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# Amir accepts resignation of Cabinet, names it caretaker

## Speaker: No parliament sessions until new govt is formed

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday accepted the resignation of the Cabinet which was submitted to him by the prime minister amid indications that the formation of the new Cabinet could take weeks. The resignation came as expected following a no-confidence motion filed against Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah following a grilling last Tuesday on the National Assembly's opening day.

Sheikh Mohammad was grilled over alleged financial and administrative violations, which he categorically denied. The government's resignation came after a large number of lawmakers announced their support for the no-confidence motion, which threatens to dismiss the minister if the motion succeeds.

HH the Amir asked outgoing Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and his ministers to remain as a caretaker Cabinet until a new government is formed. Under the constitution, the Amir has the sole right to name a

new prime minister or ask the outgoing premier to form a new Cabinet.

National Assembly speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem told reporters that he was officially informed of the resignation and that he will announce this at the start of today's scheduled Assembly session. But he said he will adjourn the session and will not call for new Assembly sessions before the formation of the new Cabinet. Under Kuwaiti constitution, Assembly sessions are illegal if no Cabinet minister is attending.

Ghanem gave no timeframe for the formation of the Cabinet amid indications by sources that the process could be a lengthy one and might take weeks. There is no official deadline for the formation of the Cabinet under normal circumstances. Due to political disputes between the government and the Assembly since 2006, at least a dozen governments have stepped down, mostly over disputes with MPs. The Assembly was also dissolved seven times in the same period.

In another development, the lower court yesterday set Nov 20 to look into a case in which a Kuwaiti citizen is suing the government for allowing certain



KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (left) hands the government's resignation letter to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday. — KUNA

## Harbi approves new dental fees for expats

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi issued a decision to increase the fees for dental services for expats, as part of the health fee increases which came into effect this month. Harbi approved the mechanism to collect fees for dental services and surgeries - KD 2 for each visit, in addition to charges for each medical procedure the patient needs on every visit.

The decision includes x-ray fees whenever the patient needs it, to be collected once only if it is for the same tooth on the same visit. Expats will be received at specialized dental clinics by referral from primary care clinics after the initial treatment is completed (filling, extraction or cleaning).

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Jamal Al-Harbi

## First charges, plea deal emerge in Russia probe

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort was charged yesterday with conspiracy against the United States and money laundering, in the first indictments stemming from a sprawling probe into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Special counsel Robert Mueller, who is leading the probe, also announced that a third person had pleaded guilty to lying to FBI investigators probing the campaign's possible links to Russian interference.

Manafort, 68, and business partner Rick Gates, 45, were charged with allegedly hiding millions of dollars they earned working for former Ukrainian politician

Viktor Yanukovich and his pro-Moscow political party. Manafort, a longtime Republican operative, arrived at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Washington field office to hand himself in.

George Papadopoulos, a foreign policy advisor to the campaign early last year, pleaded guilty on Oct 5 to making false statements, admitting he sought to hide contacts with a Moscow-linked professor offering "dirt" on Donald Trump's election rival Hillary Clinton. "Papadopoulos impeded the FBI's ongoing investigation into the existence of any links or coordination between individuals associated with the campaign and the Russian government's efforts to interfere



Paul Manafort

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## Bahrain calls for freeze on Qatar's GCC membership

DUBAI: Bahrain called yesterday for Qatar's membership of the Gulf Cooperation Council to be suspended until it accepts the demands of its neighbors and said Manama would not attend GCC meetings alongside Doha. "The correct step to preserve the GCC would be to freeze Qatar's membership until it sees reason and accepts the demands of our countries. If not, we will be fine with it leaving the GCC," Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa said on Twitter.

Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt on June 5 severed ties with Qatar over accusations of supporting extremism and being too close to rival Iran, charges Doha has denied. Founded in 1981,

the GCC is a political and economic union that includes Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, as well as Oman and Kuwait.

Bahrain's King Sheikh Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa announced later yesterday that his country would not attend any future GCC meeting if Qatar was to take part. "Qatar has proved today that it does not respect charters, treaties and bonds upon which the GCC was founded," the king said during a cabinet meeting, cited by BNA news agency. He also accused Qatar of undermining the security of other GCC member states. "So long as Qatar continues on this path, Bahrain will not attend any Gulf summit or meeting in the presence of Qatar unless it rectifies its policy and accepts the demands" of the Saudi-led bloc, the king said.

GCC members are scheduled to meet before the end of the year, but the Gulf crisis could see the bloc's annual meeting postponed or cancelled. Experts have warned that the nearly five-month-long diplomatic crisis could lead to the GCC's demise. Saudi Arabia

and its allies in June issued Qatar with a list of demands, including shutting down Doha-based broadcaster Al-Jazeera, curbing relations with Iran and closing a Turkish military base in the emirate. After severing ties with Doha, Riyadh and its allies closed land and maritime borders, suspended air links and expelled Qatari citizens.

In an interview aired on Sunday, Qatar's Emir accused Saudi Arabia and its Arab allies of seeking to topple his government. "They want a regime change. It's... so obvious," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani told CBS's 60 Minutes. "History as well tells us, teaches us. They tried to do that before, in 1996 after my father became the Emir. So, and they made it also so obvious in the last couple of weeks," he said. "They don't like our independence, the way how we are thinking, our vision for the region. We want freedom of speech for the people of the region. And they're not happy with that. And so they think that this is a threat to them." — AFP

## Death brings home reality of Gulf workers

JAGTIAL, India: On a hot, sleepy afternoon at Kalleda village in the southern Indian state of Telangana, Laxmi Malaya sat on the porch of her house where the body of her husband Chittam - a daily wage laborer in Dubai - was to be brought the next day. Chittam, 45, was the second migrant worker from the village to have died in Dubai in September and among the nearly 450 Indian migrant workers shipped home in body bags since 2014.

"There were three deaths (of workers from the village) last year as well. We were told Chittam died of a stroke, but he was healthy when he came home for a visit last month," said Ankathi Gangadhar, the former village head of Kalleda. Another local man, aged 24, died in Dubai last month after suffering a heart attack, villagers said. Officials of the Telangana state government cite stress, ill health and working in searing temperatures as the most common causes of death and say fatality numbers among migrants who travel to the Gulf from the state have remained stable.

"People discuss these deaths for a week, but then there is no initiative (to offer jobs here) so they keep leaving," Gangadhar told the Thomson Reuters



KUWAIT: A worker is seen at a construction site yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Foundation. For decades, people have migrated from Telangana - a largely rural region with the tech hub of Hyderabad as its capital - to Indian cities such as Mumbai and to the Gulf, unable to make a living from farming, mainly due to water scarcity. About 10,000 people migrate to the Gulf states every year from Telangana, and about 200 on average from Kalleda, according to government figures.

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## In Oman desert, a gateway to life on Mars

DHOFAR, Oman: In sunglasses and jumpsuits, a crew of European test astronauts is laying the groundwork for a Mars simulation in the barren expanse of the Omani desert, a terrestrial mission intended to pave the way to the red planet. The "analog astronauts" of the Austrian Space Forum - a volunteer-based collective - have arrived in Oman to begin preparations for a four-week simulation mission due to begin next year.

Touching down at Marmul Airport, a remote outpost used by oil workers, the five-person advance team loaded up on sunscreen and, with their Omani counterparts dressed in crisp white gowns and colorful turbans, boarded four-by-fours and plunged into the desert under the blazing sun. Oil installations receded into the background and only rocky plateaus and ancient sandy riverbeds remained as far as the eye could see. Maps were spread on the hoods of the vehicles.

"We want to simulate Mars on Earth and so we need a place that looks as much like Mars as possible. And we found it here in Oman," Alexander Soucek, the lead flight director of the AMADEE-18 mission, told AFP. The team was on a quest to pin down the location of the base camp for the simulation, to be held in February. "Here the humans coming from Earth will land after six months



Members of the Austrian Space Forum inspect a site in Oman's Dhofar desert near the southern Marmul outpost on Sunday. — AFP

travel through space... Simulated, of course!" Soucek said upon arrival at the chosen site. "When we fly to Mars in reality, we will need as many questions as possible already answered so that we are really well prepared."

During the mission, the team will carry out a series of experiments, from growing greens without soil in an inflatable hydroponic greenhouse to testing an autonomous "tumbleweed" rover, which maps out terrain while propelled by the wind. "There are very few groups on this planet testing these proce-

dures and doing these high-fidelity simulations," said Soucek. "We are one of them." The team hopes the simulation will help nail down future tools and procedures for the first manned mission to Mars.

Field commander Gernot Groemer predicts a Mars mission may be carried out by a collective of the United States, Russia, Europe and possibly China relatively soon - with the first human to set foot on the red planet maybe already born. "What we're going to see here in about 100 days is going

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## Local

## Amir receives ambassadors



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Yasir Mohammad Atef. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sunil Jain.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Yasir Mohammad Atef on the occasion of ending his tenure as ambassador to country. His Highness the Amir also received Cuban Ambassador to Kuwait Andres Gonzalez Garrido marking the occasion of ending his tenure as ambassador to country. His Highness the Amir received as well the India's Ambassador to Kuwait

Sunil Jain on the occasion of ending his tenure as ambassador to country. The meetings were also attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as Saudi Arabia's Member of the International Organization for Muslim Scholars at the Saudi Royal Diwan, former

Minister of Islamic Affairs and Awqaf, and President of Muslim World League Dr Abdullah bin Abdulmehsen Al-Turki.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Acting President of State Audit Bureau Adel Abdulaziz Al-Sar'awi. Sar'awi presented to His Highness the Amir a copy of the Audit Bureau annual report review for budgets and final accounts for the year 2016-17. Sar'awi later pre-

sented a copy of the report to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Hamad Al-Sabah.

In other news, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem yesterday received the Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub. Ghanem also received the Moroccan ambassador to Kuwait Jaafar Hakeem, as well as Kuwait's Ambassador to Belgium and the head of the country's missions to the NATO and the European Union (EU) Jassim Al-Bdaiwi. — KUNA

## Zain participates in UN Day ceremony

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, participated in a special ceremony that was held on the occasion of the United Nations Day, which coincides with the 24th of October of every year. The event, held under the patronage of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, came as part of Zain's strategic partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The ceremony, held at the UN House (Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Humanitarian Leader Building) in Mubarak Al Abdullah Area, witnessed the attendance of the representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain, as well as Chairman of the Board - Director General of the General Authority for the Environment - Rapporteur of the Supreme Council for Environment Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Homoud Al-Sabah, as well as a number of the UN's partners from the civil community, private sector, international organizations, as well as a number of public figures.

Zain's participation came as an extension of the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the company and the UNHCR during April of 2016. The agreement considered the best ways in which to contribute to the improvement of the living and social conditions of refugees and any other individuals who the UNHCR provides assistance to, and is considered an embodiment of the spirit of cooperation between private and global humanitarian sectors. Through its dedicated booth, Zain showcased its most prominent contributions in humanitarian fields during the past two years, including its #ZainWithRefugees campaign, field trips to refugee camps, online donation campaigns, strategic partnerships with local and global humanitarian entities, and more.

The event mainly aimed at highlighting the State of Kuwait's contributions and efforts into achieving the 2030 sustainable goals, including Kuwait's leading role in humanitarian aid, crisis and emergency aid, global developmental efforts, and more. The event witnessed a discussion panel as well an exhibition featuring the UN's biggest partners, including Zain.

Earlier this year, Zain launched its humanitarian campaign #ZainWithRefugees in col-



Ahmad Al-Hain with Zain's officials.



Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah with Zain's officials.

laboration with the UNHCR. The campaign aimed at improving the living conditions of thousands of refugees in the region who suffer from the lack of essential supplies during the harsh winter season. Donations were utilized to provide families with financial support, winter clothing, thermal blankets, heaters, and more. Zain prides itself in its long list of joint collaborations with the UNHCR, including the extension of mobile telecommunications coverage to reconnect displaced families in the Middle East, offering telecom services in deprived areas, as well as awareness campaigns through SMS services and social media channels.

The agreement between Zain and the UNHCR also focuses on the importance of raising awareness of the plight of refugees, and

shedding light on the humanitarian initiatives in place to alleviate the suffering of this community of people around the world, as well as highlight the efforts of the State of Kuwait in creating a hub for humanitarian work.

In relevance to the international refugee situation, Zain partnered with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) to organize a humanitarian trip that saw 12 of its volunteered employees visiting and supporting Syrian refugees in Lebanon to distribute food, clothes, blankets and cater to a number of KRCS-supported projects. Zain also continued its annual Clothes Donation Campaign and extended it this year to Kuwait University, where over 10.5 tons of clothes were donated and sent by Kuwait Society for Relief to displaced Syrian families.

## Chronology of govt resignations at backdrop of grilling motions

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday submitted the resignation of his cabinet to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir issued an Amiri Order accepting the resignation, whereby the premier and ministers will proceed amid urgent circumstances as a caretaker cabinet, pending the formation of a new cabinet.

The government resignation came at the backdrop of a non-confidence motion filed

by 10 MPs against Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, at the end of a day-long grilling session. The following is a chronology of resignations submitted by the Kuwaiti cabinet after MPs filed no-confidence motions against the Premier or ministers:

In January 2001, the cabinet of Crown prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah resigned two days after MP Hussein Al-Qallaf requested the interpellation of Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Saad Al-Hashel. In March 2007, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah submitted the resignation of his cabinet, a day before a no-confidence session that followed interpellation of Minister of Health Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah. The grilling was submitted by MPs Dr Waleed Al-Tabatabaie, Jamaan Al-Harbash and Ahmad Al-Shahoumi.

In November 2008, His Highness the Premier Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah's cabinet resigned after

three MPs filed a grilling motion against the Prime Minister. An Amiri Order was issued on December 14, 2008 accepting the resignation. The government, led by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, resigned in March, 2009, two weeks after three grilling motions filed by MPs against the Premier. Two days after the resignation was accepted, an Amiri Decree dissolved the National Assembly, constitutionally.

In March 2011, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah's cabinet resigned following grilling motions filed against Minister of Housing and Development Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahd, Minister of Oil and Minister of Information Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah and Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Mohammad Al-Sabah. In November 2011, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah submitted the resignation of his cabinet, less than two weeks after three MPs filed an interpellation against the Premier. Few days later, an Amiri Order dissolved the National Assembly, constitutionally. — KUNA

## Turkey Ambassador hosts National Day reception



KUWAIT: Ambassador of Turkey to Kuwait Murat Tamer hosted a reception Sunday night to celebrate his country's national day. Senior officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Local

# 843 companies with 5,911 registered workers suspended

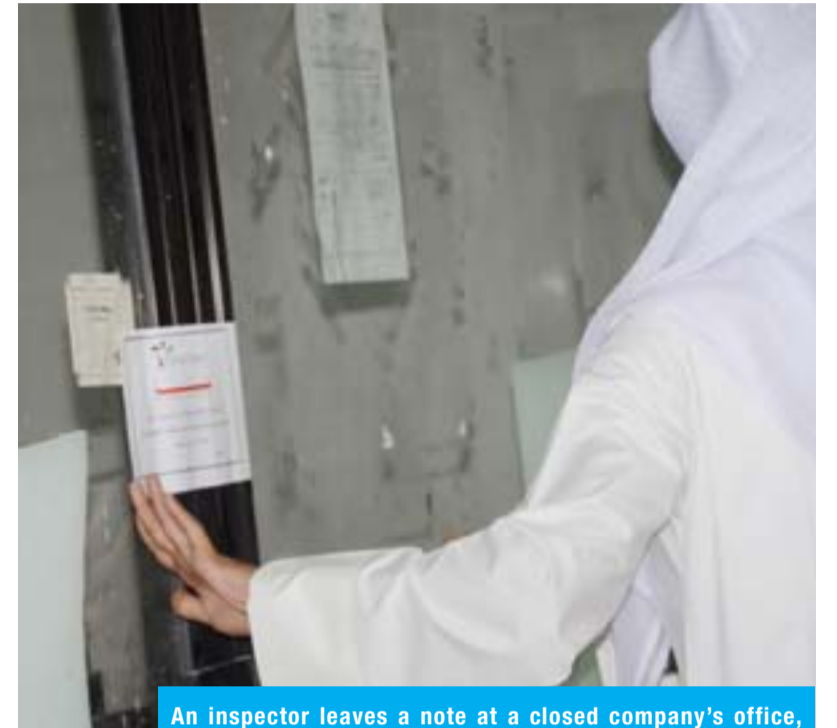
## Public Authority for Manpower cracks down on fake companies



KUWAIT: Public Authority for Manpower inspectors are seen during the campaign. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



The empty office of a fake company busted during the crackdown.



An inspector leaves a note at a closed company's office, informing its owner to report to authorities within three days.

### Why don't Arabs read?



By Jeri Al-Jeri

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There was an actual war on reading that poisoned our ancestors' love for books. After the spread of Islam, it became well-known that the Muslim nation was a nation of reading. Europeans, during the Dark Age, were fascinated by how much time and effort the Muslim people and governments poured into anything book-related - from libraries and educational centers to paper factories; and polyglot scholars translating every readable material - even the hieroglyphics of ancient Egypt. Sadly, all this became history. Both Eastern and Western historians found that the Muslim world was victimized by losing its romance with the art of reading and writing. This tragedy wasn't the making of a devilish, cerebral outsider - actually, the bane spawned within.

Prof Yasir Qadhi said during a lecture that the last few Turkish sultans of the Ottoman Empire that ruled the modern-day Arabian Gulf, Egypt, Syria and all its neighbors, had a special understanding of Islam that was unfortunate. The empire initiated a law calling to execute any Muslim citizen who read, obtained, bought or sold or even asked for any sheet of printed paper. Being the juggernaut it was, the Ottoman Empire crushed the Arab's quest for knowledge due to its extremism.

This might answer why our Muslim versions of Edison and Einstein were mostly figures who had their sparks during the various caliphates or Islamic dynasties. Some historical resources mention chemists and physicians in the first 100 years of the 500 years-plus era of the Ottoman Empire. But why did a Muslim government fight knowledge so viciously, even though Islam as a faith teaches that Allah is worshiped via the seeking of knowledge?

Every Muslim sultan had his team of muftis - scholars of Islamic rulings - who had the sole purpose of making the Islamic states move in accordance to Islamic rules and regulations as much as possible. When Gutenberg perfected a new method of printing that was a logistical and educational dream, everyone in Europe became a reader or an inspired writer. Fearing that the masses will be led astray, and out of exaggerated respect to the Arabic language that is considered holy, the "fatwa" team of the Turkish Sultan Bayazeed pressed his highness to take a firm stand against this kind of novelty and not fall under the saying: "Whoever has his book as his sheikh will make plenty of mistakes." In their logic, the spread of any ideologically cancerous book might cause massive blasphemy among the Muslims.

In the pre-Gutenberg era, the European world and the Islamic world were like China and the US in their technological and educational race - however, after the crippling of our mind's growth by the misdemeanor of our own Muslim brothers for years, the West sprung ahead in unprecedented leaps. Needless to say, even before the first month of the Ottoman Empire's demise, the entire Middle East was invaded by advanced European nations who were light years ahead. But all these elements have faded away and the trauma is evaporating, to leave us in this perfect timing for an Arabian renaissance!

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) raided fake companies on Sunday evening in the Capital, Hawally and Farwaniya governorates. The inspectors divided into three groups and were accompanied by reporters from various media outlets. The raids resulted in suspending the commercial licenses of 843 companies with 5,911 employees registered with them - 181 companies in the Capital governorate with 1,081 employees; 314 companies in Hawally with 2,144 employees; and 348 companies in Farwaniya with 2,686 employees.

The raids focused mainly on empty offices of fake companies, in addition to other violations. The employees registered with these fake companies are working somewhere else or are unemployed (marginal laborers). The owners of these companies are committing human trafficking, as they only founded a company to sell visas to expats without practicing any commercial activity.

#### Regular inspections

This was not the first raid by PAM on fake companies, but the inspections will now be regular and more frequent. "Previous inspections on certain malls proved

that all or the majority of the companies there were not practicing any business. The offices were vacant and were very small, and some had few pieces of furniture as a camouflage," Ahmad Al-Musa, Acting Director General of PAM, said after the raids.

PAM will be cooperating with other public bodies. "We are now cooperating with the Ministry of

Commerce and the Public Authority for Civil Information to verify civil registrations and commercial licenses. We will check the total number of employees registered on each license. The offices that were inspected today are temporarily suspended with code 72. After their representation department with code 71. If they are guilty, the law will be strictly applied on them," he added. Inspectors from the labor inspection department will conduct follow-up visits. "They will go on morning and evening inspections. The raids will be regular - monthly or weekly depending on the violations observed by the inspectors on previous visits. Some malls are on the blacklist, and no commercial licenses will be issued as they already have numerous and repeated violations," Musa explained.

According to him, by the end of this year, the system will be completely electronic. "Machines will tally the commercial licenses, groups, dates of renewal and others. This will avoid any interference by any official or director in the inspection process. The inspectors will use machines in documenting violations, which will raise transparency," concluded Musa.

#### Eliminating trafficking

Abdullah Al-Mutoutah, Deputy Director for Manpower Protection, said that these raids will eliminate human trafficking. "These raids aim to ensure that employers respect the rules of the labor law. We will release details to clarify the violations. The violators will then be transferred to the investigation department. We will do our duty, and then the judge will decide the penalty for the crime committed," he said during a raid in Hawally. Salem Al-Jadi, head of the raiding team in Hawally governorate, explained that the inspectors during this raid posted warning stickers on empty offices, giving owners three days to clarify their status by visiting the PAM headquarters and submitting documents of their businesses. "We placed the warning sticker even on some offices with furniture or decor, since nobody was working inside the office or the shop. We also took photos of the e-number of the office. We send it to the central directorate, and they check it to see whether there is a license registered on it or not. The most significant evidence that nobody is working in the office is the pile of classified ad papers under the door of the office," Jadi told Kuwait Times. The public can also participate in reporting any violation of the labor law by contacting PAM at pr@manpower.gov.kw, 25359232 or WhatsApp: 69009600

### Inactive firms founded only to sell visas to expats



According to him, by the end of this year, the system will be completely electronic. "Machines will tally the commercial licenses, groups, dates of renewal and others. This will avoid any interference by any official or director in the inspection process. The inspectors will use machines in documenting violations, which will raise transparency," concluded Musa.

### No water cuts today

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water's (MEW) Assistant Undersecretary for Water Operation and Maintenance Khalifa Mohammed Al-Fraji denied social media warnings that water supplies will be disconnected today. Fraji explained that the plan circulated on social media only involves one of the new projects in Mutlaa (northern region) to connect new lines to the grid, adding that no disconnection for water supplies will be involved in any part of the country.

#### No exemptions

The Ministry of Interior's (Moi) relations and security media department's manager Brig Adel Ahmed Al-Hashash stressed that the penalty of impounding vehicles parked in no-parking zones or on pavements and for using mobile phones while driving and not wearing seatbelts will remain active. He said the law has been officially activated. "We will study the pros and cons of activating the law in the coming days to avoid its negative effects," he explained, strongly denying that the law exempts any category of motorists.

Hashash noted that the campaign had started on Sunday and would remain in force, subjecting violators to two months of vehicle impoundment and withdrawal of license plates for the first offence. He added that if the violation is repeated, violators will be sent to the traffic court for relevant penalties. In addition, Hashash explained that standard fines for the violation are KD 15 plus KD 10 as towing charges and KD 1 per day as impoundment charges.

Hashash denied that traffic police were abusing their powers and the law over dealing with universities, government bodies or local markets, as each facility had enough parking spaces. "Some drivers just won't walk a few

more steps for no more than two minutes," he concluded.

#### Recruitment offices

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry Urged domestic helper recruitment offices to announce the recruitment fares for workers they provide. "Otherwise, we will make you do so," the ministry warned, urging the offices to provide a price list within 14 days at the commercial control department in Siddiq to avoid legal action.

#### Cleaning contracts

Well-informed municipality sources said current cleaning contracts are due to expire on Nov 24 and that the municipality will extend them for a maximum of 12 months and a further six months. The sources said the total number of cleaning contracts in effect are 17, and a special committee to qualify applying companies will subject all of them for studies to find any shortcomings and avoid them in future contracts. The sources added that the new cities of Sabah Al-Ahmad, West Hadiya, Jaber Al-Ahmed, New Khairan, New Abu Halifa, New Mesayel, East Sulaibikhat and New Naseem will be added to the new contracts.

#### Bachelors

Kuwait Municipality's public relations department announced that Farwaniya inspection teams recently toured block 10 in Khaitan to examine dilapidated buildings. Farwaniya Municipality Manager Saeed Al-Azmi stressed that the tours were made on direct instructions from Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al-Jabri in a bid to resolve the problems the block's residents have been facing. Azmi said the team discussed residents' grievances, with some of them noting that the block has 600 buildings and most of them are derelict, cannot be expanded, lack enough parking spaces and many of them are rented to "bachelors". Azmi added that a full report will be submitted to Jabri about the block and promised legal actions would be taken to evict bachelors from the block.

**Al-Jamiat**  
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## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Workers are seen working at a construction site in Kuwait City yesterday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Canadian Embassy organizes educational fair

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** The Embassy of Canada in Kuwait organized the 12th annual Edu-Canada Middle East and North Africa (MENA) fair, composed of approximately 10 leading Canadian institutions and colleges, on Sunday at the Symphony Style Hotel. Speaking to Kuwait Times, the Counselor at the Embassy of Canada, Tammy Ames said, "After the one-day fair, the group of universities will visit a number of schools to hold a mini fair for the students considering attending the University in Canada."

She noted that this fair mainly targets Kuwaitis and expatriates who want to pursue their bachelor's degrees but will also answer questions related to Master's and PhDs. "This is the second fair that we had this year and we are planning for another one in February. Kuwaiti students who have access to the scholarship program through the Ministry of

High Education and expats who are self-funding or have a scholarship through other sources can also apply," Ames said.

Shedding light on the application process, Ames said that the embassy will direct the students, adding, "If the students miss the fair, we will direct them to the right people and get them in touch with the universities that can provide them with more information. Once the student receives the acceptance from the university, they can apply for the visa as it may take up to six weeks, so it is better to apply sooner. For Kuwaiti students it depends on their scholarship."

Ames pointed out that student must apply in January but also check with the university for availability. She said that 54 Kuwaiti students went on scholarship this year. "Canada provides amazing opportunities for students. Just like Kuwait, we are open to people of different cultures and we have a public educational system where quality education is available throughout Canada, and each university has something exciting to offer."

Representatives from the institutions met

with students, parents and other members of the education community, and provided information about educational opportunities in Canada. 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 most of the world's ethnic groups represented in Canada, students interact with many different cultures; broadening their mindset and giving them more international perspective which is a valuable attribute that attracts employers worldwide.

“ 54 Kuwaiti students went on scholarship to Canada this year ”

The schools participating on the tour are: 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 and Golden Hills International School.



KUWAIT: Students attend the 12th annual Edu-Canada Middle East and North Africa fair. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## VIVA concludes breast cancer awareness campaign



**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, concluded the awareness campaign "more care" to prevent breast cancer that has been launched in October in coincidence with the annual breast cancer awareness month, in cooperation with the New Mowasat Hospital in Kuwait.

VIVA has posted videos focusing on

breast cancer tips and advices for specialized doctors at the New Mowasat Hospital, on VIVA's official social media platforms, Instagram and Snapchat, to urge periodic examinations and how to prevent and treat this disease.

VIVA is keen to continue its ongoing socially responsible role in the community by spreading the spirit of goodness amongst Kuwaiti society. We believe at VIVA in taking a holistic approach to our CSR activities that engages our employees, and creates goodwill in our communities with a focus on helping to grow and develop the State of Kuwait.

## KIMS makes headway in medical training



KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi is seen during the ceremony. —KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi said Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS) asserted itself in finding solutions to problems of medical training. KIMS is keen on modernizing the Kuwaiti Medical Board programs in keeping with the latest achievements worldwide, he said Sunday night. The minister made the comments at a ceremony to celebrate the institute's accreditation by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) as provider of continuing professional development (CPD).

During the ceremony, 115 physicians who completed the Kuwaiti Medical Board training courses in various specializations were honored. The honoring of the physicians is meant to encourage the graduates to shoulder their noble and humanitarian responsibilities according to the ministry's plan for building the capacity of the medical personnel and upgrade the healthcare system, Dr Harbi pointed out.

He praised the collective efforts of KIMS leaders that led to the institute winning of the RCPSC accreditation for a four-year term and meeting the technical and professional standards set by this cel-

ebrated regulatory non-profit institution. He welcomed the fruitful results of cooperation between the institute and the Royal College according to a bilateral agreement that covers such areas as medical training, policymaking, examinations and academic accreditation. The ceremony coincides with the KIMS' preparations for moving to its new building, introducing the medical simulation system - a methodology for training healthcare professionals with advanced educational technology, and launching an electronic library, the minister added.

Meanwhile, KIMS Secretary-General Dr Ibrahim Hadi applauded the Ministry's strategy for upgrading the medical training system and the results of cooperation with the Royal College. The agreement on cooperation with the Royal College, signed in November 2016, opened new horizons for Kuwaiti physicians and helped KIMS go global, he noted. Dr Hadi said that the e-library will provide trainees with access to the latest medical information in an easy and sustainable way, adding that the medical simulation system is of great importance in the modern postgraduate training. —KUNA

Local

الأنباء

Al-Anbaa

## Victim and attacker

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

The statement "in case of fights, both victim and attacker will be deported if they are expatriates" issued by the Interior Ministry has many meanings summarized in one sentence. It truly is a right to deport all those who create chaos and compromise the state's security. Yet, many questions arise when you think about that statement in depth, such as:

What if the expat in that is a minor? Does deportation include the juvenile and his family? What is the mechanism of action in such cases?

Is the decision exclusive for males or does it include both genders?

Is the decision limited to physical attack? Or includes other types of assault?



The punishment should be strict enough to set an example

Why is the decision limited to physical assault alone?

These orders were issued for expats, but what about citizens?

Is this decision subject to variation? Will it vanish like other decisions? As we all know, there was a decision made previously and stated that any expat who harasses a girl will be deported, but it lasted for a few hours only.

We are tired of listening to statements such as "mentally disturbed." It is time to put a stop to such reckless behavior. Instead of studying the situation, it is time to take strict actions against any kind of assault. The punishment should be strict enough to set an example against such behavior. We also need to punish those who use wasta (connections) as a loophole to get around the law. It is a request that a law should be passed against people using wasta, because Kuwait is tired of it.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

## Express your point of view!



Al-Anbaa

الأنباء

Al-Anbaa

## Chill out

By Yousif Abdul Rahman

Some days back I saw a picture of a Malaysian ice cream street vendor which reminded me of my childhood in Al-Qadisiya when we ran into the street on hearing the ice cream man scream 'Barred' (a colloquial Kuwaiti term for popsicles). Ice cream is known as 'Barred' in Kuwait, but it also has many other Arabic names like Boutha or Dandorma, the latter of which is Turkish and is still used by the people of Mecca, Medina and Jeddah. Some Kuwaiti families used to make their own ice cream by freezing different kinds of juices and placing a wooden stick in the cubes of liquid juice to make popsicles.

Boutha was made in wooden boxes in Kuwait before the process developed into using thermoses to keep the chilled colorful ice cream with different

flavors. During the hot summer days, Kuwaitis used to have ice cream to chill out and escape the annoying heat. Ice creams have developed a lot these days and it comes in many shapes, colors and brands.

In the old days, Ice cream had its own customers of men, women, young people, Diwanis, ministries, corporates and even individuals. Back in the 1970s, we used to go to the late uncle Tawfik's on Fahad Al-Salem street or to Al-Kawakeb Ice Cream where the late uncle Rashid Boflain used to receive customers himself. I also remember the late uncle 'Wardi and Hail' who used to wander around the old Souk with his small ice cream cart calling out to his customers in a very loud voice.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

## CRIMES

### Man sold drugs from employer's house

KUWAIT: An Indian man turned his sponsor's house into a drug vending outlet and was arrested with the help of his employer. The sponsor became suspicious after noticing strangers visiting his driver more often, so he called police. Officers found cocaine, heroin, shabu (meth), a scale, police handcuffs and 500 empty envelopes along with 23 large envelopes containing drugs. A source said that the suspect confessed to selling drugs and was sent to the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD). Meanwhile, a national guard's man was arrested after he was found in an abnormal condition with shabu on him at a checkpoint in Khaitan. He was taken to DCGD for further legal action.

### Gamblers arrested

Ahmadi police arrested four Nepalese men for gambling outdoors in Mahboula, and also found money and gambling tools. The four will be sent to residency detectives department for deportation.

### Indecent messages

A female citizen was charged with misuse of telephone after a Kuwaiti man lodged a complaint against her for sending indecent messages to him over social media. The woman will be summoned for questioning.

### Deported

Four Bangladeshis and an Egyptian were sent to Residency Affairs Detectives' Department, where they were held pending deportation. The men were identified and arrested after a video clip showing them fighting at the Friday market went viral on social media. The Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Major General Ibrahim Al-Tarrah ordered to deport all five.

### Domestic violence

A citizen hit his wife with an axe on the head and caused her a severe injury during a domestic fight. The woman was rushed to hospital and the husband was charged with attempted murder.

— Translated from the Arabic press

## Chevrolet Alghanim sponsors Interior Ministry's retired officers appreciation event



KUWAIT: As part of its efforts to strengthen its relationship with all segments of the society, Yusuf A Alghanim and Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, has sponsored the appreciation event honoring the laudable service of the Ministry of Interior's retired officers. In addition to this generous sponsorship, Chevrolet Alghanim has also presented the retirees an exclusive package from Chevrolet Service Center that includes a free checkup on a Chevrolet car, 30% discount on spare parts and 10% discount on labor, plus the thrilling experience to test drive any Chevrolet model available at the event at the showroom.

This offer comes as a thankful gesture from Chevrolet Alghanim to the honorable retired officers and employees who have dedicated their life to the service of the country and its people. The appreciation event took place at the Retired Officers Center, on Tuesday, October 24th, 2017, attended by Major Gen. Adeb Al-Suwaidan, General Director of the General Department of the Service Centers at the Ministry of Interior. Not only did Chevrolet Alghanim offer an exclusive KD 300 discount to all the retired officers valid until end of year, but also a number of symbolic gifts to those working at the Retired Officers Center, including its managing director, Col Saif Ajab. All of this reflects Chevrolet Alghanim's gratitude to those who have dedicated their life to securing the safety and peace of the country and its citizens.

The event was inaugurated by Abdullah Al-Mouazzen, General Manager of sales at Chevrolet Alghanim, who showed appreciation for all those attending. The attendees were engaged and appreciative of all Alghanim efforts in sponsoring this and other events, which deepen the ties between



companies, the government and Kuwaiti society at large. Abdulwahab Al Shuwaiti, the head of the Kuwait Camaro Club, also showed his appreciation and gratitude to those servicemen who have dedicated their lives to securing the safety of the youth segment and watching over them on the roads of Kuwait.

Moreover, in the light of the massive reception the new Chevrolet vehicles has received, Chevrolet Alghanim encourages all Ministry of Interior's employees to take advantage of this new offer and test drive any Chevrolet vehicle whilst enjoying the amazing benefits and offers presented by the service center. Chevrolet Alghanim's unbeatable offers incorporate the unstop-

pable Tahoe, the elegant Captiva, and the revolutionary Malibu.

### Chevrolet Care

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A Alghanim and Sons will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for four years.

## Commerce Minister hails KFH role in empowering youth initiatives

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Khaled Al-Roudan hailed Kuwait Finance House's KFH role in empowering the youth initiatives, indicating this paves the way for further development and prosperity.

On the sidelines of the 6th Youth Empowerment Symposium "Tmkeen" held at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, Roudan honored KFH in recognition of its strategic partnership with Tmkeen and its significant role in the corporate social responsibility.

Executive Manager Group Public Relations and Media at KFH, Yusef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh received honorary shield from the Minister. Ruwaieh reiterated the bank's commitment towards the responsibility of empowering the youth and supporting their initiatives, indicating KFH's participation in "Tmkeen" comes for the 6th consecutive year as a strategic partner. KFH

attaches great importance to the youth. The bank supports all initiatives that contribute in achieving the comprehensive and sustainable development in the country.

KFH is the first bank in Kuwait to ink a partnership agreement with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs for supporting and sponsoring the activities of the Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth event. This affirms the bank's commitment towards the youth and reflects its significant role in supporting this vital category of the society.

It's worth noting that "Tmkeen" is a national and academic initiative taken by the youth. It is deemed as one of the significant youth initiatives in Kuwait that aims at investing in the youth while encouraging them to build a promising future by organizing forums and conferences that include elite group of lecturers from different nationalities and backgrounds.



KUWAIT: Yusef Al-Ruwaieh receives an honorary shield from the minister.

