild Case Files
09:15 Border Wars
10:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
11:05 Animals Gone Wild
12:00 World's Weirdest Pets Compilation
12:55 Ultimate Animal Countdown
13:50 Man v. Monster
14:45 Maneater Manhunt
15:40 Speed Kills
16:35 Chimp School
17:30 Hooked
18:25 Animal Outlaws
19:20 Maneater Manhunt
20:10 Speed Kills
21:00 Chimp School
22:40 Animal Outlaws
23:30 World's Weirdest Pets Compilation



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
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07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
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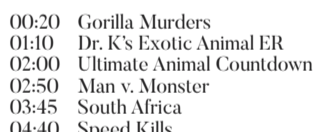
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 American Pickers Best Of's
22:40 Counting Cars
23:05 Counting Cars
23:30 Mountain Men



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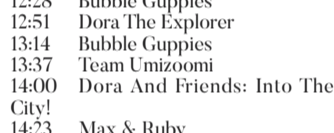


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13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig

13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 School Of Rock
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Hunter Street
15:24 Breadwinners
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
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23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:14 Bubble Guppies
00:37 Team Umizoomi
01:00 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
01:23 Max & Ruby
01:45 Shimmer And Shine
02:08 Little Charmers
02:31 Paw Patrol
02:55 Paw Patrol
03:18 Paw Patrol
03:41 Paw Patrol
04:04 Paw Patrol
04:17 Shimmer And Shine
04:40 Shimmer And Shine
05:02 Nella The Princess Knight
05:24 Nella The Princess Knight
05:47 Rusty Rivets
06:11 Rusty Rivets
06:34 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
07:22 Paw Patrol
07:35 Dora The Explorer
08:00 Zack & Quack
08:21 Bubble Guppies
08:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
09:07 Dora The Explorer
09:53 Nella The Princess Knight
10:15 The Day Henry Met
10:22 Paw Patrol
10:45 Rusty Rivets
10:59 Paw Patrol
11:22 Paw Patrol
11:34 Zack & Quack
11:55 Zack & Quack
12:06 Blaze And The Monster Machines
12:28 Bubble Guppies
12:51 Dora The Explorer
13:14 Bubble Guppies
13:37 Team Umizoomi
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21:30 Shimmer And Shine
21:53 Nella The Princess Knight
22:15 The Day Henry Met
22:22 Paw Patrol
22:45 Rusty Rivets
22:57 Wallykazam!
23:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
23:40 Zack & Quack
23:52 Team Umizoomi



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00:45 Kronk's New Groove
02:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End
04:45 Pirates Of The Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
07:00 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
08:55 Tarzan
10:25 Kronk's New Groove
11:40 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
13:35 Brother Bear
15:00 The Parent Trap
17:10 The Muppets
18:55 Eight Below
20:55 The Shaggy Dog
22:35 Kung Fu Panda 3



00:05 Vacation
01:45 When In Rome
03:20 Life Or Something Like It
05:05 Hope Springs
06:40 Ride
08:15 After The Ball
10:00 Life Or Something Like It
11:45 Hope Springs
13:20 Ride
14:55 Turner & Hooch
16:40 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit
18:30 Oscar
20:25 Cooties
22:00 The Rocky Horror Picture Show
23:40 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything



01:15 Saturday Night Fever
03:20 Margot At The Wedding
05:00 The Best Of Me
07:05 Infinitely Polar Bear
08:45 It Boy
10:25 5 Flights Up
12:10 Infinitely Polar Bear
13:50 Fort McCoy
15:45 Dead Poets Society
18:05 Suffragette
20:00 What's Love Got To Do With It
22:00 Hungry Hearts



00:40 Free Birds
02:10 Last Wizard

03:35 Kim Possible: So The Drama
05:00 Mune
06:40 Ethel & Ernest
08:25 Memory Loss
09:55 Moomin And Midsummer Madness
11:15 The Secret Of Kells
12:45 Last Wizard
14:10 Kim Possible: So The Drama
15:30 The Adventures Of The American Rabbit
17:00 Moomin And Midsummer Madness
18:20 Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie
19:35 Amila's Secret
20:45 The Adventures Of The American Rabbit
22:15 Memory Loss
23:45 The Secret Of Kells



00:30 Hail, Caesar!
02:15 The Internship
04:15 Fast & Furious 7
06:30 The Theory Of Everything
08:35 Nacho Libre
10:10 While You Were Sleeping
11:55 The Express
14:05 Last Action Hero
16:20 Nacho Libre
17:55 Endless Love
19:50 The Count Of Monte Cristo
22:05 Payback
23:50 V/H/S 2



00:30 Da Vinci's Machines
01:20 Dangerman
04:00 Mythbusters
05:00 How Do They Do It?
06:48 Food Factory
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Da Vinci's Machines
09:14 Da Vinci's Machines
10:02 Dangerman
12:26 Mythbusters
16:26 Food Factory
18:26 How Do They Do It?
20:30 NASA's Unexplained Files
22:10 Space Voyages
23:00 Rise Of The Machines



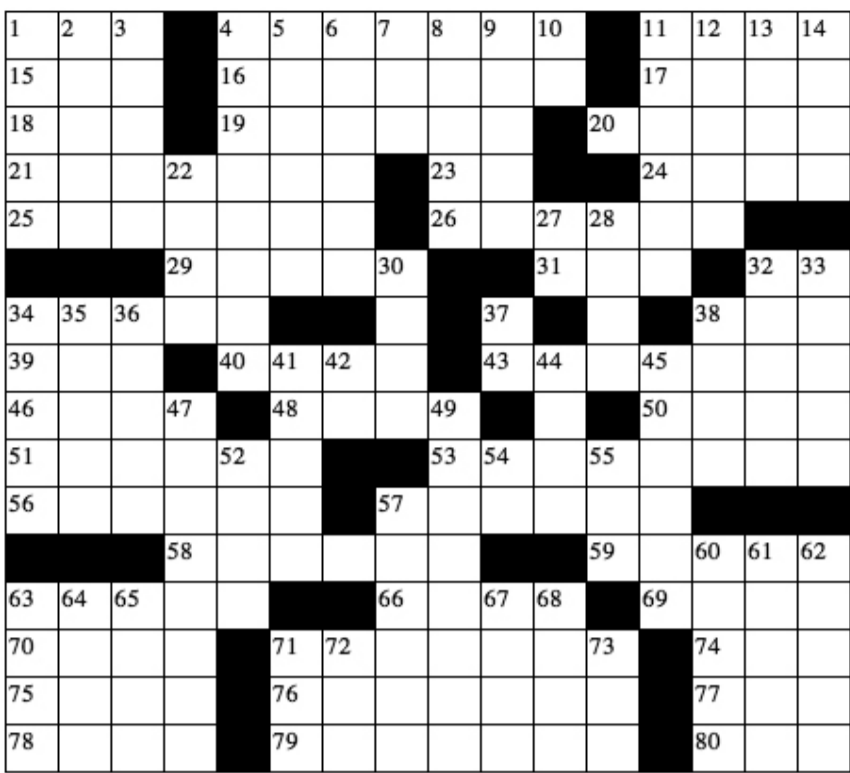
00:15 There Will Be Blood
03:00 The Faculty
04:40 Havoc
05:55 John Rabe
07:25 Tomorrowland
09:40 Jersey Girl
11:20 The Aviator
14:05 The Faculty
15:50 The Dead Girl
17:25 There Will Be Blood
20:00 O
21:45 Finding Neverland
23:30 Pretty Woman



00:00 Project Runway
03:00 House Of DVF

Stars

CROSSWORD 1747



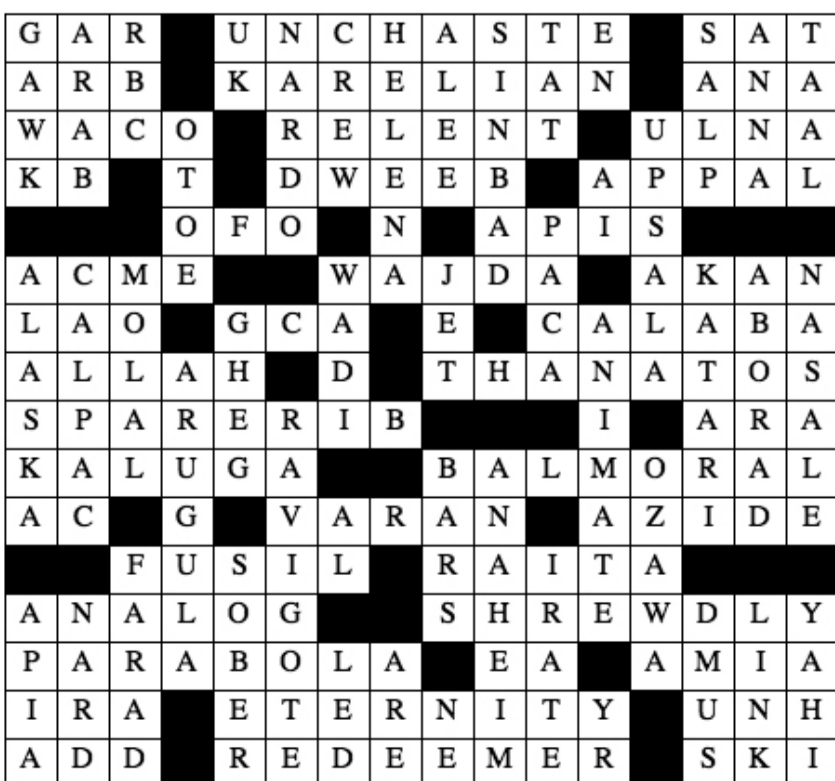
ACROSS

- 1. Gone by.
4. Any plant of the genus Astilbe having compound leaves and showy panicles of tiny colorful flowers.
11. Money in the form of bills or coins.
15. An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
16. Resembling or characteristic of or appropriate to an elegy.
17. Make amends for.
18. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
19. The process of remembering (especially the process of recovering information by mental effort).
20. Buildings for carrying on industrial labor.
21. Any expected deliverer.
23. A public promotion of some product or service.
24. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
25. A Native American who lived in what is now southern Colorado and Utah and northern Arizona and New Mexico and who built cliff dwellings.
26. Annual or perennial herbs with large leaves that resemble the leaves of cabbages.
29. Someone who plies a trade.
31. The cry made by sheep.
34. A confusion of voices and other sounds.
39. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
43. A sharply directional antenna.
44. Any of various insects that feed and form galls on conifers.
46. A motor vehicle with two wheels and a strong frame.
48. An informal term for a father.
50. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
51. Inability to perceive written words.
53. Concerned with worldly rather than spiritual interests.
56. The unit of plane angle adopted under the System International d'Unites.
58. Equipped with or connected by gears or having gears engaged.
59. A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.
63. Tree of the West Indies and northern South America bearing succulent edible orange-sized fruit.
66. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
69. Toward the mouth or oral region.
70. The capital and largest city of Norway.
74. The quality of a color as determined by its dominant wavelength.
75. The function or position properly or customarily occupied or served by another.
76. Quandong trees.
77. A human limb.
78. A large number or amount.
79. Impressive in appearance.
80. Brief episode in which the brain gets insufficient blood supply.

