

**N Korea warns US of greatest pain, rejects sanctions**



**Hezbollah declares victory in Syrian war**



**Turkey signs deal to buy Russian S-400 missile systems**



**Ronaldo ripe for Real return in Champions League**



## LAWMAKERS THREATEN TO GRILL PREMIER, MINISTERS

MP CALLS FOR PROBE INTO PLANE, BALLOON COLLISION



Min 26°  
Max 47°  
High Tide 03:37 & 17:31  
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150 FILS

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32 PAGES



**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Defense announced yesterday the launch of Kuwaiti-US military drill 'Mulahez Al-Sahraa' (Desert Monitor). Troops from the Kuwaiti ground, air forces, personnel of the Ministry of Interior and the National Guard are taking part in the three-day military exercise. The troops are engaging in the maneuvers for bolstering joint planning, execution, and uplifting combat preparedness. — KUNA

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** MP Omar Al-Tabtabai yesterday said he will file to grill Minister of Oil Essam Al-Marzouk over appointments in the vital oil sector as his senior lawmaker Waleed Al-Tabtabai called on MPs to unite to grill the prime minister instead of questioning individual Cabinet members. The new threats came as several lawmakers have threatened to grill the ministers of finance, oil, social affairs and labor, defense, information, education and others over a variety of claims of failure to perform their duties and charges of corruption.

"Our colleagues will file to grill the ministers of social affairs, oil, finance, defense, sports, information, education and others. What's your opinion if we gather all to grill the prime minister," Waleed Al-Tabtabai wrote on his Twitter account. The lawmaker also criticized the government's policies to nationalize government jobs, saying that if the government was serious about Kuwaitization of jobs, it should begin with legal and financial advisors and not with typists and secretaries as has been the case.

In a related development, MP Omar Al-Tabtabai threatened that he will file to grill the oil minister at the start of the next Assembly term, beginning next month if he did not resign. The lawmaker claimed that the Ministry of Oil has "forged" and changed a question sent to the Oil Minister by him and also sent a wrong answer. He said that if the minis-

ter ordered the forgery and should apologize to the Kuwaiti people and should step down - and if he did not order that but signed the wrong answer, he should also resign or face grilling.

Omar Al-Tabtabai said that he believes that the end of the Oil Minister has approached and spoke about the period after his resignation. The lawmaker said that if the minister is not capable of running the affairs of the ministry, he should quit immediately. He also criticized a decision by the oil sector to appoint a non-Kuwaiti as head of the state-owned Equate petrochemicals company and warned the council of ministers against accepting the decision, adding that the post must be occupied by a Kuwaiti.

Meanwhile, MP Nasser Al-Dossari strongly lashed out at Education Minister Mohammad Al-Fares and accused him of failure to carry out his job after the ministry failed to take the necessary preparations to open new schools at Sabah Al-Ahmad area. He said that he and other colleagues had informed the Education Ministry about preparing the schools in the newly-built area and the officials said everything was ready but it turned out to be exactly the opposite.

The lawmaker said the situation at the area's schools are catastrophic and will not pass without action, adding that the minister must be made to pay for the bad management of the ministry facilities and schools. Dossari asked the Education Minister if his officials had

Continued on Page 11

## SAUDI FOILS TERROR PLOT

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia said yesterday it foiled an Islamic State plot to bomb its defense ministry headquarters and also said it had arrested several people suspected of carrying out espionage in the kingdom on behalf of foreign powers. It was not immediately clear whether the two announcements, made separately by a security official to state news agency SPA and a security source speaking to Reuters, were related.

The would-be bombers were identified as two Yemeni nationals living under aliases in the kingdom who were detained along with two Saudi citizens also suspected of involvement in the attack planned for the capital Riyadh, the official from the Presidency of State Security added. Saudi Arabia has previously

been hit by deadly bombing and shooting attacks by Islamic State militants targeting security forces and Shiite Muslims.

المقبوض عليه



أحمد ياسر الكلداني

بني الجنسية

Ahmed Yasser Al-Kaldi

their US enemies. In a separate news item, SPA quoted a security source saying authorities uncovered "intelligence

Continued on Page 11



This undated photo shows seized explosives displayed by Saudi security forces. — AP



### KFSD DENIES RUMORS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** KFSD's PR and Media Department said that the Acting Deputy Director for Prevention Affairs Brigadier Khaled Abdullah Fahad has strongly denied social media reports about banning a certain type of elevator in Kuwait. Fahad stressed that all elevators get checked and examined by KFSD before issuing a license for any facility. He added that KFSD also mandates property owners to sign maintenance contracts with lifts maintenance companies certified by KFSD to ensure users' safety. Fahad explained that some lifts have automatic doors while others have semi-automatic doors (manual ones). Both, he said, are regularly inspected by KFSD. He also stressed that KFSD had not issued an order to remove lifts with manual doors.

## HOPES FADE AS GULF CRISIS HITS 100-DAY LANDMARK

**DOHA:** As the boycott of Qatar by a Saudi-led bloc of countries approached its 100th day today, experts have warned the increasingly bitter dispute could last into 2018 and beyond. "If the present trajectory is anything to go by, I expect this crisis to last well into the next year," Christopher Davidson, a Middle East expert at Britain's Durham University said. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab

Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut all ties with Qatar on June 5, accusing it of bankrolling Islamist extremists and being too close to Iran.

They closed Qatar's only land border, denying air space to its national airline and suspending maritime links. The drastic measures led many observers to believe the tiny emirate would have no choice but to yield quickly under the

pressure of its key trading partners. Instead, Qatar denied the charges and portrayed the boycott as an attack on its sovereignty. On Monday, Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani accused the Saudi-led bloc of trying to force Doha "into a state of trusteeship", echoing his initial response to the crisis on June 7.

Continued on Page 11



Indian priest Thomas Uzhunnalil

## OMAN SECURES RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED INDIAN PRIEST

**MUSCAT:** Muscat has secured the release of an Indian priest who was abducted last year during a deadly attack by Islamist militants in Yemen, Oman's official news agency said yesterday. Thomas Uzhunnalil had been held captive since March 2016, when jihadists attacked a care home operated by missionaries in the southern port city of Aden, killing 16 people including four nuns. Uzhunnalil was pictured yesterday wearing local traditional dress and with a flowing but tidy white beard grown while in captivity.

He appeared relatively healthy, standing tall before a portrait of Oman's

Sultan Qaboos. The news release said Omani authorities "coordinated with Yemeni parties" to free Uzhunnalil, described as a "Vatican employee", at the request of the sultan. In video footage from Oman TV, Uzhunnalil is seen arriving in Muscat. He disembarks from a Royal Air Force of Oman plane unaided, but struggles as he makes his way down the steps to the tarmac.

"I wish first and foremost to thank God almighty for this day," the priest said before thanking Sultan Qaboos and those who prayed for his release.

Continued on Page 11

## INDIA SETS UP CENTRE TO HELP MIGRANT WORKERS

**CHENNAI:** A new resource centre for Indian migrants employed in Gulf states will help reduce the risk of workers being trafficked to fake jobs and exploited, officials said yesterday. With a 24 hour helpline and a team of advisers, the Indian Workers' Resource Centre in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates aims to help the thousands of Indian workers in the region who may be at risk of exploitation.

"There are numerous fake job rackets that result in migrant workers finding themselves without proper docu-

mentation, low salaries or even without a job once they arrive here," said Dinesh Kumar, an official at the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi. "Help for Indian workers in distress will be a phonecall away." Government figures show there are some 6 million Indian migrants in the six Gulf states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Oman. Over the years, the Indian government and non-governmental groups have received a steady stream of complaints

Continued on Page 11

## AMIR SENDS HIS CONDOLENCES TO TRUMP OVER HURRICANE VICTIMS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable to US President Donald Trump, expressing his condolences over the victims of Hurricane Irma, which continues to hit Florida. "Kuwait sympathizes with the American people over this catastrophe," read an Amiri Diwan statement, which expressed confidence that US officials would be able to overcome this natural disaster. His Highness the Deputy Amir

and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah both sent similar cables. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem yesterday addressed cables to Chairman of the US Senate Mike Pence and chief of the Congress Paul Ryan expressing deep condolences on losses inflicted by the Hurricane Irma in Florida. — KUNA

# KUWAIT PM'S TURKEY VISIT TO BOOST TIES TO NEW LEVEL

**ANKARA:** Kuwait Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's upcoming visit to Ankara today, will further cement bilateral relations and cooperation between Kuwait and Turkey. His Highness the Prime Minister, who would visit Turkey on September 13-16, would build upon three recent summits held between the leaders of Turkey and Kuwait: the last March in Ankara and the next two in Kuwait in May and July this year.

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak is to hold talks with his Turkish counterpart Benali Yildirim on bilateral relations and regional developments, while Istanbul would host Turkey-Kuwait Economic Forum on Friday. Kuwait and Turkey established diplomatic relations in 1969 and embassies opened the following year. The two countries signed a land transportation agreement in 1970.

The two countries signed between 1975-1988 agreements on culture, air services, economic, technical and industrial cooperation, in addition to encouragement and protection of investments. Bilateral relations witnessed a new leap when late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited Ankara in November 1991 to thank Turkey for its support of Kuwait during the 1990-91 Iraqi invasion. Turkey considered Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait a violation of international law, voicing complete solidarity with Kuwait, stopping export of Iraqi oil on Turkish territories and joined the US-led international coalition that liberated Kuwait.

### Bilateral agreements

Kuwait supported the democratically-elected government in Turkey during the failed coup attempt in July 2016. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a message to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to congratulate him on the success of the legitimate leadership and preservation of democracy. His Highness the Amir visited Turkey in 2008, during which the two countries signed agreements on economic, scientific, health and labor cooperation. Kuwait and Turkey, during His Highness the Amir's 2013 visit, signed eight bilateral agreements. They covered aviation, higher education, scientific research, livestock, defense industries, military and diplomatic cooperation.

The two countries also sealed accords on



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

preservation of environment and natural resources, sustainable development, development of industrial exports, custom, agriculture, media and maritime transport. The State of Kuwait has also been active in offering humanitarian aid for the Syrian refugees in Turkey. His Highness the Amir visited Istanbul in November 2009 to chair Kuwait's delegation to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) standing committee on economic and trade cooperation.

His Highness the Amir also participated in the OIC summit in Istanbul in April 2016 and the international humanitarian summit in the same city last May. Former Turkish President Abdullah Gul paid three visits to Kuwait in 2009, 2011 and 2014. Current President Erdogan visited Kuwait in April 2015, and then last May to attend inauguration of Kuwait International Airport's new terminal, executed by the Turkish Limak company.

Trade exchange between the two countries reached USD 1.287 billion in 2016. Turkish companies were executing USD 6.5 billion worth of projects in Kuwait, while Kuwait has USD 1.7 billion investments in Turkey. More Kuwaiti companies and individuals are investing in Turkey, prompting the Ankara government to waive visa on Kuwaiti citizens. At the parliamentary level, former speaker Cemil Cicek paid an official visit to Kuwait in January 2014, while Kuwait National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-

Ghanem visited Ankara in February 2016.

### Humanitarian need

Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) began operations in Turkey in 1979, extending loans to build development projects in many sectors. KFAED offered, up until November 2009, 12 loans totaling 106 million Kuwaiti Dinars (KD) (USD 352 million). Kuwait also contributed to meet humanitarian need in Turkey, whether from citizens or Syrian refugees. The Gulf country offered USD 20 million to offer health and educational services for Syrian refugees. His Highness the Amir donated USD million to help alleviate suffering of victims of an earthquake that struck Turkey.