## Official commends UAE's nuclear energy project

ABU DHABI: A senior Kuwaiti official on Sunday commended the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, which contained state-of-the-art technology. This came by Mahmoud Bu Shehri, Undersecretary of Ministry of Electricity and Water, dur-

ing a visit to the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant as part of a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Bu Shehri said Barakah was one of the key nuclear projects because it would provide safe and clean energy. The project will be home to four nuclear reactors by 2020. Bu Shehri said the team got acquainted with the construction of the four nuclear reactors, with progress reaching 84 percent. He said the reactors would help eliminate 21 million tons of carbon emissions. Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant's four nuclear reactors will supply up to 25 percent of the UAE's electricity needs. Construction of the plant commenced in July 2012. —KUNA



Who is in charge?  
Catalans wonder

## Crackdown on Mumbai street vendors sparks a row

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AT SEA: A handout photo taken shows the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Howard (DDG 83) transiting in the Pacific Ocean. An US destroyer has come to the aid of an Iranian fishing boat after a pirate attack off Yemen, the US Navy said. Iran's coast guard called the US naval command in Bahrain to report the incident and to ask for help following the attack south of Yemen's Socotra Island, the US Navy said in a statement. — AFP

# Court convicts 19 Shiites for spying for Iran

## Bahraini woman, relatives jailed for 'fake bomb'

DUBAI: A Bahraini court yesterday sentenced 19 Shiites to lengthy jail terms on charges of spying for Iran and plotting to overthrow the regime, judicial sources said. Eight people were sentenced to life in prison, nine to 15 years in prison and two to 10 years in jail for espionage and inciting public dissent, according to a statement released by the counter-terrorism prosecutor's office. Fifteen of those convicted were also stripped of Bahraini citizenship, the statement said.

The court found the group guilty of leaking information to Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards and Lebanon's Iranian-backed Hezbollah and of receiving "material support" from the two forces. They were also convicted of forming a cell to "incite the public against the government and call for regime change by force". The prosecutor's office said the 19 belonged to the Al-Wafaa Islamic movement, a little-known group which Bahraini authorities say is linked to the Revolutionary Guards and Hezbollah. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a judicial source confirmed all 19 were Shiite Muslims.

Dozens of Bahrainis have been jailed and stripped of citizenship since the 2011 outbreak of protests

demanding an elected government in the Sunni-ruled kingdom. A key US ally and home to the US Fifth Fleet, Bahrain has tightened its grip on dissent since 2011, drawing harsh criticism from international rights groups for its treatment of the Shiite-majority population. In April, parliament gave approval for military courts to try civilians charged with "terrorism", a vaguely defined legal term in the kingdom. Bahrain accuses Shiite Iran of training "terrorist cells" that aim to overthrow its government, an allegation Tehran denies.

In another development, a Bahraini woman was sentenced to three years along with her son and nephew yesterday for planting a "fake bomb" in what Amnesty International has called a reprisal case. Hajar Mansoor Hassan, her son Sayed

Nizar Alwadaei and nephew Mahmood Marzouq were charged under the Gulf state's counter-terrorism law with planting a fake bomb, the London-based Bahrain Institute for Human Rights and Democracy (BIRD) said in a statement.

The case has come under international scrutiny over both the validity of the charges and the trial procedures.

Amnesty International tweeted that yesterday's sentencing was "a reprisal" for the work of the London-based BIRD's director of advocacy, who is also Hassan's son-in-law. Marzouq was also sentenced to six weeks and fined 100 Bahraini dinars (\$265, 225 euros) for possessing a knife, according to BIRD. All three have been in custody since March, and were not in court for the sentencing.

In a report published on March 27, a group of UN special rapporteurs said there was evidence that Bahraini interrogators had threatened Alwadaei "to take revenge on him" over BIRD's Bahraini director. On October 26, 15 non-governmental organizations, including Amnesty and Reporters Without Borders, issued an open letter to the governments of Canada, France, Britain and the United States, among others. The letter asked that the governments demand that the authorities in Bahrain drop all charges and release the three.

Hajar Mansoor Hassan was one of five women who last week went on hunger strike for six days in protest at the mistreatment of detainees at the Isa Town women's detention facility. Authorities have since agreed to their demands, which include clean sheets, privacy during phone calls to family and removal of a glass barrier during family visits. Bahrain—a key ally of the US which bases its Fifth Fleet there—has cracked down on political dissent since a wave of protests began in 2011 demanding an elected government in the Shiite-majority country. Hundreds of protesters have since been jailed and number of high-profile activists and clerics stripped of their citizenship. — Agencies



### Group found guilty of leaking info to Iran and Hezbollah

## Tehran rejects 'ridiculous and baseless' Saudi accusations

TEHRAN: Tehran yesterday rejected as "ridiculous and baseless" accusations by Saudi Arabia that Iran is supporting rebels and blocking peace efforts in Yemen. "The Saudi foreign minister's claims that our country has been blocking peace efforts in Yemen are ridiculous and baseless," foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said. "Iran has condemned the aggression (against Yemen) since the beginning... and will not spare any efforts to stop this bloody and detestable war," Ghasemi said in a statement published on the ministry's website.

Saudi Arabia leads a military coalition backing Yemen's government in its fight against the Shiite Houthi rebels. Both sides in the Yemen conflict have come under harsh criticism for their neglect of civilian safety, but the Saudi-led coalition has in particular been accused of bombing schools, markets and hospitals. "Repeating such false accusations will not reduce the responsibility... of those who have committed heinous crimes, particularly murder, destruction of schools and hospitals and pushing an innocent population to famine," Ghasemi said. — AFP

## North Korea's leader tours cosmetics plant with wife and sister

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un took his stylish wife and powerful sister to a make-up plant for a "field guidance trip" amid the country's nuclear stand-off with the US. During a visit to the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory in the capital, Kim hailed its "world-level" products that realized "the dream of the women who want to be more beautiful", the official KCNA news agency reported.

Kim was accompanied by Kim Yo-Jong, his younger sister and a senior member of the ruling Workers' Party, it said, with photos showing Kim's wife Ri Sol-Ju following him at the factory in a floral pattern dress. The two are seen as the most powerful women in the isolated, deeply patriarchal nation. They have often accompanied Kim to official events since he took power in 2011, in a break from the past when former leaders' spouses or sisters rarely made public appearances.

Ri, a former star singer also known for her affinity for luxury fashion, is known to have three children with Kim. Yo-Jong, believed to be in her 20s, was promoted earlier this month to be an alternate member of the party's powerful politburo—the decision-making body presided over by her brother. Known to be handling the party's propaganda operations, Yo-Jong has been seen accompanying Kim closely and in a casual manner—rare among the country's top officials—at high-profile public events. Both Kims were born to the late ruler Kim Jong-



PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (left) inspects the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory, as his wife Ri Sol-Ju (2nd right) looks on. — AFP

Il and his third partner Ko Yong-Hui, a former dancer.

At the factory they viewed a mosaic of their father entitled "To Provide Our People with Better Cosmetics", KCNA reported Sunday. The Kim family has ruled the impoverished but nuclear-armed state with an iron fist through three generations since the nation was established in 1948. Tensions have been

high on the peninsula with the North conducting its sixth nuclear test in September and launching multiple missiles capable of reaching the mainland of its "imperialist enemy" the US. Kim and US President Donald Trump have traded threats of war and personal insults against each other in recent months, sparking global alarm. — AFP

International

# Singapore bans foreign Islamic preachers on religious cruises

## Preachers accused of promoting disharmony, segregation

**SINGAPORE:** Singapore has barred two foreign Islamic preachers from entering the country to preach during religious-themed sea cruises, the interior ministry said yesterday. The pair had earlier applied to preach in the city-state but their applications were rejected. However authorities later learned they planned to preach aboard cruise ships in late November. "They will not be allowed to get around the ban by preaching instead on cruise ships which operate to and from Singapore," the Ministry of Home Affairs said. One of the preachers, Ismail Menk, "has been known to preach segregationist and divisive teachings" while the other, Haslin bin Baharim, "has expressed views that promote disharmony between Muslims and non-Muslims", it said without giving their nationalities.

Singapore also yesterday banned four foreign Islamic books containing what it called "undesirable and harmful teachings". The information ministry said the books' teachings "can cause social distancing, distrust, hatred and even violence among people of different faiths and religious views" in the ethnically diverse nation. Possession, distribution and failure to surrender copies of the books to the police will be an offence effective today, it said.

"The threat of extremism is real and should not be taken lightly," said Information Minister Yaacob Ibrahim. "The government strongly condemns the use of such publications to espouse destructive ideologies and promote enmity between communities." The books were published in Indonesia between 2011 and 2016. Singapore's move comes amid attempts by the Islamic State (IS) group to establish a base in Southeast Asia. IS-backed militants, including several foreign fighters, seized the southern Philippine city of Marawi in May as part of plans to establish a caliphate, sparking a bloody five-month campaign by Filipino troops to dislodge them.

### Islamic State group targets Southeast Asia

The top US commander in the Pacific, Admiral Harry Harris, earlier this month warned against the threat posed by Southeast Asian militants returning to the region as IS loses ground in Iraq, Syria and Libya. "Foreign fighters are passing their ideology, resources and methods to local, home-grown, next-generation radicals," Harris had said in a speech in Singapore. "So we must stop ISIS at the front end and not at the back end when the threat can become even more dangerous," he said, using another name for IS. Singapore in 2001 arrested several suspected militants and foiled a plot to bomb several foreign targets in the country, including the US embassy.—AFP



**SINGAPORE:** A Cruise ship is docked at the Marina Bay cruise centre terminal in Singapore yesterday. —AFP

## 100 years on, UK defends the Balfour Declaration

**LONDON:** Britain's foreign secretary yesterday defended his predecessor's role a century ago in paving the way for the creation of Israel, saying two sovereign states for Israelis and Palestinians remains the "only viable solution" for peace. This Thursday marks the centenary of the Balfour Declaration—a 67-word letter from Britain's then foreign secretary Arthur Balfour that drew London's backing behind a homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine. Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will travel to London to mark the anniversary. The statement remains controversial, setting off a chain of events that eventually led to Israel's formation, the displacement of millions of Palestinians and decades of strife between the two communities that continues to this day.

"I am proud of Britain's part in creating Israel," current Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson wrote in the Telegraph newspaper on Sunday, adding the document was "indispensable to the creation of a great nation". But he warned that one of the key caveats of the Balfour Declaration—that the rights of non-Jewish communities shall be protected—"has not been fully realized". In the article, Johnson said he was writing his thoughts down in the same room Balfour used a century ago. He praised the 1917 letter for its "incon-

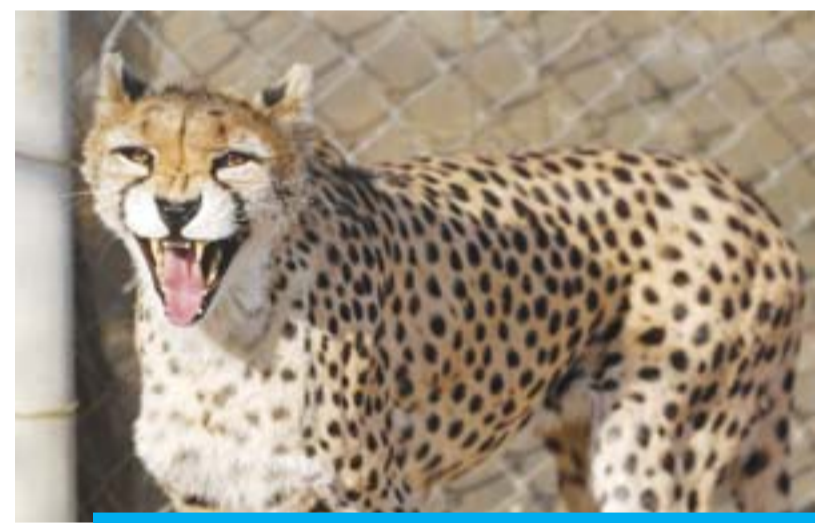
testable moral goal: to provide a persecuted people with a safe and secure homeland." London, he added, remained committed to a two-state solution.

"I have no doubt that the only viable solution to the conflict resembles the one first set down on paper by another Briton, Lord Peel, in the report of the Royal Commission on Palestine in 1937, and that is the vision of two states for two peoples," he wrote. The borders, he added, should be as they were before the Six Day war in 1967, with Jerusalem "a shared capital" and "equal land swaps to reflect the national, security, and religious interests of the Jewish and Palestinian peoples."

"A century on, Britain will give whatever support we can in order to close the ring and complete the unfinished business of the Balfour Declaration," he wrote. —AFP

## Iran moves to save last 'mascot' Asiatic cheetahs

**GARMSAR:** Iranian environmentalists have mobilized to protect the world's last Asiatic cheetahs, estimated to number just 50 and faced with the threats of becoming roadkill, a shortage of prey and farmers' dogs. "The last time our photo traps caught a cheetah here, it was two years ago. But we're sure they are still in the region," said Rajab Ali Kargar, deputy head of the National Protection Project for the Asiatic Cheetah. His camp is just a stone's throw from an old royal hunting pavilion in the Garmsar area of Semnan province, around 120 kilometers south of Tehran, but these days the focus is on preservation rather than killing.



**TEHRAN:** A female Asiatic Cheetah named 'Dalbar' snarls in an enclosure at the Pardisan Park in Tehran. — AFP

**Lack of prey**  
The Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s was devastating for wild animals, particularly along the country's western border. It was thought for a time that the cheetahs had been wiped out, until they were found to have retreated into the central desert regions. Three major problems have befallen the Asiatic

Cars and farmers remain a threat, however. "Today, the cheetahs leave their zones and approach villages. Farmers and their dogs kill them to protect their herds," said Joker. A pack of dogs can overpower a cheetah, he said. At least 20 cheetahs have been killed in road accidents over the past 16 years. In its bid to raise public awareness, the project's most successful move was putting an image of the cheetah on the national football team's jersey during the 2014 World Cup and the Asian Games in the same year. "That move had an extraordinary effect in educating and mobilizing people," said Joker. "Now nearly everyone knows the cheetah is in danger."

Since early September, a new campaign, headed by popular actress Hedieh Tehrani, has raised some eight billion rials (\$200,000,170,000 euros) in just over a month as part of efforts to relocate farms in order to reduce confrontations with the cheetah. "It's the biggest mobilization of civil society that I've witnessed," said Joker. —AFP



### Asiatic cheetah, is critically endangered

cheetah in recent time: cars, farmers and having nothing to eat. "When we launched the project, the biggest danger was the lack of prey," said Joker. The team focused on building up numbers of gazelles and rabbits for the cheetahs to eat, which has been largely successful.



**GAZA:** A Palestinian boy holds rides a bicycle with his feet up at Al-Ahatee refugee camp in Gaza City. Britain's Balfour Declaration turns 100 this week, hailed by Israel for helping lead to its founding, but viewed by Palestinians as contributing to a catastrophe that stole their land. —AFP

## Opposition party fumes; 2 Australia ministers expelled

**SYDNEY:** Australia's main Labor opposition party said yesterday it was considering a legal challenge to more than 100 decisions made by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's conservative government, after two of his cabinet ministers were expelled from parliament. Among the parliamentary votes in question was the government's defeat of a proposed wide-ranging inquiry into Australia's scandal-hit banking sector. A powerful inquiry into Australia's banks, which are under fire after scams involving money-laundering, misleading financial advice, insurance fraud and interest-rate rigging, was approved by the upper house Senate this year, but fell one vote short of passing the lower house.

The government lost its one-seat lower house majority on Friday when a court ruled Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce was ineligible to sit in parliament as he had held dual citizenship when elected, in contradiction to the constitution. Former cabinet colleague Fiona Nash, along with three other politicians, were also expelled. The ruling has cast doubt over the validity of parliamentary votes Joyce and Nash have cast, said Tanya Plibersek, acting leader of the Australian Labor Party.

"We're going to look at all of our options," Plibersek said yesterday in an interview with Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio. "We are very concerned about the fact that Barnaby Joyce has been voting at a time when he shouldn't have been in the Federal Parliament and we narrowly lost votes because of that." Joyce has said many of those decisions were made by cabinet collectively rather than himself personally and so ought to remain valid. Plibersek said legal challenges could be mounted by anyone aggrieved by the government's decisions.

She flagged challenging a narrowly-won vote that cut Sunday pay rates for some workers, as well as decisions taken by Joyce and Nash in their capacity as ministers. That includes a decision to relocate a government department headquarters to Joyce's electorate and decisions on water-rights allocation and the rollout of a national fast-internet scheme. Constitutional law academic George Williams said the issue was not so clear cut. "It's certainly uncharted waters," said Williams, Dean of Law at the University of New South Wales.

The court would "look very carefully" in particular at decisions taken since August, when Joyce and Nash realized they may be dual nationals. "It's not clear what the result would be," he said. The Australian constitution bars politicians with dual citizenship from being elected to the national parliament. Both Joyce and Nash said they were not aware they held dual citizenship and have since renounced their New Zealand and British citizenships, respectively. Turnbull's minority government now relies on three independent lawmakers to remain in office. Joyce is expected to win a by-election for his seat on Dec 2, which would restore the government's one-seat majority.—Reuters



## Walk In Interview Recruitment Open Day

**Tuesday 31, October 2017**  
at Holiday Inn, Salmiya  
Time : 9AM to 3PM  
Mobile No.: 60776827/94123937



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### Electronics

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sales Assistant</li> <li>2. Delivery &amp; Installation Technician <small>(TV/Major Home Appliances/AC)</small></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Call Center Agent <small>(English &amp; Arabic)</small></li> <li>4. Technicians <small>(TV/Mobile)</small></li> <li>5. Product Analyst <small>(2 Years Exp. In Electronics)</small></li> </ol>
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Walk In between 9 AM to 3 PM with your CV, Civil ID & Work permit Copies.  
Candidates with visa #18 (transferable preferred)

careers@alyaqout.com, www.alyaqout.com

## International

# Who is in charge? Catalonians wonder as Spain takes control

## Sacked regional leaders may face criminal charges

**BARCELONA:** Catalonia's civil servants returned to work yesterday for the first time since Spain's central government rejected an independence declaration by imposing direct control, as Madrid warned that sacked regional leaders face criminal charges if they attempt to perform any official duties. Catalans watched and wondered whether the ousted leaders would defy their firing and face arrest, escalating a political crisis that already appears to have no easy way out. Speculation raged about the whereabouts of the dismissed Catalan President Carles Puigdemont and his deposed Cabinet, whose reaction will be key to whether Madrid's takeover will be smooth or face opposition.

As staff arrived at the headquarters of the Catalan government in Barcelona, Puigdemont posted a photo on Instagram of a courtyard at the building. Both the Catalan and Spanish national flags waved from the top of the building. The ambiguous Instagram post, accompanied by the words "Good morning" in Catalan and a smiley emoticon, left many guessing whether Puigdemont was inside the building. There was no indication of when the photo was taken.

As dozens of journalists, curious onlookers and bemused tourists gathered in the square outside the Gothic government palace in central Barcelona, residents expressed confusion about who was actually in charge of Catalonia. "I don't know - the Catalan government says they are in charge, but the Spanish government says they are," said Cristina Guillen, an employee in a nearby bag shop. "So I have no idea, really. "What I really think is that nobody is in charge right now," she said. At least one portrait of Puigdemont was still hanging on a wall inside the Catalan government's Generalitat building.

Puigdemont is likely to be accused of rebellion for pushing ahead with secession. Spain's government has said the ousted leaders could be charged with usurping others' functions if they attempt to carry on working. At

least one member of the ousted government defied his dismissal by showing up at work and posting a photo on Twitter from his formal office. "In the office, exercising the responsibilities entrusted to us by the people of Catalonia," said Josep Rull, who until last week was the region's top official in charge of territorial affairs.

Two police officers entered and left the building, followed minutes later by Rull, who told reporters and supporters that he would continue carrying out his agenda. But there were no official events listed on the regional government's public agenda that is published online daily. Meanwhile, the two separatist parties in the former Catalan governing coalition held separate meetings to decide their next move. Spanish authorities say deposed officials will be allowed to take their personal belongings from official buildings, but are barred from performing any official duties.

Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido said yesterday that the government was giving the separatist politicians "a few hours" of time because the goal was "to recover normality in a discreet way and under the principle of minimal intervention" from central authorities. Catalonia's regional parliament proclaimed independence from Spain in a secret ballot Friday. The Spanish government dissolved the legislature, fired the government and regional police chief and called a new election for Dec 21.

The vote to secede came after an Oct 1 referendum in favor of independence that was deemed illegal by Spain's constitutional court. Puigdemont has vowed peaceful and "democratic opposition" to his Cabinet's dismissal, but he hasn't clarified if that means accepting an early regional election as a way out of the deadlock. Separatist parties and grassroots groups have spoken of waging a campaign of disobedience to hamper the efforts by central authorities to run the region.

A key factor will be how Catalonia's estimated 200,000 public workers would react to their bosses' dismissal, and whether any stay away from work in protest. Secession moves by this wealthy northeastern



**BARCELONA:** Some people wave flags from Occitania, Flanders, Wallonia and Catalonia in front of the 'Generalitat' palace (Catalan government headquarters) yesterday. —AFP

region of 7.5 million have tipped Spain into its deepest crisis in decades. On Sunday, hundreds of thousands took part in an anti-independence demonstration in Barcelona, calling for Catalonia to remain in Spain and backing Rajoy's use of unprecedented constitutional powers to seize wrest control from the pro-independence regional administration. "We won't let Spain be torn apart into pieces," read one banner. "The awakening of a silenced nation," read another.

"We have organized ourselves late, but we are here to show that there is a majority of Catalans that are no longer silent and that no longer want to be silenced," said Alex Ramos, head of Catalan Civil Society, a pro-union grassroots group. The organizers said more than 1 million people turned out but police put the figure at 300,000. Many who oppose independence fear the

political turmoil in Catalonia could have a severe economic impact, both in the region and on Spain itself. Some 1,700 companies have already relocated their headquarters to other parts of Spain in recent weeks amid the uncertainty.

Spanish financial markets rose yesterday after a poll suggested support for Catalan independence is waning, after falling amid Friday's tumult. The Ibx 35 stock index was up 1.4 percent at 10,338 points, about as much as it had fallen on Friday. Spanish government bonds were also higher. The driver seems to have been a poll published by Spanish daily El Pais over the weekend that indicated more Catalans are against the declaration of independence than in favor. That suggests the independence movement might lose power when a new regional election is held. —AP



### Spain, Catalonia political crisis escalates

## China universities start 'Xi Thought' at the institutes

**BEIJING:** Xi Jinping Thought will now be taught, researched and promoted in universities across China, ensuring that the leader's eponymous philosophy is implanted in students' hearts and minds. At least twenty universities have established research institutes for Xi's ideology, which was enshrined in the Communist Party's constitution during its 19th national congress this month.

The distinction places Xi on a par with Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping. It means that his dogma—"Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era"—will become a mantra for a new generation. According to media reports Sunday, the research institutes will not "hide in the ivory tower" but advocate the incorporation of Xi thought in all aspects of daily life.

"We will gather many experts and professors to disseminate and preach Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era in businesses, neighborhoods and villages," Jiang Hongxin, head of Hunan Normal University's newly-founded Xi Thought research centre, told the People's Daily, the party mouthpiece. Liu Ying, party secretary of the Tianjin University of Technology's Communist Youth League said the idea of forming a Xi Thought "learning group" came to her spontaneously during his marathon speech at the congress's opening.

"After studying these ideas, students will have more confidence not only in the country, but also in their own lives," she said. "They will have a greater belief in the Chinese dream—one of Xi's pet slogans. Planned activities for the group include tours to promote Xi Thought in rural communities and visits to Liangjiahe, the northern village where Xi spent seven years as a "sent-down youth" during

## Catalonia crisis: What is next?

**MADRID:** Spain on Friday sacked Catalonia's regional government, dissolved the Catalan parliament and called a snap election in the region for Dec 21, in a bid to draw a line under the country's worst political crisis in 40 years. Below are several scenarios of what could happen in the next few days.

#### Direct rule

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy sacked Catalonia's government including regional president Carles Puigdemont and his deputy Oriol Junqueras and assumed direct control over the region. Central government ministries assumed the powers of the Catalan administration until a regional election takes place on Dec. 21.

#### Elections

It is not clear whether a snap regional election will resolve the crisis. An opinion poll published by El Mundo on Sunday showed that pro-independence parties may lose their parliamentary majority and even arrive behind anti-independence forces. The vote could result into a hung par-



**BEIJING:** Photo shows newspaper featuring Chinese President Xi Jinping at a news stand a day after Xi introduced China's new Politburo Standing Committee, the nation's top decision making body, in Beijing. —AFP

liament. Other opinion polls have also shown Catalonia is almost evenly split between pro- and anti-independence supporters.

#### Civil disobedience

Catalonia's main secessionist groups have called for widespread civil disobedience. They also instructed civil servants not to obey orders from Madrid and respond with peaceful resistance. It is unclear whether such calls will be followed or not. A key test will be when 200,000 civil servants return to work.

#### Use of force

Spain's government said it was not planning to make any arrests, but it is unclear how it will proceed if the current regional administration staff refuse to leave their offices. None of the immediate Catalan cabinet, including Puigdemont, are thought to have spent the weekend in the Barcelona central offices and it is unclear if they will attempt to return to work yesterday. A growing number of analysts have feared this could lead to a physical confrontation if national police, who used heavy-handed tactics to thwart an Oct. 1 vote on independence, seek to intervene.

#### Finances

The economy and budget ministries took full control over regional finances on Friday. Many companies have however said on condition of anonymity that they feared a new Catalan treasury could start levying taxes, and that they would seek to move their tax base outside Catalonia. It is also possible that some pro-independence Catalans will stop paying their taxes to the Spanish treasury.

#### Public media

The Spanish government had initially said it would control widely watched Catalan public television TV3, but it eventually dropped that plan. The media is likely to play an important role in the run-up to the new election in Catalonia.—Reuters

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### News in brief

#### Journalist stabbed to death

**KIRKUK:** A Kurdish video journalist with a channel backing Iraqi Kurdistan's leader Massud Barzani was stabbed to death at his home overnight in disputed Kirkuk province, a security source said yesterday. Four armed men broke into the home of Arkan Sharif, a 54-year-old journalist with Kurdistan TV, at 2:30 am in the Daquq area south of Kirkuk city, the source said. Sharif, a father of three, was stabbed five times after his family were locked up in another room, the source said. Iraqi security forces backed by Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitaries in mid-October seized oil-rich Kirkuk province from the Kurds in the wake of a Kurdish independence vote held in defiance of Baghdad. Kurdish media have since accused the Hashed, an alliance composed mainly of Shiite militias, of carrying out a campaign of retribution against Kurdish civilians.

#### Activist details rape claims

**PARIS:** A Muslim feminist activist who has accused prominent Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan of violent rape detailed her claims in a hard-hitting interview yesterday. The leading Oxford professor, whose grandfather founded Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood Islamist movement, is facing investigations in France for the alleged rape of two women. Ramadan has denied the accusations as a "campaign of lies launched by my adversaries". Henda Ayari, a former Muslim fundamentalist who says Ramadan raped her in a Paris hotel room in 2012, said she was encouraged to speak out against him publicly by the "Me Too" campaign sweeping the world. "It was the #BalanceTonPorc campaign that pushed me to reveal his name," she told the Parisien newspaper, in reference to France's version of the hashtag which means "Expose your pig". Ayari, who lodged a rape complaint against the 55-year-old Swiss national on October 20, charged that for Tariq Ramadan, "either you wear a veil or you get raped".

#### Woman in 'love jihad' case

**NEW DELHI:** India's Supreme Court has ordered a 24-year-old woman whose marriage to a Muslim man was annulled at her Hindu father's request to give evidence in person, saying only she could decide her own fate. The decision to annul the marriage and force the woman, Akhila Ashokan, to return to live with her parents has caused outrage among women's rights campaigners in India. Earlier this year Ashokan's father asked the high court in the southern state of Kerala to annul the marriage, claiming she had been forced into it and made to convert to Islam. The high court agreed, but her former husband challenged the decision in the Supreme Court, which on Monday ruled that Ashokan should appear in person to give evidence on November 27. It questioned whether the lower court had the legal right to annul a marriage between two adults. Inter-religious relationships are still a taboo in India, particularly in rural areas.



International

# Japan offers Philippines aid for fighting terrorism, rebuilding

## Military campaign leaves over 1,100 fighters, civilians dead

TOKYO: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte won pledges from Japan of help with fighting terrorism and assistance in building the country's crumbling infrastructure, as he met with Japan's prime minister yesterday during a visit to the country. Japan promised its support in the reconstruction of the strife-torn southern Philippine city of Marawi. A military campaign recently ended a five-month siege of the city by Islamic State group-aligned militants that left more than 1,100 combatants and civilians dead.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe welcomed the liberation of Marawi and gave credit to Duterte's leadership. "I express my heartfelt respect for President Duterte's leadership on the recent declaration of liberation in Marawi," Abe said. "We will provide full support for (the Philippines') counterterrorism effort and steps to ensure peace and stability" in the region. The two leaders also agreed to cooperate on various projects, including a subway system for metropolitan Manila, the traffic-jammed capital, energy development, maritime safety and the Philippines' fight against drugs and drug trafficking.

The assistance from Tokyo includes 15.9 billion yen (\$140 million) in low-interest financing for a water management project in the Philippines' flood-prone Cavite province, Japan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Before leaving the Philippines for Tokyo late Sunday, Duterte said he hoped to discuss concerns over North Korea with Abe and declared that someone should talk to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, reassure him that

nobody is out to remove him or destroy his country, and ask him to stop threatening attacks.

"You must remember that he is a leader of his people," Duterte said, adding that "whatever he proclaims himself to be, somebody has got to talk to him." "So, if somebody could just reach out, talk to him and say, 'My friend, why don't you just join me in the table and we'll just talk about these things?'" Duterte told reporters in the southern Philippine city of Davao. "Nobody's talking to him."

Duterte echoed US President Donald Trump in saying he believes China has the greatest leverage with Pyongyang, a longtime Beijing ally. And he expressed concern over the potential for dangerous missteps in the stand-off with North Korea over its nuclear program. "We are worried, all of us, that you know, Murphy's Law, 'If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong.'" Apart from his talks with government officials, while in Tokyo Duterte is due to meet with Japanese business leaders and have an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. "I suppose that I have to limit my mouth there," the blunt-spoken Philippine president said.

He praised Japan as a "true friend of the Philippines" and said he would seek as much help as possible from Japan in rebuilding Marawi and the surrounding region. The siege in the southern Philippines displaced some 400,000 residents, including the entire population of Marawi, a bastion of the Islamic faith in the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines. Military airstrikes, artillery



### Abe credits Duterte's leadership



TOKYO: Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte (left) delivers his speech beside Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during the joint remarks announcement at Abe's official residence in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

and heavy machine-gun fire turned the lakeside city's central business district and outlying communities into a smol-

dering wasteland of disfigured buildings and bullet-pocked mosques and houses. — AP

## Losses, looting as Filipinos return to Marawi city

MARAWI CITY: Khaliluddin Ismail returned home yesterday after five months of war in the southern Philippines to find his house ransacked. But he's still smiling. "At least we have something left," he said, standing in a room with clothes, toys, ornaments and damaged pictures strewn across the floor. "Others have nothing. They lost their homes, they lost their lives." Ismail, 44, the Imam of a nearby mosque, considers himself one of the luckiest people in Marawi.

The city was devastated by more than 150 days of battles between government forces and pro-Islamic State militants that killed more than 1,100 people and displaced some 350,000. His house is in Marawi's safe zone, an area long abandoned by residents but untouched by unrelenting shelling and military air strikes that have all but flattened the city's commercial heart, destroying thousands of homes, shops and vehicles. Six days after troops killed the last remaining rebels, Ismail was among about 4,000 people allowed to return to their homes on Sunday in Marawi's Basak Malutlot area.

Many like him have discovered their houses were looted and left in disarray. "I opened the door and I was shocked, but I'm still happy to be home," he said. Ismail fled with his family on May 24 during a fierce three-day firefight that erupted just 50 meters away, when security forces tried to raid the hideout of notorious militant leader Isnilon Hapilon, Islamic State's anointed "emir" in Southeast Asia. Hapilon escaped, then issued a call to arms to hundreds of insurgents to initiate their planned takeover of Marawi. It sparked the Philippines' biggest urban battle in recent history, and fears that Islamic State's extremist agenda had gained a foothold in the south of the mainly Catholic country.



BALO-I, Philippines: Young evacuees cook rice in front of their tent at an evacuation centre in Balo-i town, Lanao del Sur province, on the southern island of Mindanao. — AFP

### Happy homecoming

There were scenes of joy and chaos as a convoy of returning residents poured in to Marawi to a cacophony of horns and whistles, jamming what only a few hours earlier were deserted streets. Armed police at checkpoints cross-checked documents and pictures of each passenger from the 712 families, to guard against possible infiltration by militants.

Babies cried as officials at a public hall shouted on megaphones to try to establish order as hundreds jostled to register for the sack of rice and 5,000 pesos (\$97) allocated to each household. With a stern face, the district's elderly chairwoman, Jamallah Indol Saro, yelled in the local Maranao dialect at anxious residents to calm down. "I told them we have to thank Allah we're still alive," she said, smiling.

Some 6,500 families are due to return this week in a phased repatriation, a fraction of the 77,000 that fled to evacuation camps or nearby towns. Many face a lengthy wait for vast swaths of Marawi to be rebuilt. Retired government employee Mitomar Goling, 72, came home to

find jewelry, money, furniture and antiques had been stolen. He said he feared he would have starved or been killed had he stayed behind. "We felt the ground trembling from the air strikes. We didn't know if the army could protect us," said Goling, wearing sunglasses and a white skull cap. "If you don't believe in their ideology, ISIS sees you as the enemy," he said, referring to Islamic State.

### Destroy city to save it

He was among many people who said they understood that the military had to destroy the city to save it. Norida Manna's three-storey house was levelled by an air strike, but she's thankful she's alive. The office clerk and single mother of six will now live at her sister's home, from which she fled in May as troops outside battled hooded, black-clad gunmen who helped the escape of Hapilon. The rebel commander was subsequently killed in a military operation 13 days ago. "My home was destroyed, but I don't blame the military. They had a job to do," she said. "I have nothing left, but to us, every day is a happy one now." — Reuters

## Crackdown on Mumbai street vendors sparks a row over public spaces

MUMBAI: A crackdown on street vendors in Mumbai after they were blamed for a stampede at a train station last month highlights the diminishing access to public spaces for the city's poor and marginalized communities, activists said. A report on the rush-hour stampede during a monsoon downpour that killed 22 people, said vendors crowding a narrow footbridge were partly to blame. Since then, city officials have doubled a fine for illegal hawkers, and said they will introduce a mobile app for residents to register complaints about hawkers.

Members of a local political party have clashed with vendors outside train stations, saying they pose a risk to commuters. "City officials have not done anything to create hawking zones and issue new licenses," said Salma Sheikh of advocacy group Azad Vendors Union in Mumbai. "The law clearly states there can be no evictions till a survey is done. Yet vendors are being evicted, their wares destroyed; this is a blatant violation of our rights," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Vendors selling everything from snacks and tea to

toys, clothes and shoes are a common sight in India's cities, with their wares on pavements, outside schools and at traffic lights. Only about 20,000 hawkers in Mumbai are licensed, with the number unlicensed estimated at more than 150,000. Unlicensed hawkers often have to pay policemen bribes, and flee eviction drives which are becoming more common as cities are upgraded with high-speed internet and air-conditioned metro trains. A plan is being drawn up to regularize hawkers, a city official said.

"A survey has been done. We will be holding a meeting in coming weeks to decide on a committee to issue licences and demarcate hawking zones," said Ranjit Dhakne, a deputy municipal commissioner. India passed the Street Vendors Act in 2014, which protects from evictions and relocations. States were required to pass a law adopting the policy, but few have done so.

Informal street life that offers livelihoods to the poor are increasingly seen as a problem, even as officials ignore illegal parking and extensions of shops on to pavements, said an academic who has studied the issue. "It is a paradox that the same people who want the convenience of street vendors also want them removed," said Hussain Indrewala at the Kamla Raheja Vidyaniidhi Institute of Architecture in Mumbai.

"Decisions about who belongs in the city, and what streets and public spaces should be used for are increasingly being controlled through the privilege of property ownership." — Reuters

## Indians rescued from a farm after years of suffering

MUMBAI: Nearly 25 workers, including children, who worked 15-hour days for seven years, were rescued at the weekend at Baran in the western Indian state of Rajasthan, in a rare crackdown on farms where forced labor is ram-

nant. Campaigners said the workers were from a tribe in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh and were given loans ranging from 500 to 20,000 rupees (\$8 to \$308) before being taken to Rajasthan to work in the fields.

"These people were trafficked from their home state with the lure of good work but kept bonded on the fields. They believed they were repaying the loans," said Nirmal Gorana, convener of the National Campaign Committee for Eradication of Bonded Labor, that took part in the rescue. Rescued workers said while they worked in the fields, their children worked at the employer's house for no money. "The employers did not give them wages, but only packets of wheat." — Reuters

## Analysis

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## Kansas youths take on adults in heartland state

With loose khaki pants, a button-down shirt and a dark blue blazer, Tyler Ruzich looks a lot like any number of aspiring politicians before him. But if the election Ruzich is running in were to be held today, he'd be too young to vote for himself. The 17-year-old is one of five teens throwing their hats in the crowded ring for next year's governor's race in Kansas, which has permissive rules about who can run for the state's top elected post.