DOWN

- 1. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
2. Greek anatomist whose theories formed the basis of European medicine until the Renaissance (circa 130-200).
3. A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.
4. In an aerial manner.
5. Of cloth.
6. A technician who is highly proficient and enthusiastic about some technical field (especially computing).
7. One of the most common of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
8. Of a pale purple color.
9. (Norse mythology) God of light and peace and noted for his beauty and sweet nature.
10. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
11. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
12. Lower in esteem.
13. Make synchronous and adjust in time or manner.
14. The 8th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
22. A rare chronic progressive encephalitis caused by the measles virus and occurring primarily in children and young adults.
27. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
28. (trademark) A liquid that temporarily disables a person.
30. Scottish philosopher of common sense who opposed the ideas of David Hume (1710-1796).
32. A city in central New York.
33. Of or relating to the feet.
35. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
36. Dried out by heat or excessive exposure to sunlight.
37. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
38. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
41. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
42. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
44. Evergreen tree of eastern Asia and Philippines having large leathery leaves and small green-white flowers in compact cymes.
45. A city in southern Texas on the Rio Grande.
47. Extremely scanty.
49. Red Asian weaverbirds often kept as cage birds.
52. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
54. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
55. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
57. A distensible membranous sac (usually containing liquid or gas).
60. A Buddhist who has attained nirvana.
61. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
62. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
64. A genus of European owls.
65. (Scottish) A narrow secluded valley (in the mountains).
67. Denuded of leaves.
68. Any group or radical of the form RCO- where R is an organic group.
71. The foot of a human being.
72. A groove or furrow (especially one in soft earth caused by wheels).
73. A branch of the Tai languages.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may appear very relaxed this morning. Everything seems to be working together and you may find yourself expressive and able to communicate well. You could be most persuasive with others and eloquent in speech and communication. The situation is a natural for self-expression and lends itself to your particular way of thinking. A good conversation with those you love is possible. You have a real appreciation for the creative mind and you are encouraged to study. You may find yourself enjoying long conversations, writing a letter or making a special phone call. Decide what you want with regard to change in your living situation and then go for it. This may mean adding a loft apartment to the house or enlarging a kitchen or simply, a new paint job.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You will be pleased at what you can accomplish today. Few interruptions benefit you in any research time. This opportunity can be wisely used to your advantage. A day that is not too lazy or too stressful—time for accomplishing tasks or setting up a plan works successfully. Regular work or home chores move along swiftly. There is time for a luncheon, a meeting and perhaps a conference to talk of ways in which your ideas can develop. Productive conversations will bring positive results. Your instinctive direction at this time is toward getting down to business. On the home front, you and your family might like to help organize a neighborhood garage sale so that you can use the funds to plant trees along the street or contribute toward a charity.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The work you do, the way you take care of health and other mundane obligations are important keys to your progress now. There is a need for focus and careful analysis in this area of your life. Set up systems and schedules and stick to them! A new job offer from last week may call for new clothing: a suit, a coat, etc. This is a good time to shop for those things but do not go overboard as you may decide you like where you are working just fine. A comfortable get-together this afternoon gives you an opportunity to laugh with friends and relax. Your brilliant imagination and enchanting manner transport all who meet you beyond the dull and into the extraordinary regions where you enjoy your life. You would have fun writing short stories.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Opportunities open up in a very natural way. Situations are almost tailor-made and it is easy to see how the day ahead will unfold. Plans have been made and a short trip or campout is at hand and you are ready to go; in fact, you were probably ready hours ago. The energies today speak of travel and friends and fun. Circumstances should work together to help bring out your ideas. There are future plans you want to talk about and there are friends that are interested in your thinking. You may find yourself more than a little curious about their goals as well. You certainly would enjoy setting up time for more adventures like today. You enjoy the day and visiting among friends. You may be tempted to purchase lots of curios; careful.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are much too busy at this time. It could be hard for you to balance all the demands that come to your attention. Look for ways to strike a balance, even if you have to step away for a bit—create a diversion or hire someone to help you. A young teenager might enjoy a little extra spending money if you are interested in packing a few boxes away in storage, or perhaps getting a few boxes unpacked from storage for the holidays ahead. A personal improvement of yours is visible. Changes you want to make regarding a habit or life-pattern of activity are a positive now and will have a good foundation. This evening you will benefit from a little time with your feet propped up and some relaxing music—of course a massage might be nice!



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Ideas and interaction with authority figures or respected elders may be in the forecast. It may be time to coerce a senior relative into moving to new living quarters. This might not be too hard, depending on where the new digs might be located. Moving with the flow of energies today you will make some beneficial discoveries. The home front may be in need of a little work and you are magical in how you talk someone into helping you with a ladder as well as heavy work. You may be exhausted by the day's end; your goals seem crowded into a small time element. The person helping you today will help you again, so you could spread the work out over a few days instead of all in one day. A helper might enjoy one of your special menus this evening.

Wordsearch Puzzle

80's Songs

Find and circle all of the 1980's song titles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of a U2 song.



- ABRACADABRA, ALLENTOWN, ALONE, AMANDA, ANGEL, BATDANCE, BILLIE JEAN, CARS, CELEBRATION, CHERISH, COME DANCING, CONGA, COOL NIGHT, CRYING, DANGER ZONE, DESIRE, DRIVE, FAITH, FIRE LAKE, FOOTLOOSE, FUNKY TOWN, HEARTLIGHT, HELLO, HIM, HOLD ON, JEOPARDY, JESSE, JUMP, KEY LARGO, KISS, KYRIE, LADY, LEGS, LONGER, LOVE BITES, LOVE SHACK, LUKA, MAGIC, MANEATER, MANIAC, MICKEY, MR. ROBOTO, NASTY, NIGHTSHIFT, OH! SHERRIE, PHYSICAL, KYRIE, PRIVATE EYES, RAPTURE, ROSANNA, SARA, SLEDGEHAMMER, SMALL TOWN, SUDDENLY, SWEET DREAMS, TAINTED LOVE, TIME, UPTOWN GIRL, URGENT, VALERIE, VENUS, YOU ARE, YOUNG TURKS

Libra (September 23-October 22)



This is a day where you could continue to be emotionally tested. You may need to keep or adjust your thoughts or opinions into more positive directions. Challenges just seem to follow you around today—challenges, however, bring opportunities to grow and expand your knowledge. All this challenge type of stress will pass because you help to make any adjustment positive. You may decide to dive in and coordinate some project so that it will move quickly and be successful. A sudden inspiration helps you find a useful shortcut where a complicated project is concerned. Stop early and move to the rhythm of music: dance, love, laugh and be happy. A lover enriches your life and today you think about how great it is to have this person in your life—tell him or her.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Everything may be pouring in at once and it's all good news. Your friends are in town or a homecoming football game party is shaping up nicely; whatever the case, there are lots of errands and chores and people to help before some celebration can be enjoyed. You may benefit from an older person or one in authority this afternoon. This authority figure will help you understand some law or teach some law. There is time to relax this afternoon, really! Talk about something other than the ongoing preparations you are involved with now. When you go back to your errands, you will find something special that will help complement the dance or the dinner or the party in general. You will find plenty of compliments regarding your efforts with this event.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Circumstances are working in your favor to help you and raise you up—push you forward. You have a stick-to-itiveness that always finds you in the thick of things. Creative ideas and a feeling of accomplishment with your progress are easily yours. You could be in the limelight in relation to your work today. You may be thinking of improving your wardrobe. You will find a good buy if you compare prices. Think along the lines of more color this fall—get rid of some of those all black outfits. You may be looking over your finances today and making decisions along the line of investing. If a loan is needed, today is a good time to organize your request. You may find yourself looking for a little romance this evening or at least enjoying company.



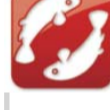
Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Someone needs your support this Sunday and you are able to provide help by simply being nearby. You should, however, wait until you are asked to become involved—he or she may not need what you think. Later this afternoon there is a chance to join in some team sports. The neighborhood or the community group for which you belong may be having some competition meet at a nearby gym. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need. You should work hard during this time to keep the family close. Communicating feelings becomes more important. Food for thought: the images you see reflect your thoughts—think positive. New clothes are in the forecast.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

A nutritional change is in order and now is the most productive time to make that change. Put your mind to work and take care of any details that you may have, for mental discipline should come easily. Problems and obstacles that have previously been confounding should find easy explanations under your keen examination. Now could be the time to move forward in any projects you want to undertake. Don't worry about what you have to do; focus on the here and now and it will all work. Saying and writing things with style counts for a lot now and this tends to bring out the social butterfly in all of us. You are able to enjoy and value your own life situation. A friend or visitor in your home gives you plenty of compliments.

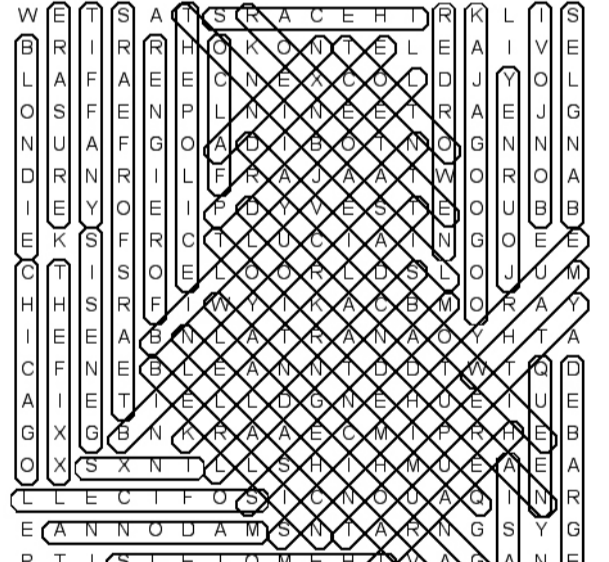


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There are optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances at the deepest emotional levels today. You could find that you are appreciated for your ability to act and get things done. Someone understands your point of view and is willing to listen to some changes you may want to make in the home. Gathering and exchanging information becomes an important part of your presentation and can be an example for the young people in the home. Neighbors or siblings have a big impact on your goals and make a big impression. This whole weekend could prove to be a mentally and socially active period. You have a clear vision into your own inner sense of values and how you appreciate and love. This is a good time to examine and create new goals.