His Highness the Amir's village was opened in the eastern city of Van, which was subjected to a devastating earthquake in 2011, killing 644 people and injuring 4,152 others while destroying 2,262 houses. Another village was built to house Syrian refugees in the southern city of Kilis. The Kuwaiti government and non-government organizations (NGOs) contributed heavily to assisting the Syrian refugees in Turkey, offering financial and material aid in order to ease their suffering. Kuwait hosted three international donor conferences to help the Syrian people, pledging a total of USD 7.5 billion, of them Kuwait contributed USD 1.3 billion. — KUNA

## INDIA MINISTER AKBAR TO VISIT KUWAIT ON SEPT 20

**KUWAIT:** India's Minister of State for External Affairs M J Akbar is leading an Indian delegation to Kuwait for the third India-Kuwait Joint Ministerial Commission meeting on September 20, 2017, an Indian embassy press release said yesterday.

This meeting on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation between India and Kuwait is taking place after a gap of nine years. Anas Khaled Al-Saleh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Kuwait will lead the Kuwaiti delegation at the meeting. There will be wide ranging discussions on various issues of common interest between two sides, the release added.

Despite his busy schedule, Akbar will interact with members of Indian community in Kuwait at Embassy's Auditorium on September 20 from 5 to 6 pm. The embassy invited all members of the Indian



M J Akbar

community to attend the meeting. All concerned are requested to arrive at embassy auditorium by 4.30 pm on Wednesday, 20 September 2017.



DGCA's Director General Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah with Carl Burleson, Deputy Assistant Administrator of Policy, International Affairs, and Environment at the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

## KUWAIT, US EYE CLOSER CIVIL AVIATION COOPERATION: DGCA

**KUWAIT:** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) yesterday affirmed keenness to boost cooperation ties with US civil aviation authorities. Kuwait seeks to benefit from the US experience in airports management, DGCA's Director General Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said, cited by a DGCA's statement.

Sheikh Salman made his remarks after meeting earlier with Carl Burleson, Deputy Assistant Administrator of Policy, International Affairs, and Environment at the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), in Washington DC. He reiterated DGCA's aspiration to bolster joint cooperation with FAA, wishing that US civil aviation bodies can overcome hazards of the ongoing hurricanes in their country. For his part, Burleson expressed his joy towards outcomes of

talks with the Kuwaiti delegation, indicating that it is FAA's first ever high-level meeting with DGCA. He wished for further joint cooperation in civil aviation field with Kuwait and other countries in the Middle East region.

Meanwhile, DGCA mentioned that the Kuwaiti-US talks focused on finding ways to strengthen the two nations' cooperation in airports' safety and security. Talks also addressed ways to boost bilateral cooperation in training, development, and human resources growth to improve the skills of Kuwait International Airport's workers and enhance employees' work efficiency. Sheikh Salman and Burleson also agreed to exchange visits and intensify bilateral meetings to benefit from the American expertise in running airports via use of modern technology. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the first session of the premier term of the reformed Supreme Council for Planning and Development.



## PREMIER HEADS 1ST SESSION OF REFORMED SUPREME COUNCIL

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chaired, at Seif Palace yesterday, first session of the premier term of the re-formed Supreme Council for Planning and Development. His Highness the Premier, at the session onset, congratulated the council members for winning His Highness the Amir's confidence and praised former members.

He affirmed the council's significant role for proposing ideas regarding the aspired sustainable development. Current period is sensitive due to security and political tensions in the Gulf region, as well as oil prices' decline along with its impact on the Kuwaiti economy and the region, he pointed out. The session addressed amendments to the by-laws, which regulate tasks of the council and sub-committees, in addition to the commissions' formation, stated Minister of Social Affairs, Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh, in a statement. — KUNA



## KUWAIT CALLS FOR CEMENTING ARAB-JAPANESE COOPERATION

**CAIRO:** Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah called for strengthening Arab-Japanese economic, cultural, and educational cooperation for better future for both sides. Speaking at the opening session of the first round of the Arab-Japanese ministerial dialogue, which kicked off at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo Monday evening, Al-Jarallah stressed that a stronger and wider cooperation in a slew of domains would be beneficial for mutual interests.

It would also help confront political and security challenges, particularly the growing

menace of terrorism on world security and stability, he added. Al-Jarallah expressed appreciation of Japan's support to Arab causes at international events and organizations. He recalled Japan's role in liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation and its supportive stance to the Palestinian people. This honorable stance would be remembered forever by Kuwaiti people, he said. He pointed out that Japan is the fourth largest trade partner to Kuwait with trade exchange estimated at USD 14 billion in past few years.

Meanwhile, Al-Jarallah expressed deep concern about the latest worrying developments in the Korean Peninsula after the recent nuclear test by North Korea. "This development prompts us to call on North Korea to immediately and completely abide by its obligations as per the relevant UN resolutions," he said. He reiterated Kuwait's commitment to work with the international community to press the North Korean government to stop its nuclear, and ballistic missile and other mass destruction weapons production programs. In abidance with the UN resolutions related to boycotting North Korea to push it to implement its obligations, Kuwait has taken several trade measures in this regard and lowered the diplomatic representation with North Korea to the level of charge d'affair. — KUNA



SYDNEY: President of the Senate of Australia Stephen Parry receives Kuwaiti Ambassador to Australia Najeeb Al-Bader.

## AUSTRALIAN SENATE RECEIVES LETTER ON ANTI-ISLAM ACTIONS

**KUWAIT:** President of the Senate of Australia Stephen Parry received a letter from Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, hailing the senate's condemnation of anti-Islam actions in the country. The letter, delivered by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Australia Najeeb Al-Bader yesterday, expressed appreciation for the senate's opposition to the anti-Islam actions taken by leader of the One Nation Party Pauline Hanson.

During his meeting with Parry, ambassador Al-Bader affirmed that Kuwait believes in dialogue as a way of spreading peace among nations, said Kuwait

Embassy in a statement received by KUNA. Al-Bader also explained to the Australian official that Muslim countries are exerting great efforts to fight terrorism and extremism, as part of their commitment to the international fight against terrorism.

Al-Bader meanwhile, applauded the contributions of over 600,000 of Australia's Muslims to the country's development in all fields, the embassy added. Hanson had spoken out controversial anti-Islam statements, among them were calls to forbid wearing the burqa. She had also launched a campaign aiming to prevent Muslim migration to Australia. — KUNA

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## MINISTER HIND AL-SABEEH VISITS ACK'S AVIATION DEPARTMENT

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh visited Aviation department at Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) yesterday in Mishref. Minister Al-Sabeeh was received along with Ibrahim Al-Khuzam, CEO of Kuwait Airways, Engineer Faisal Al-Azmi, and Director of Engineering at Kuwait Airways. Prof Dr Essam Zaabalawi, President of ACK welcomed minister Al-Sabeeh and showed his appreciation for their visit that reflects the extent of their interest in supporting and strengthening the role played by the college through its mission, which is the directives of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah related to the development of education.

Zaabalawi added that the college is keen to provide educational and training special programs in the fields of engineering, business administration, aviation and marine science to contribute effectively to the development of

human share capital in Kuwait to serve development comprehensive process concept with a focus on applied and professional aspects based on the knowledge base. He stressed that in the philosophy learning undertaken by the Australian College of Kuwait, "We learn to know, to work, to educate and to live together."

He thanked Kuwait Airways for their support and their keenness to provide training opportunities for students during the study and employment opportunities after graduation and ACK looks forward to opening new horizons and enhancing cooperation between the two parties to increase the benefit by participating in the development of new programs.

The Aviation department at the Australian College of Kuwait has been approved as a Part-147 Maintenance Training Organization, by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Kuwait and the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Diploma program is a course specially designed for students who wish to gain employment in

the aerospace industry as aircraft trainee mechanics or trainee engineers.

Diploma graduates will be equipped with a wide range of practical skills and knowledge, applicable to the aerospace maintenance industry. These diploma programs have five semesters and it is a two and a half years full-time course. Successful completion of the Diploma program also provides a pathway for further training towards becoming a Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (LAME).

The Australian College of Kuwait was established to provide internationally recognized and accredited experiential education and training in Business, Engineering, Aviation and Maritime sectors. It was licensed by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education under Amiri Decree 141/2003 and commenced operation in October 2004. Since then, ACK has grown to become one of the leading educational institutions in Kuwait, strongly contributing towards the employment sector and continuing to produce knowledgeable, skilled and professional candidates for Kuwait's growing economy.



— Photos by Joseph Shagra



## 'THEATRICAL COMEDY NIGHTS' FESTIVAL KICKS OFF

**KUWAIT:** The second edition of the "Theatrical Comedy Nights" festival kicked off Monday evening in memory of the late artists Abdullhussain Abdulredha and Mohammad Al-Roshoud, who left their clear mark on the Comedy Theater. In the festival, the Gulf Theater Band presented comedic works of the distinguished writer Mohammed Al-Roshoud at Dasma Theater. The National Council for Culture, Art and Letters (NCCAL)'s Assistant Secretary-General for the Arts Sector and festival's higher Committee

Chairman Dr Bader Al-Duweesh said in his speech during the opening that the festival chose the comedian Tareq Al-Ali as the festival personality for this year for his rich artistic career. He pointed out that NCCAL represents the main incubator for artistic, cultural, and literary creativity, adding that it is keen on organizing theatre and artistic events, such as Kuwait Theater Festival, which has become one of the most important theater festivals in the Arab world.

For his part, the festival director Abdulkarim Al-

Hajri said that this year's festival presents the creations of the Kuwaiti comedy theater, indicating an approach to blend comedian theatrical works with constructive and educational messages. Jari Al-Ardh (Viewing) play, will be the first to entertain the audience, followed by 4 other plays, Al-Hajri added. The festival will continue until September 19 under the auspices of the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information and Chairman of NCCAL Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA



## KEPS FOLLOWING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON MIGRATORY BIRDS

**KUWAIT:** Bird monitoring and protection team of Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) said yesterday it is monitoring the impact of climate change on migratory birds and their migration to and from Kuwait during its annual migration from the North to the South and vice versa. The team during its participation in the assessment of local potential for the development of a national bird-watching activity workshop presented some suggestions and courses of monitoring and protection of birds to increase knowledge about this field, team member Mohammed Khorshid told KUNA.

The two-day workshop, organized by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), gathered all those interested in birds monitoring from experts, teams, groups and individuals in the country to present proposals in this regard and to identify scientific gaps, he said. The team, through monitoring and awareness, is preparing some information materials that contribute to highlighting the positive role of preserving the birds through news about migration and the latest species observed in Kuwait.

He pointed out that the team also makes short films highlighting the beauty of Kuwait's environment and its birds as well as the role of

environment protectorates. The team carried out semi-daily monitoring operations during migration seasons for birds in many areas of the coun-

try to collect important data that contribute to building an information system to help study future changes in birds, Khorshid said. — KUNA



## HORECA 2018 DUE AT FAIR GROUNDS JANUARY 15-17

**KUWAIT:** Leaders Group for Consulting and Development (Leaders Group)'s general manager Nabilah Al-Anjari said that the 7th Horeca Kuwait exhibition is set to be held from January 15-17, 2018 and would be jointly organized with the Hospitality Services Company. Al-Anjari added that the exhibition would be held over a total area of 6500 square meters at hall number 8 at the Mishref International fair Grounds and that it intends keeping the valuable trust it gained from leading hospitality, food industries and hotel equipment companies during previous exhibitions.