Speaking recently to a crowd of students at a high school gym in the city of Lawrence, Ruzich picked up a microphone and launched into his campaign speech. "It's pretty clear that our politicians have neglected us," Ruzich said, competing to be heard over the clangs of a nearby weightlifting room. Next to him were three other teen gubernatorial candidates. In this geographical center of the continental United States - affectionately called America's Heartland - the teenagers vying for the governor's office are injecting youthful ambition into the 2018 election cycle.

Emboldened by the Trump era, where anything seems possible in American politics, the teens are challenging the status quo in a deeply Republican state. "I view this as really an important opportunity to get younger people involved," Ruzich, a Republican, told AFP. The teenage candidates are taking advantage of the fact that Kansas has no age restrictions on who can run for governor - one candidate even jokingly suggested that a dog could get on the ballot. The only other state with such permissive election laws, sparsely populated Vermont, in the northeast, has a 13-year-old gubernatorial candidate.

### People are 'fed up'

Jack Bergeson, 16, was the first Kansas teen to file election papers in the spring of 2016. The novelty of it landed him on a national late-night talk show and drew the attention of news media. By this summer, 17-year-olds Ruzich and Ethan Randleas had joined the race; Dominic Scavuzzo announced his candidacy in the fall. And last week, 16-year-old Joseph Tuteria Jr became the latest teen to seek the state's highest office. "It's an overall good thing. People are showing that the younger generation is here to make an impact," Bergeson told AFP.

The young men - no girls have joined in - are hoping to tap into the anti-establishment fervor coursing through American politics and roiling the Republican Party. Incumbents are facing unexpected challenges in next year's midterm elections from outsiders emboldened by Donald Trump's rhetoric and his surprise presidential victory. "I'm not necessarily a supporter of the president, but he has showed that people are fed up with the establishment," Bergeson said.

The teens hope to inspire younger people to register to vote. Of the five, only Bergeson is a Democrat. The other four are Republicans in a state Trump won by more than 20 points. And like Trump, the five are willing to buck their respective parties. Ruzich would raise business taxes - anathema to true-believer Republicans. Bergeson would raise taxes, too. And, all five teens would legalize marijuana.

### 'Uncertain race'

The young candidates' participation in the gubernatorial race has been a spectacle, but it could have real impact. Students at the high school campaign event said they were inspired. "It was really cool to see someone closer to my age actually up there talking about these political issues," 17-year-old Josh Morris said. More significantly, the teens' presence on the ballot could affect adult candidates, said Burdett Loomis, professor of political science at the University of Kansas. "It's a hugely open and uncertain race," Loomis said, adding that the teens could drain votes from older candidates.

The adults might just want to pay attention; there is precedent for teens winning elected office in the US. Saira Blair, aged 17 when she ran in 2014 for a seat in the West Virginia state legislature, became the youngest person ever elected to state or federal office, defeating an incumbent in her own Republican Party. The Kansas teens' candidacies led one adult gubernatorial contender to suggest changing the law. "I think it's both amusing and encouraging that high school students are throwing their name into the governor's race," Kris Kobach told the Kansas City Star newspaper in September.

"But it is appropriate to have minimum ages for the governor's office," said Kobach, who as Kansas secretary of state is in charge of administering elections - and who also is heading Trump's controversial commission investigating alleged voter fraud. Many of the teen candidates acknowledged their age is a barrier. "People don't think I'm quite experienced," Scavuzzo told AFP, "but to win this election isn't necessarily winning the governorship." Getting young people more involved in politics, he added, would be a victory in itself. — AFP



## Killing silences anti-graft voice

A few hundred meters from the home of Maltese investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, in the field where the flaming wreckage of her car landed after being blown off the road by an assassin's bomb, a plastic pen is stuck into the ground near a Maltese flag. A hand-written note among bunches of flowers nearby reads: "What you wrote and what you uncovered cannot be blown away."

Grief and anger are still palpable in this tiny Mediterranean nation, where Caruana Galizia's website, "Running Commentary," was essential reading in cafes, corridors of power, boardrooms and newsrooms. "You wouldn't sleep at night if you hadn't read Daphne," said Rachel Attard, news editor at the Malta Independent, which published a twice-weekly column by Caruana Galizia.

Nearly two weeks after the journalist's brutal death, police have said almost nothing about their investigation or the prospect of identifying suspects. There have been six car bombings in Malta over the past two years, including Caruana Galizia's. None have been solved. Caruana Galizia, 53, was educated at Catholic schools before starting work as a journalist in 1987. She cited her parents as her inspiration, saying in one of her posts that they faced challenges "with dignity, correctly and without moral compromise" from 1971-87, when Malta was ruled by the Labor Party and gripped by political turmoil.

She set up her blog in 2008 with the same absence of moral compromise. Fed by a network of sources who tipped her off about stories, Caruana Galizia turned into a headline machine that could set the nation's news agenda on any given day. "She received so many stories from her sources, she was struggling to keep up," her son Andrew told AP at the family home.

She targeted both sides of politics with the same sense of moral outrage, accusing the country's leaders of corruption and undermining its democratic institutions. Her sons,

in a Facebook post after her Oct 16 death, took up where she left off, calling on Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat to resign "for watching over the birth of a society dominated by fear, mistrust, crime and corruption."

Caruana Galizia also followed up on the Maltese content in the Panama Papers offshore accounts leaks in 2016. She alleged earlier this year that documents provided by a



### Even in her garden, Caruana Galizia never sat still

whistleblower showed that the wife of Prime Minister Joseph Muscat had an offshore holding in Panama to receive money from Azerbaijan. Muscat and his wife, Michelle, denied that they had companies in Panama.

Meanwhile, opposition leader Adrian Delia sued her over stories linking him to a prostitution racket in London. He dropped the case after her death. Despite her hard-hitting reporting, in private the journalist was gentle and reserved, said a lawyer who defended her in some libel cases. "In person, she was very timid, docile, she was almost shy. It was the opposite of what one would think if you were to read her blogs, her posts, her articles," said Roberto Montalto.

Her life was not totally dominated by her hard-hitting investigations of corruption. She also edited a glossy, monthly lifestyle magazine called Taste&Flair, which was distributed free of charge with the Malta Independent on Sunday. Caruana Galizia would unwind at her home, driving into the hills, along narrow country lanes lined by trees and dusty cactus plants to a house built from limestone blocks quarried in Malta that stands, shaded by trees, at the end of a long dirt track.

"She created a paradise at home for herself that was an escape from everything she saw in her journalism," said Matthew, another of her three sons and a member of The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists that won a Pulitzer Prize for its reporting on the Panama Paper revelations.

When protesters camped out outside Muscat's office in the capital, Valletta, in a show of support for the slain journalist and to call for the resignations of the country's police chief and attorney general, the sons sent them pizza and branches of bay laurel from the garden, calling them symbols of courage and strength.

But even in her beloved garden, Caruana Galizia never sat still. Shortly before her death, she had bought saplings of native trees to plant and was considering building a chicken coop. "It's like she collected responsibilities," Andrew said. Her supporters in Malta are now hoping the outrage generated by Caruana Galizia's killing will spark change that could help this nation shrug off its reputation as a haven for money laundering and corruption.

Greta Muscat Azopardi, a 34-year-old project manager who was among those camping outside the prime minister's office, said the journalist was an inspiration. "I haven't always agreed with what she posted, but I really believe we need to be OK with criticizing each other in public," she said. "A lot of things get hidden because we are so afraid to criticize and challenge and question." — AFP

## At climate talks, it's America alone more than America first

Facing 195 other countries who have chosen a different path, the task of US negotiators at upcoming climate talks in Bonn is unenviable. Donald Trump has vowed to exit the Paris Climate accord, just not yet, leaving US policy in limbo for the next three years until Washington can officially leave. So, it falls to Thomas Shannon - a respected career diplomat - to this week lead a delegation into talks aimed at implementing an agreement the US is set to abandon.

"It is a strange situation. I don't think I have seen anything like it in my almost 30 years of following this process," said Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a Washington-based non-profit working on environmental issues. The Trump administration says it will still turn up, hoping to protect America's interests and put "America first".

Rather ambitiously, Washington wants to handcuff its biggest geopolitical rivals to their commitments. A White House official told AFP it wants "to ensure the rules are transparent and fair, and apply to countries like China and other economic competitors to the United States". But Shannon and his team might find themselves on shaky ground. Ben Rhodes, a former aide to president Barack Obama, believes Washington has abandoned any leverage it once had. "The rest of the world has no incentive to make concessions to

the US since we are now entirely isolated," he told AFP.

"My expectation is that the rest of the world will simply continue within the Paris framework and wait and see what happens in the US in 2020. The danger is that other countries are less ambitious in their own commitments and implementation plans because they have the excuse of the US leaving," he added.

### Next election

Many delegates will be hoping that by a Nov 4, 2020 deadline - one day after the next presidential election - Trump either backs down or a new president has embraced the agreement. Either scenario is entirely possible. The White House has given itself ample wiggle room, saying the United States intends to withdraw "unless the president can identify terms that are more favorable to American businesses, workers, and taxpayers".

That leaves open a broad range of possibilities that would not wreck the deal, including scaling back Obama's national plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28 percent by 2025 compared to 2005 levels. But for now, the most supportive American voices come from outside the administration - in the cities, states and companies, many of whom will likely implement their requirements regardless.

Billionaire former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg is on the front line of the Paris accord's cheerleaders, determined to help meet US commitments whatever the position of the White House. "That's kind of a new plot here," said Meyer. "You did not have that kind of force in place when president Bush announced he was withdrawing from Kyoto in 2001." The key question is whether they can keep the flame alive for another three years. — AFP

## Chile battling to save a favorite clam

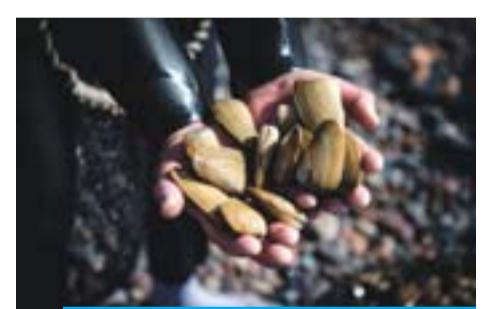
Long one of the country's favorite seafood, Chile's macha clam has become a victim of its own popularity, with over-exploitation forcing authorities to ban clam fishing in all but a few areas to help stocks recover. From humble seaside taverns to exclusive Santiago restaurants, machas have long been a mainstay of the menu in seafood-loving Chile. Found in the surf-swept sandbanks along the coasts of Chile and southern Peru, the macha is fished in the traditional way by men and women who brave icy waves and riptides to wrest their prize from the sea.

But since August, fishing for machas has been banned in the central regions of Valparaiso, O'Higgins and El Maule after industrial-scale extraction has all but destroyed stocks. The future for the clam lies further north, where the fishing community in La Serena is held up as an example of a sustainable way forward after strict fishery management plans were put in place to help stocks recover.

"The machas have almost disappeared in Chile, except in this preservation area, where stocks have been taken care of for years," said Franklin Zepeda, president of the San Pedro Fisherman's union in La Serena. On nearby Coquimbo Bay, Zepeda says the conservation program and a quota system for catches has secured the livelihood of 175 local macha fishers, including 50 women. A quota system of around 1,000 tons a season has bolstered prices, and the fishing community ensures that any clam less than six centimeters in size is returned to the sea to mature.

### Buried in the sand

Part of the clam's raw appeal for consumers is the gritty fight to claim the bivalve



A fisherman shows saltwater clams after collecting them from the shore at a beach in La Serena. — AFP

from an icy Pacific in the austral winter. The technique is old and rustic. It's a heart and soul, hands-and-feet kind of fishing. No rods, no nets, just pure hand-to-hand combat with ripping current and surf. In San Pedro, groups of men and women "macheras" defy wind and tide to wade thigh deep into the icy seas of the austral winter, feeling for the bump of the shellfish in the sand with their bare feet, before reaching down and grappling under the water for the reclusive clam.

Being a good "machero" is all about experience. "The macha fisherman must be in good physical shape to put up with that. He has to put on 20 pounds of lead to anchor himself to the sand and resist the waves so that the sea doesn't move him around," said Zepeda. "I'm 53 and since the age of 10 I've been catching machas. It's dedication that makes everyone a good worker," said Luis Castillo, before throwing the catch of the day on the beach on Coquimbo Bay. Once out of the water, the machas are sent to a production center managed by the fisherman's cooperative, to be sorted for size and shipped to restaurants and stores. A popular seafood dish in Chile is machas served baked in the half-shell with a coating of melted Parmesan cheese, along with a drizzle of white wine and lemon. Invented by who else but an Italian immigrant, "Machas a la Parmesana" has become a classic of Chilean cuisine. — AFP

## Six dead as Israel blows up tunnel

GAZA CITY: Six Palestinians were killed yesterday as Israel blew up what it said was a tunnel stretching from the Gaza Strip into its territory, a rare case of such an incident since a devastating 2014 war. Ashraf Al-Qudra, spokesman for the Hamas-led Gaza health ministry, confirmed six men had been killed. One of the men came from Hamas' armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades confirmed, while at least some of the others were believed to be from Islamic Jihad, an allied militant group.

Their deaths were announced after Israel "neutralized a terror tunnel leading into southern Israel," military spokesman Jonathan Conricus told journalists. "The tunnel was detonated from within Israel, close to the security fence." Tunnels dug by Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas were a key issue in the last war with Israel in 2014, but discoveries of those stretching into the Jewish state have since been rare. Islamic Jihad said in a statement that the tunnels were "part of the policy of deterrence to defend the Palestinian people". It added they were studying potential responses to this "dangerous escalation".

Conricus said the Israeli military was not seeking a further escalation. He said the tunnel was targeted around two kilometres from the Israeli village of Kissufim, but added that no Israelis had been in danger. He said the tunnel was still being dug and no opening was found in Israeli territory. The military had been monitoring it for "some time", Conricus said, declining to say when it was first discovered. In April 2016,

Israel's military said it had located and destroyed a tunnel extending from the Gaza Strip into Israel in the first such discovery since the 2014 conflict.

### 'Breakthrough technology'

Hamas forces have used tunnels in the past to enter Israel and carry out attacks. "We are developing breakthrough technology to deal with the tunnel threat," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement. "We are implementing it. Today we located a tunnel and destroyed it. Whoever seeks to harm us will be hit." Conricus also said Israel used advanced technology to locate the tunnel but declined to elaborate.

Yesterday's operation came as Palestinian rival factions Hamas and Fatah seek to follow through on a reconciliation deal signed earlier this month aimed at ending a decade-long rift between them. Hamas is due to hand control of the Gaza Strip back to the Palestinian Authority by Dec 1 under the agreement. The Islamist movement seized the enclave in a near civil war with Fatah, based in the occupied West Bank, in 2007.

Israel has warned that it will not accept a unity government that includes Hamas if the Islamist movement does not disarm and recognize the country, among other demands. Israel launched its 2014 operation in Gaza with the stated objectives of halting rocket fire and destroying attack tunnels into Israel. During the war, 32 tunnels were discovered, including 14 that extended into Israel, according to a UN report on the conflict. It was the third war in Gaza since 2008 and the longest, deadliest and most destructive. It killed 2,251 Palestinians, while more than 10,000 were wounded and 100,000 were left homeless. On the Israeli side, 74 people were killed, all but six of them soldiers. Israeli leaders have been keen to show they are addressing the threat of tunnels from the Gaza Strip. — AFP

## Death brings home reality of...

Continued from Page 1

Most migrants believe they will be able to make good money in Dubai in just a few years - an illusion unscrupulous agents create. "When people started leaving for Gulf states (in the 1980s), this region was reeling from years of drought. They had no option but to migrate," said Suresh Reddy, a politician from Telangana who has worked on the migration issue. "When they left, there were some economic gains but they paid a heavy price for it - working in inhuman conditions and leaving their families behind."

Chittam's annual savings rarely exceeded 12,000 Indian rupees (\$185) and he sent home 4,000 to 5,000 rupees every few months. He worked in Dubai for 13 years and visited his wife and two children just five times during that period. "He was planning to return for good next year after making a little more money," Gangadhar said, as Chittam's wife Laxmi looked on, numb and impassive.

Ramanna Chitla had worked in Dubai for 16 years when he returned to Jagtial, a town in Telangana, last year, determined to work to stop others from being tricked by agents. "I saw a lot of misery there. Workers were underpaid and poorly treated. They were cheated by their agents with false promises so I thought I would come back and bring a change," Chitla said.

Over the years, the Indian government and non-governmental groups have received a steady stream of complaints from migrant workers, ranging from non-payment of wages to torture and abuse. Workers often take loans of 50,000 to 100,000 Indian rupees (\$750 to \$1,500) to pay agents, hoping to earn enough from working as cleaners and as labourers on construction sites to repay the loan, but their salaries rarely match promises. "They don't visit doctors when they are unwell to save money," Chitla said, adding that deaths attributed to ill health are often due to exploitative work conditions.

Government figures show there are some 6 million Indian migrants in the six Gulf states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman. According to official data, more than 30,000 Indian nationals died in the Gulf states between 2005 and 2015. The UAE embassy in New Delhi said in an emailed statement the Gulf state had introduced a number of reforms over the last few years to combat abusive labor practices including improving transparency of contracts, a wage protec-

tion system for foreign workers and a "Know Your Rights" campaign in five languages.

As a government-authorized agent, Chitla's job is to ensure migrants understand their job contracts, the employer does not alter the terms of employment later, and that all the paperwork of the applicant is fair and complete. But he fails to attract the same number of workers as illegal agents. "There are at least 50 unlicensed agents who are sending hundreds of workers. I have sent 48 so far," Chitla said. India's foreign ministry has made attempts to streamline the recruitment process and help workers in need. Jingles asking workers to go through only authorized agents play on radio every day but many are lured by the promises unauthorized agents make.

Chandrasekhar Boragalla, 26, a father of two, stepped out of Jagtial for the first time two years ago when he sat on a bus to Mumbai about 800 km away and had an interview in a seafront office for a cleaner's job in Dubai. "I paid 70,000 rupees to the agent for this job. When I reached there, they made me sign a two-year bond for a salary much lower than what was promised. I wasn't even paid for three months. I was asked to pay 85,000 rupees for leave to go home," he said. Boragalla returned penniless to Jagtial three months ago. He now works as a welder and is still repaying the loan he took to pay the agent from the 400 rupees he earns as daily wages. "It's not enough. Dubai is danger. I will not go back," he said.

Kallela could easily be mistaken for a prosperous village with lush farmlands and maize fields lining its roads. But earnings from farming are rarely enough to feed families. "They are marginal farmers and own less than 5 acre (2 hectares) of land which does not support their families. Water is scarce as this is a rain fed region," said land rights lawyer Sunil Reddy, who takes up cases of the rural poor. "When Telangana was created as a separate state in 2014, two promises were made - more jobs and more irrigation water. But the situation is the same," Reddy said.

Laxmi Malaya, now a widow, has a small piece of land on which she grows maize, turmeric and rice. Two harvests yielded an annual income of about 60,000 Indian rupees (\$925), which supplemented the money her husband sent home. Migrant rights campaigners are seeking a compensation for the widows of Gulf migrants. "Compensation is their right. The money workers send back is pumped into the state's economy," said activist Bheem Reddy. Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary with the Telangana government said financial compensation for widows has been proposed as part of the state's Non Resident Indian policy. For now, all that's on offer is the free transportation of bodies of workers like Chittam from Hyderabad airport back to their home villages. — Reuters

## In Oman desert, a gateway to...

Continued from Page 1

to be a sneak preview into the future," said Groemer, describing a U-shaped encampment where "an exquisitely compiled suite of experiments" will take place.

Those include experiments designed to test human factors that could affect pioneering astronauts, such as mental fatigue and depression. Just 15 people will enter the isolation phase, when their only way to troubleshoot snags will be through remote communication with "earth" in Austria.

The total cost of the project is expected to be around half-a-million euros, covered mainly by private donations from industry partners. Critics of such space missions see the massive amounts of money as a luxury in a time of austerity measures in Europe and depressed oil prices in the Gulf. The Austrian Space Forum argues the money is not being "thrown into

space" and that the tools being developed are not only useful for life on a distant planet but for our own. "Most people every day use a handful of space technologies without even knowing it," said Groemer, listing off satellite imagery, fuel injection for cars and breast cancer screening software.

Yesterday the Austrian Space Forum signed a memorandum of understanding with Oman, making the sultanate's selection as the mission site official. For the Omani Astronomical Society, which invited the Austrian Space Forum, the mission is a way to inspire the country's youth. A series of lectures is taking place at Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Muscat, geared especially toward hundreds of young students.

Al-Khattab Ghalib Al-Hinai, deputy head of the steering committee for AMADEE-18 and vice chairman of Oman's State Council, says a high school team will even participate, conducting a geophysics experiment to find water. "The whole idea is to ignite imagination within the young society in Oman, female and male, and I hope this journey of discovery will help them to always search for the unknown," the geologist said. "I hope to see astrophysicists in Oman. I hope to see geologists. I hope to see astronauts in the future." — AFP

## Harbi approves new dental...

Continued from Page 1

The new mechanism stipulates that for procedures needing more than one session to be completed, the patient pays only once.

Temporary fillings following procedures such as a root canal will be considered within the treatment and extra charges will not be collected. The decision exempts expat children with special needs, cancer patients and those with congenital defects in the mouth cavity up to 12 years of age from paying the new fees.

Mobile prosthodontics for upper and lower jaws will cost KD 30. Dentures for either jaw cost KD 15, partial dentures KD 10, in addition to fixing one mobile tooth for KD 5. As for surgeries, fees for extraction will be

KD 2, but surgical extraction and removal of abscess will cost KD 5. Treatment of fractures of the mouth and jaws will cost KD 35.

Cleaning of gums will cost KD 5, but operations of all types for each tooth will cost KD 10. Root canal will cost KD 2 for partial removal, while preliminary treatment of the front tooth costs KD 5 and KD 10 for the back tooth, with the same fees for repeated treatment of the front tooth and KD 15 for repeated treatment of the back tooth.

Temporary fillings cost KD 2, and permanent ones KD 5. For children, the fee for cleaning and treatment by fluoride and preventive fillings for each temporary tooth is KD 2. A permanent filling will cost KD 5, and KD 10 for root canal of every temporary tooth with a metal crown. KD 5 will be charged for each root canal with a permanent filling. Extracting a milk tooth will cost KD 2, and KD 5 for each space protector for each side, and the treatment of a broken tooth. The fee for x-rays for each tooth is KD 2, KD 5 for a panoramic x-ray and KD 10 for a CT scan.

## First charges, plea deal emerge in Russia...

Continued from Page 1

with the 2016 presidential election," the indictment states. Trump soon took to Twitter to dismiss the explosive indictments, once again insisting there was no collusion with Russia and calling on political rival Hillary Clinton to be investigated. "Sorry, but this is years ago, before Paul Manafort was part of the Trump campaign. But why aren't Crooked Hillary & the Dems the focus?????" Trump tweeted. ".....Also, there is NO COLLUSION!"

In all, Manafort and Gates were hit with 12 charges of conspiracy against the United States, conspiracy to launder money, failing to register as a foreign agent, making false statements and failure to report offshore bank accounts. "Manafort and Gates generated tens of millions of dollars in income as a result of their Ukraine work," the indictment states. "In order to hide Ukraine payments from United States authorities, from approximately 2006 to at least 2016, Manafort and Gates laundered the money through scores of United States and foreign corporations, partnerships and bank accounts," it added.

On Sunday, Trump had called the investigation a

"witch hunt". With the Mueller investigation entering this dramatic new phase, Republican officials and conservative media have stepped up attacks on Democrats - especially Clinton - though opponents are dismissing the accusations as blatant attempts to divert attention.

Manafort was among the participants of a June 9, 2016 meeting at Trump Tower with a Kremlin-linked lawyer that raised suspicions of collusion between the campaign and Moscow. The meeting was arranged by Trump's eldest son, Donald Jr, in hopes of receiving damaging information on Hillary Clinton, the Democratic candidate. Manafort's indictment made no mention of Russian involvement in the US campaign, however, focusing instead on Manafort's earlier Ukrainian ties.

A long-time political operative and consultant, he was recruited in March 2016 to round up pro-Trump delegates to the Republican Party convention. Then in June Trump named him campaign chairman, replacing fired Corey Lewandowski. But in August he resigned as Ukraine corruption investigators released files showing large payments to Manafort companies and it became clear he was under investigation in the United States in relation to that. Federal law enforcement officials were reportedly aware of wire transfers linked to Manafort as far back as 2012, when they began investigating whether he committed tax fraud or helped the Ukrainian regime - at the time close to Russian leader Vladimir Putin - launder money. — AFP

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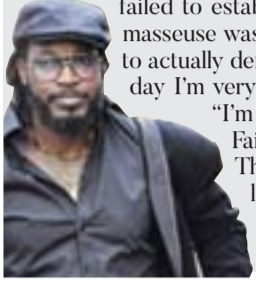
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## Sports

## Gayle wins defamation case against publisher

SYDNEY: West Indies batsman Chris Gayle won a defamation case against an Australian media company in the New South Wales Supreme Court yesterday over an alleged incident during the 2015 World Cup. After less than two hours of deliberation, the jury found Fairfax media had failed to establish the truth of a series of reports it ran alleging the 103-test cricketer had exposed himself to a masseuse during the tournament. It also found Fairfax had failed to establish that the allegation Gayle had propositioned the masseuse was "substantially true". "I came all the way from Jamaica to actually defend myself and my character as well. At the end of the day I'm very, very happy," Gayle told reporters outside the court. "I'm a good man. I'm not guilty." The jury also found that Fairfax, which publishes The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age newspapers, was motivated by "malice" in publishing the stories. A hearing over the amount of damages will be held at a later date. —Reuters



## UK nations plan to wear poppies after FIFA U-turn

LONDON: British football authorities said yesterday they will ask their opponents and FIFA for permission to display poppies on arm-bands in upcoming internationals as a tribute to those killed in war. Football's world governing body last month backed down in its row with British football authorities over the wearing of poppies and issued fresh guidance, which says certain "initiatives" may appear on players' kits. In a joint statement, the English Football Association (FA), FA of Wales, Irish FA and Scottish FA said they welcome the clarification on "what can and cannot be worn on players' shirts" issued by the game's law-making body, the International Football Association Board, in September. "It was important that clarity was brought to this issue as it affects many football matches/competitions throughout the world and is particularly helpful in relation to remembrance and poppies," the four associations said. —AFP

## Wayde Van Niekerk marries fiancée Chesney Campbell

JOHANNESBURG: South African 400 metres Olympic champion Wayde Van Niekerk has married his fiancée Chesney Campbell, posting an image of himself with his new bride on social media over the weekend. "Can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you @Neshney. So blessed to start this next adventure with the girl of my dreams! I love you!" he tweeted on Sunday morning. The post included a black and white image of Van Niekerk, wearing a traditional three-piece suit and a buttonhole carnation. He sat alongside Campbell who wore a white veil and flowing dress and held a pale bouquet. "And the most important is love," wrote Van Niekerk alongside the image which he also posted to Instagram. The couple of more than four years became engaged in December last year when they posted a clip of Campbell showing off her engagement ring on Instagram, accompanied by the words: "she said yes". —AFP



## Hardaway and Knicks give Cavs fourth loss in 5 games, 114-95

## Murray, Jokic lead Nuggets to a win over Nets

CLEVELAND: Tim Hardaway Jr scored 34 points and Kristaps Porzingis had 32 as the New York Knicks handed the Cleveland Cavaliers their fourth loss in five games, 114-95 on Sunday night. Cleveland, which was blown out by Orlando and lost to Brooklyn during this stretch, fell below .500 despite cutting a 19-point deficit to six in the fourth quarter. LeBron James downplayed the Cavaliers' problems following Saturday night's 123-101 loss in New Orleans, but the issues continued for the defending Eastern Conference champions. New York, after winning its first game Friday over the Nets, led 89-71 late in the third quarter. Cleveland cut it to 94-88 on James' drive, forcing New York to call a timeout with 8:21 left.

Courtney Lee scored on a drive and hit a 3-pointer, helping the Knicks make it 103-88. New York took its largest lead, 114-93, in the final minute.

## NUGGETS 124, KNICKS 111

Jamal Murray scored 26 points, Nikola Jokic had 21 points and 14 rebounds, and Denver earned its second straight victory. Wilson Chandler added 18 points for the Nuggets, and Emmanuel Mudiay finished with 15.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 22 points, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had 18 points and Joe Harris tied his season high with 16 points for the Nets, who have lost two straight. Denver went on a 22-4 run to begin the third quarter.

## BUCKS 117, HAWKS 106

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points, Khris Middleton had 27 and the Bucks cruised to the victory. Antetokounmpo also had 11 rebounds and five assists. He went 14 for 21 from the field, scoring from all over the floor while helping Milwaukee to its third win in its last four games. Dennis Schroder finished with 21 points and Taurean Prince had 17 for Atlanta, which has lost six straight. The Hawks have no inside experience or size this season after letting Paul Millsap and Al Horford

leave as free agents and trading Dwight Howard to Charlotte. They were outrebounded by 12 and never led.

## PACERS 97, SPURS 94

Victor Oladipo made a 3-pointer with about 10 seconds left, lifting Indiana to a rare win against San Antonio. Oladipo finished with 23 points and five assists, and Domantas Sabonis set career highs with 22 points and 12 rebounds. It was the third win for the Pacers in their last 20 games against the Spurs. LaMarcus Aldridge had 26 points and eight rebounds for San Antonio, which played without Kawhi Leonard and Tony Parker again. The Spurs have dropped two in a row.

## Hawks have no inside experience

## HORNETS 120, MAGIC 113

Kemba Walker had 34 points and 10 assists, and Charlotte snapped Orlando's three-game win streak. Walker was 15 of 25 from the field. Dwight Howard had a season-high 22 points against his former team, eight of those coming off alley-oop dunks - two on assists from Walker and two from Jeremy Lamb. Lamb had 20 points, marking his sixth straight game with at least 15 points while filling in for the injured Nic Batum. Jonathan Simmons led the Magic with 27 points on 9-of-15 shooting. Evan Fournier added 23 points, and Terrence Ross and Aaron Gordon each had 17.

## WIZARDS 110, KINGS 83

John Wall scored 11 of his 19 points in the first quarter and finished with nine assists, helping the Wizards to the road win. Bradley Beal added 15 points on 6-of-11 shooting for Washington after being fined \$50,000 by the NBA earlier in the day for his role in a fight with Draymond Green of the Golden State Warriors on Friday. The lopsided victory kept the Wizards out of the record books. Washington's first five games were decided by five points or fewer; no team had ever opened the season with six. The Kings shot 27.9 percent in the first half and trailed by double digits for the final 43 minutes. Brian Bogdanovic scored 15 points for Sacramento. — AP



CLEVELAND: Tim Hardaway Jr #3 of the New York Knicks looks for a pass while under pressure from JR Smith #5 of the Cleveland Cavaliers during the second half at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP

## NBA results/standings

Detroit 115, Golden State 107; NY Knicks 114, Cleveland 95; Denver 124, Brooklyn 111; Charlotte 120, Orlando 113; Washington 110, Sacramento 83; Indiana 97, San Antonio 94; Milwaukee 117, Atlanta 106.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division				
W	L	PCT	GB					
Boston	4	2	.667	-	Portland	4	2	.667
Toronto	3	2	.600	0.5	Minnesota	3	3	.500
Brooklyn	3	4	.429	1.5	Utah	3	3	.500
NY Knicks	2	3	.400	1.5	Denver	3	3	.500
Philadelphia	2	4	.333	2	Oklahoma City	3	3	.500
Central Division				Pacific Division				
Detroit	5	2	.714	-	LA Clippers	4	1	.800
Milwaukee	4	2	.667	0.5	Golden State	4	3	.571
Indiana	3	3	.500	1.5	LA Lakers	2	4	.333
Cleveland	3	4	.429	2	Phoenix	2	4	.333
Chicago	1	4	.200	3	Sacramento	1	5	.167
Southeast Division				Southwest Division				
Orlando	4	2	.667	-	Memphis	5	1	.833
Washington	4	2	.667	-	Houston	5	2	.714
Charlotte	3	3	.500	1	San Antonio	4	2	.667
Miami	2	3	.400	1.5	New Orleans	3	3	.500
Atlanta	1	6	.143	3.5	Dallas	1	6	.143

## Nadal prepares to quietly seal number one status

PARIS: Rafael Nadal said yesterday that he is ready to consolidate his year-end number one ATP ranking by winning his opening match at the Paris Masters. But the 31-year-old Spaniard - who is also trying to balance the delicate political situation in his native country with his status as an international sportsman - refused to hype up his potential coronation. "I need to win a match. I'm here to try my best - as in every tournament," he said before starting as top seed in the event which is missing Roger Federer due to fatigue.

"Hopefully if this (number one) happens, it will be something important for me. But the season is not over and it's not the moment to think much about that. "I'll just try to think about trying to have the right preparation for the tournament and then try to be ready for the first match." Nadal, who reclaimed the top ranking in August for the first time in three years, is due to start at Bercy against South Korea's Hyeon Chung, who opened yesterday with a 6-0, 6-2 first-round defeat of German Mischa Zverev. Federer is skipping Paris after winning back-to-back titles in Shanghai and Basel and is resting to be prepared for the ATP Finals starting in less than a fortnight in London.

Nadal, who withdrew from Basel with a knee problem, does not fault his main rival for looking after personal interests.

"Everyone makes the calendar which he thinks will be the best for him," Nadal said. "For him, everything was working well that way. He had a little bit better chance, of course, if he came here. But you never know. "You would think that he would have more points if he had played on clay. But you never know (that) if he played on clay if he would win Wimbledon or he would be able to play as well as he did. — AFP

## SCOREBOARD

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe: Scoreboard at stumps on day two of the second Test between Zimbabwe and West Indies yesterday:

Zimbabwe first innings		Bowling: Gabriel 22-4-64-2 (Inb), Roach 18-1-5-44-3 (Inb), Blackwood 4-1-8-0, Holder 16-2-49-0, Bishoo 25-2-82-2, Chase 14-1-50-1, Brathwaite 10-0-23-1.	
H. Masakadza c Dowrich b Bishoo	147		
S. Mire c Dowrich b Roach	4		
C. Ervine b Gabriel	0		
B. Taylor b Roach	1		
P. Moor b Chase	52		
Sikandar Raza c K. Hope b Gabriel	80		
M. Waller b Brathwaite	0		
R. Chakabva b Bishoo	10		
G. Cremer run out	11		
T. Chisoro lbw b Roach	9		
C. Mpofo not out	4		
Extras (6lb, 2nb)	8		
Total (all out, 109.1 overs)	326		
Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Mire), 2-11 (Ervine), 3-14 (Taylor), 4-156 (Moor), 5-246 (Masakadza), 6-248 (Waller), 7-267 (Chakabva), 8-310 (Sikandar Raza), 9-319 (Cremer), 10-326 (Chisoro).			

## W Indies crawl to 78 for one in second Test

BULAWAYO: A cautious West Indies crawled to 78 for one in their first innings at the close on the second day of the second test against Zimbabwe yesterday. The tourists took 49 overs, in which they hit six boundaries, to reach a score that left them with a first-innings deficit of 248 runs after they had bowled Zimbabwe out for 326. Opener Kieran

Powell was unbeaten on 43 from 123 balls, along with nightwatchman Devendra Bishoo, who has yet to score.

West Indies lost Kraigg Brathwaite (32 from 160 balls) 15 minutes before the close when he was caught by Hamilton Masakadza at slip off the bowling of Graeme Cremer.

Zimbabwe had resumed on 169 for four after a rain-hit opening day with Masakadza's 147 anchoring their first innings. Sikandar Raza's 80 allowed them to post a par score on a slow wicket that is taking turn. West Indies won the first test at the same venue by 117 runs as they seek a first away test series victory since a 2-0 triumph in Bangladesh in 2012. — Reuters

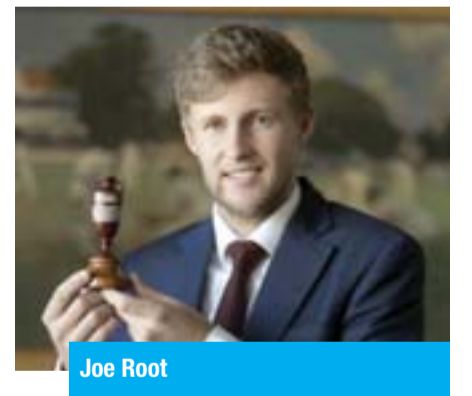
## Hazlewood targets England's batting

SYDNEY: Australia paceman Josh Hazlewood has warned Joe Root's England tourists and their raft of Ashes debutants they risk being exposed if their big guns don't fire in the coming series. England's depleted squad touched down in Perth on Sunday without suspended star all-rounder Ben Stokes. Their arrival coincided with Hazlewood's Test pace partner Mitchell Starc picking up a career-best eight wickets with the pink ball in a Sheffield Shield match in Adelaide.