Yesterday's Solution

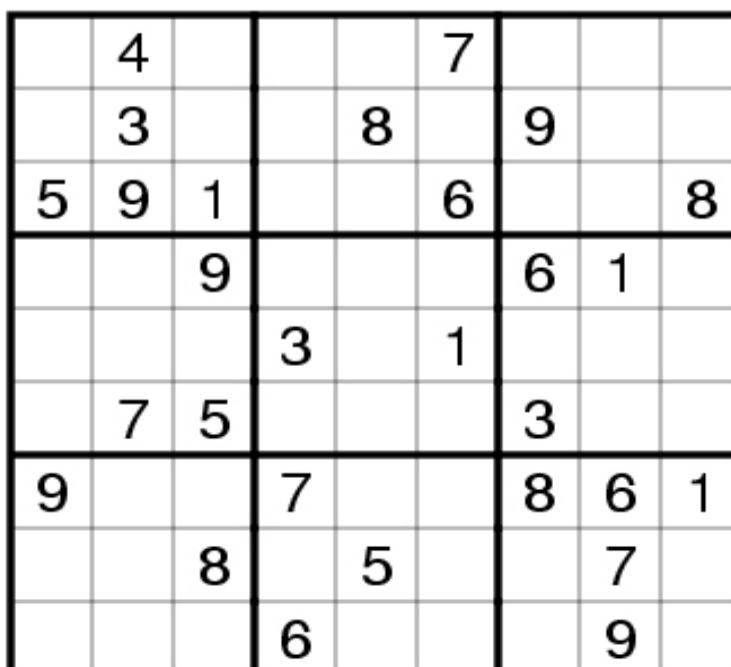
80's Radio Hitmakers



- ASIA, BANGLES, BERLIN, BILLY JOEL, BILLY OCEAN, BLONDIE, BON JOVI, CHICAGO, DAVID BOWIE, DEBARGE, DURAN DURAN, ERASURE, EURYTHMICS, FALCO, FOREIGNER, GENESIS, HEART, INXS, JOURNEY, KJAGOGGOG, MADNESS, MADONNA, NENA, NEW ORDER, PRINCE, QUEEN, QUIET RIOT, ROXETTE, SCANDAL, SOFT CELL, TALK TALK, TEARS FOR FEARS, THE CARP, THE FDX, THE MOTELS, THE POLICE, TIFFANY, TONY PETTY, TONI BASIL, TOTO, VAN HALEN, WANG CHUNG, WHAM!

The hidden song title is: WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Kuwait Times Classifieds

Sunday, October 29, 2017

**Kuwait Times**  
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 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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 Fax: (+965) 24348714  
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### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h.

**BY NIGHT:** Fair and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to southerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h.

| WEATHER WARNING |           |           | No Current Warnings            |  |  |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| STATION         | MAX. EXP. | MIN. REC. | SFC. CHART 28/10/2017 0000 UTC |  |  |
| KUWAIT CITY     | 35 °C     | 26 °C     |                                |  |  |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT  | 37 °C     | 20 °C     |                                |  |  |
| ABDALY          | 36 °C     | 19 °C     |                                |  |  |
| BUBYAN          | 37 °C     | 19 °C     |                                |  |  |
| JAHRA           | 39 °C     | 24 °C     |                                |  |  |
| FAILAKA ISLAND  | 35 °C     | 23 °C     |                                |  |  |
| SALMIYAH        | 32 °C     | 27 °C     |                                |  |  |
| AHMADI          | 35 °C     | 27 °C     |                                |  |  |
| NUWAISIB        | 40 °C     | 19 °C     |                                |  |  |
| WAFRA           | 40 °C     | 21 °C     |                                |  |  |
| SALMY           | 38 °C     | 21 °C     |                                |  |  |

| 4 DAYS FORECAST |       |  |              |       |                |              |
|-----------------|-------|--|--------------|-------|----------------|--------------|
| DAY             | DATE  | WEATHER  | Temperatures |       | Wind Direction | Wind Speed   |
|                 |       |  | MAX.         | MIN.  |                |              |
| Sunday          | 10/29 | Hot + Relatively humid specially over coastal areas            | 37 °C        | 21 °C | S-SE           | 12 - 35 km/h |
| Monday          | 10/30 | Hot + Humid specially over coastal areas                       | 37 °C        | 22 °C | S-SE           | 12 - 35 km/h |
| Tuesday         | 10/31 | Relatively hot + Relatively humid specially over coastal areas | 36 °C        | 22 °C | S-SE           | 08 - 30 km/h |
| Wednesday       | 11/01 | Relatively hot + Relatively humid specially over coastal areas | 34 °C        | 20 °C | VRB-SE         | 06 - 26 km/h |

| PRAYER TIMES |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Fajr         | 04:38 |
| Sunrise      | 05:58 |
| Zuhr         | 11:32 |
| Asr          | 14:42 |
| Sunset       | 17:06 |
| Isha         | 18:23 |

| RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| MAX. Temp.                           | 39 °C     |
| MIN. Temp.                           | 19 °C     |
| MAX. RH                              | 81 %      |
| MIN. RH                              | 12 %      |
| MAX. Wind                            | S 25 km/h |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.             | 0 mm      |

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

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 दो कमरे, हॉल,  
 बॉरुथम, रसोईघर  
 सम्पर्क: 69996992, 66804222

**LOST** Name of candidate - Jenab Hojeifa Badodiya Wala. Mob: 97434760. (C 5353) 26-10-2017

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying examination certificate of "main secondary examination of year 2014, roll no. 0431048" & main senior secondary examination of year 2016 roll no. 9104112 issued by CBSE has been actually lost.