"Preparations for the coming cycle of the exhibition have gone a long way," Al-Anjari said noting that most exhibitors and sponsors had already signed contracts for the new cycle as soon as the previous one was concluded last January. She added that exhibitors in the last cycle of the exhibition had increased by 40 per cent, participants in the cooking competition increased by 18 per cent and exhibitors' satisfaction reached 89 per cent compared to previous cycles.

Furthermore, Al-Anjari noted that



Nabilah Al-Anjari

those figure emphasize Kuwait's need for such specialized exhibitions to develop its hospitality and food industry sectors. "The figures also emphasize Horeca's role in developing Kuwait's exhibitions and conferences industry to contribute to turning Kuwait into a regional financial hub", she added noting that success achieved by Horeca was the result of cooperation with the Hospitality Services Company as a leading Lebanese company in this particular line of business.

## KUWAITI PHOTOGRAPHER CHOSEN IN WORLDWIDE NIKON SHOWCASE

**TOKYO:** Kuwaiti photographer Majed Sultan Al-Zaabi was chosen as one of 32 photographers to represent four types of photography in eight countries in Asia, the Pacific, Middle East and Africa, spearheading a showcase of the latest Nikon D850 camera. In a statement to KUNA, Al-Zaabi dedicated this achievement to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in commemoration of naming His Highness the Humanitarian Leader by the UN. "I feel proud to belong to the state of goodness and humanity and I am happy when I convey a picture that may contribute in lifting the suffering of a human being," he said.

For his part, General Manager of the International Business Division Imaging Group, Nikon Singapore Pte Ltd, Hiroki Yamaoka, said "we are delighted to be working with 32 great photographers in the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East and Africa," adding the photographer's vast experience in photography will help to deliver outstanding content and will highlight the best D850 features as well as presenting them to a wide audience in the photography community.

Al-Zaabi is one of the most prominent figure in the field of documenting charitable work, where he documented many events

with the Direct Aid Society, including the famine of Somalia and northern Kenya and many charitable projects in Africa and other countries. Al-Zaabi has won more than 100 international photography awards and he is also an active member in social media and has an educational channel on YouTube as well as many local and international workshops where he also published many of the pictures in the National Geographer.

Four expert photographers from each of Nikon's local offices were selected in eight regions including Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Middle East and Africa to represent four types of photography, event photography, nature and commercial photography. The company was founded in 1917 and has since worked on building its position as a leader in optical technology in Japan and abroad. — KUNA



Photographer Majed Sultan Al-Zaabi

## LNG TERMINAL PROJECT VITAL FOR OIL SECTOR, SAYS OFFICIAL

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Integrated Petrochemical Industries Company (KIPIC) yesterday affirmed the significance of the Liquefied Natural Gas Import Terminal Project for backing up the national oil sector. The LNG terminal output capacity is projected at some 3,000 billion thermal units (65,000 tons) per day. The terminal at Al-Zor refinery will produce optimal type of natural gas and environmentally friendly fuel oil, said Mohammad Al-Gharabally, the head of the team tasked with performance at KIPIC. He was speaking at a seminar, organized by the company about the project. KIPIC is currently conducting studies for a petrochemical complex, including the third olefins plant, the second aromatics plant and the petrochemicals' breaking unit.

Moreover, it is seeking to design a petrochemical complex for producing other derivatives. The Al-Zor LNG terminal is projected to have a refining capacity of 615,000 barrels per day, some 45 percent of the national refining capacity. Main transactions for the project is made up of five packages at a total value of KD 4.87 billion (USD 15.9 billion), said Al-Gharabally, explaining that it will secure 225,000 barrels per day to cover needs of the country's power stations. KIPIC, established in 2016, is a subsidiary company of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). It was set up to follow up on establishing and operating the petrochemical refinery and import LNG import terminals in Al-Zor, a key venture in the national development strategy. — KUNA

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: The calm and tranquil waters observed off Kuwait's coast during sunset. — KUNA

KUWAIT TENDERS AGENCY, MINISTRY HONORED BY ARAB COMPETITION



CAIRO: Kuwait's Central Agency for Public Tenders (KCAPT) and the Ministry of Public Works has won two shields and a couple of certificates of appreciation at end of the Golden Excellence Award Competition for Arab Governments' Achievements 2017. Kuwait's honoring was declared during a gathering, held by the Academy for Excellence Awards in the Arab Region.

Ayman Al-Serhan, the assistant undersecretary at KCAPT, said in remarks to KUNA that the Kuwaiti agency won the e-government shield for a program on classifying contractors. Khaled Al-Ammar, director of KCAPT's information department, said he was proud of winning the award for the second time this year. For his part, Anwar Al-Tawari, the secretary charged with contractors' classification at the Kuwaiti agency, noted the department's key role in facilitating and speeding up applications by contracting companies.

Iman Ashkenani, director of the information systems at the Ministry of Public Works, expressed satisfaction for partaking in the competition for the service; qualifying and recording participants in the ministry tenders,



contracts and auctions. Registration for contracts and auctions is now possible via the ministry electronic website. An applicant should post his (her) data, which may be

accepted if they meet the ministry criteria. He may print the acceptance and request qualification card to be able to deal with the ministry as an importer, she explained. — KUNA

International Monetary Fund

Middle East Center for Economics and Finance  
Kuwait

“Course Administrator”  
Vacancy Announcement

Applications are being solicited for the position of Course Administrator at the IMF-Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) located in Kuwait. The CEF is an office of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with a mission to strengthen the skills of officials from Arab League countries in economics, finance, and policy formulation, done mainly through the delivery of training courses and seminars. This is a full-time position with an initial appointment term of two-years (renewable), and carries a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with the successful candidate's experience and qualifications.

Qualifications and Skills

- University graduate, work experience is highly desired.
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic is required.
- Strong IT skills (MS Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and SharePoint) are essential.
- Proficiency in typing Arabic and English is a must.
- Strong interpersonal and professional service skills.
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment, work under pressure and meet challenging deadlines.

Closing date of the application is September 26, 2017.  
Interested candidates can submit their CVs to the following email : [cefinfo@imf.org](mailto:cefinfo@imf.org)



KUWAIT: Parents have accompanied their children to kindergartens on the first day of the new scholastic year. The kids' reactions to the experience following the long summer break were divergent. Some appeared joyful, others were overwhelmed with concern and anxiety and a number of the kids wept or cried for being separated from the parents. Parents overcome their sentiments and play a vital role in enabling the children get back to classes. — KUNA

In my view

## JERUSALEM: HOME FOR ALL



By Labeed Abdal

local@kuwaittimes.net

Arab foreign ministers strongly condemned the dangerous Israeli acceleration in occupied Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa mosque. They warned that such aggression could have dangerous consequences in the future and might start a religious conflict in the region. This reminded me of a funny story when I met a Tunisian lady during one of my trips abroad, and asked her about her son's name. With a deep sigh, she replied, that her son's name was Rayyan and that he meant everything to her. That woman's sigh truly expressed that he was part of her soul.

This story reminded me of a song by Lebanon's prime singer, Fairouz titled 'Ta'a We La teji' (Come and do not come), which talks about a mother's longing for her departed son. Back to the Israel's aggressions that oppose the idea of considering Jerusalem as a religious home for three heavenly religions, one cannot see any civilization when the UN uselessly makes a unanimous resolution on adapting the two-neighboring states solution to solve a problem between two peace-loving people and avoid potential crimes of hatred and revenge.

## KUWAITI RESEARCHER WINS SHOMAN AWARD

AMMAN: Kuwaiti researcher Dr Ali Al-Dosari won The Abdul Hameed Shoman Award for Arab Researchers for his research "climate change and its impact on biodiversity and desertification". This came in a statement published on the website of the award announcing the winners' names. The organizers said that Al-Dosari's research was included in the basic sciences field and among 151 candidates from various Arab universities and scientific institutions. The Abdul Hameed Shoman Award for Arab Researchers was launched in 1982 to promote Arab scientific research and provide incentives to upcoming generations of young Arab scientists. — KUNA



Al-Anbaa

## PUZZLED PARENTS

By Dr. Nermin Al-Houti

The recent ad about the opening and registration to join the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts (HIODA) in Kuwait's newspapers left many parents puzzled as it didn't contain a lot of information regarding the enrollment. The ad did not mention the GPA required for the enrollment process without which students cannot join the cultural facility. According to the academic law, when the GPA eligibility is not mentioned, it gives every student the right to join the institute where they have low or high GPA as the ad cancels the requirement of GPA as a condition, which is a basic in any prestigious university or academy.

The ad only mentioned the requirement of an original copy of the educational qualifications (General Secondary/credits) or equivalent for admission. The question is does the institute have a department for certificates equivalency? And is the institute authorized to approve secondary certificates or other universities?

The specified requirements for admission were: for Kuwaitis, the applicant must be 18 years and not older than 22, and is allowed to waive two years in case the applicant showed outstanding tests' results and for employed Kuwaitis in the government and private sectors, no age limit was mentioned which means if an employee brings a permission letter and passes the admission test, he or she can join HIODA.

Your Excellency the Education Minister, I am writing to on behalf of all the parents asking if it is realistic to mix youngsters aged between 18 and 24 with people above 35 years. I, as a guardian and educator fear that mixing children with people from different age groups and attitude may not be a good idea.

I also hope that admission conditions for expat students, from some friendly Arab countries that do not have scholarship or cannot issue a paper from their embassies be waived due to the unstable situation in the Arab world. Kuwait is the country of benevolence, and let's continue to keep it as a beacon for humanity, just like our leader HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

## CBK ORGANIZES 'HEALTHY DAY'

KUWAIT: In collaboration with the Diet care Company, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently organized a 'Healthy Day' during which the company specialized in healthy diets conducted medical checkups on CBK employees and provided consultancy on improving their lifestyles. Speaking on the occasion, CBK's deputy director for PR and publicity, Amani Al-Wer'a said CBK hosted Diet care team to provide the best medical services to its employees as part of several further activities meant to enhance employees' health awareness and encourage following healthy lifestyles amongst them.



## OTAIBI DENIES MOE SCHOOL STATEMENTS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Khaled Mohammed Al-Otaibi described the statements made by MOE officials about preparations made for the new school year as fake because the real situation in various schools were different, namely those in areas he described as the 'forgotten' ones such as Sabah Al-Ahmed City.

"We have previously warned of what happens in new areas every year and the negligence Ali Sabah Al-Salem school suffered from is happening again now in Sabah Al-Ahmed schools", he underlined noting that a girls' intermediate school has 1500 students and is still understaffed in both teachers and administrative staff.

Al-Otaibi added that the area's boys secondary school now includes 31 class-

es compared to only 14 last year. "School was suspended for a week in another school because it is understaffed compared to the number of pupils", he added noting that parents have started taking their kids to other less crowded schools in distant areas.

### MPW vacancies

MPW is expected to announce 18 vacancies for managers and heads of departments within a few days, said informed sources noting that six further vacancies would be later announced. Meanwhile, MPW assistant undersecretary for road engineering affairs, Ahmed Al-Hessan said that the ministry would sign three new road construction contracts within the coming two months to develop Abdali, Salmi highways and south Surra road.

## NEW TECHNICAL MEASURES TO REHABILITATE WATER GRID

By Mesh'al Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MEW's assistant undersecretary for water operation and maintenance, Khalifa Mohammed Al-Feraj announced the commencement of new technical measures to rehabilitate the fresh water grid in blocks 5 and 7 at Funaitees after some new buildings had been built. He added that the rehabilitation measures include cleaning and sterilization.