The world number two's inexperienced batting line-up has been highlighted as its biggest weakness as it aims to emulate the feat of Andrew Strauss' men by becoming only the second England team to retain the Ashes urn in Australia in 31 years.

While doubts remain about the security of Australia's top six batsmen, there is an air of confidence among their bowling attack heading into the opening Test at the Gabba on November 23.

"If you get him (Root), Alastair Cook and Jonny Bairstow, who have been scoring runs the last few years, it places extra pressure on the inexperienced guys even more so," Hazlewood told Fairfax Media. "If we get the wood on them hopefully the rest fall in line." Only Root, Cook and Bairstow have played a Test in Australia, while Gary Ballance was dropped during



Joe Root

the last Ashes series and James Vince, Mark Stoneman and Dawid Malan have played a combined total of 17 Tests without scoring a century. Root, rated the world's second-best Test batsman, shapes as the key wicket for Australia despite a horror campaign in 2013/14 when he passed 50 once in eight innings and was then dropped.

"He's a pretty good all-round player, you don't get to the top couple for no reason," Hazlewood said. "He seems to be scoring quicker at the moment as well, at 80 strike-rate, the last 12 months.

"He's definitely getting on with it so hopefully that gives us an extra couple of opportunities. He's got a pretty well-rounded game at the moment." Starc's best first-class figures of his career could not have come at a better time, but will also be welcomed by the England seamers, particularly Stuart Broad.

Broad is expected to be a handful at Adelaide Oval when the tourists play their first day-night Test in early December. "It's been a long time since I've played a four-day fixture so it was nice to get some overs under the belt (37.4 for the game) and get ready for that first Test," a fit-again Starc said on Sunday. — AFP

Sports

# Hamilton wins fourth career F1 title at Mexican Grand Prix

## Hamilton celebrates championships in four cities

MEXICO CITY: Lewis Hamilton won his fourth career Formula One season championship on Sunday with a ninth-place finish at the Mexican Grand Prix in a race won by Red Bull's Max Verstappen. Hamilton had to overcome first-lap chaos when his Mercedes was bumped by title rival Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari. Hamilton got a tire puncture and Vettel had wing damage. Both had to stop immediately for repairs.

That left them in a furious bid to catch up as Verstappen sped away to victory. Vettel finished fourth but had to win or finish second to push the title chase to the last two races in Brazil and Abu Dhabi.

Hamilton's championship makes him the most decorated British driver in F1 history, passing Sir Jackie Stewart. He is one of only five drivers in F1 history with four or more. Hamilton held his helmet in his hands as he crossed the finish line, then took a lap around the track while waving the British Union Jack.

Vettel didn't make any of it easy, in more ways than one. A wild start saw Verstappen bump the Ferrari while fighting through the first turn at the end of the track's long straight. Verstappen got the edge and got out when Hamilton made a move to get past Vettel, who drifted left. The Ferrari's left front wing clipped Hamilton's right rear tire, damaging both cars and forcing their drivers to pit for repairs.

As Verstappen pulled away, a seething Hamilton asked his team over the radio if Vettel made contact "on

purpose." "Not sure, Lewis," the team replied. Race stewards determined no investigation was necessary.

Both drivers made a mad scramble to get back toward the front, weaving through the traffic that bottles up a short track at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, and Hamilton was struggling to make up any ground. On lap 23, he was so slow that he was shown a blue flag, the order to let a faster car - Verstappen - go past him.

Vettel was on a furious pace to push the championship to the next race. He never got close. Late in the race, he asked his team if he could get second but when told how far behind he was, Vettel replied, "Oh mama mia, that's too much."

The finish allowed Hamilton to celebrate championships in four

cities, with Mexico City joining Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 2008, Abu Dhabi in 2014 and Austin, Texas, in 2015. "Viva Mexico!" Hamilton told the crowd when he got out of his car. Hamilton's championship will spur questions about his place among the best drivers in F1 history. The 32-year-old joined Vettel and Alain Prost as four-time winners. He now trails only Argentina's Juan Manuel Fangio (five) and Germany's Michael Schumacher (seven) for the most of all time.

He surpassed the three won by his idol, Brazilian Ayrton Senna, who is still considered one of the most elegant and skillful drivers in F1 history. Hamilton's Mercedes car has dominated the era of turbo-hybrid engines adopted in 2014. Of Hamilton's 62 career vic-



MEXICO CITY: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates after winning his fourth Formula One world title despite finishing the Mexican Grand Prix in ninth place, at the Hermanos Rodriguez circuit in Mexico City. — AFP

tories, 40 have come over the last four years, a span of 77 races.

He chased down this championship over the second half of the season after Vettel won two of the first three

races. Ferrari faltered as Hamilton had racked up five wins over the past seven races and his car has been as steady as his driving. Hamilton has finished every race and missed the podium just five times. — AP



### Most decorated British driver in F1 history

## Eagles move to NFL-best 7-1 with 33-10 win over 49ers

PHILADELPHIA: Carson Wentz tossed two touchdown passes, Jalen Mills had a pick-6 and the NFL-leading Philadelphia Eagles beat the winless San Francisco 49ers 33-10 on a sloppy, rainy Sunday. The Eagles (7-1) overcame a slow start on their way to a sixth straight win. The 49ers are 0-8 for the first time in franchise history. Wentz was 18 of 32 for 211 yards and one interception. He threw a 53-yard TD pass to Alshon Jeffery and 1-yard TD pass to Zach Ertz. He leads the NFL with 19 TD passes, most by an Eagles quarterback through eight games. C.J. Beathard shoveled a 21-yard TD pass to Matt Breida and finished 17 of 36 for 167 yards with two interceptions in his second career start. The Eagles punted on six of their first eight possessions before opening it up in the third quarter. Wentz hit Jeffery with a perfect pass to extend the lead to 27-7. After Derek Barnett blocked Robbie Gould's field goal, the Eagles drove 62 yards and LeGarrette Blount ran in from the 12 for a 33-7 lead. The 49ers lost five straight games by a field goal or less before Dallas routed them 40-10 last week.

### VIKINGS 33, BROWNS 16

Case Keenum threw for two touchdowns and Kai Forbath made four field goals in the last of four games held this season in Britain. Adam Thielen had five catches for 98 yards and a touchdown for the NFC North-leading Vikings (6-2), who trailed 13-12 at halftime - the first time the Browns, 0-8 for the second consecutive year, claimed a mid-game lead this season. Cleveland, without starting left tackle Joe Thomas for the first time since 2006, scored first, taking a 6-0 lead on its second play from scrimmage before kicker Zane Gonzalez's missed extra point. Middle linebacker Joe Schobert's interception return to the Vikings' 37-yard line led to an 11-yard reception by David Njoku and a 26-yard touchdown run by Isaiah Crowell. A 1-yard run by rookie quarterback DeShone Kizer with 40 seconds remaining in the half

helped overcome Forbath's first field goal and an 18-yard touchdown reception by Thielen to push Cleveland's lead to 13-9.

### SEAHAWKS 41, TEXANS 38

Russell Wilson hit Jimmy Graham for an 18-yard touchdown with 21 seconds left, his second TD catch of the fourth quarter. Down 38-34 with 1:39 left and out of timeouts, Wilson took Seattle 80 yards in barely a minute. He hit Paul Richardson for 48 yards on a jump ball to start the drive, found Tyler Lockett for 19 yards, and drilled a strike to Graham for the winner. Wilson finished 26 of 41 for a career-high 452 yards and four TDs. He hit Richardson for two TDs and found Graham on a 1-yard TD pass with 5:41 left. Deshaun Watson was nearly the equal of Wilson, throwing for 402 yards and four touchdowns. But the rookie couldn't come up with a final answer and was intercepted by Richard Sherman with 7 seconds left on a desperation throw.

### COWBOYS 33, REDSKINS 19

Ezekiel Elliott ran for 150 yards and two touchdowns and the Cowboys took advantage of a blocked field goal return and three turnovers. Playing in a driving rainstorm that made it difficult to hold onto the ball, let alone throw it, Dak Prescott completed 14 of his 22 passes for 143 yards as Dallas (4-3) heeded the message on Elliott's cleats to "Feed Zeke." With another hearing on his NFL suspension coming Monday, Elliott carried the ball 33 times, scored twice for the second consecutive game, and surpassed 100 yards for the third week in a row. The game turned in the second quarter when Dallas' Tyrone Crawford blocked Nick Rose's field goal attempt and Orlando Scandrick returned it 86 yards to set up a 1-yard Elliott TD run.

### PATRIOTS 21, CHARGERS 13

Tom Brady passed for 333 yards and a touchdown. Stephen Gostkowski added four field goals. It was the fourth straight victory for the Patriots (6-2). The loss snapped a three-game win streak for the Chargers. Los Angeles (3-5) got on the board first when Melvin Gordon found a seam on the outside and rumbled down the sideline for an 87-yard touchdown run. But the rest of the game was marked by Los Angeles' mistakes and inability to move the ball offensively. New England got its lone touchdown via a 2-yard



LANDOVER: Running back Ezekiel Elliott #21 of the Dallas Cowboys get tackled by strong safety Montae Nicholson #35 of the Washington Redskins during the third quarter at FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland. — AFP

loss from Brady to Rob Gronkowski in the second quarter. The Patriots went 1 for 4 in the red zone, but were able to cobble together the Gostkowski field goals and a safety.

### BILLS 34, RAIDERS 4

Rookie linebacker Matt Milano scored on a 40-yard fumble return on a rain-slick field, and the Bills forced four turnovers. Tyrod Taylor threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Andre Holmes and also scored on a 1-yard run for Buffalo. LeSean McCoy had a season-best 151 yards rushing and also scored on a 48-yard run. The Bills improved to 4-0 at home for the first time since winning their first five home games of the 1995 season. And Buffalo improved to 5-2, matching its best start during a 17-year postseason drought - the longest active streak in North America's four major professional sports.

### FALCONS 25, JETS 20

Matt Ryan threw two touchdown passes and the Falcons slipped and slid to victory on a soggy field. Fumbled snaps, dropped passes and a big-time drenching at MetLife Stadium had both squads trying to find their footing, but the Falcons (4-3) steadied themselves just enough to snap a three-game skid - all to other AFC East teams. Austin Hooper and Mohamed Sanu each caught touchdown passes from Ryan, who finished 18 of 29 for 254 yards. The Falcons quarterback had lots of trouble with the weather, fumbling four snap exchanges from center Alex Mack and losing two. The Jets (3-5) had their own issues while losing their third straight. Josh McCown had a bad snap exchange and fumbled on another play - but recovered - and Jeremy Kerley had a costly muffed punt.

### SAINTS 20, BEARS 12

Drew Brees completed 23 of 28 for 299 yards against a Bears defense that ranked sixth in pass defense for the Saints' fifth straight win. Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara each ran for touchdowns for New Orleans (5-2). Ingram finished with 99 yards from scrimmage, including 75 on the ground, but his two

late fumbles kept the Bears in the game into the final minutes. Kamara had 76 yards from scrimmage, 48 receiving. The Saints were threatening to score twice in the fourth quarter when the Bears stripped the ball from Ingram. Chicago converted the first fumble into its only touchdown with 3:43 to go on Tarik Cohen's short dive over a pile of players at the goal line. The second turnover occurred with a little more than two minutes left on the Bears 30, but Chicago was unable to get a first down as rookie Mitchell Trubisky's fourth-and-1 pass fell incomplete.

### BENGALS 24, COLTS 23

Lineman Carlos Dunlap batted Jacoby Brissett's pass into the air, grabbed the ball and ran 16 yards to the end zone for a game-turning touchdown. The defensive end excels at swatting away passes - he led NFL linemen last season - and changed the game with his third career score. The Bengals (3-4) couldn't protect Andy Dalton or get much pressure on Jacoby Brissett, who was sacked 10 times during a 27-0 loss to Jacksonville the previous week - the first time Indianapolis was blanked in 15 years. Brissett's second touchdown pass had put the Colts (2-6) in position for a soothing road win. Instead, Dunlap snatched it away with 6:58 left, putting Cincinnati ahead to stay in a game featuring four lead changes. The Colts drove to a fourth-and-4 at the Cincinnati 48-yard line, and Brissett was hit as he threw an incompleteness with 1:18 to go.

### PANTHERS 17, BUCCANEERS 3

Carolina's defense didn't allow a TD for the second straight week, helping the Panthers snap a two-game losing streak. Cam Newton rebounded from a subpar performance in a 14-point road loss to the Bears, leading a 17-play, 82-yard TD drive that consumed more eight minutes of the opening quarter. He then completed three passes to Christian McCaffrey to set up a field goal for a 10-0 halftime lead. The Bucs (2-5) have lost four straight. The Panthers put the game away in the fourth quarter, intercepting Jameis Winston twice, with Mike Adams' pick leading to Newton's 25-yard TD pass to Kelvin Benjamin to make it 17-3. — AP

### NFL results/standings

Pittsburgh 20, Detroit 15; Dallas 33, Washington 19; Seattle 41, Houston 38; Atlanta 25, NY Jets 20; Carolina 17, Tampa Bay 3; Philadelphia 33, San Francisco 10; New Orleans 20, Chicago 12; New England 21, LA Chargers 13; Buffalo 34, Oakland 14; Cincinnati 24, Indianapolis 23; Minnesota 33, Cleveland 16.

American Football Conference								National Football Conference							
AFC East								NFC East							
	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT								
New England	6	2	0	0	216	179	.750	Philadelphia	7	1	0	0	232	156	.875
Buffalo	5	2	0	0	153	115	.714	Dallas	4	3	0	0	198	161	.571
Miami	4	3	0	0	92	152	.571	Washington	3	4	0	0	160	180	.429
NY Jets	3	5	0	0	157	186	.375	NY Giants	1	6	0	0	112	156	.143
AFC North								NFC North							
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	1	167	131	.750	Minnesota	6	2	0	0	179	135	.750
Baltimore	4	4	0	1	170	148	.500	Green Bay	4	3	0	0	164	161	.571
Cincinnati	3	4	0	1	122	135	.429	Detroit	3	4	0	0	176	169	.429
Cleveland	0	8	0	1	119	202	0	Chicago	3	5	0	0	134	171	.375
AFC South								NFC South							
Tennessee	4	3	0	0	158	173	.571	New Orleans	5	2	0	0	191	145	.714
Jacksonville	4	3	0	1	183	110	.571	Carolina	5	3	0	0	148	142	.625
Houston	3	4	0	0	215	188	.429	Atlanta	4	3	0	0	153	152	.571
Indianapolis	2	6	0	1	142	246	.250	Tampa Bay	2	5	0	0	148	168	.286
AFC West								NFC West							
Kansas City	5	2	0	0	207	161	.714	Seattle	5	2	0	0	175	132	.714
Denver	3	3	0	0	108	118	.500	LA Rams	5	2	0	0	212	138	.714
LA Chargers	3	5	0	0	150	152	.375	Arizona	3	4	0	0	119	191	.429
Oakland	3	5	0	0	169	190	.375	San Francisco	0	8	0	2	133	219	0

## Sports

# Wheeler scores 3 of Jets' 5 goals in first-period to rout Pens 7-1

## Monahan scores winner as Flames edge Caps

WINNIPEG: A blowout win over the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions was more important to Blake Wheeler than his own outstanding performance. Wheeler scored three of Winnipeg's five first-period goals and added an assist in the third as the Jets routed the Pittsburgh Penguins 7-1 on Sunday night.

"It's all about getting two points. I think we've got every guy pushing in that direction," he said. Brendan Lemieux scored his first career goal for Winnipeg on a slap shot from the point at 12:20 of the third. The son of Claude Lemieux made his NHL debut Oct. 20 after being called up from the Manitoba Moose of the AHL.

"It feels great," he said. "Obviously, really fortunate to have been able to get one and really excited. Every day I'm up here has been a blessing and I'm just trying to run with it." Andrew Copp, Joel Armia and Mark Scheifele also scored for the Jets, who chased Matt Murray early. Connor Hellebuyck made 31 saves.

Winnipeg (5-3-2) scored three times in a span of 34 seconds late in the first to break it open. The Penguins (7-5-1), playing back-to-back road games after losing 2-1 in Minnesota on Saturday, were on their heels from the start and didn't score until Evgeni Malkin's fifth of the season late in the second period.

"We were fortunate to get the day off yesterday," Wheeler said. "It's tough when you're playing a back-to-back and the back end of a three (games) in four (days). It takes a little bit of time to get going and luckily we had our legs early." The Jets have played their best hockey in the first period this season, outscoring opponents 16-8. Pittsburgh has been outscored 21-10 in the opening 20 minutes.

"If I had an answer, we'd probably cure it," coach Mike Sullivan said. Copp opened the scoring with his first of the season on a short pass in the slot from linemate Sean Matthias at 1:20.

The Jets remained on the attack but Murray stymied them until 13:58, when Scheifele fed Wheeler at the side of the net for his second goal of the season. He added another at 17:44 and Murray barely had time to take his stance again before Armia made it 4-0 at 18:07. Murray was pulled and lost in regulation for the second time

this season.

"It's disappointing," Sullivan said. "We talk about doing the right things. We talk about managing the puck the right way. We talk about staying on the right side of people and then we go out and our actions are just the opposite."

The hats rained down 11 seconds after that when Wheeler made it 5-0 at 18:18 with a goal against Murray's replacement, Casey DeSmith. The Jets lost 2-1 in overtime Thursday at Pittsburgh, one of two overtime losses for them this week following a win at Minnesota.

Winnipeg returned to Hellebuyck's hot hand in goal. He has all five Jets wins this season. Pittsburgh tried to regroup in the second period and outshot the Jets 15-4, thanks partly to a string of minor penalties on Winnipeg. But the Penguins not get one past Hellebuyck until Malkin scored his power-play goal at 17:02. Scheifele scored in the third when he one-timed a pass from Wheeler during a 4-on-3 power play at 10:28 to make it 6-1. Lemieux's goal about two minutes later completed the scoring.

### DUCKS 4, HURRICANES 3 (SO)

Ryan Miller made 34 saves and seemed to get better as the game went on as Anaheim pulled out a shootout victory against Carolina. Miller made nine saves in overtime and then stopped all three shootout attempts by the Hurricanes. He said he worked on defending breakaways as he recovered from a preseason injury that delayed his Ducks debut. Corey Perry scored the lone goal in the shootout for Anaheim.

### FLAMES 2, CAPITALS 1

Sean Monahan tapped in a feed from Johnny Gaudreau at 9:09 of the third period, leading Calgary past Washington. Micheal Ferland also scored for the Flames, who snapped their four-game losing streak at the Scotiabank Saddledome. Calgary goalie Mike Smith finished with 30 saves. Jakub Vrana scored the lone goal of the game for the Capitals. Making just his fourth start of the season, Washington goalie Phillip Grubauer made 36 saves but saw his record fall to 0-3-1.— Agencies



WINNIPEG: Dustin Byfuglien #33 of the Winnipeg Jets attempts a wrap around shot on Matthew Murray #30 of the Pittsburgh Penguins in the third period during the game. — AFP

## NHL results/standings

Winnipeg 7, Pittsburgh 1; Anaheim 4, Carolina 3 (SO).

Western Conference							Eastern Conference							
Central Division							Atlantic Division							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS									
St. Louis	9	2	1	40	28	19	Tampa Bay	9	2	1	45	31	19	
Winnipeg	5	3	2	31	31	12	Ottawa	5	1	5	41	33	15	
Colorado	6	5	0	34	34	12	Toronto	7	4	0	45	40	14	
Dallas	6	5	0	32	32	12	Detroit	5	6	1	32	35	11	
Nashville	5	4	2	27	31	12	Boston	4	3	2	27	29	10	
Chicago	5	5	2	38	34	12	Florida	4	5	1	35	36	9	
Minnesota	4	3	2	30	28	10	Buffalo	3	7	2	29	44	8	
							Montreal	3	7	1	23	42	7	
Pacific Division							Metropolitan Division							
Los Angeles	9	1	1	38	20	19	New Jersey	8	2	0	40	31	16	
Las Vegas	8	1	0	34	19	16	Pittsburgh	7	5	1	36	50	15	
Vancouver	6	3	1	30	25	13	Columbus	7	4	0	33	27	14	
Anaheim	6	4	1	35	33	13	NY Islanders	6	4	1	39	35	13	
Calgary	6	6	0	28	33	12	Philadelphia	6	5	0	38	31	12	
San Jose	5	5	0	27	26	10	Washington	5	6	1	36	41	11	
Edmonton	3	6	1	22	33	7	Carolina	4	4	2	28	30	10	
Arizona	0	10	1	26	48	1	NY Rangers	3	7	2	34	43	8	

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

## Tough for City to match Arsenal 'Invincibles'

LONDON: Kevin De Bruyne says it will be "very hard" for Manchester City to match Arsenal's "Invincibles" in going the entire Premier League season unbeaten despite their flying start. City have made the best-ever start to a Premier League season after 10 games, collecting 28 points with a goal difference of plus 29. Saturday's 3-2 win at West Brom left them five points clear at the top of the table ahead of Wednesday's Champions League trip to Napoli and the visit of Arsenal on Sunday.

Pep Guardiola's team boast a proud record of being the only unbeaten team in England's top four divisions but De Bruyne said it was unlikely they would match the Arsenal team of 2003-2004, who did not lose a single match. "To go unbeaten? Well, it's very hard. I don't think it will be possible," said the 26-year-old.

"The level of competition is so high, in every team. It's not like, with all respect, 10 or 15 years ago where you have a couple of teams that won't win against the top teams. "Now every game is hard and you need to be mentally there. And with the Champions League and all the cups, there will be a game where maybe we are a little bit less and maybe lose. But as long as it keeps going, it's good. "Obviously, if you win a lot of games it's good for us. You keep maintaining pressure. Hopefully we can have two good games this week and go into the international break unbeaten and it will mean we put a lot of pressure on the rest."

Leroy Sané, Fernandinho and Raheem Sterling scored to clinch victory at The Hawthorns, City's eighth straight top-flight win. Victory in Italy tomorrow will mean City progress from Group F with two games to spare, but De Bruyne wants to avoid distractions. "We know if we go to Napoli and win then we'll have qualified. That would be a nice position," said the Belgium international. "It's important just to get qualified not about thinking about what it might mean, whether we could get a rest. If we are qualified, that is done. We might then have to think about finishing first or whatever but we know if we get a point or win, we are qualified."

Jay Rodriguez and Matt Phillips gave the scoreline a more flattering look than West Brom deserved on Saturday and Kieran Gibbs conceded City are the best team he has faced.

The left-back said: "I think so. Collectively they are strong everywhere. It's tough to play against. The way they move the ball, the way the players move position. It's hard to keep track." — AFP

## Zaha rescues struggling Crystal Palace

PARIS: Bottom-of-the-table Crystal Palace were once again indebted to Ivory Coast winger Wilfried Zaha as they snatched a 2-2 English Premier League draw with West Ham United at the weekend. The Abidjan-born 24-year-old scored seven minutes into stoppage time as Palace came from two goals behind with Ghanaian Andre Ayew among the West Ham scorers. Zaha struck the winner when Palace stunned defending champions Chelsea this month for their only league victory this season.

### ENGLAND

#### MOHAMED SALAH (Liverpool)

The Egyptian has been outstanding for Liverpool since joining the club in the transfer window, netting nine goals in all competitions. But he suffered a rare blip when his weak first-half penalty was saved by Huddersfield's Jonas Lommel. Salah was grateful to his team-mates as three second-half goals spared his blushes.

#### WILFRIED ZAHA (Crystal Palace)

The Ivory Coast winger secured what could prove to

## Lewandowski to miss Celtic clash

BERLIN: Celtic were handed a boost ahead of today's Champions League match at home to Bayern Munich as the Germans' star striker Robert Lewandowski was ruled out by injury. The 29-year-old hot-shot injured his left thigh in the first half of Bayern's 2-0 win over RB Leipzig on Saturday and stayed in Munich when the squad flew to Scotland yesterday.

Lewandowski is Bayern's top scorer this season with 13 goals. Second-placed Bayern need a win in Glasgow to keep the pressure on Group B leaders Paris Saint-Germain, who are three points clear at the top, while Celtic are third.

Head coach Jupp Heynckes had hoped Lewandowski would be able to play at Parkhead but took the decision to rest the Poland international ahead of Saturday's Bundesliga clash at Borussia Dortmund. "It's a precautionary measure, the coach didn't want to take any risks. He (Lewandowski) will be able to play on Saturday," said chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

"If we were playing against Real Madrid, he might have gone, but Saturday's game is in the back of our minds, which is very important for us." Heynckes will have to improvise in attack against the Scottish champions, who equalled their own 100-year-old British record at the weekend by extending their unbeaten domestic run to 62 matches.

Forwards Thomas Mueller and Franck Ribery are out with hamstring and knee injuries respectively. Reserve striker Kwasi Okyere Wriedt is not registered for the Champions League, which means Under-19 striker Manuel Wintzheimer has been added to the squad for Glasgow.

After Lewandowski limped off before half-time on Saturday, Heynckes used Thiago Alcantara, Arturo Vidal and James Rodriguez to attack in the second half against Leipzig with limited success.

The trio failed to add to the scoreline after Rodriguez and Lewandowski had scored first-half goals. "It's crazy that we only have one striker," bemoaned defender Jerome Boateng. French winger Kingsley Coman has been declared fit after an injury lay-off, but goalkeeper Manuel Neuer remains sidelined long-term with a fractured foot. Celtic boss Brendan Rodgers has injury worries of his own. Right winger Patrick Roberts picked up a knock in Saturday's 1-1 draw against Kilmarnock, which rules him out against Bayern with

be one of the most valuable points this season for Crystal Palace psychologically as they forced a draw in the dying seconds. West Ham looked home and dry as they entered the seventh minute of time added on but Zaha had other ideas, levelling the match at 2-2 with a piece of individual brilliance.

### ANDRE AYEWE (West Ham)

The Ghanaian star, who joined the Hammers in August 2016, has done little to justify his hefty transfer fee but he showed why Slaven Bilic thought it worth bringing him on board when he put West Ham 2-0 up in the first half against Palace with a stunning 20-yard strike.

### SPAIN

#### CEDRIC BAKAMBU (Villarreal)

Bakambu's free-scoring form was brought to an end by Atletico Madrid's famously mean defence, but Villarreal did escape the Wanda Metropolitano with a 1-1 draw to extend their unbeaten run against Atletico to five games. The Democratic Republic of Congo striker's best chance came in the first period when Stefan Savic showed great pace to recover and deny Bakambu a clear run on goal.

### ITALY

#### KWADWO ASAMOAH (Juventus)

Ghanaian Asamoah was instrumental in Gonzalo Higuain's double in a 2-0 win for champions Juventus at AC Milan. Asamoah linked up with Paulo Dybala to pass to Higuain, who broke the 100-goal barrier with 101 goals in Serie A. ACHRAF LAZAAR (Benevento)

Moroccan Laazaar scored for Benevento in a 5-1 loss to Lazio—just the fourth goal of the season for the Serie A

tailenders, who notched up their 11th straight defeat since the season began.

### GERMANY

#### IHLAS BEBOU (Hanover 96)

The Togo striker became a favourite with Hanover fans after scoring twice in a shock 4-2 win over Borussia Dortmund. The 23-year-old, who grew up in Germany, showed terrific pace, and profited from dreadful Dortmund defending, to finish off counter-attacks on 40 and 86 minutes. Dortmund's star Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang failed to score for the third straight game. NABIL BENTALEB (Schalke 04) Algeria's ex-Tottenham Hotspur midfielder netted his third goal of the season when he converted a first-half penalty in the 1-1 draw at home to Wolfsburg.

#### NABY KEITA (RB Leipzig)

The Guinea midfielder picked up a foot injury in Leipzig's 2-0 defeat at Bayern Munich, but hopes to be fit for Wednesday's Champions League game at Porto. Keita, who put in an impressive display, limped off on 86 minutes after a kick from Spain international Thiago Alcantara.

### FRANCE

#### KEITA BALDE (Monaco)

The 22-year-old Senegalese international scored one of the second-half goals as defending champions Monaco defeated Nantes 2-0. Balde, a former Lazio player, was called up to replace the injured Radamel Falcao and he took his chance when Brazilian left-back Jorge delivered a ball into the box that was met by Joao Moutinho with a cushioned header down for the Senegal striker to finish. — AFP



GLASGOW: Celtic's head coach Brendan Rodgers attends a press conference at Celtic Park in Glasgow yesterday, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League Group B football match. — AFP

James Forrest set to take over.

"It looks like a hamstring so we'll get a scan on that. I'd suggest he'd probably be out for a few weeks," said the Celtic boss. "It's unfortunate but the squad's there to cope." Striker Leigh Griffiths says Celtic will be a different side to the one which lost 3-0 in Munich a fortnight ago.

"The game will be different here, especially with the crowd getting behind us," he

said. "In the second half at Bayern we were much more disciplined to go and play. "We created good chances to score goals. "If we can replicate the last half-hour we played over there then we give ourselves a good shot.

"It is going to be a difficult night for us, but as you have seen previously, big teams have been turned over when they came here." — AFP

Sports

# PSG, Barcelona on verge of Champions League last 16

## Man Utd among teams to book last-16 place

**PARIS:** Big-spending Paris Saint-Germain, five-time champions Barcelona and Jose Mourinho's Manchester United are among the teams looking to book a Champions League last-16 place today. The pick of the action sees Anderlecht take on Neymar and co. in Paris, while Barcelona face Olympiakos and Roma go head-to-head with Chelsea in Italy.

### Group A At Manchester, England Manchester United (ENG) v Benfica (POR)

Jose Mourinho's side can secure a place in the last 16 with two matches to spare with a win at Old Trafford, if Basel avoid defeat against CSKA Moscow. United are unbeaten at home in 12 meetings with Portuguese opponents-their last home loss in Europe came in a 2-1 reverse against Real Madrid in the 2012/13 competition. Benfica are likely heading towards an early exit after losing their first three group games and will be without veteran defender Luisao following his dismissal in the 1-0 defeat by United in Lisbon. Brazilian striker Jonas scored his league-leading 12th goal in a 1-0 win over Feirense on Friday, while United bounced back from a shock loss at Huddersfield Town by edging Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 on Saturday courtesy of Anthony Martial's late winner.



bid to keep their European adventure alive. A resurgent Bayern eased to a 3-0 win over the Scottish champions a fortnight ago, and a repeat success would all but end Celtic's chances of reaching the knockout rounds. Jupp Heynckes is hopeful striker Robert Lewandowski will be fit for the trip to Glasgow after limping out of Saturday's 2-0 victory over RB Leipzig-their second triumph in four days over their title rivals after a shootout win in the second round of the German Cup.

### At Paris Paris Saint-Germain (FRA) v Anderlecht (BEL)

Unai Emery's French heavyweights have cruised through their opening three fixtures-netting 12 goals with none conceded-and will be expected to again sweep aside Anderlecht at the Parc des Princes. Edinson Cavani struck twice more in Friday's 3-0 victory over Nice, giving the Uruguayan 15 goals in 14 matches this term, as PSG stayed four points clear in France. Neymar is also set to return after serving a domestic one-match ban following his red card against Marseille. Anderlecht have yet to register a goal or point in this season's group stage, with their last away win in the Champions League proper coming in December 2005.

## Atletico still searching for their first win

### Group C At Madrid Atletico Madrid (ESP) v Qarabag (AZE)

Diego Simeone's Atletico Madrid are still searching for their first win of the competition after a goalless draw in Azerbaijan a fortnight ago. They are in danger of missing out on the knockout stages for the first time since failing to qualify at all in 2012-13. The Spanish side have made a solid start in La Liga and are unbeaten in their first 10 games, but sit eight points adrift of leaders Barcelona in fourth place after five draws. Although Qarabag picked up their first Champions League point in Baku, Atletico will be expected to have little trouble in closing the gap on Chelsea and Roma, ahead of a home match against the Italians and a crucial visit to Stamford Bridge.

### At Rome Roma (ITA) v Chelsea (ENG)

The winner of the clash at the Stadio Olimpico will be well-placed to reach the last 16 with both teams still to play a



**PARIS:** Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian defender Dani Alves controls the ball during a training session at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, western Paris yesterday, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match against Anderlecht. — AFP

game against struggling Qarabag. A thrilling 3-3 draw at Chelsea last time out prevented the Premier League champions from moving five points clear at the top of Group C, with Roma now looking for a victory to overtake Antonio Conte's men. Roma won their last home game against Chelsea in the group stages nine years ago, but have not reached the quarter-finals since 2007-08. Chelsea gave their English title defence a boost by beating Bournemouth at the weekend to stay nine points off top spot, while Roma are seven points behind Serie A leaders Napoli with a game in hand.

### Group D At Piraeus, Greece Olympiakos (GRE) v Barcelona (ESP)

Barcelona could secure a last-16 place on Tuesday. A fourth straight group-stage win in Greece would book a knock-out spot unless Sporting Lisbon beat Juventus. Ernesto Valverde's men are on a 14-match unbeaten run in all competitions since losing both legs of the Spanish Super Cup to Real Madrid. The five-time European champions are flying high in Spain, having only dropped two points in their

first 10 outings. Barca talisman Lionel Messi is La Liga's top-scorer so far this term with 12 goals and has also netted three times from three Champions League outings. The first meeting two weeks ago saw Barcelona ease to a 3-1 win with only 10 men, while Olympiakos, bottom of Group D, will be eliminated if they lose and Sporting fail to beat Juventus.

### At Lisbon Sporting Lisbon (POR) v Juventus (ITA)

Sporting and Juventus look set to be in a straight fight for second place in Group D behind Barcelona, with today's match in Lisbon crucial after the Italians' 2-1 win at Turin. Jorge Jesus' team are looking to draw level on points with their opponents, although last season's runners-up would move all but into the knockout rounds with victory. After winning six consecutive Serie A titles, Juve trail in-form Napoli by three points domestically despite a strong start to the campaign. Jesus is hoping to improve Sporting's European pedigree as the Portuguese giants have not reached the last 16 since 2009, when they lost 12-1 on aggregate to Bayern Munich. — AFP

## Spanish media flay Real after worst start in five years

**BARCELONA:** Real Madrid's first ever trip to Wembley to face Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League tomorrow will come as a welcome distraction to the European and Liga holders in the midst of their worst domestic run of results in five years.

Sunday's shock 2-1 defeat to Liga newcomers Girona saw them fall eight points behind arch rivals Barcelona in the standings, the biggest gap they have faced with a league leader since their final turbulent campaign under Jose Mourinho in 2012/13.

Madrid were also defending champions in the Portuguese's final campaign but came unstuck at the start of the season, dropping eight points in their first four games while Barcelona raced ahead, eventually finishing 15 clear of Madrid while Mourinho had an acrimonious split with the dressing room.

The feeling in the Spanish sports press after Zinedine Zidane's side threw away a 1-0 lead at half-time was one of resignation about Madrid's faltering campaign, as the 32-times Liga champions have never managed to win the title after falling eight points behind the leaders.

"Madrid vote no to La Liga", ran a headline on the website of daily newspaper Marca, alluding to the political undertones of Sunday's game at Girona, Real's first trip to the troubled region of Catalonia since a banned referendum on independence on Oct. 1 sparked Spain's worst political crisis in 39 years.

Only Madrid's goalscorer Isco and forward Karim Benzema were exempt from criticism in Marca, which criticised the team's usual talisman Cristiano Ronaldo for only scoring once this campaign and called out Marcelo, Toni Kroos, Luka Modric and captain Sergio Ramos for unconvincing displays.

"Isco is out on his own", ran the cover of newspaper AS, while daily ABC described Madrid as "apathetic", calling the defeat the team's worst performance since Zidane took over at the club in January 2016 and began a winning cycle that has yielded seven trophies.

The French coach said Real had lost the game due to two lapses of concentration in the space of four minutes which lead to Cristhian Stuani's equaliser and Portu's winner, but denied there was a problem with the team's attitude.

"What I'm most annoyed about is not killing the game off when we had the chance to do it," the coach said in a news conference after Girona snapped Real's record run of 13 consecutive away wins over the course of two seasons.

"I'm not worried about a lack of intensity nor enthusiasm, these results can happen in the league but we'll keep on working hard. I'm not worried. We didn't expect this after winning four games in a row but we still want to win the league." — Reuters



**MADRID:** Atletico Madrid's Slovenian goalkeeper Jan Oblak catches a ball during a training session at the Vicente Calderon Stadium in Madrid yesterday on the eve of the UEFA Champions League group C. — AFP

## Punchless Atletico face Champions League knockout

**MADRID:** Finding themselves against the ropes, Atletico Madrid have to come out swinging and finally start landing punches to keep their Champions League dreams alive when Azerbaijani champions Qarabag visit the shiny new Wanda Metropolitano today.

The move to the 68,000 capacity stadium, which will host next season's Champions League final, was seen as confirmation of Atletico's place among the European elite.

Inspired by coach Diego Simeone, Atletico have twice reached the final, as well as the semis and quarters in the Champions League over the past four seasons - only to fall to cross city rivals Real Madrid on every occasion. On top of a 310 million euro (\$360 million) outlay on their new home, Atletico made a huge economic effort to make their transition from the Vicente Calderon as smooth as possible despite a FIFA ban on registering new players.