**TRANSPORT**  
 Required transport from Abbasiya to Mangaf to reach 7:30 - 7:45 am. Call 69088065. (C 5351) 23-10-2017

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

## Flight Schedule

| Arrival Flights on Sunday 29/10/2017 |      |             |       | Departure Flights on Sunday 29/10/2017 |      |                   |       |
|--------------------------------------|------|-------------|-------|--|------|-------------------|-------|
| Airlines                             | Flt  | Route       | Time  | Airlines                               | Flt  | Route             | Time  |
| THY                                  | 772  | Istanbul    | 00:10 | AIC                                    | 988  | Hyderabad/Chennai | 00:05 |
| JZR                                  | 125D | Bahrain     | 00:25 | JAI                                    | 573  | Mumbai            | 00:30 |
| KAC                                  | 786  | Jeddah      | 00:30 | MSC                                    | 406  | Luxembourg        | 00:30 |
| JZR                                  | 267  | Beirut      | 00:35 | FDB                                    | 072  | Dubai             | 00:30 |
| KAC                                  | 504  | Beirut      | 00:45 | THY                                    | 773  | Istanbul          | 01:40 |
| KAC                                  | 102  | London      | 00:55 | KAC                                    | 677  | Dubai             | 01:45 |
| DLH                                  | 635  | Doha        | 01:00 | DLH                                    | 635  | Frankfurt         | 02:00 |
| PGT                                  | 858  | Istanbul    | 01:15 | PGT                                    | 859  | Istanbul          | 02:35 |
| JZR                                  | 539  | Cairo       | 01:20 | THY                                    | 765  | Istanbul          | 02:50 |
| UAE                                  | 853  | Dubai       | 01:40 | KKK                                    | 6505 | Istanbul          | 02:55 |
| RJA                                  | 642  | Amman       | 01:45 | ETH                                    | 621  | Addis Ababa       | 03:05 |
| KKK                                  | 6506 | Istanbul    | 01:55 | KAC                                    | 854  | Dubai             | 03:30 |
| KLM                                  | 446  | Bahrain     | 02:05 | UAE                                    | 446  | Amsterdam         | 03:30 |
| QTR                                  | 1086 | Doha        | 02:10 | OMA                                    | 644  | Muscat            | 04:05 |
| ETH                                  | 620  | Addis Ababa | 02:15 | QTR                                    | 1087 | Doha              | 04:10 |
| GFA                                  | 211  | Bahrain     | 02:15 | ETD                                    | 306  | Abu Dhabi         | 04:10 |
| KAC                                  | 418  | Manila      | 02:50 | MSR                                    | 613  | Cairo             | 04:15 |
| OMA                                  | 643  | Muscat      | 03:05 | KAC                                    | 417  | Manila            | 04:20 |
| ETD                                  | 305  | Abu Dhabi   | 03:10 | PGT                                    | 861  | Istanbul          | 04:25 |
| MSR                                  | 612  | Cairo       | 03:15 | JZR                                    | 560  | Sohag             | 04:45 |
| FDB                                  | 069  | Dubai       | 03:15 | LMU                                    | 511  | Cairo             | 05:00 |
| KAC                                  | 382  | Delhi       | 03:15 | KAC                                    | 103  | London            | 05:00 |
| PGT                                  | 860  | Istanbul    | 03:25 | QTR                                    | 1077 | Doha              | 05:30 |
| QTR                                  | 1076 | Doha        | 03:45 | KAC                                    | 303  | Mumbai            | 05:50 |
| KAC                                  | 1544 | Cairo       | 03:50 | RJA                                    | 643  | Amman             | 06:25 |
| LMU                                  | 510  | Cairo       | 04:00 | THY                                    | 771  | Istanbul          | 06:25 |
| JZR                                  | 553  | Alexandria  | 04:05 | GFA                                    | 212  | Bahrain           | 06:50 |
| KAC                                  | 346  | Ahmedabad   | 04:15 | QTR                                    | 8512 | Beirut            | 06:50 |
| DHX                                  | 170  | Bahrain     | 04:35 | FDB                                    | 070  | Dubai             | 07:05 |
| KAC                                  | 358  | Kochi       | 04:50 | JZR                                    | 164  | Dubai             | 07:15 |
| KAC                                  | 784  | Jeddah      | 05:00 | JZR                                    | 1442 | Jeddah            | 07:35 |
| QTR                                  | 8511 | Doha        | 05:20 | KAC                                    | 171  | Frankfurt         | 07:50 |
| THY                                  | 770  | Istanbul    | 05:25 | KAC                                    | 501  | Beirut            | 07:50 |
| KAC                                  | 344  | Chennai     | 05:30 | KAC                                    | 613  | Bahrain           | 07:55 |
| KAC                                  | 332  | Trivandrum  | 05:40 | BAW                                    | 156  | London            | 08:20 |
| KAC                                  | 362  | Colombo     | 05:50 | FDB                                    | 054  | Dubai             | 08:30 |
| BAW                                  | 157  | London      | 06:05 | KAC                                    | 741  | Dammam            | 08:30 |
| KAC                                  | 678  | Dubai       | 06:25 | KAC                                    | 773  | Riyadh            | 08:35 |
| KAC                                  | 284  | Dhaka       | 06:35 | KAC                                    | 513  | Tehran            | 08:45 |
| KAC                                  | 206  | Islamabad   | 06:40 | KAC                                    | 661  | Abu Dhabi         | 09:00 |
| WAN                                  | 342  | Sohag       | 06:40 | KAC                                    | 671  | Dubai             | 09:15 |
| KAC                                  | 302  | Mumbai      | 06:55 | KAC                                    | 787  | Jeddah            | 09:15 |
| KAC                                  | 156  | Istanbul    | 07:05 | KAC                                    | 117  | New York          | 09:15 |
| FDB                                  | 053  | Dubai       | 07:50 | KAC                                    | 165  | Rome              | 09:20 |
| KAC                                  | 354  | Bengaluru   | 07:50 | KAC                                    | 561  | Amman             | 09:30 |
| KAC                                  | 384  | Delhi       | 08:00 | KAC                                    | 691  | Muscat            | 09:30 |
| UAE                                  | 855  | Dubai       | 08:25 | JZR                                    | 482  | Istanbul          | 09:40 |
| ETD                                  | 301  | Abu Dhabi   | 08:55 | ABY                                    | 126  | Sharjah           | 09:40 |
| ABY                                  | 125  | Sharjah     | 09:00 | KAC                                    | 101  | London            | 09:45 |
| QTR                                  | 1070 | Doha        | 09:25 | UAE                                    | 856  | Dubai             | 09:50 |
| IRA                                  | 665  | Shiraz      | 09:25 | KAC                                    | 541  | Cairo             | 10:00 |
| FDB                                  | 055  | Dubai       | 09:40 | ETD                                    | 302  | Abu Dhabi         | 10:00 |
| MSC                                  | 415  | Sohag       | 10:15 | KAC                                    | 617  | Doha              | 10:15 |
| GFA                                  | 213  | Bahrain     | 10:40 | IRA                                    | 664  | Shiraz            | 10:25 |
| IRC                                  | 528  | Ahwaz       | 10:55 | KAC                                    | 153  | Istanbul          | 10:30 |
| MEA                                  | 404  | Beirut      | 10:55 | QTR                                    | 1071 | Doha              | 10:35 |
| PAL                                  | 668  | Manila      | 11:00 | FDB                                    | 056  | Dubai             | 10:35 |
| QTR                                  | 1074 | Doha        | 11:00 | MSC                                    | 416  | Sohag             | 11:15 |
| WAN                                  | 114  | Bahrain     | 11:00 | GFA                                    | 214  | Bahrain           | 11:35 |
| JZR                                  | 1443 | Doha        | 11:10 | MEA                                    | 405  | Beirut            | 11:55 |
| JZR                                  | 1443 | Doha        | 11:10 | IRC                                    | 529  | Ahwaz             | 11:55 |
| KAC                                  | 614  | Bahrain     | 11:15 | JZR                                    | 776  | Jeddah            | 12:00 |
| KAC                                  | 742  | Dammam      | 11:45 | QTR                                    | 1075 | Doha              | 12:10 |
| JZR                                  | 165  | Dubai       | 11:50 | KAC                                    | 413  | Bangkok           | 12:20 |
| SAW                                  | 701  | Damascus    | 12:30 | VIZ                                    | 201  | TQD               | 12:30 |
| UAE                                  | 871  | Dubai       | 12:45 | JZR                                    | 176  | Dubai             | 13:10 |
| KAC                                  | 774  | Riyadh      | 12:45 | JZR                                    | 786  | Riyadh            | 13:10 |
| MSR                                  | 610  | Cairo       | 13:00 | PAL                                    | 669  | Manila            | 13:10 |
| KAC                                  | 514  | Tehran      | 13:10 | JZR                                    | 124  | Bahrain           | 13:30 |
| AXB                                  | 393  | Kozhikode   | 13:10 | SAW                                    | 702  | Damascus          | 13:30 |
| KAC                                  | 662  | Abu Dhabi   | 13:35 | MSR                                    | 611  | Cairo             | 14:00 |
| ICV                                  | 675  | Luxembourg  | 13:50 | AXB                                    | 394  | Kozhikode         | 14:10 |
| KAC                                  | 672  | Dubai       | 13:55 | UAE                                    | 872  | Dubai             | 14:15 |
| QTR                                  | 1078 | Doha        | 14:10 | GFA                                    | 222  | Bahrain           | 15:00 |
| GFA                                  | 221  | Bahrain     | 14:15 | KAC                                    | 673  | Dubai             | 15:00 |
| FDB                                  | 059  | Dubai       | 14:20 | FDB                                    | 060  | Dubai             | 15:05 |
| KAC                                  | 618  | Doha        | 14:20 | QTR                                    | 1079 | Doha              | 15:15 |
| SVA                                  | 500  | Jeddah      | 14:45 | ICV                                    | 675  | Hong Kong         | 15:20 |
| KNE                                  | 529  | Jeddah      | 14:55 | KAC                                    | 775  | Riyadh            | 15:40 |
| KAC                                  | 304  | Mumbai      | 14:55 | KAC                                    | 563  | Amman             | 15:40 |
| KAC                                  | 788  | Jeddah      | 14:55 | SVA                                    | 501  | Jeddah            | 15:45 |
| KAC                                  | 692  | Muscat      | 14:55 | KNE                                    | 530  | Jeddah            | 15:55 |
| ETD                                  | 303  | Abu Dhabi   | 15:05 | KAC                                    | 619  | Doha              | 16:00 |
| OMA                                  | 645  | Muscat      | 15:10 | OMA                                    | 646  | Muscat            | 16:10 |
| KAC                                  | 562  | Amman       | 15:10 | ABY                                    | 128  | Sharjah           | 16:15 |
| KAC                                  | 502  | Beirut      | 15:25 | ETD                                    | 304  | Abu Dhabi         | 16:20 |
| KAC                                  | 412  | Bangkok     | 15:30 | KAC                                    | 615  | Bahrain           | 16:30 |
| ABY                                  | 127  | Sharjah     | 15:35 | FDK                                    | 802  | Damascus          | 16:55 |
| UAE                                  | 857  | Dubai       | 15:45 | RJA                                    | 641  | Amman             | 16:55 |
| RJA                                  | 640  | Amman       | 16:00 | KAC                                    | 675  | Dubai             | 17:00 |
| FDK                                  | 801  | Damascus    | 16:00 | FDB                                    | 052  | Dubai             | 17:10 |
| QTR                                  | 1072 | Doha        | 16:15 | KAC                                    | 503  | Beirut            | 17:15 |
| FDB                                  | 051  | Dubai       | 16:15 | JZR                                    | 266  | Beirut            | 17:15 |
| JZR                                  | 125  | Bahrain     | 16:25 | QTR                                    | 1073 | Doha              | 17:25 |
| KAC                                  | 118  | New York    | 16:25 | JZR                                    | 240  | Amman             | 17:30 |
| JZR                                  | 787  | Riyadh      | 16:35 | KAC                                    | 361  | Colombo           | 17:35 |
| KAC                                  | 542  | Cairo       | 17:05 | KAC                                    | 357  | Kochi             | 17:40 |
| SVA                                  | 510  | Riyadh      | 17:15 | UAE                                    | 858  | Dubai             | 17:40 |
| GFA                                  | 215  | Bahrain     | 17:30 | WAN                                    | 115  | Bahrain           | 17:45 |
| JZR                                  | 777  | Jeddah      | 17:35 | KAC                                    | 381  | Delhi             | 17:50 |
| JZR                                  | 177  | Dubai       | 17:45 | KAC                                    | 343  | Chennai           | 18:00 |
| QTR                                  | 1080 | Doha        | 18:10 | KAC                                    | 283  | Dhaka             | 18:00 |
| MSR                                  | 620  | Cairo       | 18:30 | SVA                                    | 511  | Riyadh            | 18:15 |
| JZR                                  | 483  | Istanbul    | 18:30 | GFA                                    | 216  | Bahrain           | 18:20 |
| GFA                                  | 217  | Bahrain     | 19:05 | JZR                                    | 184  | Dubai             | 18:25 |
| UAE                                  | 875  | Dubai       | 19:05 | JZR                                    | 538  | Cairo             | 18:30 |
| FDB                                  | 063  | Dubai       | 19:10 | KAC                                    | 785  | Jeddah            | 18:45 |
| KAC                                  | 776  | Dubai       | 19:10 | QTR                                    | 1081 | Doha              | 19:15 |
| ABY                                  | 123  | Sharjah     | 19:20 | KAC                                    | 345  | Ahmedabad         | 19:20 |
| KAC                                  | 154  | Istanbul    | 19:30 | MSR                                    | 621  | Cairo             | 19:30 |
| KAC                                  | 674  | Dubai       | 19:40 | GFA                                    | 218  | Bahrain           | 19:5  |

## Lifestyle | Gossip

IRIS LAW IS DATING  
KELVIN BUENO

**T**he 17-year-old model - who is the daughter of actor Jude Law and his ex-wife Sadie Frost - is rumored to be in a relationship with the 19-year-old, who is also a model. The Mail Online has reported. The dark-haired hunk is also believed to have grown up in Sao Paulo, in Brazil, until he moved to the UK, and he not only represents the British fashion house Burberry, but is also a graffiti artist and a musician. And it is believed Kelvin penned a song named '22 Reasons' to celebrate his girlfriend's birthday on October 25, which sees him gush about the brunette beauty. The lyrics in the track include: "It's the way you walk and talk, I think I've found my love. It's the way you call my name, there isn't another way to say I've found my love today, and I ain't letting go." And the catwalk star recently took to social media to gush about Iris on her special day.

Alongside a photograph of Iris - who graced her first beauty campaign for Burberry earlier this year - in a pink ensemble, which was posted on his Instagram account, Kelvin wrote: "Happy Birthday My Princess (sic)." Although the pair are believed to have been courting for the past few months, they have remained tight lipped about their romance as Iris has not shared many images of her with Kelvin on her social media sites. However, Kelvin appears to be more open about his love life and has posted a variety of images of him with Iris, as well as the star on her own, and a photograph of Kelvin accompanied by Iris' 44-year-old father during a recent trip away to Greece, on his photo-sharing site.

Pink gave Adele advice  
on touring as a parent

**T**he 'What About Us' singer - who has children Willow, six, and nine-month-old son Jameson with her husband Carey Hart - warned the 'Hello' hitmaker it wouldn't be easy to take little Angelo, her now five-year-old son with partner Simon Konecki, on the road with her because of the performance schedule. She told Q magazine: "She's not come back [stage] but I was emailing back and forth with her to tell her how to take a kid on the road. "People come with me now and ask me how to tour with a child. "My top tip is don't try to do it all. If you're onstage at nine o'clock, you can't be at breakfast at 7am. You have to pick your battles." Adele previously admitted seeing Pink perform when she was a teenager was one of the "most defining" moments of her life and the 'So What' hitmaker was honoured by her words.

She said: "I love Adele and love what she said, it was the ultimate compliment. "I'm a live singer. I don't win contests, I don't win a lot of awards, I don't make the cover of magazines but I f\*\*\*ing tour, so that's the ultimate compliment." Meanwhile, Pink recently claimed that she's spent her "entire life" fighting prejudice. The singer was lambasted for appearing to defend outspoken US President Donald Trump on Twitter, suggesting his opinions on contentious issues could evolve during the course of his Presidency, and Pink has admitted to being heartbroken by the reaction of some social media users. She confessed: "This part has been ... just from the Twitter, just from the misunderstanding of that, that actually broke my heart. I cried a lot about that. I'm really sad about where we are as people."