### Minimum retirement age

Chairman of Kuwait Labor Union, Salem Shebeeb Al-Ajmi hailed the parliamentary financial affairs decision on approving a draft law proposing amending the social security law concerning reducing the minimum retirement age and maximum service

years for both men and women. Al-Ajmi stressed that the new decision would have very important positive socio-economic impacts on various families. It would allow women to take more care of their families and household matters, take part in voluntary initiatives and cultural activities and take part in economic activities such as small and medium projects. Al-Ajmi added that the decision also allows men to start their own businesses at suitable age so that they could be able to run them. "We hope the government will approve such tendencies, as well", he underlined noting that the amendment will not overburden the state budget and that the majority of those applying for retirement would do so out of some socio-economic motives rather than out of their wish to relax.

## Crime

Report

### Infamous Jahra car thieves arrested

KUWAIT: Jahra detectives arrested two car thieves near the Industrial Sulabiya area, after they were put under surveillance for few days. The two were witnessed on numerous occasions stealing cars and robbing citizens and expats in Adan and Farwaniya areas. Law enforcement interrogations revealed that the two stole a car from Adan then robbed expats. They took police officers to the place where the car was stolen and later to the place they left it in Jahra desert.

### Liquor-maker arrests

Farwaniya police arrested five Asians trading in locally made liquor, in four separate arrests in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Khaitan. The total number of bottles found on them tallied to 232. The first arrest was in Khaitan when an Indian was seen walking with a large bag. When a police patrol was passing by, he threw it and started running; he was then caught and arrested with 20 bottles in the bag. The second arrest was in the same area when two Indians

were stopped and 26 bottles were found in the trunk of their car. The third arrest was in Jleeb when a Korean was caught with 130 bottles, the fourth arrest was in Jleeb when an Indian ran away when he saw police leaving bags behind, and they found 66 bottles with him.

### Indian woman beaten

An Indian woman was found beaten hard by a man she claimed she knows. The woman went to Jleeb police station and told them that while heading home from work she was stopped by an Indian man with whom she had financial differences. As the argument escalated, he began beating her and then stole her gold necklace and bracelets before escaping.

### Ardhiya thief

An Asian who was wanted on several theft cases was arrested in Ardhiya. Detectives discovered where he was staying and so they went to the house and arrested him the minute they saw him and immediately took him to the nearest police station. — AlRai/Alanbaa

# Kuwait Times

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**Turkey signs landmark Russian weapons deal**

GLOBAL SPLIT OVER ROHINGYA CRISIS AS CHINA BACKS MYANMAR CRACKDOWN

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DEIR EZZOR: A picture shows destroyed fighter jets and a helicopter at the military airport in the eastern Syrian city of Deir Ezzor. — AFP

# HEZBOLLAH DECLARES SYRIA VICTORY

## GOVT, ALLIES PRESS ATTACK ON IS IN DEIR EZZOR

**BEIRUT:** The Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah has declared victory in the Syrian war while Russia said government forces had driven militants from 85 percent of the country where President Bashar Al-Assad's rule seemed in danger two years ago. The comments from two Syrian government allies mark the most confident assessments yet of Assad's position in the war that spiraled out of 2011 "Arab Spring" protests against him.

The government's most recent advances have recovered swathes of territory in eastern Syria from Islamic State, which is being targeted in the same region in a campaign waged by US-backed Kurdish and Arab militias. Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, whose group has sent thousands of fighters to Syria, dismissed the fighting left to be done in Syria as "scattered battles". "We have won in the war (in Syria)," he said in comments reported by the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar.

Referring to Assad's opponents, Nasrallah said "the path of the other project has failed and wants to negotiate for some gains". The comments, made

at a religious gathering, were confirmed to Reuters by a source familiar with the speech. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in the conflict, which has fractured Syria into a patchwork of areas and generated a refugee crisis of historic proportions, forcing millions of people into neighboring states and Europe.

Military backing from Iran and Russia has proven critical to Assad in the war with insurgents including rebels who have been backed by Gulf Arab states, Turkey and the United States, which has decided to end a program of covert support to rebels. Rebel groups were making steady advances against Assad as recently as 2015, when the deployment of the Russian air force to Syria turned the tide in his favor.

Over the past year, Assad has crushed numerous pockets of rebel-held territory in the cities of Aleppo, Homs and Damascus, brokering local deals by which thousands of his opponents have been moved to remaining rebel-held enclaves of the country. Ceasefires brokered by Russia, Turkey, Iran and the United States in remaining rebel-held areas of western Syria have freed up manpower on

the government side, helping its advance east into the oil-rich province of Deir Ezzor.

### Air strikes

Government forces last week reached Deir Ezzor city, the provincial capital on the Euphrates River, breaking an Islamic State siege of a government-held enclave and a nearby air base. "To date, 85 percent of Syria's territory has been cleared of the militants of illegal armed groups," the RIA news agency cited Alexander Lapin, chief of staff of the Russian military contingent in Syria, as saying. Islamic State fighters are still in control of around 27,000 square km of Syria's territory, he said.

Lapin made no reference to a swathe of territory held in northern Syria by an alliance of US-backed militias - the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) which is led by the Kurdish YPG and is not at war with Assad. "The liberation of (Deir Ezzor) city is proceeding," Lapin said. "Syrian troops are finalizing the defeat of the ISIL group blocking the northern and southern districts of Deir Ezzor," he said. He said the assault was being led by

General Suheil Al-Hassan, a Syrian officer who has risen to prominence in the war.

The SDF, which is battling to defeat Islamic State at Raqqa city, has in recent days launched a separate offensive against Islamic State in Deir Ezzor province. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said air strikes likely to have been carried out by Russian warplanes killed 69 people since Sunday near the Euphrates River in Deir Ezzor. The Russian Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment on Tuesday's report by the Britain-based monitoring group. The Observatory, which identified the victims as civilians, said the air strikes had hit encampments on the western bank of the river and vessels crossing to the eastern side. Syrian state television separately reported the army was conducting artillery and machine gun attacks on rafts carrying Islamic State militants to the eastern side of the river from their last positions in Deir Ezzor city.

### 'Only escape route'

"Their only escape route out of the city is

through rafts on the river, and god willing, we will target them in the water before they get away," a commander said in a televised interview. Aside from the territory held by the SDF and Islamic State, rebels still control a corner of the northwest, a corner of the southwest, an area near Damascus, and an area north of the city of Homs.

Syrian government attacks in the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta region near Damascus suggest Assad may yet try to recapture the remaining rebel-held areas of the west, including enclaves at the borders with Turkey, Jordan and Israel. A major general in the Syrian Republican Guard interviewed by a state-run TV station from Deir Ezzor on Monday warned Syrians who had "run away or escaped from Syria to any other country" not to return.

Major General Issam Zahreddine, head of the 104 Brigade which was under IS-siege for three years in Deir Ezzor, later issued a clarification on his Facebook page, saying his warning had been directed only at people who had taken up arms.—Reuters

# UN SECURITY COUNCIL STEPS UP SANCTIONS ON DEFIANT N KOREA

**UNITED NATIONS:** The UN Security Council unanimously voted to step up sanctions on North Korea, with its profitable textile exports now banned and fuel supplies capped, prompting a traditionally defiant threat of retaliation against the United States. Monday's decision, triggered by the North's sixth and largest nuclear test this month, was the ninth such resolution unanimously adopted by the 15-member Security Council since 2006 over North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear programs.

Japan and South Korea said after the passage of the US-drafted Security Council resolution they were prepared to apply more pressure if North Korea refused to end its aggressive development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. A tougher initial US draft was weakened to win the support of China, Pyongyang's main ally and trading partner, and Russia, both of which hold veto power in the council. "We don't take pleasure in further strengthening sanctions today. We are not looking for war," US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley told the council after the vote.

The North Korean regime has not yet passed the point of no return. "If it agrees to stop its nuclear program, it can reclaim its future ... If North Korea continues its dangerous path, we will continue with further pressure," said Haley, who credited a "strong relationship" between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping for the successful resolution negotiations. North Korea's ambassador, Han Tae Song, told the UN-sponsored Conference on Disarmament in Geneva yesterday the United States was "fired up for political, economic, and military confrontation".

The North regularly threatens to destroy the South and its main ally, the United States, which it accuses of continual preparation for invasion. "My delegation condemns in the strongest terms, and categorically rejects, the latest illegal and unlawful UN Security Council resolution," he said. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was "ready to use a

form of ultimate means", Han said, without elaborating.

"The forthcoming measures by DPRK will make the US suffer the greatest pain it ever experienced in its history." US disarmament ambassador Robert Wood took the floor to say the Security Council resolution "frankly sent a very clear and unambiguous message to the regime that the international community is tired, is no longer willing to put up with provocative behavior from this regime".

UN member states are now required to halt imports of textiles from North Korea, its second largest export after coal and other miner-

als in 2016 that totaled \$752 million and accounted for a quarter of its income from trade, according to South Korean data. Nearly 80 percent went to China. "This resolution also puts an end to the regime making money from the 93,000 North Korean citizens it sends overseas to work and heavily taxes," Haley said. "This ban will eventually starve the regime of an additional \$500 million or more in annual revenues," she said.

### Resume dialogue

South Korea's presidential Blue House said the only way for Pyongyang to end diplomatic

isolation and free itself of economic pressure was to end its nuclear program and resume dialogue. "North Korea needs to realize that a reckless challenge against international peace will only bring about even stronger international sanctions against it," the Blue House said. However, China's official Xinhua news agency said in a commentary that the Trump administration was making a mistake by rejecting diplomatic engagement with the North.

"The US needs to switch from isolation to communication in order to end an 'endless loop' on the Korean peninsula, where 'nuclear and missile tests trigger tougher sanctions

and tougher sanctions invite further tests," Xinhua said. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe quickly welcomed the resolution and said after the vote it was important to change North Korea's policy by stepping up pressure.

The resolution imposes a ban on condensates and natural gas liquids, a cap of 2 million barrels a year on refined petroleum products, and a cap on crude oil exports to North Korea at current levels. China supplies most of North Korea's crude. A US official, familiar with the council negotiations and speaking on condition of anonymity, said North Korea imported about 4.5 million barrels of refined petroleum products annually and 4 million barrels of crude oil.

Chinese officials have privately expressed fears that an oil embargo could risk causing massive instability in their neighbor. Russia and China have also expressed concern about the humanitarian impact of stiffer sanctions on North Korea.

Haley said the resolution aimed to hit "North Korea's ability to fuel and fund its weapons program". Trump has vowed not to allow North Korea to develop a nuclear missile capable of hitting the mainland United States.

South Korean officials said after the North's sixth nuclear test that Pyongyang could soon launch another intercontinental ballistic missile in defiance of international pressure. North Korea said its Sept. 3 test was of an advanced hydrogen bomb and was its most powerful by far. The latest resolution contained new political language urging "further work to reduce tensions, so as to advance the prospects for a comprehensive settlement".

The resolution also calls on countries to inspect vessels on the high seas, with the consent of the flag state, if they have reasonable grounds to believe the ships are carrying prohibited cargo. It also bans joint ventures with North Korean entities, except for non-profit public utility infrastructure projects.—Reuters



NEW YORK: Members of the United Nations Security Council meet concerning North Korea at UN headquarters in New York City. — AFP

## News

in brief

## Russian, US-led strikes kill 35 civilians in Syria's Deir Ezzor

**BEIRUT:** Separate Russian and US-led coalition air strikes yesterday killed 35 civilians in Syria's eastern Deir Ezzor province, where parallel offensives against the Islamic State group are under way, a monitor said. The province lies along Syria's border with Iraq and is seen as a strategic prize by both the Russian-backed Syrian regime and an alliance of Kurdish and Arab forces supported by the US-led coalition fighting IS. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, had earlier reported a toll of 28 dead in Russian and US-led strikes, but raised the figure after new Russian raids on the village of Hawajej Thiab in the west of the province.