Simeone and key figures such as Antoine Griezmann, Saul Niguez and Koke were handed lucrative new contracts. Diego Costa also rejoined the club for a reported club record 55 million euros (\$64.8 million) from Chelsea, but he and Atletico's other major recruit Vitolo can't feature until January.

However, the gamble that Costa and Vitolo would provide the perfect boost to Atletico's Champions League campaign come the new year could backfire spectacularly as Simeone's men have taken a paltry two

points from their opening three Group C games. Costa's old club Chelsea lead the way on seven points, closely followed by Roma on five.

### GOAL-SHY GRIEZMANN

Atletico's problem is painstakingly obvious, they can't score goals. Griezmann's penalty in 2-1 home defeat to Chelsea last month is their only Champions League goal to date and they have managed just eight in their last eight La Liga games to fall eight points off the top. "It's the same thing as always," Saul confessed after a 1-1 draw against third-tier Elche in the Copa del Rey. "That lack of goals makes us anxious and we end up suffering."

Top scorer for the past three seasons, Griezmann's form has faltered with just three goals in 11 matches. However, Simeone insisted the Frenchman has got Atletico into a "bad habit" of solving the team's attacking problems single-handedly for too long.

Luciano Vietto, Fernando Torres and Kevin Gameiro have all been handed their opportunity to partner Griezmann in attack and failed when presented chances in front of goal. Some have also pointed the finger at Simeone's defensive tactics as Atletico have been punished for sitting back after taking the lead against Chelsea, Barcelona and in drawing 1-1 against Villarreal on Saturday.

"Simeone isn't the one missing the chances," wrote former Atletico favourite Paulo Futre in sports daily Marca on Sunday in defence of the Argentine.

Griezmann, Yannick Carrasco and Torres all missed huge opportunities as Qarabag secured their first ever Champions League point in Baku two weeks ago.

"Now we have a final here at home," said Atletico's top scorer Angel Correa, his side's top scorer with a meagre four goals this season. "We need to be calm because the only thing we lack is luck, we are creating the chances." — AFP

## Kane could face Real, says Spurs boss Pochettino

**LONDON:** Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino is hopeful Harry Kane will be fit for tomorrow's Champions League clash with Real Madrid after he missed the 1-0 defeat at Manchester United.

Kane, who has scored 13 goals for Spurs this season, was expected to be a doubt for the game at Wembley after a hamstring problem forced him out of the match at Old Trafford. "With the doctors and the player, we will take the best decision for everyone," said Pochettino.

"It's not the last game or the final where you would say, 'OK, after that it's holidays'. We must analyse and take the best decision for everyone. "We will assess him and then we will make the best decision. My feeling is good. But it's not my feeling, it's Harry Kane's feeling."

The United match, in which substitute Anthony Martial netted the only goal in the 81st minute, was an unremarkable contest for much of the time, with the best work coming in defence. Pochettino was also asked afterwards if opposing teams were more defensive against Tottenham, and he said: "No. I think no."

"My perception is that United played like they did against Benfica (a 1-0 away win) and Liverpool (a 0-0 draw at Anfield). "That's football. Everyone can play (how) they want to play." High-flying Tottenham have suffered back-to-back defeats, with the 1-1 draw at Real and 4-1 win over Liverpool at Wembley being followed by a 3-2 League Cup loss to West Ham at the same venue and the Old Trafford setback. — AFP

Live		Matches on TV (Local Timings)
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
Basel 1893 v CSKA Moscow	beIN SPORTS HD 8	22:45
Manchester United v Benfica	beIN SPORTS HD 6	22:45
Paris Saint v Anderlecht	beIN SPORTS HD 2	22:45
Celtic v Bayern Munich	beIN SPORTS HD 5	22:45
Atletico de Madrid v Qarabag Agdam	beIN SPORTS HD 7	22:45
Roma v Chelsea	beIN SPORTS HD 1	22:45
Sporting v Juventus	beIN SPORTS HD 4	22:45
Olympiacos v Barcelona	beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:45

**13** Hamilton wins fourth career F1 title at Mexican Grand Prix



**14** Wheeler scores 3 of Jets' 5 goals in first-period to rout Pens 7-1



**15** PSG, Barcelona on verge of Champions League last 16



HOUSTON: Derek Fisher #21 of the Houston Astros slides in to home plate scoring the game winning run during the tenth inning against Austin Barnes #15 of the Los Angeles Dodgers in game five of the 2017 World Series at Minute Maid Park yesterday. —AFP

## Astros edge Dodgers in thriller

### Second-highest score for a losing team in history

HOUSTON: Alex Bregman singled home Derek Fisher with the winning run in the 10th inning and the Houston Astros reached the brink of their first World Series title Sunday by outlasting the Los Angeles Dodgers 13-12 in a tension-packed thriller.

The Astros seized a 3-2 lead in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final and can claim the crown by winning game six on Tuesday in Los Angeles. The Dodgers, seeking a seventh championship and their first since 1988, must win to force a winner-take-all seventh game on Wednesday. In an epic game that mirrored the momentum swings a drama-filled series has produced, the outcome was decided after five hours and 17 minutes by standouts for each club.

Astros catcher Brian McCann started the decisive rally by taking first base when struck in the right arm by a pitch from Dodgers closing pitcher Kenley Jansen, who then walked George Springer to put the winning run on second base. The Astros inserted pinch-runner Fisher and Bregman followed with a single to left field that sent Fisher racing across the plate ahead of a desperate throw that was too late to prevent the deciding run and an emotional celebration by the Astros and their fans.

It was the second-highest score for a losing team in World Series history, the only similar slugfest in the event's

113 editions being Toronto's 15-14 game-four win at Philadelphia in 1993. The Astros led 12-9 in the ninth and were one strike from victory before the Dodgers equalized.

Yasiel Puig smashed a two-run homer into the left-field stands off Houston relief pitcher Chris Devenski with one out to pull the Dodgers within 12-11. It was the 22nd homer of this World Series, breaking the total homers mark of 21 set in 2002, and the game's seventh combined homer for both teams, matching a Series record from 1989.

Austin Barnes followed with a double and took third on Joc Pederson's ground out to shortstop. Dodgers leadoff batter Chris Taylor was down to his last strike before ripping a single up the middle to score Barnes and level the game. Houston's Yuli Gurriel smacked a two-out, two-run double in the Astros' half of the ninth to put a winning run in scor-

ing position but Josh Reddick flew out to force extra innings.

#### SPRINGER MAKES UP FOR MISS

Cody Bellinger tripled in Enrique Hernandez in the seventh after Astros centerfielder George Springer missed a diving catch attempt to give the Dodgers an 8-7 edge. Houston's Bregman then singled and scored on Jose Altuve's double, and Carlos Correa followed with a two-run homer that gave the Astros an 11-8 lead. The Dodgers answered in the eighth, Pederson blasting a double off the left-field wall and scoring on Corey Seager's double. But Brian McCann smacked a solo homer to boost the Astros' edge to 12-9, setting up the ninth-inning drama.

The Dodgers seized a 7-4 advantage in the fifth inning

after Astros relief pitcher Collin McHugh walked Seager and Justin Turner then surrendered a three-run homer to Bellinger, who was batting only 2-for-17 with 10 strikeouts in the World Series.

But the Astros equalized in the bottom of the fifth on Altuve's three-run homer over the left-field wall.

#### DODGERS SQUANDER BIG LEAD

Dodgers star left-hander Clayton Kershaw, 3-0 in the playoffs, allowed four runs in the fourth inning as the Astros pulled level, the first time this year Los Angeles squandered a four-run edge.

Gurriel, whose controversial racist gesture in game three aimed at Dodgers' Japanese pitcher Yu Darvish did not result in a World Series ban, smashed a three-run homer after a run-scoring Correa double. Gurriel was suspended for the first five games of the 2018 campaign for his game three actions. Astros left-hander Dallas Keuchel, game one's losing pitcher, surrendered four runs off five hits and an error over 3 2/3 innings in the shortest playoff outing by a Houston starter. The Dodgers jumped ahead 4-0 as Logan Forsythe hit a two-run single, Hernandez scored from third on an errant throw by Gurriel and Forsythe scored on a Barnes single. — AFP



### Springer misses a diving catch attempt

## Saudi women to be allowed into sports stadiums

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia will allow women into sports stadiums for the first time from next year, authorities said Sunday, in a landmark move opening up three previously male-only venues to families. The ultra-conservative kingdom, which has some of the world's tightest restrictions on women, has long barred women from sports arenas by strict rules on segregation of the sexes in public.

The announcement is in line with powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ambitious reforms shaking up the kingdom, including the historic decision to allow women to drive from next June.

"Starting the preparation of three stadiums in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam to be ready to

accommodate families from early 2018," the General Sports Authority said on Twitter. Restaurants, cafes and video screens would be set up inside the venues, the authority added.

Last month hundreds of women were allowed to enter a sports stadium in Riyadh, used mostly for football matches, in a one-off event to celebrate Saudi Arabia's national day. Sunday's announcement implies that women in Saudi Arabia will be allowed for the first time to attend sporting events inside stadiums alongside men.

Under the country's guardianship system, a male family member—normally the father, husband or brother—must grant permission for a woman's study, travel and other activities.

But the kingdom appears to be relaxing some norms as part of its sweeping "Vision 2030" plan for economic and social reforms as it prepares for a post-oil era. Last month a royal decree said women would be allowed to drive. The kingdom is also expected to lift a public ban on cinemas and has encouraged mixed-gender celebrations—something unseen before.

"First women driving, now stadiums. What's next? Night clubs?" said one Saudi Twitter user, echoing a deluge of social media comments

expressing surprise over the accelerating pace of reforms. In a rare public appearance last week Prince Mohammed pledged a "moderate" Saudi Arabia, long seen as an exporter of a brand of puritanical Islam espoused by jihadists worldwide. MBS, as he is well known, promised his kingdom will return to "what we were before—a country of moderate Islam that is tolerant of all religions and to the world".

His comment, while unveiling plans for a \$500-billion development zone, chimes with his public image of a bold liberal reformer in a conservative country where more than half the population is under 25. But his vision for a new Saudi Arabia is fraught with risks and could trigger a backlash from conservatives, analysts warn. "Despite the bold statements, it is important to remember that the dominance of conservative thought since the late 1970's cannot be quickly reversed," said analysis firm Eurasia Group.

"Ultraconservative and radical elements continue to pose risks." The government appears to have clipped the wings of the once-feared religious police—long accused of harassing the public with rigid Islamic mores—who have all but disappeared from big cities. —AFP



RIYADH: In this Sept 23, 2017 file photo released by Saudi Press Agency, SPA, Saudi men and women attend national day ceremonies at the King Fahd stadium in Riyadh. — AP



## Business

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017

**20** Oil market to move from rebalancing to tightening**21** The best car in the world: Mercedes-Benz S-Class**24** Energy, not tech or finance, in CEO lineup for Trump's China visit

ABU DHABI: William D Magwood, IV, Director General, Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD-NEA) speaks during the Nuclear Power in the 21st Century International Ministerial conference in Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

# Saudi plans to extract uranium domestically

## A key step toward 'self-sufficiency' in producing atomic fuel

ABU DHABI: Saudi Arabia plans to extract uranium domestically as part of its nuclear power program and sees this as a step towards "self-sufficiency" in producing atomic fuel, a senior official said yesterday. Extracting its own uranium also makes sense from an economic point of view, said Hashim bin Abdullah Yamani, head of the Saudi government agency tasked with the nuclear plans, the King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (KACARE).

In a speech at an international nuclear power conference in Abu Dhabi, he did not specify whether Saudi Arabia seeks to also enrich and reprocess uranium - steps in the fuel cycle which are especially sensitive as they can open up the possibility of military uses of the material. Meanwhile, Iran's nuclear deal with world powers may hang in the balance, but you wouldn't know it at the United Nations conference on atomic energy held yesterday in the United Arab Emirates.

Iran decided to skip the Abu Dhabi conference, leaving its seats empty as Yukiya Amano, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, avoided speaking about the nuclear deal at all in his address at the venue. Officials at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran did not respond to a request for comment. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said he had "no

information" on the decision. At a later news conference, Amano himself declined to discuss it.

### Peaceful purposes

The world's top oil exporter says it wants to tap atomic power for peaceful purposes only in order to diversify its energy supply and will award a construction contract for its first two nuclear reactors by the end of 2018. "Regarding the production of uranium in the kingdom, this is a program which is our first step towards self-sufficiency in producing nuclear fuel," Yamani told a conference organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "We utilize the uranium ore that has been proven to be economically efficient."

Atomic reactors need uranium enriched to around 5 percent purity but the same technology in this process

can also be used to enrich the heavy metal to higher, weapons-grade levels. This issue has been at the heart of Western and regional concerns about the nuclear work of Iran, Saudi Arabia's foe, and led to the 2015 deal in which Iran agreed to freeze the program for 15 years for sanctions relief.

Yesterday, IAEA chief Yukiya Amano said Iran was complying with the nuclear deal signed with world powers and which US President Donald Trump has called into question. Under the agreement, Iran can enrich uranium to 3.67 percent purity, around the normal level needed for commercial power-generation.

### Momentum

Saudi Arabia would be the second country in the Gulf Arab region to tap nuclear after the United Arab Emirates, which is set to start up its first, South Korean-

built reactor in 2018. The UAE has committed not to enrich uranium itself and not to reprocess spent fuel. Industry sources have told Reuters Saudi Arabia is reaching out to potential vendors from South Korea, China, France, Russia, Japan and the United States for its first two reactors. The plans have received extra momentum as part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, an ambitious economic reform program launched last year by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Yamani said Saudi Arabia will soon pass laws for its nuclear program and will have set up all of the regulations for its nuclear regulator by the third quarter of 2018. "The IAEA also has been requested to conduct an integrated review of our nuclear infrastructure during the second quarter of 2018," he said, which will allow the agency to assess efforts to prepare Saudi infrastructure "to introduce nuclear power for peaceful purposes." Saudi Arabia is considering building some 17.6 gigawatts of nuclear capacity by 2032, the equivalent of about 17 reactors, making it one of the strongest prospects for an industry struggling after the 2011 nuclear disaster in Japan. Preliminary studies have estimated Saudi Arabia has around 60,000 tons of uranium ore, Maher al Odan, the chief atomic energy officer of KACARE said at an electricity forum in Riyadh on Oct 11. — Agencies



## Iran skips Abu Dhabi conference

## 'Shortest Asia-Europe rail link' launched in Azerbaijan

ALYAT, Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey yesterday launched a rail link between the countries aimed at cutting total journey times from China to Western Europe while bypassing Russia. The 826-kilometre (500-mile) railroad runs from Azerbaijan's capital Baku via the Georgian capital Tbilisi to the city of Kars in Turkey. It will help to reduce the journey time between China and Europe, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said at the launch ceremony in the town of Alyat in the oil-rich Caucasus nation. "The Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad is the shortest and most reliable link between Asia and Europe," Aliyev said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip



BAKU: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (left) and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev (right), symbolically inaugurate the Baku - Tbilisi - Kars railway, at a ceremony in Baku yesterday. — AP

Erdogan and Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili also attended the opening. After departing China, trains will cross Central Asian country of Kazakhstan before being transported by ferry across the Caspian Sea towards Baku and then heading to Western Europe via Georgia and Turkey. "The

opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway is a major step in transport interconnections linking the European Union, Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Central Asia ... along the ancient Silk Road," the European Union said in a statement, referring to a historical trade route from China. — AFP

## Fuel prices nudge up key US inflation index

WASHINGTON: A record spike in fuel prices following the summer's back-to-back hurricanes drove up a closely watched US inflation measure in September, but the underlying trend remained weak, according to new data yesterday. The new figures come as the Federal Reserve prepares to begin a two-day meeting today, with policymakers widely expected to leave benchmark interest rates untouched but to raise them in December. Disagreements among policymakers about the timing and pace of rate hikes were unlikely to subside in the face of a fresh batch of weak inflation numbers for September. But robust spending figures in the data report pointed to continuing economic expansion. The Personal Consumption Expenditures price index rose 0.4 percent for the month, up two tenths from August and in line with analyst expectations, according to the Commerce Department report.

The increase was driven almost entirely by a 6.8 percent spike in the costs of gasoline, electricity, natural gas and similar energy goods and services—the largest monthly jump in the energy index in more than eight years. But when volatile food and fuel costs are excluded, the "core" PCE index rose only 0.1 percent for the month, the same level now recorded for five months in a row.

On a 12-month basis, the index grew 1.6 percent, up two tenths from August, but the core index held steady at 1.3 percent, the same as in August and no higher than in October 2015.

Core annual PCE has held below the Fed's two percent target without interruption for more than five years. Commerce Department officials said hurricanes Harvey and Irma affected consumer spending, but they were unable to isolate the effects given how the underlying data were collected. Persistently low inflation has bedeviled policymakers during much of 2017, with Fed chair Janet Yellen describing the low price pressures alternately as a "mystery," a "surprise" and a "concern." Meanwhile, personal incomes rose \$66.9 billion for the month as post-hurricane consumer spending gained a full percentage point to reach \$136 billion, the largest monthly increase since August 2009, on sales of durable goods like cars. — Agencies

## ALSAYER AND TOYOTA LAUNCHES NEW PRADO 2018

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Mohamed Naser ALSAYER & Sons (MNSS), a company of ALSAYER Holding has unveiled the new 2018 Prado – toughest and most reliable regular 4x4. The press conference which was recently held at ALSAYER Ballroom at Ardiya was attended by Bengt Schultz Chief Operating Officer, Johan Heislitz Senior Business Director MNSS, Scott McNicol General Manager Sales, Hamad Al-Fouzan Product Planning Manager, Takayuki Yoshitsugu Chief Representative Toyota Middle East along with distinguished members of the press and media.

Commenting on the heritage of Prado Scott McNicol said "Prado is not just an ordinary SUV. It's a historic SUV – Personal or Business. Thanks to loyal customers. With inherited DNA from Land Cruiser - the king of SUV's, evolution of technology and a revolution of performance it is one of the most successful SUV's of all times. Our recent research has shown that Prado is rated highest preferred in regular 4x4 segment: they said it's the best choice for the Gulf conditions, it's a name they trust, great interiors, superb driver comfort with most of the options available inside and it offers the great value for money."

Building on an enviable heritage of offering a powerful four-wheel drive performance, a new and improved Prado has been unveiled for its ever-growing fan base in the GCC. Available in more than 190 countries worldwide, the most of all existing Toyota models, the Prado's unrivaled off-road abilities have earned it a rock-solid reputation as one of the world's toughest and most reliable 4x4s.

The new Prado further enhances this reputation with new, more modern and robust exterior styling, more sophisticated, comfortable and higher quality interior design, improvements to its dynamic abilities and user-friendliness, both on- and off-road.

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said, "The

GCC countries have always had a loyal and growing customer base for Toyota vehicles, and today, we are excited to unveil the new Prado. It strikes a balance between a refined design, both in its exterior and interior, and superior driving dynamics that bring greater agility and efficiency in driving performance.

He added: "Over the years, Prado has proven its tough, lasting and reliable qualities across different terrains and extreme environments, and this new Prado builds on this legacy to exceed the expectations of our valued customers in the region. I am confident that it will tick all the boxes of consumer interest owing to its outstanding quality, durability and reliability with unrivaled off-road performance and ever-greater levels of comfort and ownership prestige. Furthermore, engineers have strengthened the car's safety and comfort features, and these critical enhancements will contribute towards making the new Prado one of the leading choices amongst families in the region and beyond. I thank the loyal fans for their continued support, and look forward to their reviews and reactions to the new Prado."

Featuring ergonomically optimized and functionally grouped switchgear, a new dashboard design incorporates the large, 8-inch multimedia system, Optitron driver's meters, a power steering wheel and switchgear-controlled 4.2" Multi-information Display.

Helping even unskilled drivers maximize the vehicle's off-road performance, the Prado's all-terrain support systems make it one of the most technically advanced, safe, pleasurable and easy-to-use four-wheel drive vehicles in the region.

#### More Dynamic, Modern and Robust Styling

The exterior design of successive Prado generations has always combined the stylish aesthetics of a vehicle entirely at home in any environment with the robust image of durability and power expected from a genuine four-wheel drive machine.

The new Prado builds on this proven, trusted formula with a unique design which is visually more agile and dynamic, yet maintains three core strengths essential to the vehicle's renowned go-anywhere credentials, namely, 'Total Practicality' – with headlamps and cooling openings positioned to maximize both protection and wading depth; 'Total Durability' – with the powertrain and all functional parts well protected and 'Total Capability' – with the tight turning circle and generous ground clearance essential for even the most demanding off-road driving.

With the newly designed bonnet, radiator grille, headlamps, front bumper and fenders, the front of the Prado draws on several structural elements from its unique design heritage. The bonnet has been shaped to enhance downward visibility at the center, incorporating integral fog lamps, the lower part of the bumper corners kick upwards, and the center section has been shaped like a skid plate to enhance off-road maneuverability.

Organized into a powerful, single graphic form, the radiator grille and headlamps have been placed high for greater off-road functionality. The grille openings are as large as possible to allow for optimum engine cooling performance, while the headlamp main beams are positioned inboard to avoid damage from obstacles during off-road driving.

In keeping with Prado heritage, the grille features broad vertical bars with slit-shaped cooling openings finished in chrome. Integrating high and low beams, a front turn signal lamp and Daytime Running Lights (DRL) within a distinctive casing, the headlamp clusters may be equipped with either halogen or LED/halogen headlamps, the latter incorporating LED DRL.

The vehicle profile is further enhanced by a choice of six-spoke 17" alloys, or a high gloss painted 18" alloy wheel. A set of side stripes, flowing from the front to the rear, are developed exclusively for customers in the Middle East in recognition of the popularity of the

Land Cruiser Prado in the region.

The new Prado is available in ten exterior colors, including two new colors: Blackish Ageha Glass Flake and Avant-Garde Bronze Metallic.

#### Sophisticated and Intuitive Interior

The interior of the new Prado features revised dashboard styling that incorporates new designs for the driver's instrument binnacle and center console. It combines improved operability with the refined finish appropriate for a premium quality all-terrain vehicle.

The top of the new center console tower has been lowered for a sleeker appearance and improved front visibility when driving off-road. It carries the finishing touches of a 'Silver Hairline' texture that creates the appearance of sculpted metal and is cushioned between soft pads that support the occupants' knees. The center console incorporates a new, larger 8" full-color multimedia screen, a flush-surface air-conditioning control panel, and the drive-train-related instrument cluster.

A high-definition 8-inch full-color multimedia screen enables centralized control of navigation and audiovisual systems which complements the rearview monitor to guide the driver while backing up the car. In addition to AM/FM radio and a DVD player, the JBL system optimally positions 14 speakers through the cabin, creating a quality sound space. The amplifier is compatible with Clari-Fi™, a compressed audio restoration technology that helps play the music as close to its original audio quality by recreating the high-range and low-range sounds, as well as sounds of the natural vocal and stereo feelings that are usually suppressed when saving files in the MP3 format.

The system also features Bluetooth support and has USB and mini-jack inputs offering external audio input, enabling the driver and passengers to easily connect playback devices to enjoy their favorite music. Rear seat passengers can also enjoy video from DVDs, Blu-ray discs and other sources on the large, retract-

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able 9-inch LCD monitor.

In terms of the front seats, the driver seat is equipped with 8-way power seat along with power lumbar support, and the front passenger seat is available with 4-way power seat. The 2nd-row seat there has a 40:20:40 split-folding, sliding and reclining configuration. The 3rd-row 50:50 split seats are powered and can be easily operated either from inside the car or from the back door.

Storage points are provided all around the cabin. Front seat storage includes a capacious glovebox, overhead sunglasses holder (with built-in conversation mirror), two cup holders, and large front door pockets with built-in bottle holders. There is also a large storage box, available with cooling function, under the center console armrest and is big enough to hold four half-liter bottles and fitted with an upper-level tray. Second-row passengers are served by seatback pockets, center armrest twin cup holders and door pockets with bottle holders. Cup holders are provided for third-row occupants, too. Twelve-volt power outlets are provided in the front and second rows, with a 220V AC power outlet in the load space.

The air conditioning for the Prado is designed to maintain peak performance even when the vehicle is being driven in extreme climates. The fully-automatic system provides triple-zone, independent temperature control. This allows separate temperatures to be selected for the front left, right and the rear sides of the cabin to ensure more comfort for everyone onboard.

A total of three interior colors are available for the interiors, including two newly-added colors – 'Neutral Beige,' which is introduced in response to customer demands for a modern look, and 'Black/Red Wood' to further enhance the sporty atmosphere of the cabin.

**Powerful Engine and Superior Driving Dynamics**  
The new Prado is available in a wide range of engine options for both petrol and diesel formats. Petrol engines are available with either a V6 engine 4.0-liter 24-valve DOHC with dual VVT-i producing 271hp and up to 38.9kg-m or 4-cylinder 2.7-liter in-line 16-valve DOHC format with VVT-i producing 164hp and up to 25.1kg-m.

Both petrol engines are mated with either a 6-speed 'Super-Intelligent Electronically'-controlled automatic transmission with multi-mode sequential shift mode that allows the driver to select gears manually, making it ideal for added control in challenging weather conditions, or a 5-speed or 6-speed manual transmission.

In the diesel engine category, there is a 4-cylinder 3.0-liter in-line 16-valve DOHC with turbo producing 161hp and up to 40.8kg-m that offers low emissions with class-leading power and fuel efficiency. The diesel engine is mated by a 5-speed 'Super-Intelligent Electronically'-controlled automatic transmission.

In addition to a solid engine profile, the new Prado comes with a series of advanced dynamic and handling features that highlight its reputation as one of the most technically-advanced four-wheel drive vehicles, including the newly-developed full-time four-wheel drive with TORSEN® limited slip differential (LSD), which allocates optimal driver power distribution to the left and right wheels in response to various driving scenarios, including

straight-line driving and cornering. The system helps achieve outstanding straight-line stability and cornering performance. An additional central and rear differential lock is also available, thereby increasing stability especially in extreme off-road conditions and terrains.

The new Prado comes with Drive Mode Select, allowing the driver to tailor powertrain and suspension responses by selecting drive modes suitable for the situation, or to match their preferred driving style, thus heightening driving pleasure. Modes include NORMAL, which realizes an excellent balance between driving performance and fuel economy that suits a wide variety of driving scenes; ECO mode adjusts powertrain responses and air conditioning to prioritize fuel-efficient driving; while in the SPORT mode, the Variable Flow Control (VFC) and powertrain components, such as the engine and transmission, are controlled. This provides enhanced accelerator response and a more dynamic and powerful feel of acceleration.

The Crawl Control System helps maintain a low uniform vehicle speed by automatically controlling the engine output and hydraulic brake pressure to reduce driver burden during off-road driving. This system works on rough off-road terrains and slippery surfaces by moderating the accelerator and brake operations, leaving the driver with complete focus on steering the vehicle. The smooth control minimizes wheel spin and wheel lock-up, ensuring vehicle stability even on slippery surfaces.

Multi-Terrain Select (MTS) automatically modifies vehicle acceleration, braking, and traction control to suit off-road conditions, providing the driver with optimum traction and vehicle control on five terrain modes: 'Rock,' 'Rock & Dirt,' 'Mogul,' 'Loose Rock,' and 'Mud & Sand.' There is also an Auto mode to optimize car control according to the preset vehicle speed set on the 'Crawl Control.'

Other features include a Multi-Terrain Monitor used in conjunction with MTS to help the driver confirm their surroundings when driving off-road. The driver can select a view from the front, side, and rear cameras to conveniently check the vehicle's blind spots and immediate surroundings.

Adding to the versatility of the Prado is the

Hill-start Assist Control (HAC) system which prevents vehicle roll-back when stopping and then starting again on a steep incline or slippery surface. In addition, the Downhill Assist Control (DAC) feature improves directional control during descent on steep or slippery surfaces.

Prado's front independent double wishbone and rear four-link rigid suspension offer greater ride comfort and better steering feel. Further enhancing the ride experience, the electrically-controlled Kinetic Dynamic Suspension System (KDSS), that is available on select models, optimizes the effect of the front and rear anti-roll bars for better on- and off-road performance. When driving on the road, the system works to suppress body roll, improve steering response and absorb the effects of driving over poor road surfaces.

The new Prado's Tire Pressure Warning System detects low tire pressure and displays a warning on the Multi-Information Display in real time. Hence, insufficient tire pressure can be determined at a glance, and pressure refill or tire replacement can be performed with accurate and timely information.

**Unmatched Safety Technologies**  
The Prado is as reliable as it looks with a body structure that is crafted with high-tensile steel encompassing the latest safety technologies and innovative systems. These offer exceptional levels of safety and security complemented by the four-wheel car's new advanced safety technology package, called Toyota Safety Sense, which includes items that are particularly effective in reducing the risk of accidents:

- Pre-Crash Safety (PCS) system uses sensors to detect other vehicles or obstructions and warns the driver to perform evasive maneuver while automatically activating the brakes when there is a high probability of a collision.
- Dynamic Radar Cruise Control system enhances driving convenience. When traveling at a preset cruising speed, it uses a millimeter wave radar to detect and monitor the vehicle ahead, regulating speed as needed to maintain a distance (long, medium, or short) that is defined by the driver, and subsequently, allows to return to the preset cruising speed when it detects that the vehicle ahead has changed lanes.
- Automatic High Beam (AHB) system detects

oncoming headlights and tail lamps of the vehicles ahead and automatically switches to low beam to reduce glare.

- Lane Departure Alert (LDA) system warns the driver through the Multi-Information Display, blinking indicator lamp and buzzer sound when the vehicle unusually sways from its lane. When vehicles way is detected, the system alerts the driver, and a buzzer sets off to help prevent an accident.

In addition, the new Prado boasts a multi-terrain Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) that automatically adapts braking performance to suit the surface on which the vehicle is traveling, while the Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD) feature balances braking forces between the front and rear brakes in accordance with driving conditions and vehicle load. This is further supported by Brake Assist (BA) that provides auxiliary force to assist the driver during emergency braking. The Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) system ensures stability by automatically adjusting engine output and the braking force of each wheel when the vehicle experiences oversteer or understeer during cornering or driving on slippery road surfaces.

Further ensuring that safety is at the heart of the experience for both the driver and passengers, the available Emergency Brake Signal automatically activates the hazard lamps during emergency braking. The signal serves as a warning for the vehicle in the rear when sudden brakes are applied.

To ensure the safety of pedestrians and make roads a safe space for all, the Prado has a Pedestrian Protection through Impact Attenuation Structure. The impact-absorbing structure of the hood, fenders, and other components helps enhance pedestrian protection performance. Active headrests on the driver and front passenger seats move up and forward in the event of rear-end collisions to help reduce neck impact and simultaneously cushion the head and back.

The Prado is equipped with a total of seven airbags: driver's dual-stage front airbag, driver's knee airbag, passenger's front airbag, front side airbags, and full-length curtain airbags, giving head protection to outer seat occupants in all three rows.

A Blind Spot Monitor (BSM) and Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) are also available to alert the driver of nearby vehicles traveling in the Prado's blind spot by lighting up an indicator on the surface of the door mirror. The system uses radar sensors fitted onto each side of the rear of the vehicle. If a car is detected when the turn indicator is engaged, a warning light flashes at fixed intervals. The Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) feature uses the same radar as the Blind Spot Monitor to warn the driver of any vehicles approaching from either side that may not be visible through the rear screen or door mirrors.

The Rear-View Monitor System displays video images of objects behind the vehicle to enhance the visibility of the driver when backing up. There is also a Front and Back Clearance Sonar that displays a warning message and sets off a buzzer on the 4.2-inch color TFT Multi-Information Display, further assisting the driver in detecting the presence of obstacles when maneuvering the vehicle in tight areas and when parking it.



## Business

NBK economic report

# Kuwait real estate market gains traction in Q3 2017

## Sales pick up, property prices stabilize



	Average	2017	Sep 2017		% m/m	% y/y
	2015	2016	Jul	Aug		
Sales (KD mn)	283.5	194.7	161.5	154.5	-4.8	23.8
Residential property	113.4	78.7	90.3	87.2	88.3	1.6
Investment property	102.2	88.1	57.5	34.8	88.2	98.4
Commercial property	37.9	47.9	13.8	52.5	7.5	-85.7
Number of transactions	482	364	372	300	292	-2.7
Residential property	323	237	268	217	207	-4.6
Investment property	120	108	100	88	54	23.5
Commercial property	8	8	4	15	1	-83.3
Transaction size (KD)	586	547	434.2	515.1	493.0	-4.3
Residential property	352	332	336.8	308.7	329.8	6.5
Investment property	882	645	574.9	512.0	811.8	58.5
Commercial property	5.185	5.204	3.444	3.500	7.500	114.3

Source: Ministry of Justice

KUWAIT: Activity in the real estate market is gaining traction with a pickup in sales and stabilizing prices. Real estate sales posted healthy 20 percent year-on-year (y/y) growth in 3Q17, the first positive growth since 4Q14, despite the seasonality that customarily reigns over the quarter. The positive pickup in activity also translated into further stabilization in real estate prices, with indices hovering around their 12-month average. Comparable stabilization is seen in other GCC real estate price indices despite slight divergence in trends.

The residential sector remained supportive of the real estate market throughout the first three quarters of the year. Residential sales reached KD 226 million in 3Q17, up 20 percent y/y. Year-to-date (ytd) sales tallied up to KD 879 million over 2,519 transactions. As for the month of September, sector sales were up 28 percent y/y with transactions improving by 36 percent y/y. Renewed interest in the sector was not channeled through a specific type of properties; both home and plot sales advanced, rising by 26 percent and 21 percent, respectively ytd.



### Residential sales reach KD 226m in Q3

Strong third quarter activity helped support residential prices further. The NBK residential home price index reached 153.1 in September, flat from a year ago. The NBK residential land price index soared to 172.8 in September, up 4 percent for the month, though it remains down 5.5 percent y/y. Although residential prices are down around 17 percent from their peaks, their annual pace of decline has come down from double-digit to less than 5 percent, suggesting the end of the price correction.

Investment properties' activity remains off, not in line with the spur in the residential sector, as other markets seem more appealing to investors. 3Q17 sales reached KD 160.5 million, down to a third of what was recorded in 3Q14. The exceptional performance of Kuwait's stock market this year may have deterred investors from investing in real estate. With stocks generating double-digit growth so far this year, the investment sector, plagued by increased vacant apartments, lower housing inflation (i.e. rents) and higher utility bills, was not able to generate comparable returns.

	Annual average		2017	
	2015	2016	Jun	% y/y
Abu Dhabi (2010=100)	111.9	111.8	118.2	5.4
Dubai (2010=100)	154.6	147.9	147.9	-0.7
Qatar (2010=100)	285.5	290.5	280.9	-5.5
Saudi Arabia (2014=100)	98.9	93.8	87.8	-8.0

Source: BIS, national sources

The persistently slow activity in the sector continues to exercise negative pressure on investment property prices. The NBK investment building price index retreated to 171.1 in September, down 5.7 percent y/y. The price index has settled at levels last seen at the end of 2013. The index is off by 25 percent from its peak in July 2015.

The commercial sector witnessed a healthy third quarter. 20 commercial properties were sold during the quarter for a total value of KD 74 million. This quarter's transactions were predominantly commercial buildings and offices. Ytd, the sector is 30 percent short on sales and 20 percent on transactions.

Regional real estate residential price indices are exhibiting similar signs of stabilization despite the divergence in trends caused by the heterogeneous macroeconomic and geopolitical outlooks of each of the GCC countries. Abu Dhabi prices appear among the most stable in the region, with prices advancing 5.4 percent y/y in June 2017. Qatar prices on the other hand were the last to correct, with the residential index down 5.5 percent y/y in June. KSA recently launched real estate quarterly indices, which reveal a downward trend since 2016; as of June the general residential index is down 7.9 percent y/y.

## Place your bets for the Brexit rate hike

LONDON: To hear some economists talk, the Bank of England is about to make a big mistake - raise interest rates just as the economy heads into what could be a major storm.

If all goes as scripted, the bank will hike borrowing costs in the coming week for the first time in more than 10 years. But is the country really ready? The consensus is for rise to 0.5 percent from 0.25 percent. That 0.25 percent was where the BoE put Bank Rate just over a year ago, shortly after British voters elected to leave the European Union. And there's the rub: the uncertainty the vote triggered is still there. A Reuters poll published in the past week showed more than 70 percent of economists believe now is not the time to raise rates-though slightly more than that said it would happen anyway.

BoE Governor Mark Carney has made it clear a hike is in the offing, if not specifically saying at this coming meeting. His concern is that low unemployment means Britain's economy has little spare capacity and, accordingly, faces upward inflation pressure. Added to that are moves by other major central banks to rein in loose monetary policy, which could also push inflation higher by weakening the pound further. The US Federal Reserve has raised rates four times since late 2015 and is expected to do so again. The European Central Bank is cutting back on its bond buying, albeit gently.

So the BoE needs to concern itself with a pressured pound and high employment driving up inflation that, at 3 percent, is already well above target and the highest in the Group of Seven industrialized nations. —Reuters

## Oil market set to move from rebalancing to tightening

LONDON: The oil market is now well into a cyclical upswing and within the narrative about "rebalancing" is likely to be replaced by one about "tightening".