Price has  
received three kidnap  
threats in the past

**T**he 39-year-old former glamour model was forced to cancel her gig in Manchester earlier this month after her son Harvey, 15, was involved in a "black-mail plot", where an anonymous email was sent to her management company, threatening to "smash Harvey's face in" unless she paid out £50,000. And, although the police are currently investigating the incident, the 'Loose Women' panellist has decided to beef up her security because this isn't the first time she's received threats regarding her children. Katie - who also has Junior, 12, Princess, 10, Jett, four, and Bunny three - explained: "I had to cancel my tour date in Manchester. I can't go into detail because the people who are involved could read this. I'm not allowed to make a comment but the police are taking it seriously because I've received three kidnap threats before. Things are under control but it is an ongoing investigation." Katie has had somewhat of a rough year as over the past two months she's suffered a miscarriage, caught her husband Kieran Hayler cheating on her with her nanny and discovered her mum Amy Price has a terminal lung condition and doctors don't expect her to live longer than five years. She told OK! magazine: "It's sad. All I can say is the past two months I've had a miscarriage, found out Kieran was cheating, found out my mum's seriously ill and Harvey's now had a threat. It's pretty s\*\*t." But the reality TV star is determined to throw herself into health and fitness in order to keep her mind clear and focus on her wellness because she doesn't want to go down the "dark path". She added: "Instead of going down a dark path, I'm going to turn to fitness and learn to cook healthy food because I don't really know how to do it. I want to focus on something that's good for me. It's the only way I'll be able to deal with everything that's happened, so that's what I'll do."

Bieber's pastor  
denies responsibility  
for tour cancellation

**T**he 23-year-old singer cancelled the remaining gigs in July this year, because he reportedly wanted to "re-dedicate his life to Christ", but the 'Sorry' hitmaker's mentor, Carl Lentz, insists he has nothing to do with Justin's decision to axe the remaining concerts because the star makes "his own calls". Speaking on 'The Breakfast Club' about the situation, the religious figure said: "People who speculate like that don't have any context of what it means to have a pastor or a friend and Justin made his own calls." And Carl has admitted it is it "not [his] role" to tell people what to do, but to simply offer his support in any situation they are faced with. He explained: "He made his own decisions. It's not my role to tell this boy, this man really, man of god, what to do. He's going to do what he's going to do and I'm going to sit there and say, 'I'm with you.' If he asks for advice, I would give it. But that's not my primary role." And Carl has revealed he never would have forced Justin to scrap the end of his tour because he wouldn't want Justin's fans to be "mad" at him. He added: "Why would I have a hand in him cancelling his tour? Why would I want Beliebers mad at me?" Justin took to social media in August to speak out about his decision, in



which he admitted he wanted to have a "sustainable" career and needed the time out to focus on his priorities. Speaking at the time, the Canadian hunk wrote: "Learning and growing hasn't always been easy but knowing I'm not alone has kept me going. I have let my insecurities get the best of me at times, I let my broken relationships dictate the way I acted toward people and the way I treated them. I let bitterness, jealousy and fear run my life."

BEYONCE AND JAY Z'S  
TWINNS ARE 'VERY DIFFERENT'

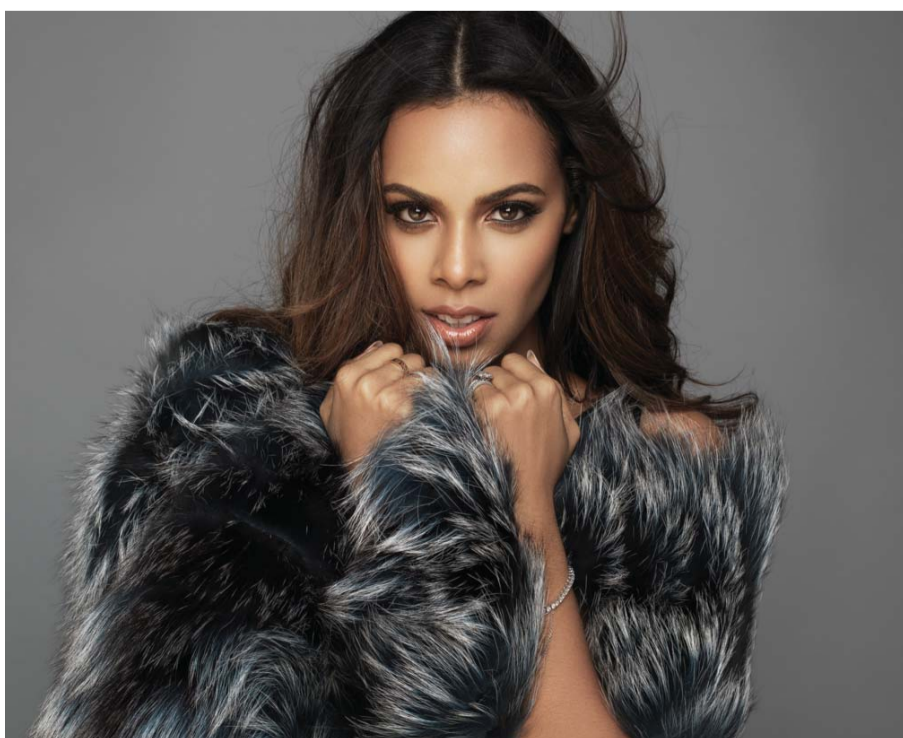
**T**he couple welcomed daughter Rumi and son Sir into the world in June and their proud grandmother, Tina Knowles Lawson, adores being around the "cute" youngsters. Tina - who is Beyoncé's mother - said: "They're doing great. They are absolutely beautiful and so much fun. I mean, I haven't ever been around twins, but it's so cute, I can hardly take it. "Yes, [it's crazy]...it's just really, really different with two babies. I mean, a boy and a girl. Very different personalities." Beyoncé, 36, and 47-year-old Jay are also parents to five-year-old Blue Ivy and their older girl is already a "good sister" to her twin siblings. Tina said: "She's a good sister." Her husband, Richard Lawson, added to 'Entertainment Tonight': "Just seeing her grow up, it's bringing some maturity. She's only five, but you can see the transition in terms of her being a little more

calm. Because she's the diva, but she's sharing her diva-dom." Meanwhile, Tina bonds with her son-in-law over their shared passion for art. She said of the '99 Problems' rapper: "We have a great passion for art and we talk about it all the time and he shows me new artists and sometimes I show him new artists. He has a great eye." It was previously reported that the 'Formation' hitmaker had initially been worried Blue Ivy would "feel left out" once the twins arrived, but was pleased when she proved to be an "amazing" big sister. A source said: "Beyoncé has been very busy with the newborns, but she's also been able to relax a bit. It's helped her that Blue has been such an amazing big sister. "There was no need to worry because Blue is great. She takes her job as a big sister very seriously and helps out a lot." — Bangshowbiz

Rochelle Humes wants to have  
another baby

**T**he Saturdays singer only gave birth to her second child Valentina seven months ago, but she is already dreading the day when she starts to grow up and no longer depends on her so much, and would definitely consider adding another little one to her family with her husband Marvin Humes. The brunette beauty - who also has four-year-old daughter Alaia-Mai with Marvin - said: "Never say never, but it's a hard thing to call right now because Valentina's still so young. There was a time when I definitely thought I would only have two children, but now I don't know. "I can't imagine not having a tiny baby again. I think I'm always really broody but you've got to stop somewhere. I actually thought I was having a boy when I had Valentina. "But I really wanted Alaia to have a sister, so I thought: if we only

had two I'd want another little girl. I'd be the type who'd end up with eight girls trying for a boy." The 28-year-old beauty has thrown herself into fitness over the past few months because she desperately needed to boost her energy in order to care for her two little ones. She told OK! magazine: "I wanted to feel fit after having the baby. I was quite active when I was pregnant with Alaia, but by the end I was so anaemic so I didn't do as much and I felt really lethargic. "Then recently I couldn't run for a bus, and now I've got two so I can't be that tired. At first I didn't know if exercise was going to help me or if it would make me feel worse, but it made me feel really good and if I don't do it now I feel like I'm missing out."

Clarkson 'freaked out' after  
Meryl Streep's rejection letter

**T**he 35-year-old singer had approached the 'Devil Wears Prada' star to get involved with an idea she had for her latest album, 'Meaning of Life', but even though her idol was unable to take part, the 'Breakaway' hitmaker was bowled over by the kind response she received. She told Refinery 29: "Recently - I am a huge Meryl Streep fan. OK? I mean, who isn't? But she's one of my favourite humans on the planet. "I came up with this idea to release my album and have people I like in the limelight do a little something for it. So I sent her this request, but I don't know her at all, so I sent

it like through her people... channels... I don't even know how it got to her, but magically it did! And she totally emailed me back! "It was the greatest rejection I've ever had. She couldn't do it because she's filming a movie somewhere, but she wrote back the kindest, nicest note, and I was floored because a lot of times people just say, 'We asked her people and they said she can't because she's busy.' "But she literally sent, it said 'From Meryl! You would've thought I was opening a letter from Harvard to see if I got accepted! I was freaking out!'"



Lifestyle | Music & Movies

Film Review



PALME D'OR WINNER 'THE SQUARE,' A CHARMING SATIRE

Swedish filmmaker Ruben Ostlund's last film, "Force Majeure," began with the rumble of an alpine avalanche and the walloping of a shattered self-image. When a swelling white tide appears headed straight for an outdoor cafe, a panicked father flees with his iPhone, but not his children or wife. Their respect for him is undone in a cloud of snow. In Ostlund's follow-up, the Palme d'Or-winning "The Square," an upper-class, highly placed man is again humbled by a latent cowardice, but one that reveals itself in more subtle and daily acts of fraudulence.

Claes Bang stars as Christian, the handsome and suave chief curator of a Stockholm contemporary art museum. In the early scenes, we see him trying to explain a pompous museum description to an American journalist (Elisabeth Moss) and rehearsing remarks for a museum event that he will later pretend are off-the-cuff. He's a smooth operator with the practiced air of privilege.

That the high-minded contemporary art world would

have something a touch fake about it is far from a new idea. But Ostlund, in his fifth feature, has more expansive satire in mind. The title of "The Square" refers to an exhibit the museum is preparing in a city courtyard in which a square is laid into the cobblestone street. "The Square is a sanctuary of trust and caring," reads the description. "Within its boundaries, we all share equal rights and obligations."

Clinical touch

Outside of the square, not so much. Throughout the film, Christian and others who espouse such enlightened ideals of community are seen failing to live up to them - and often not even trying to. "The Square" is a consistently

Consistently clever odyssey of modern-day hypocrisy

clever odyssey of modern-day hypocrisy that rambles and hiccups but seldom lacks Ostlund's charming but clinical satirical touch. It's as entertaining as it is damning.

The central thread of the film begins with Christian's phone, wallet and even cuff links being stolen in a sidewalk setup where a woman feigns to need help from her attacking

boyfriend. Christian and another bystander rush to her aid, but while basking in his good deed, he realizes he's been fleeced. Christian and a younger museum employee (Christopher Laesso) are able to track the phone to a low-income housing project where, in a lark that turns grave, Christian - unsure of which tenant to approach - disperses print-outs demanding the return of his things to every apartment.

The scheme has unwitting fallout for one furious little boy (Elijandro Edouard). Meanwhile, Christian spends an awkward night with the journalist, Anne, that includes both an unexplained chimpanzee walking around her apartment and a tense post-coital debate when Anne offers to discard the used prophylactic, rousing Christian's suspicions. He later comes under fire for an ill-conceived marketing campaign for "The Square" that threatens his high perch.