## Iraq MPs vote against Kurdish independence referendum

**BAGHDAD:** The Iraqi parliament voted yesterday to oppose an independence referendum planned by Iraqi Kurdish leaders for later this month prompting a walk-out by Kurdish lawmakers. Speaker Salim al-Juburi, a Sunni Arab, said the vote required the government to "take all steps to protect the unity of Iraq and open a serious dialogue" with Iraqi Kurdish leaders. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and other top officials have said repeatedly that the referendum planned for September 25 would violate Iraq's constitution. Kurdish leaders plan to hold the plebiscite not only in the three northern provinces but also in other historically Kurdish-majority areas of Iraq that Kurdish forces captured during the battle against the Islamic State group.

## Zimbabwe can feed itself again, Mugabe claims

**HARARE:** Zimbabwe produced enough food to feed its people for the first time since adopting a controversial policy to strip land from white farmers, President Robert Mugabe told parliament yesterday. From the year 2000, hundreds of white farmers were evicted from their farms, often violently, and land was handed to allies of the ruling ZANU-PF party and in many cases became neglected and unproductive. Zimbabwe had previously been known as the "breadbasket" of Africa. "The country has this year succeeded in regaining its food self-sufficiency status on the back of the good rainy season and the introduction of command agriculture," Mugabe said as he opened parliament.

## 100 Greek university students caught cheating

**ATHENS:** More than 100 Greek university students have been caught in a mass cheating scandal, the state agency ANA reported yesterday. The group at the University of Patras, most of them first-year students, submitted the same paperwork in four separate coursework exercises, the head of the business management department said. "These exercises constitute 30 percent of the final grade," associate professor Yiorgos Androulakis told ANA. "They are composed of four sets of exercises. The students submitted identical paperwork on all four." The university has banned the 106 students from sitting the rest of their exams in September.

## Nine suspected militants killed in a Cairo raid

**CAIRO:** Egypt's official news agency says police killed nine suspected militants when they raided two apartments in a densely populated Cairo neighborhood. The Middle East News Agency says five policemen were wounded in yesterday's early morning exchange of fire in the Ard el-Liwa district. It says police found rifles, ammunition, bomb-making materials and explosive devices at the apartments. The report, which cited an unnamed Interior Ministry official, did not say to which group the suspects were linked. —Agencies

# TURKEY SIGNS LANDMARK RUSSIAN WEAPONS DEAL

## MISSILE SYSTEMS PURCHASE TO RAISE CONCERNS IN WEST

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey has signed a deal with Russia to buy S-400 missile defense systems, its first major weapons purchase from Moscow, in an accord that could trouble Ankara's NATO allies. The purchase of the surface-to-air missile defense batteries, Ankara's most significant deal with a non-NATO supplier, comes with Turkey in the throes of a crisis in relations with several Western states.

"Signatures have been made for the purchase of S-400s from Russia. A deposit has also been paid as far as I know," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in comments published in several newspapers yesterday. "Mr Putin (President Vladimir Putin) and myself are determined on this issue," he told Turkish journalists aboard his presidential jet returning from a trip to Kazakhstan. Moscow also confirmed the accord, with Vladimir Kozhin, Putin's adviser for military and technical cooperation, saying: "The contract has been signed and is being prepared for implementation."

## Take our own decisions

The purchase of the missile systems from a non-NATO supplier is likely to raise concerns in the West over their technical compatibility with the alliance's equipment. The Pentagon has already sounded the alarm, saying bluntly that "generally it's a good idea" for NATO allies to buy interoperable equipment. But Erdogan said Turkey—which has the second largest standing army in NATO after the United States—was free to make military acquisitions



**ANKARA:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan delivers a speech during a meeting of ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party provincial heads at the AK Party Headquarters in Ankara. — AFP

based on its defense needs.

"Nobody has the right to discuss the Turkish republic's independence principles or independent decisions about its defense industry," he said. "We make the decisions about our own independence ourselves, we are obliged to take safety and security measures in order to defend our country." He said Moscow would extend a credit to Turkey for the purchase of the weapons.

Quoted by Russian state-owned TASS news agency, Kozhin said the deal was fully in line with Moscow's strategic interests.

"For this reason we fully understand the reactions of several Western countries which are trying to put pressure on Turkey". However signing the deal does not mean that delivery is imminent, with Russia facing a high demand for the S-400s from its own armed forces and key clients like China and

India. Some analysts have suggested the message sent to the West by the military cooperation between Moscow and Ankara is as important as the delivery itself. In 2015, Turkey scrapped a \$3.4 billion deal with China to build its first anti-missile system.

## Another blow

Russia's relations with NATO have been in crisis over its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine and for backing pro-Moscow separatists in eastern Ukraine. Turkey, a NATO member since 1952, has currently troubled ties with the United States over a number of issues including Washington's support for the People's Protection Units (YPG) Syrian Kurd militia which Ankara considers a terror group. The Turkish-Russian contract is a new sign of better relations between Ankara and Moscow since a reconciliation deal was signed last year following the 2015 shooting down by the Turkish military of a Russian plane over the Syrian border.

Ankara was also heartened by Moscow's response to the 2016 failed coup in Turkey and the two sides have been working together in search of a solution to the Syria conflict. But the two nations—whose rivalry in the Black Sea and Caucasus regions dates back centuries—are still at odds on a host of political issues. Turkey, which vehemently opposed the 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula by Moscow, condemned Tuesday the jailing of a Tatar leader for eight years by Russia over a rally against Moscow's seizure of the region. —AFP

# NETANYAHU SLAMS IRAN AS HE ARRIVES FOR LANDMARK LATIN AMERICA VISIT

**BUENOS AIRES:** Benjamin Netanyahu urged all countries to fight terrorism and singled out Iran as a serial offender as he paid tribute to the victims of two bombings in Argentina on the first trip by an Israeli premier to Latin America. Surrounded by heavy security, Netanyahu held a closed-door meeting with members of Argentina's Jewish community, estimated to be Latin America's most numerous with 300,000 members. He also participated in a ceremony to remember victims of bomb attacks at the Israeli embassy in 1992, and at a Jewish community center in 1994.

The embassy attack killed 29 and injured 220, while the community center blast left 85 dead and 300 injured. Israel blamed the embassy attack on the Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah. Argentine investigators accused five former Iranian officials of sponsoring Hezbollah's attack on the community center but Iran denied involvement. "Iran is the one that was behind of the great attacks in Buenos Aires in the 90s and is the 'octopus of terror', and also Hezbollah that is sending branches (of terror) around the world, arms to Latin America as well."

Netanyahu said, according to a transcript provided by the Israeli embassy. The Israeli leader, who arrived on Monday, said

it is "an obligation for all countries of culture to fight against terrorism ... and in particular, against the Iranian terrorism system." Israel "will continue to act resolutely to countering Iran's terror and terror in general" along with its partners in Latin America and in North America, he said.

## Netanyahu's critics

DAIA, an umbrella organization for the country's Jewish community, welcomed the visit and said it represented a "rapport between Argentina and Israel." But some relatives of victims of the 1994 bombing refused an invitation to the Netanyahu event. "Netanyahu did not come to commemorate the attack, but to increase business," said Diana Malamud, who heads a group called Active Memory. "In these 23 years (since the bombing) Israel has been an observer, like any other country," and did not honestly help "search for the truth" behind the attack, she said.

Argentina's 1980 Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel was also critical. "Not only is he himself accused of committing crimes against humanity in the International Criminal Court for killing civilians, bombing schools, hospitals and Palestinian mosques, but he provides protection to a repressor of the last



**BUENOS AIRES:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, delivers a speech during a press conference after a working meeting at the Casa Rosada presidential house in Buenos Aires. — AFP

Argentine dictatorship," Perez Esquivel said. Esquivel was referring to Israel's refusal to extradite Teodoro Anibal Gauto, accused of committing crimes against humanity during Argentina's 1976-1983 military dictatorship —AFP.

# TRUMP HOSTS SCANDAL-HIT MALAYSIAN PM NAJIB RAZAK

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump hosted Malaysia's prime minister at the White House yesterday, a meeting that risks being overshadowed by his guest's spiraling corruption scandal. Prime Minister Najib Razak will visit the Oval Office for talks that the White House says will be focused on terrorism, trade and Asian maritime disputes. But the run-up to Najib's arrival has been dominated by questions about his entanglement in an ongoing US Justice Department investigation.

The veteran prime minister faces allegations that billions were looted from a sovereign wealth fund, 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), in complex overseas deals that are being investigated by authorities in several countries, including the United States. Both the prime minister and the fund deny any wrongdoing, but the Justice Department has filed civil lawsuits to seize assets, from high-end real estate to artworks, it says are worth about \$1.7 billion.

The White House refused to say whether the issue will come up, and has tried to shift the focus onto relations with a key partner in South East Asia. Trump is expected to visit the region later this year for summits in Vietnam and the Philippines. "Look, we're not going to comment on an ongoing investigation being led by the Department of Justice," said press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Monday. "That investigation is apolitical and certainly independent of anything taking place tomorrow."

"The United States and Malaysia have had a 60-year relationship and partnership built on common economic and security interests, and that continues." She listed "strengthen



**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump greets Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak outside of the West Wing of the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP

counterterrorism cooperation," halting the Islamic State group, "addressing North Korea" and "making sure that we promote maritime security in the South China Sea" as topics for discussion. Trump is also likely to reiterate thanks for Malaysia's efforts to assist the USS John S. McCain, which collided with a tanker as the destroyer was on its way to Singapore, tearing a huge hole in the hull and leaving 10 sailors dead.

Ahead of his arrival at the White House, Najib sought to play up majority-Muslim Malaysia's role as a partner in countering violent extremism. "What underpins decades of friendly, productive and cooperative relations are the deep-seated values we share," he wrote in an article published by The Hill newspaper. "Our commitment to the fight against radicalization and terror is something we feel in our hearts."

## Criticism of Najib

Malaysian opposition lawmaker Lim Kit Siang painted that appeal as a deflection. "No prime minister of Malaysia in the past 60 years had to face such phalanx of international media hostility or avalanche of adverse press publicity both in the United States and the world," he said in a statement. "It is inconceivable that Najib would have the credibility to salvage his own as well as the nation's reputation with his visit to the United States."

"Najib cannot free Malaysia from the ignominy and infamy of being regarded worldwide as a global kleptocrat." In an editorial, the Washington Post said Najib's visit "sets a new low" for the Trump administration. "Not only is Mr Najib known for imprisoning peaceful opponents, silencing critical media and reversing Malaysia's progress toward democracy," the paper wrote. —AFP

# AFTER FILMING IS HORRORS, RAQQA ACTIVISTS BECOME WAR REPORTERS

**BEIRUT:** They honed their media skills secretly filming Islamic State group beheadings in Raqqa. Now, these Syrian activists have become impromptu war reporters, covering the US-backed assault on their city from the ground. "If the crack is sharp and the column of smoke goes straight up, it's an air strike," Syrian activist Tim Ramadan tells AFP from Raqqa, using a pseudonym and communicating through a Facebook profile that disguises his identity.

Every night, Ramadan discreetly turns on his internet satellite service, uploads his daily records from the battle-torn city to Europe-based colleagues at the "Sound and Picture" collective, then immediately deletes the messages. Media networks including Sound and Picture are providing a rare window into life in Raqqa, ravaged by fighting since the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces broke into the city on June 6. They write stories on what it's like for civilians to scavenge for food and water, publish footage of air strikes, and commemorate civilians killed in fighting.