Rebalancing started well before the production pact between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies went into effect in January. OPEC has been open about the fact that the rebalancing process pre-dated its agreement, with officials repeatedly noting the accord was intended to "accelerate" a process that was already underway.

The spot price of Brent has been rising since January 2016 and the six-month calendar spread has been increasing since January 2015. Depending on which turning point is used, the rebalancing process has already been underway for 21 months (spot prices) or 32 months (spreads).

Like any rebalancing process, adjustment is barely perceptible at first, which is why the turning point is often missed, but tends to accelerate over time. The current rebalancing started with an acceleration in global oil consumption, which was already evident in the first half of 2015 in response to lower prices.

Oil production did not decelerate until 2016, because of the lags in the system, and OPEC's own output restraint did not start until 2017. But with consumption now running faster than production the market is steadily whittling away the excess inventories accumulated in 2015/2016.

During the last two rebalancing processes, after oil slumps in 1998/99 and 2008/09, front-month Brent prices took roughly 21 months and 26 months respectively to reach their first major peak.

Meanwhile, the calendar spread took 21 months and 34 months respectively to reach its first cyclical peak after each episode. The recent slump was in some ways



SAN ANSELMO: This file photo shows a customer preparing to pump gasoline into his car at a gas station in San Anselmo, California. —AFP

deeper, and the recovery has certainly been more prolonged, but it can no longer be described as being in its early stages.

The current rebalancing process is already therefore fairly mature and at some point in the next six to nine months will be more accurately described as tightening.

The Brent spread has already shifted decisively from contango to backwardation and is well within the upper-half of its historical range, pointing to a market that is undersupplied and drawing down stocks. According estimates from the OPEC/non-OPEC Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee, OPEC is more than halfway to its declared target of reducing OECD oil inventories to their five-year average.

Excess stocks have been drawn down by 180 million

barrels since the start of 2017, although they are still 160 million barrels above the 2012-2016 average.

In practice, stocks at the five-year average would probably prove uncomfortably low given the big increase in oil demand since 2012. Well before the five-year average is reached, spot prices and spreads will rise to move the market from production restraint/consumption growth to production growth/consumption restraint.

In this context, the increase in front-month Brent futures prices above \$60 per barrel on Friday, for the first time since July 2015, and tightening of the calendar spread to its highest on a sustained basis since July 2014, is consistent with a market transitioning from rebalancing to tightening. —Reuters

Business

# NBK Saudi Arabia opens 2 new branches in Riyadh and Dammam

## Bank pursues integrated strategic plan to expand in Kingdom

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait - Saudi Arabia announced that the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) has approved the opening of two new branches in Saudi Arabia, Riyadh and Dammam, as well as the main branch of the bank currently operating in Jeddah.

On this occasion, NBK's Group Chief Executive Officer, Isam Jassem Al-Sager, said, "The acquisition of two new branches in the Kingdom is part of the Bank's integrated strategic plan to expand in the Kingdom, which is deemed the largest market in the region and offers promising opportunities, thanks to its economic performance stability".

Al-Sager affirmed that the National Bank of Kuwait seeks to benefit from the growth of the Saudi economy, especially with the strong government support of the economy by injecting huge investments in several sectors of strategic importance, namely: transport, housing, energy and financial services. He simultane-

ously praised the Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority for their role and efforts in issuing the decision approving the opening of the two new branches in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Sager added that NBK is always striving to provide sophisticated services in line with the nature of the Saudi market by providing a full range of commercial banking services to its customers covering a wide range of sectors, such as commercial finance, contracting, companies, retail, and treasury. The Bank also continues to seek good investment and financing opportunities in the kingdom.

He said that NBK - Saudi Arabia is seeking to establish a network of developed branches in Saudi Arabia. The locations of the new branches are selected according to specific criteria, including the area's attractiveness in terms of population density, expected business volume and the requirements of the area such as number of customers from various segments, while adhering to the instruc-



Isam Jassem Al-Sager

tions of regulators in this regard. He clarified that the bank will equip the two branches with the latest banking technology to ensure a distinguished level of service to its customers, through the provision of a range of premium services, in addition to facilitating access to their accounts at any branch through electronic connectivity among all the branches of the bank.

He emphasized NBK's ability to provide all corporate banking services in the Gulf region in general and, in particular, in Saudi Arabia, which is considered one of the most important markets targeted by the bank especially that it is one of the largest markets in the region. He indicated that the Bank is simultaneously attempting to form strategic partnerships with major Saudi companies.

He pointed out that the Bank occupies a privileged position in the list of GCC banks, a fact that enables it to achieve good future growth, as it is regarded as one of the largest banking groups with high financial

integrity at the level of the region.

It is noteworthy to mention that NBK has opened its first branch in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2006 as part of its strategy aimed at keeping up with and investing in the close ties between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, by providing a full range of banking services to serve its customers in the Saudi market.

NBK - Saudi Arabia has a seasoned team of highly qualified customer relations managers, who develop and deliver banking solutions tailored to their needs and requirements. It is involved in several local deals, drawing on the expertise of NBK Group in the field of projects and co-financing.

The Bank's branch in Jeddah also works closely with its counterparts in the NBK branch network and subsidiaries to provide support to its customers with regard to their cross-border transactions, in addition to meeting their other global investment needs.

The National Bank of Kuwait, through its presence, enjoys a local and global network of branches across four continents. NBK's global presence extends to several international financial centers in China, Geneva, London, Paris, New York and Singapore, as well as its regional presence in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Turkey and the UAE.

“ We seek to benefit from growth opportunities ”

## The best car in the world: Mercedes Benz S-Class

**KUWAIT:** Complete with a host of comprehensive new features for increased luxury and comfort, the new Mercedes-Benz S-Class is leading the premium segment on the road and in the interior. Sculpted, sewn, appointed and equipped to provide unmatched comfort and convenience, the new S-Class stimulates and soothes the senses, especially a passenger's sense of contentment.

In a world first, the new S-Class introduces ENERGIZING comfort control, ensuring well-being, physical comfort and performance levels are enhanced while driving and during a break. The optional feature links a variety of comfort systems, such as the climate control system (including fragrancing) the seats (heater, ventilation, massage), the wall heating, as well as lighting and musical atmospheres, to enable a specific wellness set-up tailored to the mood and need of the customer. A total of six programs can be selected, including Freshness, Warmth, Vitality, Joy, Comfort and Training, with each running for a duration of ten minutes.

It also incorporates ambient lighting, which is harmoniously tailored to each of the individual screen designs. The light stages the interior like a work of art by composing color worlds from different colors. The brightness of the LEDs can be set in five levels and four zones: wide-screen cockpit, area of front seats, rear compartment, and all. In addition, the ambient lighting creates emotionally appealing contrasts and structures the interior into levels. 64 colors, ten color worlds and three different lighting zones (footwells, trim element level and wide-screen cockpit) enable an avant-garde lighting scene with spectacular color changes.

Commenting on the new S-Class, Mohammed Abdul Rahman Albisher, Director of Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company, the authorized general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, said: "The S-Class



has long been considered the pinnacle of luxury within the automotive industry. The new S-Class elevates comfort and prestige, treating passengers to a personalized and multidimensional sense of wellness which ensures they arrive at their destination more relaxed and energized than when they set off."

Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer, A.R. Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Company, continued: "This latest S-Class is adaptive, advanced and brings the right balance of composure and confidence to the road. It's easy to see why it has been named the best car in the world."

Authentic materials and meticulous detail design define the top-of-the-range model from Mercedes-Benz. The use of open-pore woods, leather-trimmed doors and dashboards, and a carefully composed colour concept add to the high quality look and feel. It also offers complete convenience, allowing S-Class passengers to charge their mobile phones as standard, wirelessly and without a telephone holder. Front and rear passengers also have more text messaging options

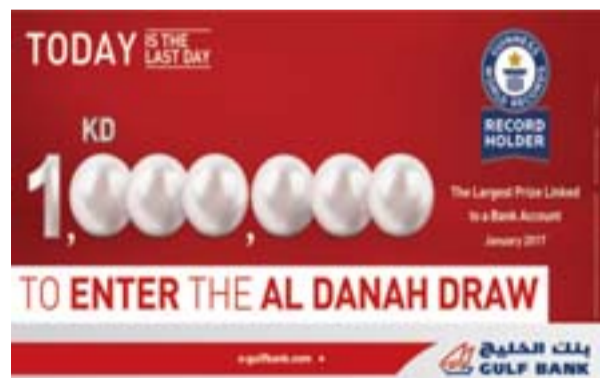


and can now receive, send, forward and use voice-to-text to dictate text messages. The Mercedes-Benz S-Class is now available at A.R. Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Company's Shuwaikh showroom.

## CBK sponsors Rumaithiya Co-op's charity and cultural programs

**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently made a financial contribution to support the charity, humanitarian, cultural, educational and sports activities organized and sponsored by Rumaithiya Co-op for the area residents.

CBK stressed that this contribution was meant to support NGOs including co-ops as part of its social responsibilities as well as a means to encourage more voluntary social activities. CBK's regional individual Banking Services Manager Bedour Bokhamseen presented a check as the bank's contribution to Rumaithiya Coop's treasurer Bader Hassan Hayat.



## Today last day to deposit and enter Al-Danah's KD 1mn draw

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank announces that today (October 31) is the last date for customers to open an Al-Danah account or deposit more, as to increase their chances in becoming the next Al-Danah millionaire! Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD 1,000), quarterly draws up to KD 500,000 and Al-Danah's final draw for KD 1 million, which is planned to be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced. Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking.

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

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million and the largest international bank prize according to Guinness World Records.
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD 500,000.
- 3) Two winners of KD 1,000 every working day.
- 4) The most chances to win.
- 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year.

## KIB honored for gold sponsorship of 4th 'Future Makers' project

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has recently been honored by the Kuwait Industries Union (KIU) for its gold sponsorship of the 4th 'Future Makers' project, which was organized by the Union. The Bank was honored during the closing ceremony of KIU for 2017 projects, which was held at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

KIB's sponsorship of the 4th 'Future Makers' project reflects its strong belief in the project's objectives, which aim at preparing newly graduated students look-

ing to work for the industrial sector by presenting them with practical training courses, field work, visits and educational seminars.

On this occasion, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, expressed his gratitude and highest appreciation towards KIU for honoring KIB, commenting: "This recognition is a testament to KIB's unwavering commitment and support to various community-based initiatives, particularly projects that aim at national economic development." Najia added, "KIB's sponsorship of the 'Future Makers' project came as part of its ongoing efforts to support youth, as we believe that youth are the leaders and architects of the future."

Najia also lauded KIU for its vital role in supporting and organizing projects that contribute to the development of skills and capabilities of youth at the beginning of their career in the industrial sector, thereby developing the sector in the country. At the end, Najia wished KIU more successes and achievements in their future endeavors.

In line with its social responsibility strategy that



aims at promoting diverse sectors in the country, with a particular focus on the industrial sector, KIB remains strongly committed to participating in development activities and programs which contribute to the country's transformation into a commercial and financial hub.

## Warba Bank in strategic partnership with Diebold Nixdorf on ATM network

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank, a leading Islamic bank in Kuwait, has partnered with Diebold Nixdorf, the world leader in driving connected commerce, to elevate the consumer experience at the ATM with secure, convenient and reliable solutions. Through this new partnership the bank will replace its current ATM fleet with the latest technology from Diebold Nixdorf which includes, cash dispensing, as well as cash deposit ATMs. The updated fleet of ATMs, which will be rolled out across Warba Bank branches and public locations in Kuwait, enable consumers to complete cash deposit transactions as well as cash withdrawals at any time of the day, at the ATM. Diebold Nixdorf's latest ATM solutions play an integral part of the

Bank's strategy to enhance its digital infrastructure by providing the most innovative solutions in the market to customers.

Over the three months, the bank will replace its existing ATM fleet with Diebold Nixdorf's latest ATM solutions, to provide an elevated consumer experience.

Commenting on the new partnership, Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem, CEO at Warba Bank said "We are delighted to be partnering with Diebold Nixdorf to provide the latest ATM technology and security to our customers. This is a long-term strategic partnership that will support our ATM growth strategy in the years ahead."

The new ATMs are designed to the highest international standards of security and functionality. They are equipped with Diebold Nixdorf's terminal software suite, to ensure reliable, efficient and uninterrupted experiences for consumers. Furthermore, all ATMs have installed anti-fraud and anti-card skimming programs to ensure the highest level of security for Warba Bank customers. The bank is confident that these new machines will play a key role in providing high quality services to their expanding customer base.

"We're delighted to work with Warba Bank to help further elevate the consumer experience in-branch and at the self-service channel," said Habib Hanna, managing director, Middle East, Diebold Nixdorf. "As banks continue to migrate more transactions to digital channels, our market-proven systems, software



Shaheen Al-Ghanem and Habib Hanna

and services will deliver improved operational efficiencies for financial institutions and enhanced experiences for consumers."

The new machines provide leading interactive services and are tailored to assist customers with special needs in completing cash deposits and withdrawals. Diebold Nixdorf's local partner in Kuwait, Axis Solutions, will be providing maintenance services to ensure the solutions are operating at maximum availability and deliver a vastly improved level of customer service.

Business

# World stocks hit new high on Spain relief

LONDON: A strong rally in the technology sector helped drive global stocks to a record high yesterday, while a recovery in Spanish markets helped to lift European shares after an opinion poll smoothed investors' concerns over Catalan secession. MSCI's world equity index, which tracks shares in 47 countries, rose 0.2 percent to its highest ever level. The index has surged 17.7 percent so far in 2017, and is on track for its best annual showing since 2013.

Euro zone stocks climbed 0.2 percent, holding near their highest level in 10 years. European stocks have rallied this year as a healthy economy dovetailed with convincing growth in corporate earnings and a reduction in political risk. "There is an avalanche of things that are happening or going to happen, but markets are just shrugging it off. It's like markets have been vacci-

nated against bad news thanks to the strength of the global business cycle," said Marie Owens Thomsen, global head of economic research at Indosuez Wealth Management in Geneva.

Spanish stocks jumped 1.5 percent and government borrowing costs fell after a weekend survey suggested Catalan secessionists may lose their majority in regional elections scheduled for December. Spain's benchmark 10-year bond yield fell 2 basis points to 1.52 percent. Banks CaixaBank and Sabadell, which moved their headquarters out of Catalonia due to the crisis, led gains on the IBEX.

The broader market showed signs of relief, with euro zone banks rising 0.7 percent, and Italian stocks - which have been sensitive to the Spanish crisis - up 0.4 percent. Technology stocks also drove European trading, riding a wave of gains on the Nasdaq and in Asia

after Apple said pre-orders for its new iPhone X were "off the charts". iPhone component suppliers AMS, Dialog Semiconductor and STMicro led gains.

Europe's tech sector has quietly boomed, and has outperformed the Nasdaq so far this year. US stock futures pointed to a slight pullback at the open after blistering tech-driven gains on Friday. Dow Jones Industrial and S&P 500 futures were down 0.2 percent, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq was set for a 0.1 percent dip.

### Central banks in the spotlight

In a week of policy meetings by three major central banks, gold edged down 0.1 percent on investor caution. The Bank of England is widely expected to raise rates on Thursday, reversing its monetary easing following Britain's June 2016 vote to leave the European

Union, but investors feared that the decision could create more volatility than the well-received stimulus extension by the European Central Bank last week. "This coming week will see whether the BoE has also managed to steer markets in the right direction," said Societe Generale analysts in a note.

Sterling rose 0.3 percent against the dollar as traders bid the currency higher on the expected rate rise. Other major currencies kept to tight ranges as markets also awaited interest rate decisions by the Bank of Japan and the U.S. Federal Reserve.

The dollar fell 0.3 percent against a basket of currencies as investors focused on the impending appointment of the next Federal Reserve chair, with speculation rife that Fed governor Jerome Powell is the favored candidate. An announcement is expected this week. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report							
Monday 30 October 2017							
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing				
Price Index	▼ -46.20	6,561.55	6,607.75				
Weighted Index	▼ -3.25	423.62	426.87				
KSX 15	▼ -10.91	980.04	990.95				
Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	433	▼ 0.0
NAPESCO	824	805	510	411	2	824	▲ 24.0
ENERGYH	36.3	34.0	2,560	91	5	35.0	▼ -1.4
GPI	35.1	34.7	636,350	22,261	13	35.0	▼ -0.2
ABAR	70	69	27,475	1,923	9	70	▼ 0.0
Oil & Gas			566,895	24,686	29	1027.82	▼ -11.90
KFOUC	302	302	15	5	1	302	▲ 4.0
BPCO	651	638	929,000	599,388	39	640	▼ -18.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	▼ 0.0
ALQURAIN	330	321	240,031	78,937	30	326	▼ -4.0
Basic Materials			1,189,646	679,330	70	1281.96	▼ -8.50
KCCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	457	▼ 0.0
CABLE	488	470	156,126	74,785	24	484	▲ 2.0
SHP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	215	▼ 0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	980	▼ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▼ 0.0
MRC	109	109	100	11	1	109	▲ 7.0
AGICO	263	258	21,500	5,619	2	263	▲ 5.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	▼ 0.0
NKCBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	▼ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	38.9	38.6	75,800	2,945	8	38.6	▼ -1.7
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▼ 0.0
GYPBUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▼ 0.0
SALBOOH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	▼ 0.0
AGLTU	840	834	305,963	256,343	31	834	▼ -7.0
EDU	319	312	17,350	5,414	3	319	▲ 7.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	53	▼ 0.0
KGL	64	61	243,644	14,802	5	61	▼ 0.0
KQPC	145	145	137	20	1	145	▼ -5.0
HUMANSOFT	3,950	3,950	149	589	1	3,950	▼ -48.0
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	560	▼ 0.0
GFC	64	64	16,231	1,039	1	64	▼ -6.0
SHOOTING	25.4	25.4	10	0	1	25.4	▼ -0.1
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500	▼ 0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	▼ 0.0
UFAC	615	610	5,606	3,430	3	610	▼ -10.0
ALAFAC	387	387	200,000	77,400	2	387	▲ 4.0
MUBARRAD	72	72	70,000	5,040	4	72	▼ -0.8
LOGISTICS	58	57	2,123,429	121,010	39	57	▼ -0.1
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	▼ 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	▼ 0.0
QIC	80	80	55,000	4,389	3	80	▲ 0.9
FCEM	75	72	508,525	36,871	11	72	▼ -3.1
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▼ 0.0
SPEC	86	85	81,500	6,935	11	85	▼ 0.0
Industrials			3,880,779	616,702	151	1772.53	▼ -18.20
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▼ 0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	255	▼ 0.0
DANAH	72	70	241,001	16,892	8	71	▲ 1.0
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,750	▼ 0.0
Consumer Goods			241,001	16,892	8	977.22	▼ -3.60
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	▼ 0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175	▼ 0
Health Care			0	0	0	1510.51	▼ 0.00
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,340	▼ 0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▼ 0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▼ 0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.8	▼ 0
IFHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	299	▼ 0
DULAFUEL	116	115	63,700	7,347	10	116	▼ 0
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	▼ 0
JAZEERA	640	639	5,000	3,198	2	640	▼ 0
SOOR	116	113	84,489	9,665	17	115	▼ -2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	111	▼ 0
ALRAI	119	119	20,314	2,417	1	119	▲ 7
Jyad	55	50	727,520	37,409	20	52	▼ -3
Mazzan	830	830	100,000	83,000	7	830	▼ 0
Consumer Services			1,861,963	143,037	57	926.71	▼ -7.40
ZAIN	518	493	10,949,709	5,504,834	562	499	▼ -17
OORDOO	1,153	1,153	1,118	1,289	2	1,153	▼ -45
AAN	32.8	32.0	448,967	14,410	16	32.5	▲ 1
VIVA	765	752	58,564	44,116	34	755	▲ 2
Telecommunications			11,457,953	5,964,649	614	572.40	▼ -6.00
NBK	783	779	1,462,956	1,142,136	98	780	▼ 0
GBK	252	248	447,205	111,848	30	250	▼ -1
CBK	396	395	46,255	18,271	1	395	▼ 0
ABK	313	309	150,100	46,381	4	313	▲ 1
ALMUTAHED	405	404	20,000	8,080	5	405	▲ 1
KIB	248	247	153,068	37,850	11	247	▼ -1
BURG	345	342	185,100	63,008	10	345	▼ -3
KFIN	601	596	588,041	351,963	57	598	▼ -2
BOUYIYAN	459	454	477,302	218,531	28	456	▼ -2
AUB	206	205	900,850	184,674	14	205	▼ -1
ITHMR	38.7	38.0	698,600	26,672	51	38.5	▼ 0
WARBANK	238	236	453,373	109,658	88	236	▼ -1
Banks			5,982,870	2,319,873	407	945.09	▼ -4.90
KNS	276	275	147,535	40,592	3	275	▼ -11
GNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	▼ 0.0
AJNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	▼ 0.0
WNS	80	65	36,075	2,673	9	80	▼ -0.1
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187	▼ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	▼ 0.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44.0	▼ 0.0
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▼ 0.0
Insurance			183,610	43,265	12	1091.52	▼ -13.50
Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOHOK	55	54	54690	29,572	22	54	▼ -1.5
KRE	82	82	154,000	9,471	4	82	▼ 0.0
URC	84	82	8,050	660	3	82	▲ 3.0
NRE	131	126	192,299	24,382	11	131	▲ 1.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▼ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	386	▼ 0.0
AREEC	176	175	8,305	1,454	2	176	▲ 1.0
MASSALEH	39.5	38.0	14,050	534	2	39.5	▼ 0.0
ARABREC	36.4	35.0	4,018,075	142,975	123	35.8	▼ -1.2
ERESCO	39.0	39.0	161,912	6,315	7	39.0	▼ -0.5
MABANEI	790	786	125,850	99,382	11	786	▼ -3.0
INJAZZAT	87	82	2,288	192	3	82	▲ 1.0
INVESTORS	18.5	17.8	11,558,235	210,140	129	17.9	▼ -0.4
IRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.0	▼ 0.0
ALTUARIA	95	94	35,447	3,325	7	94	▲ 0.6
BANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.0	▼ 0.0
AAYANRE	82	82	130,000	10,660	6	82	▼ -0.2
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▼ 0.0
ALAGARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.0	▼ 0.0
MAZAYA	112	112	992,831	106,717	16	112	▼ -2.0
TUARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	▼ 0.0
TAAMEER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	34.5	▼ 0.0
ARKAN	86	86	10,000	860	1	86	▼ 0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	132	▼ 0.0
ABYAR	24.5	23.9	773,787	18,588	23	24.1	▲ 0.1
MUNSHAAT	78	75	1,452,245	110,843	36	77	▼ -0.5
FIRSTDUBAI	46.7	45.1	11,200	506	3	46.7	▲ 0.2
KBT	419	418	220,000	10,769	12	419	▼ -0.7
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▼ 0.0
MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.3	▼ 0.0
ALMUDON	39.5	36.8	190,500	7,324	12	39.0	▼ -1.0
MARAKEZ	37.0	37.0	100	4	1	37.0	▲ 0.2
REMAL	80	54	143,149	8,340	8	60	▼ -1.0
Mashar	75	75	3,000	225	2	75	▼ -2.0
Real Estate			20,710,110	803,239	444	938.42	▼ -7.00
KINV	132	126	8,264,581	1,063,452	271	127	▲ 5.0
FACIL	179	175	69,989	12,348	8	179	

# CHEVROLET ALGHANIM UNVEILS ALL-NEW 2018 CHEVROLET EQUINOX!

*The best-selling Chevrolet cross-over in the United States!*



**O**n Thursday November 26, 2017, in an attractive display at the Avenues mall, Chevrolet Alghanim revealed the all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox as the latest addition to its rich lineup! This marks the Equinox's very first presence in the region after amassing great success in the other markets since its introduction in 2005. Chevrolet Alghanim revealed the car as part of its participation in Discover America Week, with the presence of many representatives and high profile personnel from General Motors, Alghanim Industries media, and the US Embassy.

The 2018 Equinox provides customers with a powertrain that balances performance, efficiency and capability.

All-New 2018 Equinox will be available with 2 Turbo engines, 1.5 Liter that delivers 170HP and 2.0 Liter delivering a 252HP, 352 nm of torque and paired to GM's all-new 9-speed automatic transmission.

**Key features:**

- The new Equinox's expressive exterior has a lean, muscular skin echoing the global Chevrolet design cues and sculpted shapes seen in the new Malibu.
- The interior takes advantage of the Equinox's all-new architecture to offer new elements such as available denim-

style seat fabric which blends high style with high durability. More safety features include the New Safety Alert Seat, and the New Low-Speed Forward Automatic Braking

- The Equinox offers exceptional fuel efficiency, with a combined 12.3km per liter, helping you go further for less.
- It incorporates the latest in weight reduction technology, that contributes to vehicle balance and efficiency.
- The 2018 Equinox is available in All

Wheel Drive, with an AWD disconnect feature that promotes fuel efficiency when the rear axle is not needed.

- Chevrolet's 7- and 8-inch MyLink infotainment systems, designed to support Apple CarPlay and Android Auto
- Panoramic reinforced rooftop
- A standard feature is the ability to change speeds
- Switchable AWD system that enhances efficiency by disconnecting from the rear axle when not needed

- LED headlamps and taillamps
- Extensive aero development in the wind tunnel for fuel-efficient on high-speed roads
- Standard noise reduction feature
- Leather front seats with a ventilation feature
- Unique kneeling rear seat that enables a flat rear load floor and maximum cargo space

**Safety features:**

The all-new Equinox's expanded safety features are rooted in a stronger body structure and a range of available advanced driver safety assistance features, which include folding pedal set when colliding. Other safety features include Rear Parking Assist, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Change Alert with Side Blind Zone Alert and external mirrors with signal lamps. The advanced active safety features also include the New Low-Speed Forward Automatic Braking, radar- and camera-based adaptive technologies that can provide alerts to potential crash threats such as the New Forward Collision Alert with Following Distance Indicator, New Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning, New Rear Seat Reminder and the IntelliBeam headlamps that offer automatic high-beam control.



## Business

# Energy, not tech or finance, in CEO lineup for Trump's China visit

## Tech firms limited by market access barriers

BEIJING: US energy and commodities firms will make up a major part of a business delegation visiting Beijing at the same time as US President Donald Trump goes to China in November, according to an initial list seen by Reuters.

Prominent technology and financial companies are mostly absent from the list, reflecting the slow progress Washington has made in opening up China in those sectors.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who will lead the 29 companies that have been approved to travel on the trade mission starting on Nov. 8, said they will be looking for "immediate results" and "tangible agreements". But, speaking at the Paley International Council Summit in New York on Wednesday, he acknowledged that market access, intellectual property rights, and tariffs are more complex and will take a longer time to negotiate.

Some major industrial companies - General Electric Co, Honeywell International Inc and Boeing Co - are among the companies on the current list.

Whether executives from all the named companies end up attending could be subject to agreements or deals being negotiated in time for the visit, according to multiple sources whose companies are involved. One of the few tech companies going with Trump is Qualcomm, which earns about half of its global revenue in China and faces a series of tricky legal issues there, including a lawsuit with Apple and the Chinese government's review of its pending \$38 billion merger with NXP Semiconductors. Qualcomm said its CEO, Steve Mollenkopf, planned to attend.

An industry source told Reuters tech firms were reluctant to go, given China market access issues, the unpredictability of the Trump administration, and a "Section 301" US trade investigation alleging Chinese abuses of intellectual property.

"(These) issues are extremely sensitive for tech companies said another source in the US business community.

"Very few want to stick their heads up and be perceived as complaining directly, and even fewer trust this White House to do anything helpful on their issues," he said. Particularly galling to foreign tech firms are a slate of new national security and cyber security regulations, which mandate companies store crucial data within China and pass security reviews they argue could put business secrets at risk.

### Testy relationship

Trump, a real estate magnate who had never before

held public office, has had a sometimes testy relationship with corporate America since taking office in January. He disbanded two high-profile business advisory councils in August after several chief executives quit in protest over his controversial remarks on racist violence in Charlottesville.

US industry sources say it has been years since a major business delegation has gone to China during a US presidential visit. Calls for such a delegation during Trump's visit originated in the China-based US business community, according to several sources, who saw a need to match growing efforts by Germany, France and Britain to promote their nation's firms in China.

Trump, who has frequently cited the substantial US trade deficit with China as a reason why Washington should take more protectionist measures, was an easy sell on incorporating a group of executives into the visit, according to the sources. Nonetheless, some trade analysts say China has done a good job of taming Trump's combative trade impulses. They worry the U.S. administration will be willing to paper over market access concerns during the visit in its focus on getting Beijing to take action against North Korea over its nuclear and missile programs.

Beijing agreed in May to grant limited US access in financial services in bilateral talks aimed at reducing China's trade surplus with the United States which reached \$347 billion last year, but business groups complained it was too little, too late.

William Zarit, the chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, told Reuters he didn't expect Trump to push hard on market access issues on this trip.

"Unfortunately, I think the Chinese aren't going to start to respond until they feel some pain," Zarit said. "We're all wondering what that is going to mean."

Scott Kennedy, at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington, said Beijing has deflected commercial issues "using a combination of leadership flattery, coaxing up to his (Trump's) family, token concessions, adjusting their level of help on North Korea sanctions, and threats of retaliation should the US take any unilateral action".

### Gas exports

Agribusiness and energy firms dominate the delegation list. They include Archer Daniels Midland Co (ADM), one of the world's largest grain companies, and chemicals and agribusiness giant DowDuPont.



## China world's third-largest gas buyer

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BEIJING: A woman takes a nap at a brokerage house displaying stock trading index in Beijing yesterday. Asian stock markets were mixed yesterday as investors waited to find out US President Donald Trump's pick to head the Federal Reserve. —AP

Ten of the companies are involved in gas or other energy fields, including Cheniere Energy Inc, which operates the only US liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminal, three that are building new projects, and Freepoint Commodities, founded and run by David Messer, who led power utility Sempra's vaunted commodities division.

Their presence underscores the US ambition to sell more of its excess gas abroad as its shale revolution contributes to a global LNG glut.

Others on the list who confirmed plans to attend include GE, Houston-based LNG company Delfin Midstream, SolarReserve, Stine Seed Company, biotech firm Drylet, wastewater-processing firm Viroment and the US Soybean Export Council.

Bell Helicopter and crane-maker Terex Corp are also on the delegation list. Honeywell, DowDuPont and ADM did not respond immediately to a request for comment and Freepoint, Cheniere, Sempra Energy, and Texas LNG Brownsville LLC said they had no comment.

Boeing told Reuters it does not yet have plans to send anyone but that may change. Alaska Gasline Development Corp said it had no information to release.

The US Commerce Department, which is leading the delegation, has not yet issued its own list. At least one of

the companies on the list tried to distance itself from Trump. SolarReserve told Reuters in a statement that it had been selected to participate in the commerce department's delegation but stressed that "we are not part of the business delegation travelling to China with President Trump."

### Toting existing deals

One US official told Reuters on condition of anonymity that Trump will tout deals announced during the trip, but they would have likely happened regardless.

The risk is that commercial deals "distract from long-term political solutions" to trade issues, the official said. Evan Medeiros, former President Barack Obama's top Asia adviser, made a similar point in Washington. Beijing would avoid seriously addressing the "underlying systemic problems" such as market access for high-tech goods and intellectual property protection during the visit, he predicted.

"The Chinese will be happy to buy a lot of American goods. That's what they know Trump wants - big export numbers," he said, predicting that China would announce big business deals and allow the president to tout them during his visit. —Reuters

## Apple Q3 iPhone shipments surge 40% in China

SHANGHAI: Apple has ended an 18-month slump in iPhone sales in China with a 40 percent surge in shipments in the third quarter, according to a private survey released yesterday. About 11 million iPhones were sold in China from July to September compared to eight million in the same period last year, research firm Canalis said in a report. Apple had negative year-on-year growth in China for the previous six quarters. The uptick in deliveries came even though the country's overall market declined five percent in the same quarter.

"The high sell-in caters to the pent-up demand of iPhone upgraders in the absence of the iPhone X," said Canalis analyst Mo Jia, adding that price cuts on earlier models after the announcement of the iPhone 8 also helped. But Apple's iPhone shipments still lag far behind domestic rivals, with the company ranked only fifth on the mainland behind Huawei, Oppo, Vivo and Xiaomi. Third-quarter growth was only temporary, according to Mo, predicting that Apple was unlikely to sustain such momentum in Q4. —AFP

## Nikon closes Chinese compact camera factory

TOKYO: Nikon said yesterday it has ceased operations at a compact camera factory in China, underscoring how picture-taking smartphones have devastated the market for digital cameras. Tokyo-based Nikon, which is going through a sweeping restructuring to repair its finances, said it ended operations of Nikon Imaging (China) in eastern Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province, which employed nearly 2,300 people.

"In recent years...due to the rise of smartphones, the compact digital camera market has been shrinking rapidly, leading to a significant decrease in operating rate at NIC (Nikon Imaging China) and creating a difficult business environment," Nikon said in a statement.

"The company has decided to discontinue operations of NIC. Thereafter, we will begin conducting relevant dissolution and liquidation procedures," it added.

Nikon said it expected the factory closure to cost around 7.0 billion yen (\$62 million), but added that China will remain one of its key markets. —AFP

## Oklahoma City, where parking meters began, modernizes system

OKLAHOMA CITY: The city where parking meters were born more than eight decades ago is phasing out the last of the coin-gobbling contraptions that reshaped America's downtowns in favor of computerized models seen in many other places.

Parking meters came into the picture as the streetcar age gave way to the era of the automobile, remaking urban transportation and the way civic planners and business owners imagined commerce centers for more than three generations. But old-school analogue meters have been disappearing, as cities have been investing in the digital ones that take plastic, along with coins.

The changing technology has meant Oklahoma City's parking meters have been operating on borrowed time. Their guts date to the 1960s and 1970s, and many companies that once serviced them have long been out of business. "The companies just plain and simple don't support the technology anymore," says Cory Hubert, Oklahoma City's parking services manager.

This oil-and-gas hub's new solar-powered kiosks feature a "pay-by-plate" system, though it will still have some older models through the end of the year.

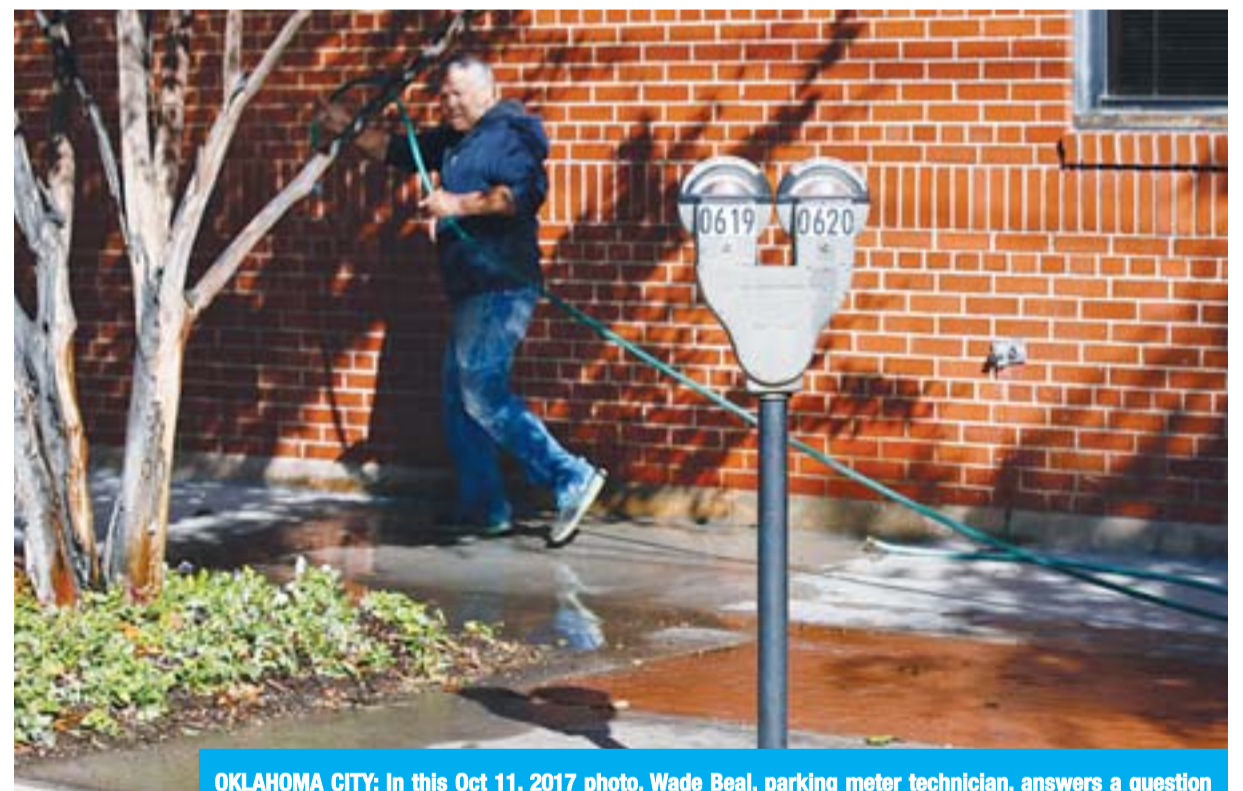
Motorists' mostly hate-hate relationship with the parking meter began in 1935, when the first one sprouted here. The collective rage, like most things, worked its way into popular culture.