Compassion runs in herds

"The Square" is populated by reminders of our more primitive impulses. In one terrific scene, a man with Tourette syndrome interrupts a well-attended conversation with a highfalutin conceptual artist (Dominic West). In the film's centerpiece, a muscular performance artist posing as a gorilla (Terry Notary of "The Planet of the Apes") runs amok at a fancy fundraising dinner. He stalks the well-dressed attendees until an air of real fear sets in. Only after the performer has thoroughly harassed one woman does

anyone dare to protest: once a single man stands up, dozens follow. Compassion runs in herds.

There's less balance to "The Square" than there was to "Force Majeure." Its tight early scenes (one favorite: a sea of commuters breezing past the entreaty to "save a life today" with answers like "not right now") give way to increasingly overwrought set pieces (like the dinner scene) that are eye-catching but implausible and, besides, lose the narrative. It also quibbles with the very late entry of Christian's children who turn up in the film's final third to observe, impressively, their father in his downfall.

But "The Square," where the enlightened and well-heeled are always gliding past beggars, remains a potent satire. The key, I think, is the exceptional Bang, a tall and dapper Danish actor who could legitimately play James Bond. He plays Christian with just the right cocktail of vulnerability and arrogance. That he's so easy to see through makes him, in a funny way, almost loveable. "The Square," a Magnolia Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language, some strong sexual content and brief violence." Running time: 145 minutes. In Swedish and English with English subtitles. Three stars out of four.



Director Samuel Maoz, center, and actors Lior Ashkenazi, left, and Sarah Adler pose during the photo call for the film "Foxtrot".

OSCAR HOPEFUL 'FOXTROT' LOCKED IN ISRAEL'S CULTURE WAR

Israel's contender for this year's foreign-language Oscar has swept local film awards and scored high honors at the Venice Film Festival. But before it even hit the silver screen at home, Samuel Maoz's "Foxtrot," a drama exploring Israel's West Bank occupation and the modern Israeli psyche, has found itself caught in the crossfire of a raging culture war.

Culture Minister Miri Regev's beef with Foxtrot is part of her ongoing battle with artists perceived as being critical of the Israeli government. Since taking office in 2015, Regev has moved to cut government funding to theaters and artists deemed disloyal to the state and troupes that refuse to perform in West Bank settlements. Foxtrot plays out in three acts. Its title refers both to the name of an army checkpoint depicted in the movie and the dance, whose circular movement alludes to the cycles of generational trauma.

Unglorified depiction

Act one follows the lives of an Israeli family after the parents learn that their son, a soldier, was killed in action. In a country where military service is mandatory for most Jews when they turn 18, the opening scene with the announcement of the young man's death is the epitome of many Israeli parents' worst fears.

Act two jumps back in time, to the young man's military service and an unglorified depiction of Israeli army life at a remote checkpoint - the tedium, the muck, the misery. Though Foxtrot never mentions Palestinians by name, and the people stopped by the soldiers at the checkpoint never utter a word, the film obliquely criticizes Israel's occupation of the West Bank as unjust, futile and morally corrupting.

The soldiers' shipping container barracks is gradually sinking in the mud, a metaphor for the country as a whole. "We're tilting," one soldier says after rolling a can of processed meat to gauge the barracks' angle. "If we're tilting then eventually we'll turn over and sink. When it happens it'll happen suddenly. I don't know if I'll have enough time to say 'I told you so,' so I'm telling you now."

Act three revisits the parents a year after their son's death and explores the way they relate to grief and loss. Foxtrot was nominated for Best Film in Venice, where it won the runner-up Grand Jury Prize in September. It then swept the Ophir Awards, Israel's most prestigious film honors, taking eight categories, including best film. The winner of the Ophir Best Film is submitted as the country's Oscar submission.

Since 1964, 10 Israeli films have been nominated for the Academy Award's best foreign film but none won. Shortly after its Venice award, Regev - a former army spokeswoman and military censor - appeared in television interviews railing against Foxtrot, while admitting she hadn't actually seen it. She wrote on Facebook that she was "ashamed" that the Israeli film academy celebrated Foxtrot, "a film that chose to slander the Israel

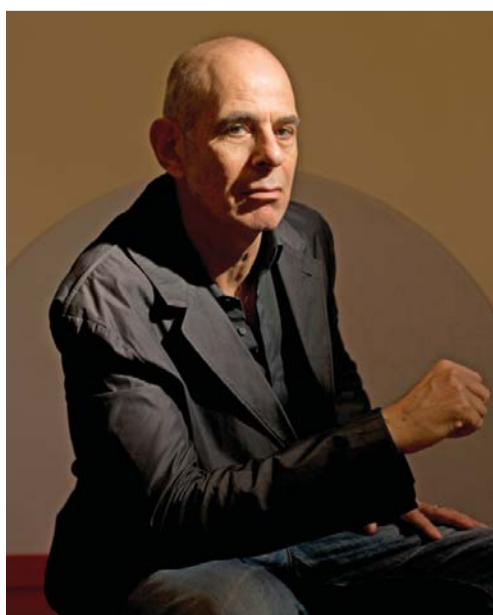
Defense Forces." She later broadcast a speech on her Facebook page saying Foxtrot aimed to "destroy the biggest celebration in the 20th century, the state of Israel," and vowed to cut government funding of films.

Lingering effect

Foxtrot received 14 percent of its funding from the government sponsored Israeli Film Fund, with the remainder coming from assistance from France and Germany. The film explores a number of issues in Israeli society, from the lingering effects of the Holocaust, to Israeli machismo and the role of Jewish tradition among secular Israelis. But the scene that apparently raised Regev's hackles shows Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint accidentally killing a careful of innocent civilians, and the army's subsequent cover-up of the incident in the most literal fashion - with a bulldozer.

Maoz dismissed Regev's criticism in an interview with the Hebrew daily Haaretz, saying the scene was allegorical and meant to show how Israeli society "prefers to bury the truth in the mud we created, instead of dealing with it and asking ourselves piercing questions." "It may be that the IDF is a moral army," he said, echoing a common refrain voiced by military commanders. "But the experience of war doesn't truly allow you to be moral."

Maoz himself served in the Israeli tank corps in Lebanon in the 1980s. His 2009 film "Lebanon," which also scooped up awards in Venice that year, was a largely autobiographical account based on Maoz's wartime experience. Celebrated Israeli actor Lior Ashkenazi, who starred in the 2011 Oscar-nominated film "Footnote" and plays Foxtrot's troubled protagonist, swatted back at Regev. "If the minister had read Chekhov, she would understand what metaphor is," Ashkenazi said, referring to Regev's proud declaration in 2015 that she never read the Russian author, seen as a symbol of the country's European-educated elites. "If the minister had read Chekhov, perhaps she would know what allegory is." — AP



Director Samuel Maoz poses for portraits for the film "Foxtrot" at the 74th Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy. — AP photos

As some New Orleans music stars fade away, others are now rising

New Orleans lost Fats Domino this week, but some of the city's old guard are still going strong. Dr John turns 77 in November and plans a monthlong musical celebration. Irma Thomas, the 76-year-old "soul queen of New Orleans," has been touring lately with the Preservation Hall Legacy Quintet. Aaron Neville is still performing at 76. So is Deacon John Moore, also 76 and playing everything from wedding receptions to block parties, rarely far from where he grew up in New Orleans' 8th Ward.

Tuesday's death of rock 'n' roll pioneer Fats Domino came a year after the passing of jazz clarinet great Pete Fountain and two years after the city said goodbye to producer-writer-performer Allen Toussaint. All were members of a disappearing generation of New Orleans royalty: artists who put the city on the musical map in the mid- to late 20th century, much as Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong had earlier. "The rhythm and blues people from my era are truly fading away," Moore said Thursday. "There's not many of us left." The losses are a reason to grieve, but not to despair, Tulane University professor Nick Spitzer said.

'Good music in the city'

Spitzer is the host of the public radio music program "American Routes." He speaks with a kind of reverence about Domino's devotion to New Orleans, his gentle personality and his original piano style, driven by Caribbean rhythms. "Fats was one of the people - along with Jelly Roll Morton and Louis Armstrong and Sidney Bechet and Wynton Marsalis and Allen Toussaint and Professor Longhair - all of whom gave the city a sonic visibility at one time or another at different levels and abilities," Spitzer said. "It's sad to see Fats go, but at the same time, I think there's a lot of good music in the city."

New Orleans musicians remain on the national scene. There is, for instance, Harry Connick Jr., who learned piano from such New Orleans greats as Ellis Marsalis (the 82-year-old patriarch of his celebrated New Orleans musical family, who still plays gigs at Snug Harbor jazz club) and the late James Booker. Connick made his mark not only as a pianist and singer, but also as a television and movie actor and, now, a talk show host.

Marsalis' sons are also accomplished musicians - Wynton Marsalis is artistic director of jazz at Lincoln Center. Meanwhile, Jon Batiste leads his band, Stay Human, on The Late Show with Steven Colbert. "The worry is, people think the story has ended," said Matt Sakakeeny, associate professor of music at Tulane and author of "Roll With It: Brass Bands in the Streets of New Orleans." "But I think the New Orleans music scene now is maybe as vital as maybe it ever has been."

International stardom?

Among those he's watching is Christian Scott, a trumpeter who changed his name to aTunde Adjuah. "He has a unique sound - he calls it Stretch Music," Sakakeeny said. "He collaborates with musicians not just from New Orleans but from all over the world." "We still have musical families who produce musicians, people of all levels," said Michael White, a clarinetist and professor of Spanish and African-American music at Xavier University.



Fats Domino visits with Little Richard in a dressing room after Richards' performance at The Domino Effect, a tribute concert for Domino, at the New Orleans Arena in New Orleans. — AP photos



This 1956 file photo shows singer, composer and pianist Fats Domino.

In addition to the Marsalis family, he noted the Andrews family, whose best known member is Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews. "I would definitely not be surprised if somebody else in New Orleans comes up to have a national influence in music," White said. "I think there is a vibrancy in New Orleans music today that continues," Spitzer said. "And, you know, when Fats was a young boy or a teenager, no one knew that he was going to become what he did." But will anyone have an influence on a par with that of Domino? Or reach his level of international stardom?

It might be difficult to find someone as unique and original as Domino, Spitzer said. And it would be difficult for such an artist to find such explosive fame in a world where downloading music makes for diverse audiences and hit-making means playing to the lowest common denominator. "The days of the crusading star breaking forward with some new sound that really is as organic as Fats," Spitzer said, "that may have passed." — AP

## Lifestyle | Features



A visitor weaves woolen patches on a loom to cover bullet holes on the building hosting an exhibition dedicated to healing the country's war wounds, in Beirut.



A visitor walks through an art installation of 17,000 green sticks, in memory of those missing since the civil war.

# ART EXHIBIT IN LEBANON

## TAKES ON CIVIL WAR'S OLD WOUNDS

Zena El Khalil's art exhibit has tapped into wounds that are more than 40 years old in war-scarred Lebanon. "Sacred Catastrophe: Healing Lebanon" is being hosted in a landmark building in the center of Beirut that is a powerful reminder of the country's 1975-1990 civil war. Pockmarked and riddled with bullet holes, the building stands on the former demarcation line that bisected Beirut into warring sections: east and west, Muslim and Christian.