"This is the only thing I can do right now—keep track of how many air strikes, shells, dead, wounded. Who was killed by a sniper, an air strike, or a mine. How many houses were destroyed," Ramadan says. Activists like him once solely focused on documenting the gruesome atrocities of IS's three-year-reign over the city. But the assault on Raqqa changed all that. "We used to be afraid of being arrested (by IS) if we went out in the street. Now we're afraid of going outside in case an artillery shell hits us."

And if we don't go out, we're scared an air strike could flatten the whole house on top of us," says Ramadan. US-led coalition warplanes and SDF shelling have pounded Raqqa, where up to 25,000 civilians still live after tens of thousands escaped. The SDF has captured around 65 percent of Raqqa, recently overrunning the strategic Old City. "When the coalition and the SDF entered the scene, we had to document more. Daesh wasn't the only side killing civilians anymore," Ramadan says, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

## Human shields

Since Syria's uprising began in 2011, citizen journalists have used cell phones and social media to document protests and violations by armed forces.

They adapted the same tools to document IS atroc-

ities after it captured Raqqa in 2014, with groups like Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently publishing footage of beheadings and jihadist patrols. When coalition air strikes on Raqqa began in 2014, the city's activists started to document those too.

But the activists say the real change in their work came when the SDF entered the city, prompting clashes that brought rampant power cuts and made moving around much more difficult. "IS has actually lifted some of its restrictions on people because it's busy with clashes," says 21-year-old Mazen Hassoun, who manages news outlet Raqqa Post from Germany. "But communicating with our team is harder now than before, especially after the internet cafes were shut and fighting reached the city itself," he says.

Like other activists, Raqqa Post's team stockpiled food, water, and medicine and turned basements into makeshift bomb shelters in anticipation of a long fight, says Hassoun. Mohammad al-Khaled, who heads the Raqqa 24 media collective from northern Syria, warned his correspondents that he had seen how brutally IS responded to other US-backed assaults. "I told them Daesh would be more evil towards civilians, that they would use them and their families as human shields if they stayed," Khaled tells AFP, adding that some chose to flee.

## IS leaves, but ideas stay

In recent months, Khaled has begun using new messaging programs and code words to protect his correspondents. Two members of the network's six-person team have been wounded in clashes, but correspondent Khalil still refuses to leave. "My specialization with the network is documenting casualties because of my background in medicine. I record the number and cause of deaths," Khalil says, using a pseudonym and communicating via an online messaging app.

"If I was to leave at a time like this, it would be a betrayal of my countrymen, whom I've decided to stay within this situation," Aghiad al-Kheder, who coordinates with Ramadan and other Sound and Picture correspondents from Germany, spent a year living under IS in Raqqa before escaping in 2015. At the time, he graphitized anti-IS messages and distributed flyers to combat the jihadists' extreme ideology. —AFP

## UNIONS EMBRACE SINGLE MARKET BUT TORN ON IMMIGRATION

**BRIGHTON:** A sea of hands went up at Britain's annual trade union gathering this week in favor of keeping close ties with the European Union. Labor leaders representing some 5.6 million workers, meeting in Brighton for the Trades Union Congress (TUC), said they embraced the European single market and warned of the perils of a "hard Brexit". But their reluctance to commit to the single market's requirement for the free movement of people illustrated the dilemma at the heart of Britain's labor movement.

"We were never starry-eyed about Europe," said Len McCluskey, leader of the TUC's largest union, Unite. His union backed remaining in the single market with the caveat that employers should not be able to pay foreign workers lower salaries than domestic workers. TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said the practice of employers advertising abroad for jobs they are not advertising at home should be stopped. She also suggested options such as reserving public sector jobs for British citizens could be of interest.

The TUC in a motion urged Prime

Minister Theresa May's government to "use all the domestic powers at its disposal to manage the impact of migration". The RMT transport union, which campaigned in favor of Brexit ahead of last year's referendum, was the only one of the TUC's affiliated unions to openly oppose the umbrella body's policy on the single market. It accused the EU of propagating "key anti-worker policies".

"It was (former Prime Minister Margaret) Thatcher that campaigned for the single market. We should be working for socialism, not collaboration with the bosses," said RMT representative Edward Dempsey. "The European social model is always focused on individual workers rights and we should remember that we're a collective movement," he said.

### Blame employers, not immigrants

Some leftists said they rejected the idea of staying in the single market altogether, and were furious that the main opposition Labor Party has called for doing so during a transition period after Brexit. "EU liberalization, allowing capital to flow out of the country, takes jobs



**LONDON:** Pro-European Union demonstrators protest outside the Houses of Parliament against the first vote today on a bill to end Britain's membership of the EU.—AFP

with it and suppresses wages. Old Karl Marx worked that out a long time ago," said Kate Brown, 61, a former university lecturer. Brown, who was selling a com-

munist magazine outside the conference centre on Brighton's windy seafront, said she was frustrated at the enthusiasm the Labor Party and the TUC showed for the single market. But Sally Hunt, head of the University and College Union, said immigration "enriched" British society and argued in favor of free movement of people. "It is the employers who depress wages, not immigrants," she said.

Whatever the approach to Brexit, union leaders warned it should not come at the expense of workers' rights. Many leaders also voiced fears that special executive powers in draft Brexit legislation put forward by the Conservative government could lead to workers' rights being altered without parliamentary scrutiny.

The new bill would repeal the 1972 European Communities Act, convert an estimated 12,000 existing European regulations into British law and end the supremacy of EU legislation. Brexit could lead to "a race to the bottom" on workers' rights, O'Grady warned. "We don't want Brits falling behind the rights that other Europeans enjoy."—AFP

## IRMA'S DEATH TOLL RISES, RESIDENTS START TO RETURN TO FLORIDA COAST

### AUTHORITIES WORKING TO RESTORE BASIC SERVICES

**FLORIDA:** Florida allowed some residents to return yesterday to areas hammered by Hurricane Irma's high winds and storm surge, while the death toll rose in the second major hurricane to hit the United States this year. Irma, which had rampaged through the Caribbean as one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes on record, was downgraded to a tropical depression on Monday. It will likely dissipate from Tuesday evening, the National Hurricane Center said.

At its peak the storm prompted evacuation orders for 6.5 million people in Florida, the largest evacuation in modern US history. Irma killed nearly 40 people in the Caribbean and at least six in Florida and Georgia. A local Florida official said there had been more deaths yet to be reported, particularly on the Florida Keys, where Irma arrived as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of up to 130 miles per hour on Sunday morning.

Local authorities told around 90,000 residents of Miami

Beach and from some parts of the Keys they could go home but warned it might not be prudent to remain there. "This is going to be a frustrating event. It's going to take some time to let people back into their homes particularly in the Florida Keys," Brock Long, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told a news conference. FEMA was continuing to rescue people stranded by flooding around Jacksonville, in the state's northeast, he said.

Irma devastated several Caribbean islands en route to Florida. It destroyed about one-third of the buildings on the Dutch-ruled portion of St. Martin island, the Dutch Red Cross said yesterday. The storm was the second major hurricane to make landfall in the United States in a little more than two weeks when it roared over Key Cudjoe. Hurricane Harvey plowed into Houston late last month, killing about 60 and wreaking some \$180 billion in damage, largely through flooding. Monroe County

Commissioner Heather Carruthers said on Monday that people had been killed in the Keys, which have nearly 80,000 permanent residents, but she did not have a count on how many. "We are finding some remains," she said in an interview with CNN. Video footage of the islands showed homes torn apart. Several major airports in Florida that halted passenger operations due to Irma began limited service yesterday, including Miami International, one of the busiest US airports.

Miami Beach will allow residents to return home from 8 am, its mayor said. More evacuation orders were likely to be lifted yesterday. Monroe County opened road access yesterday morning for residents and business owners from Key Largo, the main island at the upper end of the chain, as well as the towns of Tavernier and Islamorada farther to the south, fire officials said. No timetable was given for reopening the remainder of the Keys, which are linked by a series of causeways and bridges down to Key West, a popular tourist spot on the southern tip of Florida.

### Florida without electricity

Utilities reported some 6.9 million homes and businesses were without electricity in Florida and neighboring states and said it could take weeks to fully restore service. Between 2,000 and 3,000 utility workers from out of state, sent to inspect and repair power lines, were staying in Broward County in cramped conditions at BB&T Center, home to the National Hockey League's Florida Panthers, said Gus Beyersdorf, 40, of De Pere, Wisconsin.

Insured property losses in Florida from Irma were expected to run from \$20 billion to \$40 billion, catastrophe modeling firm AIR Worldwide estimated. One man was found dead in his crashed car on the Keys and two law enforcement officers died in a possibly storm-related fatal car crash on Sunday in Orange County, Florida. On Monday, two people were killed by falling trees in two Atlanta suburbs, according to local authorities. A man was found dead in Winter Garden, Florida, after being electrocuted by a downed power line, local police said.

The remnants of Irma moved into Alabama yesterday and were forecast to head into western Tennessee by yesterday evening with maximum sustained winds of 25 mph. In South Carolina, the Charleston Harbor area saw major flooding on Monday with water about 3 feet above flood stage and minor flooding was forecast for yesterday, the National Weather Service said. The National Hurricane Center was monitoring another hurricane, Jose, which was spinning in the Atlantic about 700 miles west of Florida. About 2-1/2 months remain in the Atlantic hurricane season, which starts in June.—Reuters



**FLORIDA:** Two retirees ride tricycles through a flooded street at the Enchanted Shores manufactured home park in Naples, Florida, after Hurricane Irma hit Florida.—AFP

## VENEZUELA SUPREME COURT HAS STAGED EFFECTIVE COUP

**GENEVA:** Venezuela's Supreme Court has progressively dismantled the rule of law, becoming an instrument of President Nicolas Maduro's government in what amounts to a coup against the constitutional order, an international human rights group said yesterday. The collapse of the judiciary has left victims of torture, killings and disappearances and their families without recourse to justice after months of violent street protests, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) said. It called on the UN Human Rights Council to take action.

"We have seen a judiciary that has essentially lost its independence and become a tool of a very authoritarian executive branch," Sam Zarifi, ICJ Secretary-General, told a news briefing. "This breakdown of the rule of law has also severely obstructed accountability (and) essentially made it impossible to bring to justice those responsible for gross violations of human rights," he said. The Venezuelan government did not immediately reply to a request for comment. Foreign minister Jorge Arreaza on Monday rejected as "baseless" a UN report that found excessive use of force by its security forces and other violations.

Four months of demonstrations in which at least 125 people were killed have all but stopped due to fatigue among protesters and disillusionment at seeing the ruling Socialist Party cement vast powers despite the concerted opposition push. The ICJ said the top court had undermined human rights and infringed the Constitution through a series of rulings since December 2015. In two rulings in March 2017, the Supreme Court of Justice "effectively claimed legislative powers for itself, depriving the National Assembly of its Constitutional powers and granting sweeping arbitrary powers to the executive," it said.

"These decisions amount to a coup d'Etat against the Constitutional order and have ushered in a new reign of arbitrary rule," Zarifi said. Judges on the Supreme Court are mainly from the Socialist Party or former officials of the government of Maduro or both, the Geneva-based jurists' group said. "Judges who have demonstrated independence and ruled against the executive branch have faced retaliation and punishment," Zarifi said. —Reuters

## BITTERSWEET ELECTION VICTORY FOR NORWAY PM

**OSLO:** After clinching a narrow victory in Norway's legislative elections, Prime Minister Erna Solberg will start out with a fragile second mandate, given her weaker majority and less conciliatory allies. "You can never be confident that you will survive for four years," Solberg said yesterday. "There was a lot of speculation that this (government) would not last, after the last election in 2013. We have managed to do this and I think it's possible to do it for the four next years," she said.