Paul Newman's beer-swiggling title character in the 1967 movie "Cool Hand Luke" lops the heads off parking meters lining a nearly deserted downtown drag. "It was an iconic opening scene: it was this act of rebellion," says Bob Blackburn, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, where the inaugural Park-O-Meter No. 1 is on display. "That director knew that everyone hated parking meters."

A pain, maybe, but Blackburn said their influence can't be overstated.

## Corporate deal-making driven by fast technological change

LONDON: The appetite for mergers and acquisitions remains near a record high as firms try to adapt to fast technological changes and despite a welter of geopolitical concerns, a survey of executives found yesterday. In its half-yearly report of mergers and acquisitions, or M&A, consulting firm EY found that 56 percent of firms are planning a deal within the next 12



OKLAHOMA CITY: In this Oct 11, 2017 photo, Wade Beal, parking meter technician, answers a question during an interview in Oklahoma City. —AP

"The parking meter is a perfect example of a pivot point on how people got around in American urban areas," he said. "It sparked a renaissance in our inner cities." As automobiles became more common, downtown traffic jams irked merchants. Store owners complained that most of the cars parked near their storefronts were owned by people who worked downtown, alienating potential customers. Commerce won out, and the parking meter was born, in part, to keep traffic moving.

Millions of meters began springing up in cities throughout the United States. Cities came to rely on the

steady revenue from the meters - and the fines for failing to pay - to pad coffers. Those fines aren't going away. Nor are Oklahoma City's five meter readers, much to the chagrin of 20-year-old barista Marina Lozano, who says "they're so ruthless."

And not everyone thinks newer is better. Stay-at-home dad Will Cross was hunched over one of the new units on a recent afternoon, trying to find out where his ticket was before the machine finally spit one out. "I like the older ones better," Cross said. "A lot of people don't understand the computers. I'm 48 and I don't understand it." —AP

months. That's unchanged from the previous survey in April but way above the survey's long-run average. The survey shows that the high degree of potential M&A activity runs parallel to rising expectations over the state of the world economy, with all major economies growing in sync. A staggering 99 percent of global executives believe the M&A market will improve or remain stable this year.

Since a lull following the global financial crisis, when firms opted for a safety-first approach, M&A has become increasingly popular, with many companies opting to use their cash reserves to make deals, particularly in the field of financial technology. Among the big deals announced this year are Johnson & Johnson's \$30 billion takeover of Swiss pharmaceutical firm Actelion and United Technologies' plan to buy Rockwell Collins for about \$23 billion.

Other high-profile deals include Amazon's \$14 billion takeover of Whole Foods and Gilead's \$12 billion acquisition of Kite Pharma. —AP



PHILADELPHIA: This March 25, 2014 file photo shows a CVS store and pharmacy in Philadelphia. According to a report, the drugstore chain is in talks to buy Aetna, the nation's third-largest insurer. —AP



What's On

# Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts named Middle East's Leading Luxury Hotel Brand 2017

## At the World Travel Awards

Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts is celebrating after winning eight trophies at the World Travel Awards including the award for the Middle East's Leading Luxury Hotel Brand 2017.

The World Travel Awards are voted for by travel and tourism professionals and business and leisure travel consumers worldwide and these accolades recognize Jumeirah Group's commitment to excellence over the last twelve months.

Marc Dardenne, Group Chief Operating Officer and Interim CEO, said: "We are delighted to be named as the Middle East's leading luxury hotel brand 2017 at the Middle East Gala Ceremony for the World Travel Awards. This accolade demonstrates Jumeirah's strength in the market and enduring position as the region's leading luxury hotel brand. Equally as pleasing are the seven awards collected for our hotels in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait - testaments to the dedication of our General Managers and colleagues who work hard to constantly exceed our guests' expectations."

**The complete list of awards include:**

- Middle East's Leading Luxury Hotel Brand 2017: Jumeirah.
- Middle East's Leading All Suite Hotel 2017: Burj Al-Arab Jumeirah, Dubai.
- Middle East's Leading Family and Mice Hotel 2017: Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Dubai.
- Middle East's Leading Hotel 2017: Jumeirah Al-Qasr at Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai.
- Middle East's Leading Luxury Business Hotel 2017: Jumeirah at Etihad Towers, Abu Dhabi.
- United Arab Emirates's Leading Hotel 2017: Burj Al-Arab Jumeirah.
- United Arab Emirates's Leading Lifestyle Hotel 2017: Jumeirah at Etihad Towers, Abu Dhabi.
- Middle East's Leading Business Hotel 2017: Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, Kuwait.



Jumeirah Group Executives pose with their awards.

## Hilton celebrates Oktoberfest with German Ambassador



To celebrate this year's Oktoberfest - the popular German festival celebrated by millions of people around the world - Hilton Kuwait Resort hosted over 200 guests, including the German Ambassador to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner, in a traditional celebration at the hotel's Palm Court Terrace. Adorned in festive decorations,

the terrace was bustling with families and friends, as children swayed to the live music and shouts of glee could be heard as guests won dining vouchers as part of a raffle.

Attendees arrived in style, dressed in traditional German Lederhosen and Dirndl, ready to celebrate the occasion with live cooking stations serving an array of

sumptuous traditional German delights, including pretzels and Bratwurst and good-cheer. With thousands of Europeans living in Kuwait, Oktoberfest is celebrated by the local expat community each year and this year Hilton Kuwait Resort welcomed guests to celebrate Oktoberfest with gusto.

Florian Gruhl, Director of Operations at Hilton Kuwait Resort said: "We love to celebrate occasions such as Oktoberfest with the local community. This year's event built on the success of the three previous years and we look forward to hosting Karlfried Bergner and the German community at future celebrations."

## LOYAC hosts Egyptian musician

In collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), LOYAC recently organized a concert for Egyptian musician and pianist Amr Selim and his band at Abdulhussein Abdulredha Theatre. The concert was attended by NCCAL's Assistant Secretary General For Cultural Affairs Mohammed Al-Assoussi and LOYAC's Chairperson

Fareah Al-Saqqaf. After thanking LOYAC for hosting him again in Kuwait after 38 years, Selim played eleven pieces of the finest oriental songs for some of the most prominent Arab singers. He also presented each piece in a most humorous manner, playing songs for Mohammad Abdul Wahab, Abdul Haleem Hafez, Fareed Al-Atrash and Angham.



The raffle draw winner of 'Win up to 100 kilos of Gold' campaign, Eshwar Rao N receives the prize of 1/4 KG gold from Afsal Khan, Zonal Head, Malabar Gold and Diamonds, in the presence of officials from Malabar Gold and Diamonds.

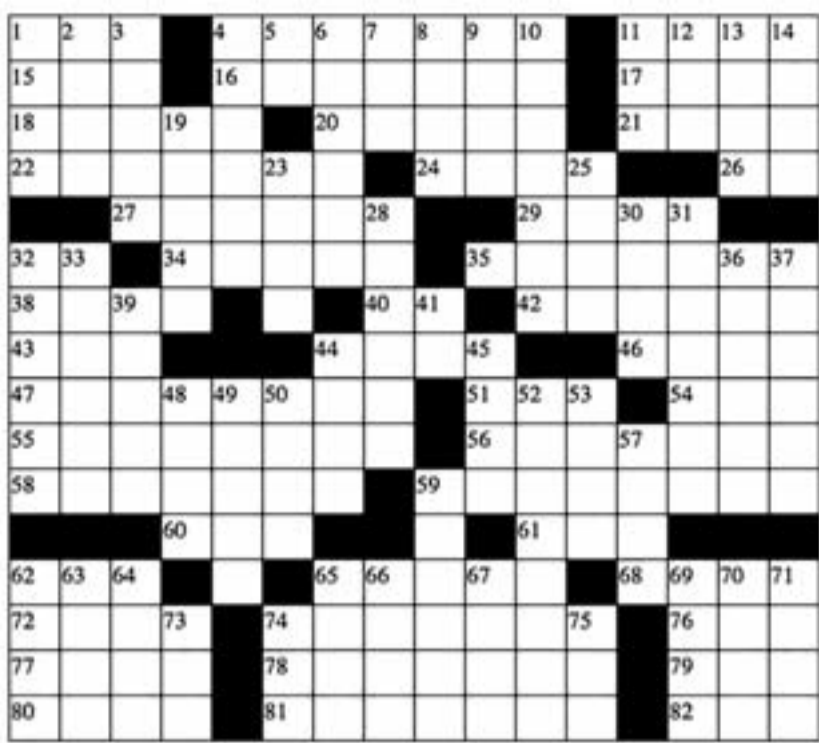


The raffle draw winner of 'Win up to 100 kilos of Gold' campaign, Reyaz Ahmed receives the prize of 1/4 KG gold from Afsal Khan, Zonal Head, Malabar Gold and Diamonds, in the presence of officials from Malabar Gold and Diamonds.



The raffle draw winner of 'Win up to 100 kilos of Gold' campaign, Noore Nazar Jhan Shareef receives the prize of 1/4 KG gold from Afsal Khan, Zonal Head, Malabar Gold and Diamonds, in the presence of officials from Malabar Gold and Diamonds.

CROSSWORD 1749



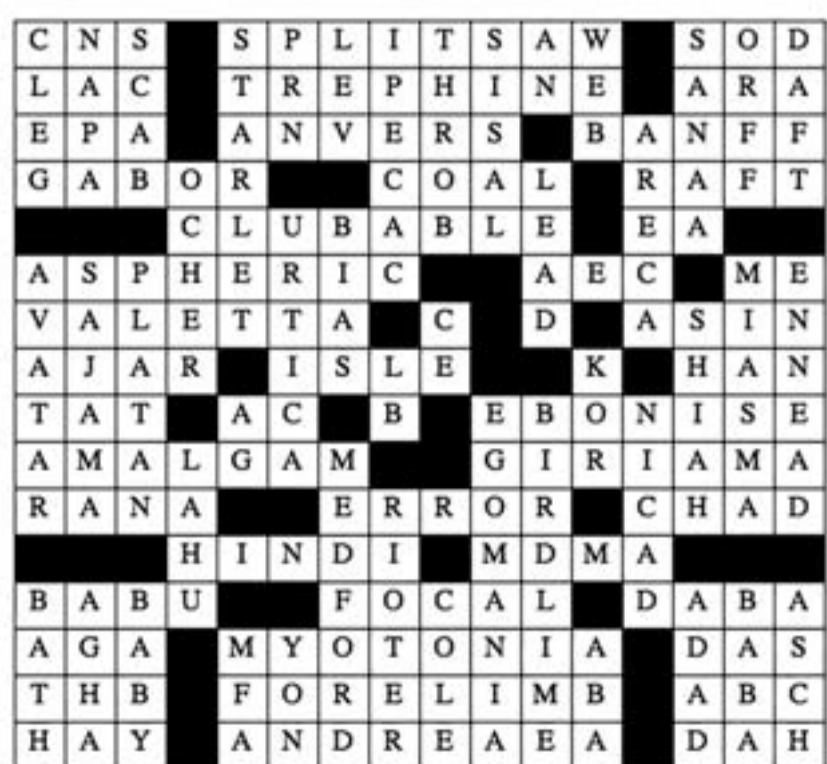
ACROSS

1. System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and seconds.
4. Tropical American tree with large peltate leaves and hollow stems.
11. Telephone line (Wide Area Telephone Service).
15. The upper side of the thighs of a seated person.
16. Danish composer (1865-1931).
17. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
18. Any of several tall tropical palms native to southeastern Asia having egg-shaped nuts.
20. Swiss writer (born in Germany) whose novels and poems express his interests in Eastern spiritual values (1877-1962).
21. A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
22. An ancient city in southern Greece.
24. Deciduous or evergreen shrubs and shrubby trees of temperate and subtropical North America, South Africa, eastern Asia and northeastern Australia.
26. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
27. In the Arabian Nights a hero who tells of the fantastic adventures he had in his voyages.
29. A Hindu prince or king in India.
32. 1,000,000,000 periods per second.
34. English monk and scholar (672-735).
35. A portable brazier that burns charcoal and has a grill for cooking.
38. Avatar of Vishnu.
40. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
42. (Sumerian and Akkadian) A demon personifying death.
43. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
46. An island in Indonesia east of Java.
47. (Japan) Ritual suicide by self-disembowelment on a sword.
51. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
54. Injured by bites or stings.
55. Having antlers.
56. Italian operatic soprano (born in 1922).
58. Pouch used in the shipment of mail.
60. Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
61. A state-chartered savings bank owned by its depositors and managed by a board of trustees.
62. Tag the base runner to get him out.
68. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
72. The sixth month of the civil year.
76. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
77. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
78. Relating to or like or divided into areolae.
79. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
80. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
81. Having close kinship and appropriate names.
82. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.

DOWN

1. Burrowing marine mollusk living on sand or mud.
2. A city in northwest Indiana on Lake Michigan.
3. Optical instrument consisting of a pair of lenses for correcting defective vision.
4. (Sumerian) Consort of Dumuzi (Tammuz).
5. Destruction of heart tissue resulting from obstruction of the blood supply to the heart muscle.
6. Cut the head off.
7. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
8. A former communist country in eastern Europe and northern Asia.
9. Pretentious or silly talk or writing.
10. A B vitamin that prevents beriberi.
11. Pan with a convex bottom.
12. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
13. A three-tone Chadic language.
14. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
19. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
23. In bed.
25. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
28. Large tropical butterfly with degenerate forelegs and an unpleasant taste.
30. Upright consisting of a vertical side member of a door or window frame.
31. Capable of being acted.
33. A small tent used as a dressing room beside the sea or a swimming pool.
36. A salt of any halogen acid.
37. Inflammation of the iris.
39. Cuban poet and revolutionary who fought for Cuban independence from Spain (1853-1895).
41. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
44. A small amount of residue.
45. A wine bottle made of leather.
48. (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
49. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
50. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
52. Of or relating to or characteristic of Bermuda or its inhabitants.
53. Wading birds of warm regions having long slender down-curved bills.
57. A French abbot.
59. Of clothing.
63. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
64. A small cake leavened with yeast.
65. (comparative of 'much' used with mass nouns) Quantifier meaning greater in size or amount or extent or degree.
66. A person who makes use of a thing.
67. Offering fun and gaiety.
69. The lower house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
70. An informal term for a father.
71. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
73. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
74. A label made of cardboard or plastic or metal.
75. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Communicating and getting your message across to others is important. No worries... Your timing should be perfect and others should find you most spontaneous. Making peace with the past, coming to terms with karmic debts—these are some of the issues that you deal with as a new phase begins in your life. Failure to face these things can cause setbacks and put obstacles in your path. Learn to look beyond the narrowly personal and selfish or you will get in over your head. A little exercise this evening can work off some of the frustrations you may have built up lately. Notice nature's new colors in and around your neighborhood. Tonight you may decide to bring some of your plants inside so as to care for them better—the herbs perhaps.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Look for creative avenues to resolve work-related problems and realize that you may have a chance to rectify a situation that was previously out of control. Be tolerant if someone's appearance or manners are a little rough. Humor is the best defense against vulgarity. This day brings with it opportunities to uncover and find the truth in a confusing issue. An active attention to your nutritional needs is important. When you are under stress, it is important to increase your level of certain vitamins. Pay attention to this need and if you find it necessary, learn about the supplements that could be helpful for better health, especially if you are experiencing any stress. Your home environment and friends get attention this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There are favorable changes happening. Any improvements or changes you want to make in the workplace will be successful. Charitable endeavors can also be quite successful now. Today through the end of this week is a great time to take some vacation time. If you are working, others value your ability to make practical decisions. You have a natural sense of what the public wants. Clear decisions affecting others could be made now. Emotional security and a sense of belonging and nurturing others are issues felt instinctively. You may enjoy engaging views by observing a new bird or watching a sunset over the water... They kick-start the spirit and make you fall in love with life all over again. Get your photography equipment in order—be prepared.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There is good fortune coming to you as things open up in a very natural way. Tremendous success in creative ventures can provide great satisfaction and may even bring financial rewards. It is easy to see which path is the one to take. Opportunities flourish and you may find yourself wanting and able to do almost anything. Your work or career is in real harmony with the rest of your life. You could gain from young people during this time. Emotional security and a sense of belonging and nurturing are felt instinctively. Your popularity soars this whole week. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general become uncomplicated and receive encouragement. Love relationships can be rather fiery, but enjoyable.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Although you shy away from challenges, you cannot escape facing a few of them. Challenges help us grow and learning about ourselves improves our problem-solving skills—today may be challenging. You have the mind of a lawyer, always able to size up a problem and come up with a solution. Using your mind to negotiate obstacles and handle dilemmas, yours or those of others, is a great talent. You have a natural ability to guide and lead others through the hurdles and hassles of life. You could be very much in demand as a counselor. It is rewarding for you to solve problems. Any professional advice you might need is available for you today. You could discover yourself through creativity and self-expression during this time.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Resist the temptation to exaggerate—you could damage your credibility. This may be most important when giving lectures or when teaching young people. Exercise authority in moderation—there are energies available now that make it possible to get your message over to others in a new style of presentation. This could be books, a reward system or some other way you have discovered lately. You can win everyone over to your viewpoint with your exceptional persuasive skill. This afternoon you might enjoy shopping for new clothes or some necessary items and meeting family members at a restaurant in the evening. There are makings in the works for a relaxed, enjoyable evening. Experiment with astral projection before nodding off to sleep.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may realize that there is a need for balance in your life. You could be working too hard or someone's joke may cause you to realize that it has been a long time since you experienced some real belly laughter. You may find it difficult to be spontaneous or to get away from routine and do something different. You may also find it necessary to make some changes in order to create more of a balance in your life. When you do enact a change, it is always at the deepest level and affects everything else in your life as well. This is good time for change, especially if you are aiming for any type of education or job change. Eliminate some of the things that do not serve a purpose for you anymore. Note—a charity would appreciate your discarded clothes.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your thoughts may undergo some change. There is a natural sense of growth and development, but there is also the strong foundation for leadership. Concentrating and getting down to the essential ideas are easy. Deep and penetrating conversations, particularly with a group or in relation to your situation, may be in order. Others could seek you out for your psychological insight and understanding. You will find an unexpected boost in the way you think, speak or write. Communications are uncomplicated and connections of all kinds, news and so on, are furthered—often at the expense of established order. The energies are good for any changes you may want to make in your environment: digging a well, planting a garden, etc.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Events make it difficult to make good decisions concerning career and life direction—patience. Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth become important issues in your life as a new phase begins. A fear of asserting yourself can hold you back—as can coming on too strong. The trick is learning to make the most of your personal talents and abilities and working within your limitations instead of feeling hemmed in by them. Co-workers are compatible and could give good advice without even realizing it—listen to and observe the things that are happening around you. Let your worries go this evening. Tonight you may earnestly try to begin a new habit and also involve the family. This could include having the evening meal together, often.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a very good day for job-related events. Group decisions may point to you to help with procedures to be followed. You have a natural sense of what would please the most difficult client. Clear decisions affecting others could be made now. Challenging authority and striving for success are on your agenda but you are smart and careful to phrase your words carefully—higher-ups want to please you. Properly directed, ambition is a powerful motivation and results in great achievement with recognition. 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 ideas. A good conversation with those you love is possible tonight.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Business travel has positive aspects this winter. Allow the momentum to carry you into broader career horizons and make yourself available to growth options. The key spot in your personality and circumstances is your mind—the world of ideas and communication. Others may challenge your ideas but this either sends you back to the beginning of your project or gives you new opportunities. You could easily become carried away with your view or explanation of things. In order to stay within the confines of being tasteful or sophisticated, pay attention to the response of others when you communicate. Make every effort to interact with family members tonight as you could be away from home for a few days. Loved ones enjoy your company this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a good day, with lots of energy and ambition. This is the day to start new projects or push forward with those already in motion. You may enjoy a sense of creating your own opportunities. A senior advisor or someone in authority is motivating. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste and emotion. You are called on to make use of your natural abilities and common sense. Your inner resources and emotions are accentuated. Expect a sense of support and good will from those around you. Material things and the whole concept of value take on more importance for you now. Financial security and enjoying the finer things in life assume a high priority.

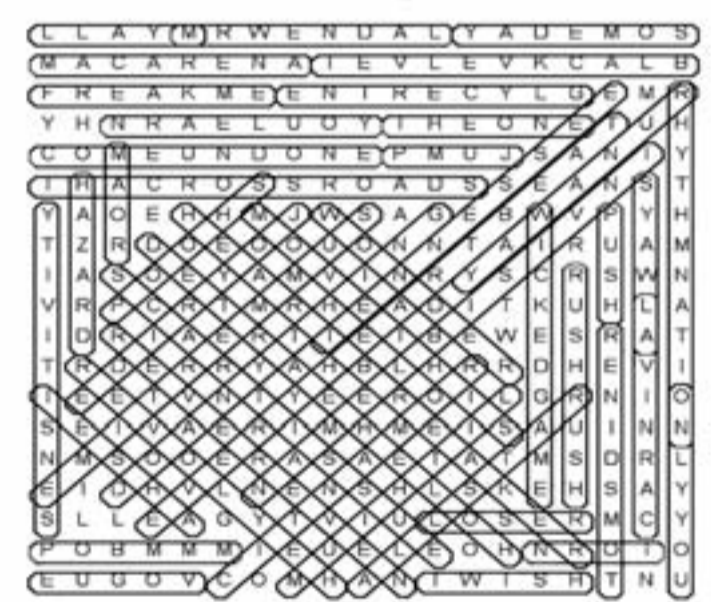
Wordsearch Puzzle

90's Songs 2

Find and circle all of the 1990's songs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional song.



90's Songs 1



The hidden song title is: MY HEART WILL GO ON

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Kuwait Times Classifieds

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Now you can browse  
www.kuwaittimes.net  
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY NIGHT:** Humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to southerly wind, with speed of 10 - 35 km/h with a chance for light fog forming over some areas.

**BY DAY:** Relatively hot with light to moderate variable wind to light north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for haze over open areas.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 30/10/2017 1200 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	37 °C	25 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	39 °C	18 °C			
ABDALY	37 °C	19 °C			
BUBYAN	31 °C	22 °C			
JAHRA	39 °C	22 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	32 °C	25 °C			
SALMIYAH	30 °C	25 °C			
AHMADI	30 °C	25 °C			
NUWAISIB	37 °C	18 °C			
WAFRA	38 °C	19 °C			
SALMY	37 °C	17 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	10/31	Relatively hot with a chance for haze over open areas	36 °C	18 °C	VRB-NW	06 - 26 km/h
Wednesday	11/01	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming	34 °C	20 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h
Thursday	11/02	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming	36 °C	18 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 35 km/h
Friday	11/03	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will	34 °C	18 °C	SE	15 - 40 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:39
Sunrise	06:00
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:40
Sunset	17:03
Isha	18:21

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	37 °C
MIN. Temp.	23 °C
MAX. RH	92 %
MIN. RH	13 %
MAX. Wind	S 39 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## AIRLINES

- American Airlines 22087425
- 22087426
- Kuwait Airways 171
- Jazeera Airways 177
- Jet Airways 22924455
- FlyDubai 22414400
- Qatar Airways 22423888
- KLM 22425747
- Air Slovakia 22434940
- Olympic Airways 22420002/9
- Royal Jordanian 22418064/5/6
- Reservation 22433388
- British Airways 22425635
- Air France 22430224
- Emirates 22921555
- Air India 22438184
- Sri Lanka Airlines 22424444
- Egypt Air 22421578
- Swiss Air 22421516
- Saudia 22426306
- Middle East Airlines 22423073
- Lufthansa 22422493
- PIA 22421044
- Alitalia 22414427
- Balkan Airlines 22416474
- Bangladesh Airlines 22452977/8
- Czech Airlines 22417901/2433141
- Indian Airlines 22456700
- Oman Air 22958787
- Turkish Airlines 22453820/1
- Aeroflot 22404838/9

### NOTICE OF POSTING (Newspaper)

The public is hereby notified that MOHAMMAD Y M A ALASSAF has filed with the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, State of Kuwait, a Migrant Petition for Correction of Clerical Errors in the Report of Marriage between MOHAMMED YOUSUF MOHAMMED AL ASSAF and ROXAN ARISTON EMPASE with Registry Number KT-008-2011.

Item No.	Description	From (or Error)	To (or Correct)
1	FULL NAME OF HUSBAND	MOHAMMED YOUSUF MOHAMMED AL ASSAF	MOHAMMAD Y M A ALASSAF
2	FULL NAME OF HUSBAND'S FATHER	YOUSUF MOHAMMAD AL-ASSAF	YOUSUF MOHAMMAD AJEEL ALASSAF
3	FULL NAME OF HUSBAND'S MOTHER	NASHRANAI SAYED	NASHRANAI S. NAHMOUD
4	CITIZENSHIP OF HUSBAND'S MOTHER	FILIPINO	KUWAITI
5	LAST NAME OF WIFE'S MOTHER	EMPASE	ARISTON
6	PLACE OF BIRTH OF WIFE	OLD LABANJAL ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	LABANJAL ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR AL MOESAK
7	LAST NAME OF JUDGE	MOHAMMAD ISHFAQ	MOHAMMAD HUSSEIN OTHMAN SHERKH
8	NAME OF SECOND WITNESS	OSMAN SHAK AHMED	HAZ AHMAD SARIKOLAND

Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said Petition, file a written opposition with the Philippine Embassy within ten (10) working days.

### लकजरी अपार्टमेंट किराए देना है

दो कमरे, हॉल, बॉरूथम, रसोईघर

सम्पर्क: 69996992, 66804222

### CHANGE OF NAME

4140032. From EMPASE MOHAMMAD TO EMPASE MOHAMMAD (middle name of child) from AL-ASSAF to ALASSAF (last name of child and last name of father) from Y.M. to Y M A. (middle name of father). Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition, file a written with the Philippine Embassy within ten working days. (C 5354) 31-10-2017

The public hereby notified that MOHAMMAD Y M A ALASSAF has filed with the embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, State of Kuwait a Migrant Petition for Correction of clerical errors in the report of birth of YASMINE EMPASE MOHAMMAD AL-ASSAF with registry number KT-ROB-007-2012/2012-

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

### Flight Schedule

#### DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 31/10/2017					Departure Flights on Tuesday 31/10/2017				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	KAC 672	Dubai	14:25			
JZR	539	Cairo	00:55	KAC 692	Muscat	14:35			
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	KAC 286	Dhaka	14:35			
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	GFA 221	Bahrain	14:40			
KAC	102	London	01:20	KAC 364	Colombo	14:40			
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	SVA 500	Jeddah	14:45			
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	KAC 304	Mumbai	14:50			
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KNE 529	Jeddah	15:00			
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC 788	Jeddah	15:10			
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC 502	Beirut	15:15			
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	ETD 303	Abu Dhabi	15:15			
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC 562	Amman	15:30			
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	OMA 645	Muscat	15:35			
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	UAE 857	Dubai	15:45			
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	QTR 1072	Doha	15:55			
KAC	414	Bangkok	03:05	KAC 118	New York	16:00			
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KAC 801	Damascus	16:00			
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	FDK 801	Damascus	16:00			
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ABY 127	Sharjah	16:00			
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	JZR 779	Jeddah	16:15			
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	FDB 051	Dubai	16:40			
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	RJA 640	Amman	16:55			
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	KAC 341	Damascus	17:00			
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	KAC 542	Cairo	17:05			
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	SVA 510	Riyadh	17:15			
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	GFA 215	Bahrain	17:30			
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:10	JZR 777	Jeddah	17:45			
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	JZR 325	Al Najaf	17:50			
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	JZR 215	Tbilisi	17:50			
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	WAN 984	Dubai	18:00			
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	UAE 875	Dubai	18:00			
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40	FDB 063	Dubai	18:10			
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR 177	Dubai	18:15			
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:20	MSR 620	Dubai	18:30			
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30	QTR 1080	Doha	18:50			
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:30	KAC 744	Dammam	19:10			
WAN	342	Sohag	06:35	KAC 776	Riyadh	19:20			
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	ABY 123	Sharjah	19:25			
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50	RBG 555	Alexandria	19:25			
BAW	157	London	07:15	KAC 662	Abu Dhabi	19:25			
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	GFA 217	Bahrain	19:30			
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	KAC 156	Istanbul	19:30			
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	NIA 161	Cairo	19:40			
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC 674	Dubai	19:45			
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	FDB 057	Dubai	19:50			
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC 616	Bahrain	19:55			
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	KAC 166	Rome	20:10			
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC 620	Doha	20:15			
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	OMA 647	Muscat	20:20			
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR 1088	Doha	20:45			
IRA	675	Lar	10:40	DLH 624	Frankfurt	20:45			
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	ETD 307	Abu Dhabi	21:20			
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	MEA 402	Beirut	21:20			
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	ALK 229	Colombo	21:20			
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:10	KAC 168	Paris	21:20			
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC 786	Jeddah	21:25			
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	KAC 172	Frankfurt	21:30			
FDB	075	Dubai	12:45	KAC 859	Dubai	21:35			
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	GFA 219	Bahrain	21:45			
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	KAC 168	Paris	21:20			
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC 786	Jeddah	21:25			
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15	KAC 172	Frankfurt	21:30			
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40	KAC 859	Dubai	21:35			
QTR	8511	Doha	13:55	PIA 239	Sialkot	22:25			
PAL	668	Manila	14:00	JZR 241	Amman	22:40			
KAC	618	Doha	14:15	JZR 185	Dubai	23:10			
KAC	516	Tehran	14:20	JAI 574	Mumbai	23:15			
QTR	1078	Doha	14:20	MSC 405	Sohag	23:30			
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	BBC 043	Dhaka	23:30			
				FDB 071	Dubai	23:45			



## ALEXANDRA BURKE SEEING GHOST OF HER LATE MOTHER

**T**he 29-year-old pop star was left devastated over the summer when her mum Melissa Bell - who was one of the lead singers of the R&B band Soul II Soul - tragically passed away from a lengthy battle with kidney failure, but she has admitted her death is still something she's coming to terms with because she's been seeing her sitting in the audience with her brother every week when she performs on 'Strictly Come Dancing.' Speaking to HELLO! magazine, she said: "I think mum is watching over me ... When the camera panned to the audience, I saw my mum sitting with my brother and I choked up. Then it hit me that she wasn't there." And the time she saw her mum's figure sitting in the audience happened to be the

week Alexandra score a 39 out of 40 for her Jive to Tina Turner's 'Proud Mary'. She explained: "I can't even begin to describe how it felt losing mum and I'm still grieving. I'm feeling all kind of weird feelings. One minute I'm really happy and then I'll see a picture of smell something that reminds me of her and it takes me all the way back. Losing my mum so young made me question my faith in God and so many things because I was completely in denial with how sick she was." Alexandra found out her mum had kidney failure when she auditioned for 'The X Factor', which she went on to win, in 2008 and has admitted she'd love nothing more than to go back to her routes once the ballroom and latin show has wrapped up.

## Stormzy annoying his girlfriend Maya with loud snoring

**T**he 23-year-old TV presenter has bemoaned that the 24-year-old grime rapper is interrupting her slumber with his nasal noise most nights. Maya told BBC Radio 1 Breakfast Show host Nick Grimshaw her boyfriend's most annoying habits ahead of his interview on the UK station yesterday, accusing him of being a "duvet hog" and a snoring sleeper. But Stormzy isn't convinced he's a loud snorer and says he won't accept her moan until she can present him with evidence. After being told what Maya thinks his worst habits are by Nick, 33, Stormzy said: "You know what, I'm not convinced that I snore. This is how I see it, we go to bed, we wake up, she says, 'You were snoring.' Where's the evidence? You get what I mean? I just wake up to a new accusation or new charge of, 'Yes, you were snoring.' Maybe she was snoring, I don't know. I'm not buying it. Duvet hogging I'll take that because there's evidence." Stormzy and 'Cannonball' presenter Maya have been dating since 2015 and the 'Big for Your Boots' hitmaker recently admitted he is planning to make Maya his wife. He said: "I'm still so young but I want to propose, it's going to happen and I will do it right. She is so sick, she is the best." Despite their relationship garnering more and more attention from fans as the romance gets stronger, the pair are keen to keep things under wraps as Maya wants to keep the focus on their respective careers rather than their love life.



## Karen Gillan insists she is a 'pretty awkward person'

**T**he 29-year-old actress portrays commando Ruby Roundhouse in forthcoming film 'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle' but admits in real life she is much more like her alter-ego's avatar Martha Schwartz - played by Morgan Turner - who is a shy bookworm. She said: "Honestly, I'm Martha. I completely understand why I was cast in this role because I'm a pretty awkward person in general. But I keep getting cast in these kicka\*\* roles, so I just honestly feel like it's so close to my life." The former 'Doctor Who' star - who portrays alien supervillain Nebula in the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' film franchise - cannot work out why she has been cast in such tough-female roles, but thinks it is something to do with her 5ft 11inch frame. She said: "I don't know, that's something I'm trying to work out. It might be because I'm tall?" While Karen enjoys taking on the parts, she felt right at home recently when she stepped behind the camera for her forthcoming big screen directorial debut in 'The Party's Just Beginning', which she also stars in and wrote. Speaking to Virgin Atlantic's Vera Magazine, the brunette - who helmed two short films, 'Coward', and 'Conventional', in 2015 - added: "I loved it so much. It's just something I want to do more and more now. When I was a kid, before I decided that I wanted to be an actress, I had this video camera, which was my prize possession, and I was making horror films in my house and using my friends and parents as actors. "If we go right back to the beginning that was everything to me, and I feel like I've finally like made my way back to that, because it felt the same as making tiny films, just on a bigger scale."



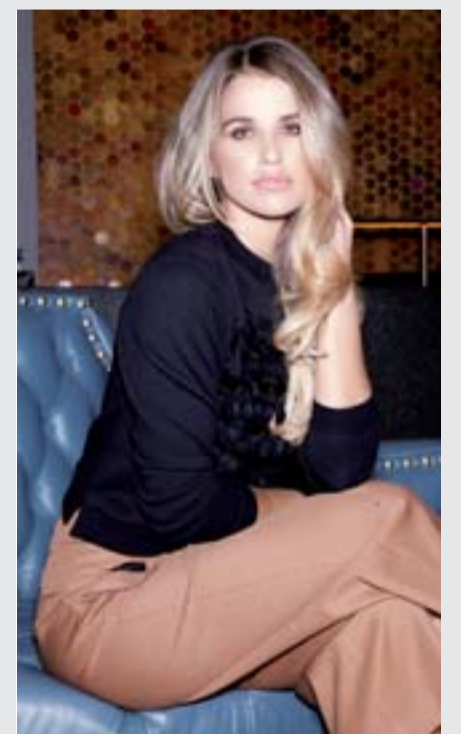
## Bieber called a 'vile human' by Selena Gomez's family member

**T**he 'Never Say Never' hitmaker met up with the 25-year-old singer - who he was involved in an on/off relationship with between 2011 and 2014 - on Sunday at JOi Cafe in Westlake Village, California, but one of her relatives is not happy about the reunion. A member of Selena's family is said to have told gossip website TMZ: "Justin is a vile human and will never be accepted by us. As long as she is even speaking to him in any way, it is not only disrespectful to everyone around her, it is disrespectful to herself." Justin, 23, wore a hoodie and Selena a striped dress for their meeting at the cafe, where they were for around 25 minutes. A source said: "They seemed friendly. There was no PDA." It comes shortly after the pair are said to have met up at the 'Wolves' hitmaker's house which led to speculation they could be set to rekindle their romance - but Selena is still dating singer The Weeknd. A source said: "Selena is still with The Weeknd, and she only sees Justin as a friend. "Selena is the one who got Justin involved in this church. It was her attempt to help turn his life around, and it really did help. He's really committed to it and has formed a strong network. So, they have a lot of mutual friends now from that." Another insider explained: "They are not dating, it's nothing romantic. "Justin and Selena are just friends right now. They reconnected and, right now, Justin wants to be a good friend to her. At least for now, it's a friendship."



## Vogue Williams was told to 'lose weight'

**T**he 32-year-old Irish model has admitted she was urged to shed the pounds "a couple of times" during her career, and she wouldn't get booked for certain modeling jobs because of her size, although she was adamant she was not going to change her appearance just to star in a campaign. Speaking about the obstacles faced throughout her career, the blonde-haired beauty said: "In Ireland the modeling industry is less about being skinny. I've had agents tell me to lose weight a couple of times, but it's not something I ever did. I am what I am and I don't book certain jobs for that reason. I'd never change myself or my weight because someone else told me to. "I was 17, but I think comments like that affect you at any age." And the 'Bear Grylls: Mission Survive' champion - who won the series in 2015 - has revealed she is still subjected to "fat shaming" and "skinny shaming" all the time, which she thinks is "disgusting". She said: "Even now, I can be fat shamed and skinny-shamed all in the same day. I don't think it's right that anyone should attack you so personally about your own body size or weight. It's absolutely disgusting." Vogue - who is currently dating former 'Made In Chelsea' star Spencer Matthews - has revealed she "once" tried going on a juice diet, but she "couldn't stand" forsaking her meals because she has an "obsession" with food. She explained to OK! magazine: "I did a juice diet once but I only lasted until lunchtime. I couldn't stand it" I have an obsession with food and I couldn't bear not having the food I wanted."