The nearly 100-year-old house became a favorite for snipers, who turned the structure into a killing machine during the war. El Khalil has brought her work to what is now the Beit Beirut museum - a collection of paintings, photographs, videos, installations and recorded poetry produced from over 100 locations around Lebanon. The exhibit is the first in Beit Beirut, which was declared a cultural center in 2003 when the city bought it. Spaces, like humans, need healing, El Khalil said. And in Beit Beirut, she has planted a seed for a dialogue over reconciliation.

“

We are still carrying a lot of pain”

”

### Healing ceremonies

"We never had a reconciliation process after our war ended so as a community we are still carrying a lot of pain," El Khalil said. "If we are going to step into a peaceful future, we need to come to terms with the pain that we are carrying. We need to release. Otherwise we are going to continue to self-sabotage to be aggressive and disconnected." El Khalil said she wants to transform objects left over from the war into works of art. Healing ceremonies that are part of

the exhibit include chanting, burning debris to produce ink and drawing on canvases. The ceremonies are sealed with a whirling dance meant to preserve the new energy.

At the end of the conflict in 1990, a general amnesty was issued and the subject of the civil war has never been formally discussed. Students don't study the war's history because officials can't agree on which version of the war to include in textbooks. And despite appearing to have moved on, Lebanon is still stuck in a cycle of dysfunction, corruption and social volatility.

As sectarian tension rocks the region, Lebanon seems to be looking inward. A recent film, "The Insult," also touches on reconciliation, drawing mostly praise for successfully addressing the wounds

of the war and yearning for justice without blaming any one side. Hundreds of visitors have walked through the restored building as chants from healing ceremonies played in the background and people stepped into preserved sniper's nests. The healing theme is clear: daily workshops include yoga and Reiki sessions. Poetry sessions included odes to those killed in wars.

Participants shared war memories, shedding tears, exchanging hugs and sometimes blame. Speakers spoke of "art as a form of resilience" and children painted mantras El Khalil used in her healing ceremonies: compassion, love, peace and forgiveness. In one workshop, visitors wove woolen patches on looms to cover bullet holes around the building, symbolic dressings for the war wounds.

El Khalil's project began as a personal journey after she visited her family's home in south Lebanon for the first time since Israel's withdrawal in 2000, following years of occupation. The house was used as a military detention center and signs of torture and abuse shocked her. She began documenting the violence, starting with her grandparents' house in Beirut, where a bomb fell but failed to detonate. She then included her mother's house, which she said was destroyed by missiles lobbed from the sea by the USS New Jersey targeting Syrian batteries stationed in Lebanon in the early 1980s.

### Fate of the missing

For five years, she researched and performed ceremonies in over 100 places in Lebanon. One installation is dedicated to the memory of the 17,000 Lebanese missing since the war's end. Inspired by the location, a collection of 17,000 green wooden sticks, some painted by families of the missing, are shaped like shrubs and weeds that grew along the deserted demarcation line when snipers kept people away. An investigation into the fate of the missing was never launched.

On a recent visit, US Ambassador to Lebanon Elizabeth Holzhall Richard said El Khalil's work has put a "spotlight" on a long overdue reconciliation process. The exhibit isn't always easy for visitors. One woman argued that neither the art work nor the location were conducive to healing. "It is opening wounds," protested the speaker who said she lost friends in the war. The eyes of Grace Khleif, another visitor, welled up in tears. For four days in 1976, as a 15-year-old girl, she couldn't cross the demarcation line because of the snipers.

Despite therapy, she never recovered from images of people being shot there - until she walked into Beit Beirut. "Two days ago, I cried for the first time," Khleif said. "The wounds came to the surface. I have been healing myself for years but I couldn't go that



Lebanese artist Zena El Khalil speaks in front of one of her paintings.

deep. This is how healing happens." Outside Beit Beirut, the old wounds were far from healing and for a brief moment the demarcation line seemed to have sprung up again.

A court last week sentenced two Lebanese citizens to death for the 1982 assassination of President-elect Bashir Gemayel, splitting the country in two. Killed in an explosion, his death remains highly divisive, with rival rallies taking place on opposite sides of town. In East Beirut, supporters celebrated the verdict and demanded the perpetrators, tried in absentia, be handed over. In West Beirut, a rally by Gemayel's opponents, who see him as an Israeli agent, hailed the killers as heroes. — AP

## Actress Rose McGowan says her silence over on sexual assault

In her first public comments since accusing film producer Harvey Weinstein of rape, actress Rose McGowan said Friday she has been "silenced for 20 years" but won't remain quiet about sexual assault and harassment. McGowan, delivering opening remarks at The Women's Convention in Detroit, thanked the audience "for giving me wings during this very difficult time."

"The triggering has been insane - the monster's face everywhere, my nightmare," she said. "I have been silenced for 20 years. I have been slut-shamed, I have been harassed, I have been maligned, and you know what? I am just like you. What happened to me behind the scenes happens to all of us in this society. It cannot stand and will not stand."

McGowan has been one of the leading voices against sexual harassment in Hollywood, and tweeted earlier this month that she was raped by a man with the initials "HW." The Hollywood Reporter said McGowan confirmed she was referring to Weinstein. On Twitter, McGowan has amassed supporters and urged them to call out harassment using the #RoseArmy hashtag. McGowan has starred in several films, including "Scream," "Jawbreaker," and "Planet Terror," as well as the early 2000s television series "Charmed."



Actress Rose McGowan speaks at the inaugural Women's Convention in Detroit. — AP

### Denied allegations

Weinstein was fired from The Weinstein Company on Oct 8 after The New York Times published an expose that detailed decades of sexual harassment allegations against him. The Oscar-winning producer apologized without addressing any specific conduct, but has denied later allegations by several women that he raped them.

The New York Times also reported that Weinstein paid a financial settlement of \$100,000 to McGowan in 1997 over an incident in a hotel room during the Sundance Film Festival in Utah. Weinstein representative Sallie Hofmeister has denied all allegations of non-consensual sex. Police in London, Los Angeles and New York are investigating Weinstein, 65. He sued his former company on Thursday, seeking access to email and personnel records his lawyer contends would exonerate him.

On Friday, McGowan said because Hollywood is male-dominated, "we are given one view." She said the entertainment industry isn't isolated; instead, "it is the mirror you are given to look into." "I know the men behind that view. They shouldn't be in your mind and they shouldn't be in mind. It's time to clean house," she said.

McGowan participated in a panel later Friday and elaborated on changes that could be made to prevent harassment and sexual abuse in the entertainment industry. "In regards to Hollywood, we have no rights," she said. "There is no such thing as sexual harassment laws." She said biases against women make their way into scripts as well, with the large numbers of men in writers' rooms.

"Writers in Hollywood use rape as a plot device," she said. "They can't imagine a woman getting strong otherwise." She was joined on the panel by fellow actress Amber Tamblyn, who said there has "always been sort of a quiet conversation happening in our business" about sexual violence. Going public historically meant risking "a complete destruction of your character," but allegations against Weinstein and others have started to change the game. "The linchpin has been pulled out of the grenade," Tamblyn said. "I'm proud to be a part of that." — AP



Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson are seen during their performance prior to a wardrobe malfunction during the half time performance at Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston. — AP photos



Justin Timberlake performs at the Pilgrimage Music and Cultural Festival in Franklin.

## TIMBERLAKE AT SUPER BOWL: WHITE MALE PRIVILEGE AGAIN?

The booking of Justin Timberlake for the Super Bowl halftime show has triggered a backlash from women, minorities and others who say Janet Jackson was unfairly forced to pay a far higher price than he ever faced for that breast-baring "wardrobe malfunction" at the big game in 2004. The hashtag #justiceforjanet trended on social media this week after the NFL announced Timberlake would perform Feb 4 in Minneapolis.

Some argued that Jackson fell victim to a sexist and racist double standard and received harsher treatment over a decade ago than Timberlake did, while he benefited from "white male privilege." "His body was not criminalized and demonized in the way that hers was, and that has everything to do with being a white man," said Janell Hobson, an associate professor of women's, gender and sexuality studies at the State University of New York at Albany.

Representatives for Timberlake and Jackson did not respond to emails seeking comment. The NFL said no one has been banned from the halftime show - indirectly referring to Jackson - but didn't elaborate on the decision to invite Timberlake back or comment on Jackson specifically. Thirteen years ago, as Timberlake sang the lyrics "Bet I have you naked at the end of this song," he ripped Jackson's costume to reveal her right breast, bare except for a nipple

ring. Jackson later said her lace undergarment was supposed to remain intact but accidentally pulled away.

She was barred a week later from the Grammy telecast, where she had been scheduled to perform, and her star power diminished, though she eventually rebounded. Her 2015 album debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts, and she is now on a top-selling tour. This will be Timberlake's third time at the halftime show, the most for any performer ever. He first performed there in 2001 with his boy band NSYNC, then went on to appear as Jackson's guest.

### 'It didn't slow him down'

Timberlake has apologized more than once over the years. When asked about the wardrobe malfunction in an interview this week, Timberlake said, "That won't happen this time." Social media erupted when the Super Bowl announcement was made, especially Black Twitter: "I feel that considering the damage that that moment did to her career unfairly, I would like to see Justin never return to the Super Bowl," said Jamilah Lemieux, vice president of news and men's programming at digital publishing company iOne Digital and black culture website CASSIUS. "It didn't slow him down. She wasn't allowed to go the Grammys. How do you have the Grammys without Janet Jackson?" Lemieux asked. "She's faced more

punishment for her breast being revealed than people who have been accused of sexual assault."

Hobson, author of 2012's "Body as Evidence: Mediating Race, Globalizing Gender," said it is interesting that news of Timberlake's return comes at a time when pop culture is dominated by headlines about misconduct by such figures as Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby and Bill O'Reilly. Hobson said Jackson was the one who was blamed and punished, and the same thing happens to women dealing with sexual assault or rape.

"It's always women's bodies that are the problem. So whenever we talk about rape or we talk about sexual assault, it always goes back to, 'So what was she wearing? Was she walking sexy? Was she being flirtatious?' As if men have no part to play," Hobson said. Others, though, want to see a halftime show starring Timberlake. Music producer Drumma Boy said Timberlake is a good choice and "has hits to back it up, as far as relevancy right now." "I think it would be super cool if he did bring out Janet," he added. "I think the world would go crazy. If he wanted to completely shut down the world, bringing Janet would be the icing on the cake." — AP



# Celebrity chef **Annabel Karmel** speaks on her passion, new deal with **Costa Coffee**

By Ben Garcia

Celebrity cook book author Annabel Karmel, a Londoner, is a self-made millionaire who has built a career in cooking. She was a former musician who loved to play harp but stopped after her eldest daughter Natasha died of a viral infection when she was just 3 months old. "When my daughter died, three months after birth, I realized that I need to feed myself with healthy food, so that the next baby will be healthy and can live longer, that's where it all began," she recalled.

She's best described by many of her followers as a brilliant author. Even in a small country like Kuwait, she has legions of followers and sold about four million copies from her recent book she authored. According to Annabel, everyone deserves better food to feed their family members. "There are many books that can be followed and read to provide the best recipes for their families," she said.