The popular and experienced 56-year-old is the first Conservative in oil-rich Norway to win a second straight mandate in more than 30 years. In Monday's nail-biting election, her coalition-made up of the Conservatives and the mildly populist anti-immigration Progress Party and two smaller centre-right allies took home a thin majority of 89 of the 169 seats in parliament. The Conservatives campaigned on a vow to pursue fur-

ther tax cuts to bolster the economy.

The opposition, led by Labor leader Jonas Gahr Store, meanwhile wanted to raise taxes, especially for the richest, seeking to reduce inequalities and beef up the Norwegians' cherished welfare state. Credited with successfully steering the country-Western Europe's biggest crude producer-through the oil industry slump and the migrant crisis, Solberg now looks set to have her work cut out, simple arithmetic shows.

The rightwing bloc lost seven seats in the new parliament. It will need to stand more united than ever to govern—and that is easier said than done. Until now, Solberg's coalition had held a minority in parliament and needed the support of only one of the two smaller centre-right parties—the Christian Democrats or the Liberals—to pass legislation. But now Solberg needs the support of both parties to do that, and they have both

expressed growing dissatisfaction with the populists on issues such as the climate and immigration.

Contrary to four years ago, the Christian Democrats have already ruled out any formal alliance with a coalition that includes the Progress Party—a very likely member of Solberg's government. "We can't provide any guarantee for the next four years," the head of the Christian Democrats, Knut Arild Hareide, warned.

### No blank cheques

Without a formal cooperation agreement with the Christian Democrats and the Liberals, Solberg will have to engage in tricky negotiations on each issue to obtain the support of the centre-right, which has refused to give her a blank cheque. Concessions and compromises will be necessary, leading tabloid Dagbladet to headline Tuesday's frontpage "Bittersweet Victory". As soon as the election results were in late Monday, Solberg invited the rightwing parties to find a way forward.

"We will talk to the two partners the coalition has had in parliament, and we'll try to reach an agreement with them. And we'll see where we go from there," Solberg said, noting that the two parties had more influence working with the government than in opposition. Before the shape of the next government had even taken form, questions were already being raised about its chances of survival. "It's not a given that they will last four years," warned Audun Lysbakken, head of the Socialist Left party, one of the few winners in the election even though it remained in the opposition. —AFP



**OSLO:** Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg arrives for a press conference in Oslo.—AP

## News

in brief



**POINTE-A-PITRE:** France's President Emmanuel Macron meets official upon his arrival in Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe island, the first step of his visit to French Caribbean islands.—AFP

### France's Macron visits hurricane-hit Caribbean

**MARIGOTE:** French President Emmanuel Macron travelled yesterday to the hurricane-hit Caribbean, joining the Dutch king in the region for a tour of the devastated islands. Macron's visit to the islands of St Martin and St Barts comes almost a week since Hurricane Irma roared over the region as a maximum Category Five storm, leaving at least 10 dead on French territory and a wide trail of destruction. Authorities have begun evacuating locals and tourists from the hardest-hit French, British and Dutch territories in the Caribbean where many have complained about a breakdown in law and order and widespread shortages of food, water and electricity.

### At least eight die in Italy floods

**ROME:** At least eight people died in flooding after violent rains lashed the Tuscan city of Livorno over the weekend, Italian rescue services said yesterday. The body of a 67-year-old man, who had been reported missing since Sunday, was found yesterday, while the body of a 34-year-old woman had been found the day before. Heavy rainstorms swept across the country overnight from Saturday to Sunday, with Livorno bearing the brunt of the flooding. Four people from the same family were found dead in a flooded house in the city on Sunday, where 40 centimeters of rainfall in four hours transformed streets into rivers and washed away cars.

### School segregation in Europe 'worst forms of discrimination'

**STRASBOURG:** School segregation in Europe is "one of the worst forms of discrimination", the region's top rights watchdog said in a report published yesterday. Many European countries continue to exclude disabled children, Roma children and migrants or refugees from mainstream schools, according to the report by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights. "School segregation harms children's learning opportunities and is a clear injustice against minority and other vulnerable groups of people, which also perpetuates their marginalization," said Nils Muiznieks. Countries have an obligation to combat segregation in schools, but the reality is very different, the report said.



**PROVIDENCIALES:** A handout picture shows Royal Marine Commandos unloading aid supplies from a RAF C-130 after landing on the island of Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos archipelago following the passing of Hurricane Irma.—AFP

### British FM flies to Caribbean after criticism of Irma aid

**LONDON:** Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson flew to British territories in the Caribbean yesterday following intense criticism of London's efforts to help communities devastated by Hurricane Irma. Johnson, who has dismissed the criticism from local residents and British tourists as "completely unjustified", will visit the affected British Overseas Territories, the foreign ministry said on Twitter. Britain has sent more than 700 troops and 50 police officers to the British Virgin Islands after Irma swept through last week. Six people have been killed in the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla.



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## NORTH KOREA: THE CELEBRITY CIRCUIT'S UNLIKELIEST OUTPOST

**TOKYO:** What do a flamboyant wrestler-turned-senator from Japan, a former NBA star with a penchant for tattoos and a French comedian with a string of convictions to his name have in common? They all form part of a colorful cast of characters that have made well-publicized trips to North Korea, sparking media fascination amid a thirst for information about the hermit kingdom. Experts say the visits are mainly motivated by self-publicity, but in the absence of conventional ties they can, in some cases, offer a rare point of contact at a time when nuclear tensions on the Korean peninsula are at fever pitch.

Japan's Antonio Inoki, unmistakable from his out-sized chin and trademark tie and red scarf-even in summer-was the latest unorthodox foreign visitor to North Korea for a five-day mission. It was the 32nd trip to Pyongyang for Inoki, who stands 1.9 meters tall and shot to fame in 1976 for battling then world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali in a zany wrestler-versus-boxer bout in Tokyo.

Now a lawmaker in Japan's upper house of parliament, Inoki also forced the government to take an official position about aliens when he tabled a question in

a budgetary committee saying he had seen a mysterious flying object disappearing over the horizon. Inoki has said he wants to "contribute to world peace through sports" and has arranged martial arts and wrestling festivals in North Korea, often meeting high-ranking officials during his visits.

During his latest trip this week, he said he briefly met North Korea's ceremonial head of state Kim Jong Nam and his visit merited a series of dispatches from the official KCNA news agency. Another Japanese personality, a sushi chef who goes by the pseudonym Kenji Fujimoto, claimed last year that Pyongyang's young leader himself picked him up from the airport during his last visit. Former basketball star Dennis Rodman has also hit the headlines in recent years for his trips to North Korea where he has described holiday plans with Kim and dining with him on a huge yacht.

The heavily tattooed Rodman, who once dated Madonna and was married to model and actress Carmen Electra, says he calls Kim "kid" all the time and has described him as "awesome". On one visit with a team of fellow former NBA players in 2014, he publicly

sang "Happy Birthday" to the young leader-Marilyn Monroe-style. The most recent visitor was controversial French comic Dieudonne M'Bala M'Bala, who announced on his YouTube channel that he was going to North Korea to appear at a "peace festival."

Pictures on his Twitter only showed him at the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas-a regular stop for tour groups to the North. Dieudonne sparked outrage-and a two-month suspended jail sentence-in France by saying he sympathized with one of the jihadists involved in the January 2015 attack on the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine in Paris.

### 'The Worm' returned

Officials dismiss the trips as a sideshow. Asked about Inoki's recent visit, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga pointedly reminded journalists that Tokyo has a travel ban in place for North Korea, urging the politician to "act appropriately". Washington has also sought to distance itself from Rodman's trips with a state department official saying after one trip that the NBA star known as the "Worm" had "never been a player in our diplomacy." —AFP



**TOKYO:** This photo shows Japanese wrestler-turned-politician Kanji 'Antonio' Inoki holding a press conference upon his arrival at Tokyo's Haneda airport following his return from a visit to North Korea. — AFP



**BANGLADESH:** Bangladeshi volunteers from the Chhagalnaiya village council distribute food donations to Rohingya Muslim refugees at Naikhongchhari in Chittagong. — AFP

## GLOBAL SPLIT OVER ROHINGYA CRISIS AS CHINA BACKS MYANMAR CRACKDOWN

### MYANMAR GOVT DENIES ABUSES, BLAMES MILITANTS

**COX'S BAZAR:** International divisions emerged yesterday ahead of a UN Security Council meeting on a worsening refugee crisis in Myanmar, with China voicing support for a military crackdown that has been criticized by the US, slammed as "ethnic cleansing" and forced 370,000 Rohingya to flee the violence. Beijing's intervention appears aimed at heading off any attempt to censure Myanmar at the council when it convenes today.

China was one of the few foreign friends of Myanmar's former junta. Beijing has tightened its embrace under Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government as part of its giant trade, energy and infrastructure strategy for Southeast Asia. The exodus from Myanmar's western Rakhine state began after Rohingya militants attacked police posts on August 25, prompting a military backlash that has sent a third of the Muslim minority population fleeing for their lives.

Exhausted Rohingya refugees have given accounts of atrocities at the hands of soldiers and Buddhist mobs who burned their villages to the ground. They cannot be independently verified as access to Rakhine state is heavily controlled. Myanmar's government denies any abuses and instead blames militants for burning down thousands of villages, including

many belonging to Rohingya. But international pressure on Myanmar heightened this week after United Nations rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said the violence seemed to be a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing".

The US also raised alarm over the violence while the Security Council announced it would meet Wednesday to discuss the crisis. Opprobrium has been heaped Suu Kyi, who was once a darling of the rights community but now faces accusations of turning a blind eye to-and even abetting-a humanitarian catastrophe by Western powers who once feted her as well as a slew of fellow Nobel Laureates. But Beijing offered more encouraging words to her yesterday, with foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang voicing support for her government's efforts to "uphold peace and stability" in Rakhine.

"We hope order and the normal life there will be recovered as soon as possible," he told a press briefing. The Rohingya minority are denied citizenship and have suffered years of persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. "An estimated 370,000 Rohingya have entered Bangladesh," since August 25 Joseph Tripura, a spokesman for the UN refugee agency, said. The real figure may be higher as many new arrivals

are still on the move making it difficult to include them in the count, the UN said, adding 60 percent of refugees are children.

Most are in dire need of food, medical care and shelter after trekking for days through hills and jungles or braving dangerous boat journeys. In a statement late Monday Suu Kyi's foreign ministry defended the military for doing their "legitimate duty to restore stability", saying troops were under orders "to exercise all due restraint, and to take full measures to avoid collateral damage." Britain and Sweden requested the urgent Security Council meeting amid growing international concern over the ongoing violence. The council met behind closed doors in late August to discuss the violence, but could not agree a formal statement.

### Stop the oppression

The UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar has said the latest violence may have left more than 1,000 dead, most of them Rohingya. Myanmar says the number of dead is around 430, the majority of them "extremist terrorists" from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). It says a further 30,000 ethnic Rakhine and Hindus have been displaced inside northern Rakhine, where aid programs have

been severely curtailed due to the violence.