## Eva Longoria has broken her leg

**T**he former 'Desperate Housewives' star was spotted with a mystery boot on last week and it has now been revealed she suffered the injury while on holiday in Spain, and doctors decided she needed the leg brace to help her bone heal. Sources close to the 42-year-old actress told The Blast she recently aggravated some of the tendons around the bone. With the raven-haired beauty set to do some directing work on 'The Mick' and 'LA Vegas', she was advised to wear the boot to aid her recovery. Despite the inconvenience such a leg brace might cause, she is said to be planning to keep working through the injury. Eva was spotted wearing the medical footwear at a Los Angeles launch party last week alongside her pal Victoria Beckham, who made a cheeky dig at her friend's new look. Alongside a picture of the pair sitting down, she wrote the Instagram caption: "Nice boot!! Love u @evalongoria X #fashionforward (sic)" Last month, Eva reunited with her fellow 'Desperate Housewives' co-star and pal Felicity Huffman on the red carpet for her Eva Longoria Foundation annual dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills - but she wasn't wearing the boot then.

## Scherzinger works out with David Beckham

**T**he 39-year-old singer boasts a super toned physique, and the brunette beauty has revealed she maintains her slender frame by attending spin classes with the former England football Captain when she is in Los Angeles, California, because they both have the "same favorite teacher" at the fitness centre. Speaking to Hello! magazine about her exercise plan and partner, she said: "I've taken SoulCycle spinning classes with David in LA because we have the same favorite teacher that we love there." And 'The X Factor' judge has admitted fashion designer Julien Macdonald has asked the 'Right There' hitmaker to exercise with her and the football ace - who has sons 18-year-old Brooklyn, Romeo, 15, Cruz, 12, and six-year-old daughter Harper with his wife Victoria - at Barry's Bootcamp. She continued: "My friend [designer] Julien Macdonald was like, 'You, me and David are going to go and work out at Barry's Bootcamp'". However, the Pussycat Dolls band member thinks she will have to start training a lot harder before she joins David and Julien on a fitness class. She added: "Though I might have to shape up first." Nicole has revealed she also enjoys going for a run on her own to get in the "right head space", and to make sure she is not spotted by fans she hides under a pair of glasses and a hat. She said: "[To get] in the right headspace. I put glasses on and a hat, no one can keep up with me." And the star has joked if a passer-by notices her she "runs off fast". She explained: "And if people recognize me, I run off fast". Nicole has admitted Italy is her favorite place to go to when she wants a relaxing retreat. She said: "Italy has something special in the air. Venice, Florence, Portofino, Verona, Rome, Capri - I love them all. "It's home to my heart and my spirit." - Bangshowbiz



Lifestyle | Features

# GREECE FINDS NEW LOVE FOR STAND-UP COMEDY AMID ECONOMIC TRAGEDY

The crammed basement bar heaves with laughter as the young comedians take to the microphone, riffing on daily life in austerity-slammed Greece. This is one of a growing number of open mic nights to have sprung up in the past few years as audiences find stand-up comedy in the middle of economic tragedy. Ancient Greek dramatist Aristophanes—known as the Father of Comedy—was writing plays that lampooned the worlds of politics, art and philosophy as far back as 425 BC. But stand-up here is a new art form.

“ Sick and tired of talking about politics ”



Comedian Andreas Paspatis performs on October 6, 2017 during a stand-up comedy in a bar in Thessaloniki. — AFP photos



People react as they listen to a stand-up comedian.

“Ten years ago Greeks didn’t know what stand-up was,” says professional comic Andreas Paspatis, 28, the compere of the monthly Open Mic Thessaloniki, in Greece’s second-largest city. “When I was booking gigs back then we would call the bar and when we said we’re doing stand-up, 90 percent of them would ask, ‘What’s that?’”

In Britain, successful stand-up comedians have a certain status, appearing on television panel shows and often commenting on current affairs and writing newspaper columns. But, while Greek television features sketch and comedy shows, it has no stand-ups, and there are still only about 20 professionals in the country. Many people get their first taste watching foreign stand-ups on the internet, says Ira Katsouda, one of Greece’s few female stand-ups, whose own influences include cross-dressing Briton Eddie Izzard and philosophical American Louis CK. But the Greek crisis has also helped put stand-up in the spotlight and not just because of cheap production costs, says the 33-year-old, ahead of a sell-out show. “Stand-up comedy is blossoming here. I do believe the crisis has played a big role in this. ‘It’s a cheap form of entertainment and in these dark times—what I’m going to say is a cliché, but I’m going to say it—people need to laugh,’” she said.

**Enough of politics**  
In her routine for “Gluten-free”, touring in theatres in Thessaloniki and Athens, Katsouda however steers clear of politics and says most other stand-up comedians do the same. “The audience is sick and tired of talking about politics,” she says. At the open mic night the air is thick with sweat, smoke and laughter as the 12 stand-ups try out new material on a young audience, who have paid three euros (\$3.5) entrance fee and, in many cases, make their drinks last the length of the show.

With ages ranging from 17 to 37 and just one woman among them, the stand-ups include a schoolboy, four university students, a lawyer, a male nurse, a teacher, an unemployed man and three professionals. When the compere Paspatis asks first-timers in the audience to clap, there is loud applause. It’s an enthusiastic and friendly crowd-heckling is still a foreign concept here. “I’m really pumped up,” says 17-year-old schoolboy Dimitris Marintios, nervously running through his lines before performing for the first time.

“I think it’s a great idea, a guy on the stage telling jokes, I think it’s super cool.”

**‘Coping mechanism’**  
Young people may be struggling with close to 45-percent unemployment “but I’m not going to talk about the crisis because it’s not that funny,” he says. When he hits the stage however, he does have a skit involving fare dodging on the city bus. “When the inspector comes on we’re all stressed. I don’t mean only the ones without a ticket but also the ones with a ticket,” he tells the audience, to building laughter.  
“I always have a ticket but I’m always stressed about the moment he’s going to come up to me... as if he’s going to say, ‘That isn’t a very good ticket!’” The Greek economy nearly collapsed in 2010 under a mountain of debt and it had to be bailed out by its eurozone partners three times to prevent it bringing down the single currency bloc. Athanasios “Cain” Samaras says that for people of his generation, talking about

everyday life inevitably involves talking about the crisis, or at least its effects.

He struggles to make a living as a professional comedian, and like many young Greeks survives only by living rent-free with his parents, which he talks about in his set, along with struggling to get by on a low budget, and the rage of biting into a croissant to discover there is no chocolate filling. “I grew up with the crisis. The moment I started to need money, it was there. So yes, it’s an influence, it’s life,” he says. “It’s very difficult (to be a stand-up) but I don’t want to give up, I’m only 25 and I’m a romantic.” But outside the venue, smoking a cigarette on the step, 21-year-old waitress and stand-up fan Mary Tseyrentzidou says she does not indulge romantic thoughts of a brighter future. “People my age are a little bit more nihilistic. We can’t have any romantic thoughts, we can’t live in the clouds, so this is a coping mechanism for us.” — AFP



A sign to repeal NYC’s Cabaret Law is seen posted at the Brooklyn venue Secret Project Robot.

## Ballet to end NYC’s dancing prohibition

Dancing is technically illegal in thousands of bars, clubs and restaurants in the city that never sleeps, but New York campaigners are finally in sight of getting the law overturned. The “cabaret law”, passed in 1926, requires public spaces that sell food and drink to acquire near impossible-to-obtain permits to authorize dancing indoors. Those without the permit can be fined. Repeat infractions risk bar owners losing their license to sell alcohol, which could turn lead to bankruptcy.

Yet fewer than 100 of New York’s more than 22,000 bars, restaurants and clubs have the elusive permit, which is granted after mountains of Kafkaesque paperwork and jumping through prohibitively expensive hoops that Brooklyn councilman Rafael Espinal says unfairly discriminate against small business owners.

“It’s just ridiculous,” says the indignant 27-year-old Democrat in his basement

office. He wants to repeal the law, which could be put to a vote in the New York City Council as early as December. “Let’s finally get this law off the books so that we can go after the real problem, whether it be noise, crime, unsafe conditions,” he snorted. “Let’s not go after dancing.” Espinal and pressure groups such as the Dance Liberation Network say the law has been used historically to crack down on neighborhoods with large minority populations such as African Americans, Latinos and the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community.

**Racist**

Passed initially to assert control during the time of Prohibition, some historians say its true goal was the closure of Harlem jazz bars in the 1930s, ‘40s and ‘50s to stop whites and blacks mixing. In the 1970s and ‘80s, it was used to close establishments frequented by the LGBT community as it fought for its rights. In the 1990s, mayor Rudy Giuliani used the law to get tough on clubs in his fight against crime.

Today, it is little used, but detractors say it is invoked as an excuse to shut down premises considered undesirable. One recent casualty was Andrew Muchmore, a lawyer who owns a bar that hosts live music in Williamsburg, Brooklyn’s hippest neighborhood. One night in 2013 when a group of customers were making noise outside, an inspector fined Muchmore \$200 under the cabaret law.

When he went to pay, the office couldn’t find the docket. But Muchmore went to court anyway, charging the law violated the “sacred” First Amendment of the US Constitution, which guarantees freedom of expression. “I was bothered by the principle that such a law could exist in America and that offended my sensibility as an American,” Muchmore told AFP. “I did not feel comfortable that that could exist in the 21st century in New York of all places,” he said.—AFP



Rachel Nelson, Co-Founder of the Brooklyn venue Secret Project Robot poses for a picture at Cuckoo on October 20, 2017 in New York. — AFP photos

# Revolutionaries to supernovas: Glamour names women of 2017

It’s been one epic year for women, a notion definitely not lost on Glamour magazine as it named US Rep Maxine Waters, 27 key facilitators of the Women’s March on Washington and astronaut Peggy Whitson among its women of the year from the worlds of politics, entertainment, fashion, business and more.

The other winners announced Monday, ahead of a Nov. 13 gala in Brooklyn, New York, are actor Nicole Kidman, singer Solange Knowles, Syrian refugee Muzoon Almellehan, late-night TV host Samantha Bee, supermodel Gigi Hadid, Dior’s first female creative director, Maria Grazia Chiuri, and “Wonder Woman” helmswoman Patty Jenkins.

Cindi Leive, Glamour’s editor-in-chief, called them “wildly diverse changemakers” who reflect this “tumultuous and electric year for women.” All will be on hand for the magazine’s annual awards night, with a summit featuring Chelsea Clinton, Laverne Cox, Cecile Richards and other past winners performing for earlier the same day. This year’s honorees will be featured on multiple Glamour covers and in a spread for December. A look at some in the Class of 2017:



(From left) Samantha Bee, Italian designer Maria Grazia Chiuri, Gigi Hadid, director Patty Jenkins, and bottom row from left, actress Nicole Kidman, singer Solange Knowles, Rep Maxine Waters and astronaut Peggy Whitson, who are among Glamour’s Women of the Year Honorees. — AP

**THE REVOLUTIONARIES**

Listening especially to the strong voices of young women after Hillary Clinton’s popular vote win but Electoral College loss to Donald Trump. Glamour called the impact of the Women’s March massive, along with an outpouring around the globe.

“Vastly more women turned out for the march, not just in Washington but the marches around the world, than anyone expected,” Leive told The Associated Press in a recent interview. “There were so many hundreds of women who were involved in the organization and planning of these marches, but 27 key leaders and organizers really devoted the lion’s share of their time between Election Day and Inauguration Day.” In all, an estimated half a million made their way to Washington, where maybe 200,000 had been expected, and 5 million more gathered everywhere from Australia to Antarctica.

**GIGI THE SUPERNOVA**

The first time Gigi Hadid bubbled to the surface was on the reality show “The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills.” Modeling since she was around 3, she went from a Guess campaign at 17 to supermodel five years later, racking up numerous magazine covers, editorial gigs and runway shows, along

with fashion collaboration with Tommy Hilfiger and an upcoming cosmetics collection with Maybelline. As Glamour writes, Hadid didn’t just take off, “she took over.”

At 22, Hadid has a 36-million strong following on Instagram and a megaplatform that could easily have been wasted. Instead, she has spoken out about gun control and marched with sister Bella to “bravely” protest Trump’s signing of an executive order that suspended immigration to the US from seven Muslim countries. Their father, real estate developer Mohamed Hadid, was born in Palestine and their mother, Yolanda Hadid, emigrated from Holland in her teens. “When I started working in fashion, it was like, Gigi, the all-American. I was very much that ‘girl next door,’” she told Glamour, “but if you read my interviews, I always talk about my parents’ cultural backgrounds.” Leive called her “incredibly wise beyond her years.”

**SOLANGE BREAKS IT OPEN**

With a Grammy win and a groundbreaking album, “A Seat at the Table,” Knowles is living her truth in abundance. The record, released late last year, takes on some key issues: racism, cultural

appropriation, activism and empowerment among them. “She’s such a fantastic and inspiring example of somebody who has always chosen not to do things the easy way,” Leive said. “Her sister is Beyonce. She could have become a pop star in any number of ways but she decided to really focus on her own personal vision of art.”

Knowles told the magazine that she worked on “A Seat at the Table” on and off for three years, at one point spending three months writing songs in tiny Patoutville, Louisiana, soaking up the pride, resilience and traditions of the regional culture. She worked in a house on a sugar plantation, feeling a closeness to her ancestors and feeling a “constant state of reflection.”

Part of her goal was to reclaim and change her own narrative, she said, “whether it was people challenging who wrote what on my album, whether it was about some editor commenting on my hair in a story or someone feeling like they were entitled to space in my life. I needed to unfold, reveal and discover my truth.” — AP

## Oscar-nominated Iranian director challenges Trump to watch her film

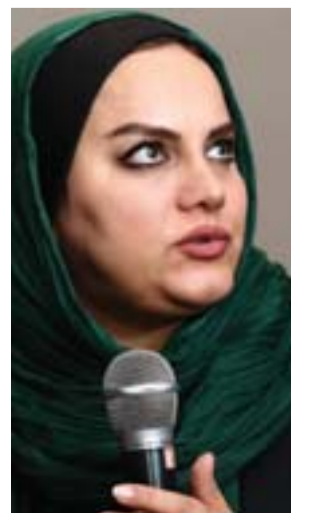
Iran’s first Oscar-nominated female director has challenged President Donald Trump to watch her film to see if its portrayal of ordinary Iranians’ experience of war and revolution will change his views of her country. The US president has called Iran a “terrorist nation” for involvement in conflicts in the Middle East, and derided an international deal that scrapped sanctions on Iran in return for curbs on what many in the West believe was a nuclear weapons program.

Narges Abyar’s Farsi-language film “Nafas” (Breath) follows a young girl, Bahar, living through the changes that follow Iran’s 1979 Islamic Revolution and the start of the Iran-Iraq War in 1980 with her impoverished family. Her greatest fear is losing the chronically asthmatic father who is bringing her and her three brothers and sisters up on his own, and

she spends much of her time making sure that he is still breathing. Bahar’s devout grandmother, far from being kindly, punishes her for refusing to go to Koran school.

The film and Abyar’s Oscar nomination have angered hardline conservatives in Iran’s establishment, who call the Iran-Iraq war the “Sacred Defence” and consider the movie anti-Islamic. “Three thousand (Iranian) children were killed during the war. Why should I not show all these?” Abyar told Reuters in an interview. “This film promotes peace.” She said it could also “help American society ... to understand that Iranians are not terrorists, as claimed by some politicians”. “Trump is using the language of threat against Iran ... what will he think if he watches Nafas? Will he continue to threaten Iran?”

“I wish I were a boy”— Reuters



Narges Abyar

## Lifestyle | Features

KEVIN SPACEY APOLOGIZES,  
COMES OUT AS GAY AFTER  
'SEXUAL ADVANCE' CLAIM

Kevin Spacey came out as gay early yesterday and apologized to actor Anthony Rapp, who accused the Hollywood star of making a sexual advance on him at a 1986 party when he was only 14 years old. Spacey's announcement, posted on his Twitter account at midnight, came after Rapp—best known for being part of the original cast of the hit Broadway musical "Rent"—made the accusation in an interview with BuzzFeed News.

Spacey, 58, a double Oscar winner and star of the Netflix series "House of Cards," said he did not remember the encounter but that "if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior."

The actor—whose sexuality had been an open secret in Hollywood for years—went on to say that Rapp's accusation "encouraged me to address other things about my life." "As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior."

**'Trying to seduce me'**

Rapp, 46, told BuzzFeed that in 1986, while both he and

Spacey were performing in Broadway shows, Spacey invited the then 14-year-old to a party at his New York apartment. Spacey would have been 26 at the time. Rapp said he was in Spacey's bedroom watching TV when Spacey appeared in the doorway at the end of the night, after all the other guests had left. "kind of swaying" and apparently drunk. Rapp said Spacey picked him up, put him on the bed and lay on top of him.

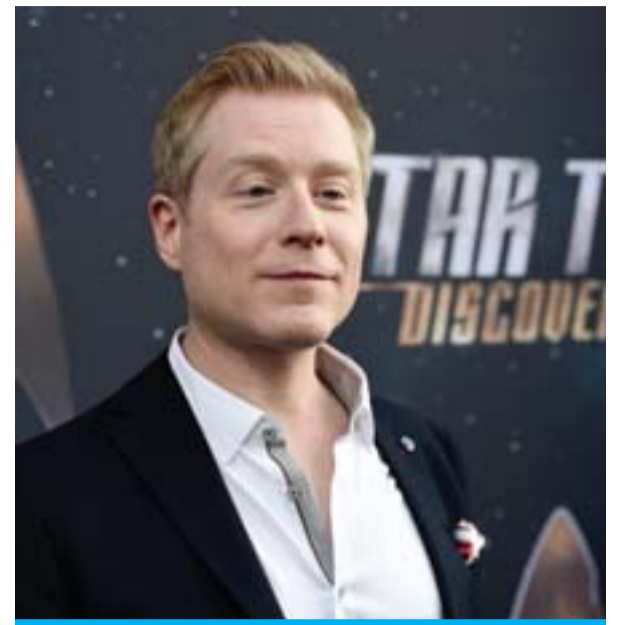
"He was trying to seduce me," Rapp told BuzzFeed. "I don't know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually." Rapp said he squirmed away after a brief period of time and went into the bathroom. Shortly after, he left Spacey's apartment and went home. Rapp, who was living in New York with his mother, stressed that a young teen going alone to a party at an adult actor's home was not considered a cause for concern at the time. "It was a different era," he said. "I went to work by myself. I would walk to the subway, and go to the theater by myself."

**'A pretty horrible defense'**

Rapp said he felt compelled to speak out after a recent deluge of accusations against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein sparked an examination of abuses committed by



This file photo taken on February 23, 2016 shows actor Kevin Spacey arriving for the season 4 premiere screening of the Netflix show "House of Cards" in Washington, DC.



Anthony Rapp, cast member in "Star Trek: Discovery," poses at the premiere of the new television series in Los Angeles. — AFP/AP photos

“  
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”

powerful men in the entertainment industry. Publicly accusing Spacey is "not to simply air a grievance," he said, "but to try to shine another light on the decades of behavior that have been allowed to continue because many people, including myself, being silent."

"I'm feeling really awake to the moment that we're living in, and I'm hopeful that this can make a difference." More than 50 women, including top actresses Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie and Mira Sorvino, have accused Weinstein of misconduct including rape, sexual abuse and harassment. The now-disgraced tycoon was sacked as co-chairman of The Weinstein Company and also resigned from its board. He has denied forcing himself on his accusers.

Backlash against Spacey's announcement was quick to build, with commentators slamming the actor's declaration that he is gay as a cynical ploy to distract attention from the troubling allegation of sexual misconduct with a young teen. "Sure, I may have tried to rape a 14-year-old boy when I was 26, but I'm gay!" is a pretty horrible defense," conservative commentator Ben Shapiro tweeted. "No no no no! You do not get to 'choose' to hide under the rainbow! Kick rocks!" comedian Wanda Sykes said on Twitter. — AFP



Lauren Friedman, daughter of lawyer Samuel Friedman, poses with photos of her father, and a telegram from Thurgood Marshall, in her New York apartment. — AP photos

'Marshall' scores with those  
who knew late justice

Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall's widow, Cecilia, has seen two showings of the new movie "Marshall" about her late husband. She liked it, but had one observation about actor Chadwick Boseman, who plays the civil rights pioneer and legal giant. "He's a very good-looking man, but he's not as handsome as my husband was," she told her son John after seeing the film, she said.

The question of looks aside, what moviegoers get in "Marshall" is a film faithful to the facts and to the man, according to those who have studied the real-life Connecticut rape case from 1941 and those who knew Marshall. He died in 1993 at age 84. Michael Koskoff, a lawyer who wrote the screenplay with his son, says he began with the information he had about the case, then filled in the gaps.

In early 1941, Marshall was in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to represent Joseph Spell, a black chauffeur accused by his wealthy, white employer of rape. Because Marshall was an out-of-state attorney, he enlisted the help of a local lawyer, Sam Friedman, who was white and had expertise in trying civil cases, not criminal ones.

The movie, which came out this month, shows a 32-year-old Marshall, with one Supreme Court argument under his belt and more than a decade before his victory in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case that outlawed segregation in public schools. Koskoff said there is "nothing particularly significant" about the case depicted in the movie, but it is representative of the legal work Marshall was doing in the early 1940s on behalf of the NAACP: traveling around the United States to defend black men accused of crimes, and doing it at great personal risk.



This Aug 22, 1958, file photo shows Thurgood Marshall outside the Supreme Court in Washington.

## Factual liberties

Koskoff said he reviewed old newspaper articles, investigators' notes and what remained of court files. He looked at letters between Marshall and co-counsel Friedman and notes Marshall took during jury selection. There was no transcript of the court proceedings. As a result, much of the courtroom dialogue is made up, as is the nature of the relationship between the two lawyers. The movie takes other factual liberties: a court scene that opens the movie happened after, not before the Spell case. In the movie, Spell's socialite employer claims she was raped twice; accounts from the time have her saying it was three times.

Friedman was slender and athletic, not the heavyset character played by Josh Gad. Friedman's daughter Lauren, who was also involved in the movie, said one thing the film doesn't show was that the night of the verdict, her parents had left town because of death threats. But more is accurate than not in the film, including even details about minor characters. "Some of the things you would think are not true were true," Koskoff said, referencing a point in the movie where Friedman, in the courtroom, demonstrates being gagged.

Details moviegoers learn about Marshall's life also are correct, including the fact that his first wife, Vivian "Buster" Marshall, suffered multiple miscarriages before her death from cancer in 1955. It wasn't until his second marriage, to Cecilia Suyat, that he became a father. One of their two boys, John Marshall, reviewed multiple drafts of the movie's script and helped the scriptwriters capture his dad. John Marshall said the film's director, Reginald Hudlin, called him half a dozen times asking whether certain details were right, down to whether his father smoked. The filmmakers faithfully captured his father's sense of humor, his confidence and his mastery of the law, John Marshall said.

University of Maryland law professor Larry Gibson, a Marshall biographer, agreed that the movie's creators got how Marshall carried himself. "Life hung on him kind of loosely," he said. Susan Low Bloch, a Georgetown professor who clerked for Marshall at the Supreme Court, said the movie captured the personality, sense of humor and thoroughness of the Marshall she knew. Moviegoers who linger in the theater through the credits will get to hear Marshall himself in a bit of old audio. He says in part: "You know, there are so many people, indeed my own sons at times, look at me with an expression on their face that they don't believe what happened in the past." — AP

'Pineapple pen' star to  
serenade Trump on his Japan visit

US President Donald Trump will be serenaded with a bizarre hit song about a "pen-pineapple-apple-pen" on his visit to Japan next week. Japan will roll out wacky crooner Pikotaro—whose 45-second "PPAP" ditty went viral last year after being shared by pop star Justin Bieber—when Trump comes to town at the start of an Asian tour, Kyodo News agency reported.

The singer, apparently a favourite of Trump's grandchildren, will attend a dinner hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, government sources told Kyodo.

Arabella Kushner, the six-year-old daughter of Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, was seen singing along to the tune in a clip shared on Instagram in November by her mother. The repetitive earworm, whose video features the dancing Pikotaro dressed in his garish animal-print costume, set a Guinness World Record as the shortest song to break into the Billboard Hot 100. Trump is also set to play a round of golf with Japanese pro Hideki Matsuyama during his visit. — AFP



Japanese comedian Pikotaro posing during a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo.

'Suburbicon' tanks, 'Jigsaw'  
No. 1 in the box-office

George Clooney's "Suburbicon" notched one of the most dismal wide-release debuts in recent years on a sluggish pre-Halloween weekend where the horror sequel "Jigsaw" topped all releases despite an underperforming debut. The eighth "Saw" film landed at No. 1 with \$16.3 million in North American ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. That came in below industry expectations and suggested the revived "Saw" franchise isn't connecting with audiences the way other recent horror entries have.

In its first release since the Harvey Weinstein scandal began unfolding, the beleaguered Weinstein Co. feebly released a horror sequel of its own: "Amityville: The Awakening." It played in an unusual Saturday-only engagement on just 10 screens, and grossed a mere \$742. "Jigsaw" distributor Lionsgate also claimed the No. 2 spot with \$10 million in the second week of release for "Tyler Perry's Boo! A Madea Halloween."

Made for about \$10 million, "Jigsaw" comes seven years after the notoriously gruesome franchise - famously dubbed "torture porn" - bid adieu with "Saw 3D: The Final Chapter." Critics weren't happy to see its return, giving "Jigsaw" a 39 percent Rotten Tomatoes score. The Hollywood Reporter said the film "now feels like

an outlier in a horror marketplace dominated by films that typically favor spooks over spurts." Opening-weekend moviegoers also weren't overwhelmed, giving the film a modest B CinemaScore.

But that rating still easily surpassed the D-minus grade that greeted Clooney's latest directorial effort. Despite debuting on more than 2,000 screens, "Suburbicon" managed just \$2.8 million, making it one of Paramount Pictures' worst performing wide-releases ever and marking a new box-office low for Clooney as a director and star Matt Damon.

"Obviously we are disappointed in these results which we don't feel are indicative of the quality and message of his original movie," said Kyle Davies, president of distribution for Paramount. "Suburbicon," which debuted at the Venice Film Festival, was crafted as a fusion between an old Joel and Ethan Coen home-invasion comedy script and a more pointed satire of racism in a 1959 suburb. Critics didn't respond well to the mix, either: its Rotten Tomatoes score is just 26 percent fresh.

Paramount paid \$10 million for domestic distribution rights for the Black Bear Pictures production, made for about \$25 million. The studio has recently backed several divisive releases from

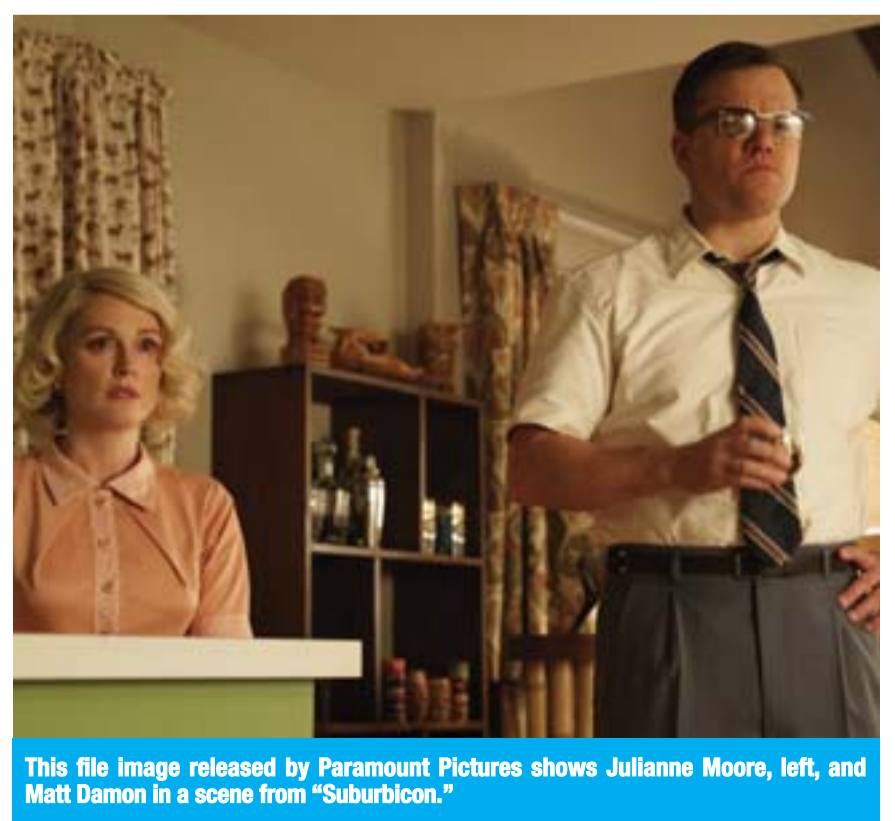
respected filmmakers, including Darren Aronofsky's "mother!" which also spluttered at the box office and garnered an even worse F CinemaScore.

The Miles Teller PTSD drama "Thank You For Your Service," directed by "American Sniper" writer Jason Hall, also opened weakly with \$3.7 million in 2,054 theaters for DreamWorks and Universal. Business overall was slow ahead of Halloween. Weekend ticket sales totaled about \$75 million, according to comScore, making it the second-lowest grossing frame of the year in the US and Canada. But overseas, where "Thor: Ragnarok" began its worldwide rollout, was a different story. The Disney release grossed \$107.6 million internationally from about 52 percent of the marketplace. The "Thor" sequel opens in North America, China and elsewhere on Friday.

Yet a release in China couldn't rescue the box-office disappointment "Blade Runner 2049." Denis Villeneuve's film, starring Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford, added \$16.6 million overseas this weekend, including its China debut. The film, distributed by Warner Bros. in North America and Sony internationally, has earned \$223.4 million globally in three weeks of release. — AP



This image released by Lionsgate shows Laura Vandervoort in the horror film, "Jigsaw." — AP photos



This file image released by Paramount Pictures shows Julianne Moore, left, and Matt Damon in a scene from "Suburbicon."

# CHINA FASHION WEEK



Models parade the creations from the "Aipark" collection by Yin Shanshan during China Fashion Week in Beijing.

Models parade the creations from the "Taouloulan" collection by Tao Tao. — AFP photos

## CHINA AGENCY DENIES DEAD RUSSIAN MODEL, 14, WAS OVERWORKED



Russian models take a rest outside a Beijing hotel after taking part in a fashion show during the China Fashion Week in Beijing. — AP

The Chinese agency representing a "beautiful" 14-year-old Russian model who died after taking part in Shanghai Fashion Week yesterday denied allegations that she was overworked and underpaid. The death of Vlada Dzyuba in a Chinese hospital on Friday shines a light on the murky world of western models in China, many of whom are from the former Soviet Union and dream of making a career in the notoriously cut-throat industry.

The teenager, who despite her youth was allowed under Chinese law to model, began feeling dizzy and started being sick on Tuesday last week. She was taken to a Shanghai hospital the next day but died on Friday from multiple organ failure after her condition quickly worsened. English-language newspaper The Siberian Times alleged that Dzyuba, from the city of Perm, died of meningitis compounded by exhaustion following "a gruelling fashion show in Shanghai". But ESEE Model Management vehemently denied that, pointing out that Shanghai Fashion Week ended on October 18 and she fell ill six days later while on another assignment.

Johney Zheng, chairman of ESEE, said Dzyuba—who died without her family at her side because her mother could not travel to China in time—had never complained of being overworked. ESEE reproduced a medical report from Ruijin Hospital in Shanghai that gave the cause of death as septicemia, a type of bacterial blood poisoning.

"Our whole agency is in a very sad situation, Vlada was such a lovely girl and we worked with her for two years," Zheng, dressed all in black, told a press conference. "We wish that she can have no pain in heaven." Carrie Fang, the chief agent for ESEE who was at Dzyuba's side when she died, fought back tears and said the young Russian had been enjoying the two months she spent in China before her death.

ESEE declined to give precise figures for how much the teenage model earned, but Fang denied reports it was as little as \$8 a day. "We want to tell everybody the truth, what we are thinking and what has happened, especially the Russian people, they lost one of their beautiful daughters," said Zheng, adding most of Dzyuba's assignments lasted between four and eight hours a day and she had regular time off.

### Worsening health

Dzyuba, a brunette who weighed 58 kg (128 pounds) when she died, passed away less than two weeks before her 15th birthday. ESEE said it had signed a three-month contract with Dzyuba and her modeling agency in Russia. After Shanghai Fashion Week Dzyuba travelled to Yiwu, a city south of Shanghai, but a model shoot was cancelled because she began feeling unwell and she returned to Shanghai.

But with her health worsening, she was taken to hospital and put in touch by telephone with Russian consular staff, while her family were also told that she was unwell. The next day, according to ESEE, Dzyuba was moved to intensive care where she died the following morning. ESEE, which said it has 20-30 international models in Shanghai, said it had covered the medical expenses. The firm has its headquarters in Shanghai and also offices in the nearby city of Hangzhou, Beijing, the eastern city of Xiamen and Hong Kong. "She was young, she was a very excitable girl, she liked to eat, she liked to eat chips, like a teenager is supposed to do," said Fang, her voice cracking with emotion. — AFP

# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017



A snake representing Mexican culture is carried on a VW Beetle during a parade before the Formula One Mexican Grand Prix at the Hermanos Rodriguez circuit in Mexico City. — AFP

## Clowns bring laughter to traumatized ROHINGYA CHILDREN

The Rohingya boys and girls shrieked with delight as the clowns juggled hoops and somersaulted, their red-nosed antics provoking a sound rarely heard in the world's largest refugee camp—children's laughter. The clowns have been providing much-needed levity in the crowded Bangladesh camps, where hundreds of thousands of traumatized Rohingya children spend long days in bleak and difficult conditions.

Mohammad Noor lives with his mother and three siblings in a makeshift shanty in the teeming Kutupalong camp, where a lack of food and water means a constant struggle to survive. The 10-year-old fled Myanmar last month after his father was killed in brutal violence by the army that the United Nations has likened to ethnic cleansing. The impromptu circus in a dusty clearing is a welcome distraction from the horror at home.

"It is hilarious. I have never seen anything like it, My friends and I were just laughing and laughing," he told AFP, as a quartet of painted clowns performed skits before a

huge gathered crowd. Theatre groups in Bangladesh have a record of using "drama therapy" to lift spirits in the most depressing of circumstances.

One troupe performed for the survivors of a factory collapse in 2013 that killed 1100 garment workers, while another hosted shows in a small village in Bangladesh's south that lost nearly 50 children in a tragic road accident. In the Rohingya camps, where many lie sick or injured mourning the death of family and loss of their homelands, laughter is sorely needed. "Our sole aim is to bring laughter to the Rohingya," said Rina Akter Putul, a veteran acrobat and the lone female member of the group. "Making people laugh is a tough job, especially for those who

lost their parents in the conflict."

### Laughter as medicine

The UN estimates 60 percent of the more than 600,000 refugees to arrive in Bangladesh since late August are children. Many crossed the border alone from their villages in



Myanmar's westernmost Rakhine State after their parents were murdered and communities driven out by state-sanctioned violence. Charities on the ground say children are in dire need of emotional and mental support after enduring such trauma on their difficult journeys. "I am sure our show will live in their memory for some time. It won't erase their scars, but it will boost their confidence," said Faker Ali, an acrobat who has worked in drama therapy for more than two decades. But it's not just the children who benefit from the visiting performers.

Among the spectators who flocked to a recent show were countless elderly Rohingya refugees, clapping and smiling as the acrobats whirred rings and bars. Life has been a grueling quest to survive for older generations of the stateless Muslim minority. Many have escaped past pogroms in Rakhine and lost family and friends in bitter cycles of ethnic violence.

Rohingya are a reviled minority in Myanmar and are denied citizenship, education and opportunity by the Buddhist-majority government that regards them as illegal outsiders. Most have enjoyed few if any luxuries in their lives-making the circus performance all the more thrilling. "We hardly have any fun," said Nesar Ahmed, 38. Even during major Islamic festivals and weddings, there is little in the way of entertainment, he added.

"Life in Arakan (Rakhine) is grim," Khairul Amin, a 63-year-old grandfather, told AFP as a boisterous crowd, young and old, jostled to meet the visiting clowns. "There is no television and no cinema or theatre. And there is this constant fear you'll be killed or arrested by the military." Seated for the show with her youngest child on her lap, Rehana smiled and laughed, saying: "Never in my life have I have seen such fun." — AFP



### Using 'drama therapy' to lift spirits



Rohingya refugee children watching the Bangladeshi theatre group "Drama Therapy" at Kutupalong refugee camp in Ukhaia. — AFP photos