Indeed her fame as a celebrity cook did not pass without recognition. In fact, she started several collaborative works with several brands including Marks and Spencer. The recent agreement was signed between Annabel Karmel and Costa Coffee in Kuwait last year. Thanks to the collaborative work she did with Phil Broad, Costa Coffee Vice President-Food & Beverage (by Al-Ghanim Industries) who gave her the chance to work collaboratively with Costa Coffee.

### Leaving a legacy

"I met Phil Broad at Intercontinental Hotel and he insisted on healthy food for Costa Coffee. I signed an agreement with them to provide the best recipes for Costa. I specialize

in kid menus as I find giving healthy food to children is very important," she noted. In Costa, she developed recipes for children without sugar. "In my recipes I use pureed oats, pureed dates and coconuts. With a combination like this no sugar is needed and yet it tastes sweet. Many more recipes are added so as to serve the nutritious food that everyone loves and deserves," she said.

"I want to leave a legacy that can be used and followed by many even if I am gone forever from this world," she said. Annabel admitted about her obsession for recipes for children because more than anyone else, children need healthy nutrients as they grow. "My eldest died when she was three months old, and I believe it won't happen if a child is fed with healthy nutrients. So, my inspiration to sharing my cook books can be traced back at that sad moment," she said. Now, Annabel has three children. "Until I am alive I will cook and contribute to the healthy and quality lifestyle of people," she said.

"I think Kuwaitis love to eat. It doesn't matter, everyone needs it, but it has to be healthy. I like Arab food. I also noticed that at the restaurants here they serve really good food. But for parents, I think, they should tell their children which one is best and be able to say no to kids when giving food. I have heard that obesity is one of the biggest problems here. That is why I want to share a different menu which is healthier," she noted.

With a career spanning to 25 years, Annabel, has pioneered the way families all over the world feed their babies. She has become UK's No 1 children's cookery author, best-selling international author, and the mother of all feeding experts with 43 cookbooks and counting.

Anouf, a fan from Kuwait described her as a brilliant



author who inspired many through her TV shows appearing in Fatafeat. "I follow her on social media. I like her smile, she lifts our spirit with that big smile. I wasn't a good cook until I got her book from London. I used to watch her shows on TV, she has inspired me to become a good mom to my kids by cooking best recipes that she shares through her books," Anouf told Kuwait Times.

### Necessary for Kuwaiti society

With the sole mission of raising the standards of children's diets, Annabel is a regular media commentator on food related issues and regularly undertakes consultancy work for major nursery chains, leisure resorts, restaurants and hotels worldwide. In 2006, Annabel received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honors for her outstanding work in the field of child nutrition, and she has since become recognized as one of the UK's leading female entrepreneurs.

Phil Broad believed his collaborative work with Annabel Karmel is necessary since Kuwaiti society is a family orient-

ed society. "It means that whenever they go, they go with their children. Costa Coffee as you may have noticed is frequented not just by grownups but also by kids, so we need to create recipes that cater to children. That is how Annabel Karmel's name surfaced. We need to make sure that we offer the excellent food for kids, said Phil Broad.

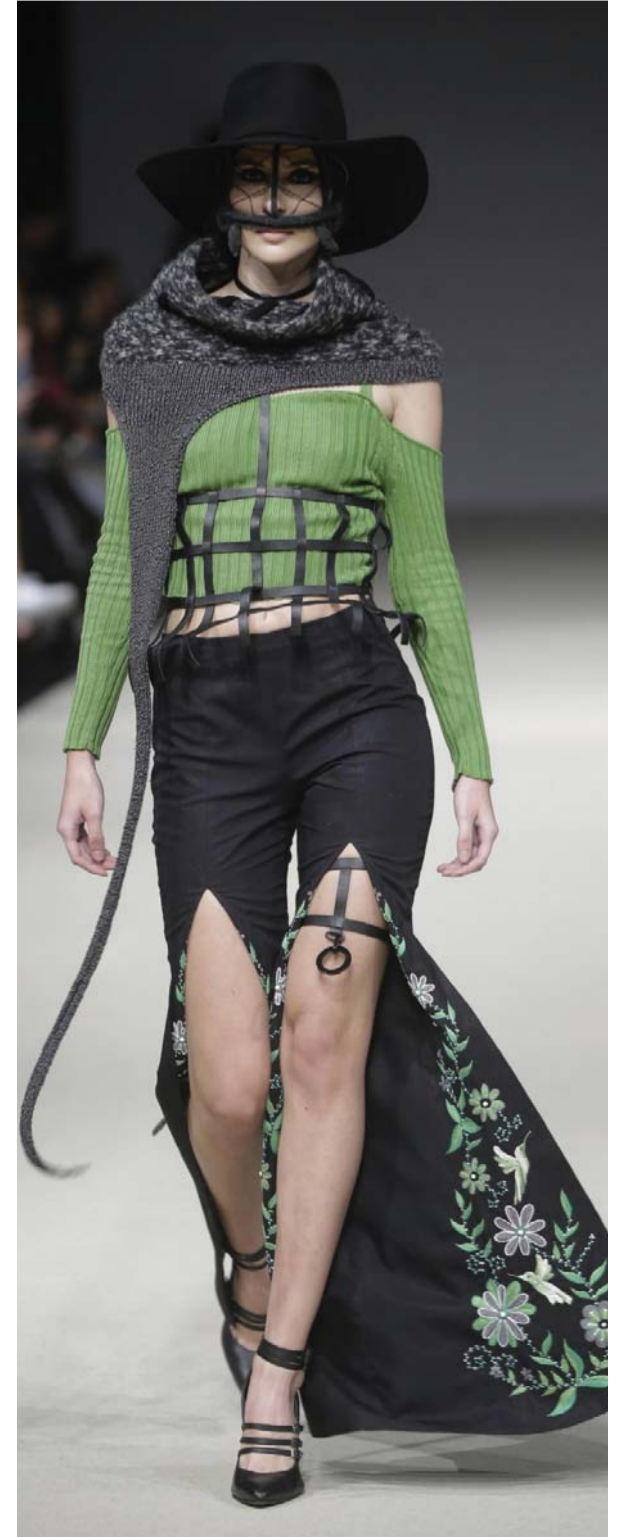
"So there is no other name that can be trusted with children's recipes but Annabel Karmel, she has the best cookery book for kids, she had sold millions of copies of her books. We have the best of children's recipes. Costa Coffee wants the best of everyone. We also make our Costa Shake for kids from fresh milk. We now have the Halloween bath choco, the pasta chicken salads, we also have apple and dates muffin; those are the best that can be taken even as school food for children. They are all healthy food crafted by our master chef Annabel Karmel," he noted.



## Pioneered the way families feed their babies

Models wear the creations from the Lis Bazan spring/summer collection during Fashion Week, in Lima. — AP photos

# PERU FASHION WEEK



# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017



An Afghan woman collects saffron flowers after picking them in a field on the outskirts of Herat. For years, Afghanistan has tried to give farmers alternatives such as fruit crops and saffron to wean them away from poppy farming. — AFP

## Hugs for Pugs at London's latest PUP-UP CAFE



Aida Martinez, owner of the store, pose along MIA, the muse dog at a pop-up Pug Cafe in Brick Lane, East London. — AFP photos

Pugs are the new fashion must-have in Britain, with owners, in love with their saggy faces and big eyes, even taking them for cocktails and afternoon tea in Pug-dedicated cafes. In east London's agonizingly trendy Brick Lane neighborhood, a dozen people stand outside gawping adoringly into the Pugs and Pals cafe. Inside is a cacophony of barking and yapping. On its opening day, the bar dedicated to Pug lovers is a hit, even though it is a weekday.

"It's a fantastic thing to have your dog with you in a cafe or a restaurant," said Sally Afrasiab, 46, the proud owner of eight-year-old Dude, who sports a Peruvian hat and a bow tie. She is among the Pug fanatics who post pictures of their dolled-up dogs on the social networking site Instagram. "He has more clothes than I have!" Afrasiab said, bursting out laughing. "For Halloween, for parties, he loves this. I don't think that he minds," she said, casting a glance over the stoically sitting Dude. The cafe costs five pounds (\$6.55, 5.65 euros) to enter-double for those without a Pug.

While the human customers natter and rave about their pooches, the dogs sniff about, feast on cheese and ham scones, or discreetly cock a leg in a corner. Lauren Lowe leaves the cafe with an joyous face: she has just spent an hour cuddling dogs and taking pictures with them. "I adore Pugs. I've been wanting to adopt a Pug for ages but I work long hours, so I can't," she said. "So I've just come here today just to see some Pugs. It's just lovely. They're just gorgeous."

### Social media stars

"A lot of people are very passionate about dogs, especially Pugs," said Aida Martinez, adding that she was "literally stopped by people in the street" wanting to stroke her eight-month-old dog Mia. It was that passion for pooches that made her decide to open Pugs and Pals with her partner. She hopes a thousand people will come through the doors on the first weekend.

Other Pug-oriented bars already exist in nearby Shoreditch, another trendy London neighborhood, and elsewhere around Britain, each drawing in plenty of two and four-legged customers. "The UK is a dog-loving nation," said pop-up Pug cafe organizer Anushka Fernando. "Pugs have such brilliant temperaments! They are incredibly loving and friendly, and get along with other dogs and children so well," she said, explaining the cafes' success.

Gudrun Ravetz, senior vice-president of the British Veterinary Association (BVA), said there had been a huge surge in Pug popularity in the last two to three years. "A lot of celebrities have been owning French Bulldogs—people have seen them, thought they were cute; they have wanted to have the same thing," she said. Pugs are the darlings of social media. Doug the Pug has 2.9 million followers on



A pug dog sits in a photobooth chair at a pop-up Pug Cafe.

Instagram, another 1.45 million on Twitter and has his own range of merchandise.

Sensing a winner, companies are cashing in on the craze, with Pug mugshots appearing on all manner of products. As a result, the number of Pugs in Britain has almost quadrupled in the last 10 years to 10,408 in 2016. Pugs are now the fourth-most popular breed, after Labradors, Cocker Spaniels and French Bulldogs. But the fashion trend is worrying vets. "People think they look cute with their very squashed face and their big eyes but we know that this cute look is actually causing health problems," said the BVA's Ravetz.

### 'Buying dogs on looks'

Breathing difficulties, eye problems and herniated discs are among the conditions suffered by Pugs bred to get the required look. "A lot of people are unaware. They are not doing the research they need to do before they buy the dogs," Ravetz said. "They are buying these dogs purely on looks, purely because they want what celebrities have." The BVA is encouraging dog-lovers to turn to breeds in better health. Martinez, like Fernando, gives customers information on Pug health issues and works with associations. But Ravetz remains wary and notes that treats can promote obesity in dogs, aggravating their health problems. "Showing love to your dog is having time with them and taking them for a walk, not to cafes," she said. — AFP

“It's just lovely. They're just gorgeous”



A pug dog stands in front of the menu bar.



An employee cuddles a pug dog next to a merchandising stand.