The exodus of Rohingya has saddled Bangladesh with its own humanitarian crisis, as aid workers scramble to provide food and shelter to a daily stream of bedraggled refugees. The UN-run refugee camps in its Cox's Bazar district were already packed with Rohingya who had fled from previous waves of persecution. Dhaka is providing them temporary shelter. But Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who visited a Rohingya camp yesterday, stressed it was up to Myanmar to "resolve" the issue. "We will request the Myanmar government to stop oppressing innocent people," she said during a tour of a camp in Cox's Bazar, according to local outlet bdnews24.com.

Dhaka, which has refused to permanently absorb the Rohingya, said it plans to build a huge new camp that will house a quarter of a million refugees. But it remains unclear if or when they will be able to return. Plumes of smoke continued to rise on the Myanmar side of the border this week despite the militants' announcement on Sunday of a unilateral ceasefire. There was no direct response from Myanmar's military, though government spokesman Zaw Htay tweeted: "We have no policy to negotiate with terrorists." — AFP

## News

in brief

### Sri Lankan minister Sirisena sacked for rocking coalition

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena yesterday sacked a minister who had threatened to split his coalition government, three weeks after another was fired for publicly criticizing a government decision. Sirisena's office said Arundika Fernando, junior minister for tourism and Christian affairs, was expelled from the government under the executive powers of the president. "With this sacking the president has asserted his authority and sent a signal he won't hesitate to expel more," a source close to the presidency said, citing Fernando's previous assertion that around a dozen ministers were planning to leave the government.



**MANILA:** Young residents play on a flooded street in Manila, after tropical depression locally codenamed 'Maring', hit the eastern town of Mauban before moving northwest across the main island of Luzon and passing just beside Manila, the government weather station said. — AFP

### At least four dead as storm hits Philippines

**MANILA:** At least four people died and six were missing after a major storm caused flooding in and around Manila yesterday, forcing schools, government offices and businesses to shut down. A 12-year-old girl who drowned in a rain-swollen river in a Manila suburb and a three-month old baby who was crushed by a landslide southeast of the Philippine capital were among the victims, local officials said. Most of the dead and missing were poor people forced to live in identified "danger zones" despite government warnings of the risks they face during storms.

### Pakistan police hunt elder who ordered couple's electrocution

**KARACHI:** Pakistani police were yesterday hunting a tribal elder who ordered a teenage couple to be electrocuted by their families as punishment for eloping, in the country's latest gruesome "honor" killing. The couple, members of the Pashtun ethnic group living in the southern city of Karachi, fell afoul of their families after eloping last month. But police said the man's family persuaded them to return home so they could be married. A tribal jirga (council) then ordered the couple's execution after the families had put their case to the influential group of elders. The couple were tied to a wooden bed and electrocuted by family members. Police said the girl was aged 15 or 16 and the man was around 18 years old.



**HONG KONG:** Veteran activist and former Hong Kong lawmaker Leung Kwok-hung, centre right, and Avery Leung, centre left, chairman of the League of Social Democrats (LSD), burn a picture of former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon during a protest against US President Donald Trump and Bannon's visit to the city in Hong Kong. — AFP

### Anti-racism protesters greet ex-Trump aide Bannon in Hong Kong

**HONG KONG:** Activists gathered in central Hong Kong yesterday to protest the visit of US President Donald Trump's former top strategist Steve Bannon, chanting "Nazis are not welcome here!" as they donned cartoon Trump masks. The protesters stood outside the harbor front Grand Hyatt hotel in Hong Kong where the 63-year-old was due to speak at a closed-door investors' forum, holding a rooster-shaped cardboard cut-out capped with Trump's hairstyle and labeled "toxic nationalist". Media were denied access to Bannon's speech, hosted by CLSA, a Hong Kong-based brokerage firm owned by China's CITIC Securities, China's biggest investment bank. — Agencies

## ANGER IN SINGAPORE AS NO ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT

**SINGAPORE:** Singaporeans yesterday poured scorn on the process to select their new president after an establishment figure was deemed the only eligible candidate, meaning no election will be held. Halimah Yacob, a former speaker of parliament from the city-state's Muslim Malay minority, will be the first woman to hold the largely ceremonial role if as expected-she is formally nominated to the presidency today. But the 63-year-old will avoid an election originally slated for September 23, as others hoping to run against her were judged by authorities not to have met strict eligibility criteria.

Five people had expressed an interest in becoming president of the tightly-controlled, affluent nation of about 5.5 million people. Two were disqualified as they were not Malay-the presidency was on this occasion reserved for members of the ethnic minority-while two Malay businessmen were disqualified as their companies were too small. "All Singaporeans are unhappy that meritocracy and electoral fairness, core Singaporean values, have been eroded to fulfill perceived political goals," writer and political commentator Sudhir Thomas Vadaketh said. There was criticism of the process on social media, with Facebook user Hussain Shamsuddin commenting: "As a citizen of this democratic island nation, I'm deeply embarrassed." "Don't call it an election if we Singaporeans can't vote," wrote Fazly Jijio Din on Facebook. — AFP

## CONTROVERSIAL AUSTRALIA VOTE ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BEGINS

**SYDNEY:** A contentious postal survey on same-sex marriage began in Australia yesterday, with ballots delivered across the vast continent ahead of an expected fractious campaign between the "yes" and "no" sides. While there has been growing support for

marriage equality, with 70 percent of those surveyed in a Fairfax Media poll yesterday backing the "yes" campaign, Australia has yet to legalize such unions despite more than a decade of political wrangling.

The conservative government



**SYDNEY:** This picture shows demonstrators taking part in a same-sex marriage rally in Sydney. — AFP

chose an unusual approach-a voluntary and non-binding postal vote-after an election promise of a national plebiscite was twice rejected by parliament's upper house, the Senate. If most Australians vote "yes" to same-sex marriage the government will move to hold a parliamentary free vote on changing the marriage laws. It will not do so if there is a "no" outcome. "I encourage everyone to fill in the survey and return it. I'll be voting 'yes' as will (my wife) Lucy," Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull told commercial radio this week.

Turnbull, a moderate, is opposed by some members of his conservative ruling Liberal-National coalition on the issue and the postal vote is seen as a compromise. The start of the ballot process followed weekend rallies for and against changing marriage laws, with thousands of people dressed in rainbow colors packing central Sydney on Sunday to back the "yes" vote. Hundreds of "no" campaigners marched on Saturday, arguing that changes would infringe religious freedom and children's rights. — AFP



NANTES: A demonstrator throws a tear gas canister back to anti-riot police during a protest called by several French unions against the labor law reform yesterday in Nantes, western France. French unions launched a day of strikes and protests yesterday against French President's flagship labor reforms, a key test as he stakes his presidency on overhauling the sluggish economy. — AFP

## SAUDI FOILS TERROR PLOT

Continued from Page 1

activities for the benefit of foreign parties" by a group of people it did not name.

A Saudi security source, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter, told Reuters that the suspects were accused of "espionage activities and having contacts with external entities including the Muslim Brotherhood", which Riyadh has classified as a terrorist organization. "The group is also accused of having contacts with and receiving financial and other forms of support from two other countries to harm the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia and with the aim of destabilizing the security and national unity in preparation to overthrow the Saudi regime in favor of the Muslim Brotherhood," the source said.

Citing an ongoing investigation, the source declined to name the countries or the members of the group. The source said one of the detainees is a member of the armed Houthi movement, which is locked in 2 1/2 years of war with a Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, and is in direct contact with the group. The suspects are in custody and will be granted legal rights and due process, the source added. —Reuters

## OMAN SECURES RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED INDIAN...

Continued from Page 1

Uzhunnalil, who is in his mid-50s, last appeared in a video circulated online in December 2016, in which he appealed to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pope Francis to secure his freedom. Yemeni authorities have blamed the Islamic State group for last year's attack. Al-Qaeda, which is also active in the area, distanced itself from the mass shooting, saying that it was not involved.

The internationally recognized government in war-torn Yemen is grappling with both an Iran-backed rebellion and a growing jihadist presence. Al-Qaeda and IS have stepped up attacks in Aden, targeting mainly loyalists and members of a Saudi-led coalition battling Houthi rebels and their allies. President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi has declared Aden to be Yemen's temporary capital since Sanaa was seized by the rebels in September 2014. — AFP

## LAWMAKERS THREATEN TO GRILL PREMIER ...

Continued from Page 1

informed him that the number of students in the classroom will be 50 and that some schools do not have administrators nor teachers.

The lawmaker called on the minister to step down as a result of mismanagement.

In the meantime, head of the Assembly Committee on Bedoons or stateless people MP Nasser Al-Dossari said yesterday that he will call for an emergency meeting for the committee over the Ministry of Education refusal to admit children of Bedoon servicemen. He said the committee will meet with Education Minister Mohammad Al-Fares to discuss the issue, adding that reasons made by the ministry are unjustified. The lawmaker said the minister must answer the committee questions clearly about why the ministry refused to enroll the bedoon students adding that his answers must be supported by figures and facts.

In another development, MP Jamaan Al-Harbash yesterday called for a neutral investigation into the collision between a passenger plane and an air defense balloon late

last month, describing the incident extremely dangerous. The lawmaker said he will send questions to the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh, who oversees civil aviation, regarding the investigation, adding that the probe must be neutral, specialized and internationally recognized.

Harbash said that although the various concerned sides like Civil Aviation, the Defense Ministry and the concerned airlines may have launched their investigations, the government should also carry out its own probe. He said that only a neutral investigation will prevent similar incident from reoccurring, adding that the minister has so far failed in carrying out the required duties which require taking her to account.

Harbash said he will propose a special pay-scale for aviation monitors after he found that their financial and living conditions are far below their counterparts in other Gulf states. He said that it is time to consider this profession as a hard job, calling for the establishment of a navigation institute. The collision did not result in any damages and all passengers escaped unhurt.

## HOPES FADE AS GULF CRISIS HITS 100-DAY...

Continued from Page 1

No deal

But initial speculation of a military intervention against Qatar has given way to an increasingly bizarre stalemate, with state-backed media outlets and PR firms playing a major role. Saudi contacts with an obscure Qatari Sheikh in August triggered speculation he was being used to undermine the Qatari leadership.

Qatar has portrayed itself as victim of human rights abuses, to the bemusement of campaign groups critical of the emirate's treatment of foreign workers as it prepares to host the 2022 football World Cup. And exiled Qatari opposition figure Khalid Al-Hail is set to speak tomorrow at a mysterious conference in London entitled "Qatar, Global Security and Stability". Kristian Ulrichsen, a Gulf analyst with the Baker Institute at the US-based Rice University, said the standoff was not likely to end any time soon.

"The sense of bitterness and betrayal on all sides is so great, and nobody wants to be seen to be the one who blinked first," he said. "The 2014 diplomatic spat (when Bahrain, the UAE and Saudi pulled their ambassadors from Doha) lasted for eight months and the current crisis far exceeds 2014 in magnitude, so it is likely to last a lot longer." He said the dispute is also damaging the Gulf states' reputations abroad. "Leaders in the Gulf don't fully seem to understand how the dispute is undermining their reputation as reliable security partners in the West," he said.

The crisis has also exposed the West's inability to resolve the conflict, despite the fact all the states involved are western allies and some host vital strategic assets including America's largest Middle East air base. Earlier this month, US President Donald Trump said a deal could be "worked out very quickly", but only days passed before a fresh row erupted between Riyadh and Doha. Some nations appear to be benefitting from the conflict.

Oman has seen a 2,000 per cent trade increase with Qatar since June 5, according to official figures published in Muscat. Qatar also sees some upsides to the crisis, Ulrichsen said. "Qatar is 'winning' in the sense that Doha has proved far more resilient and able to withstand the pressure placed upon it than the anti-Qatar quartet initially envisaged," he said. But that may not last forever. The costs of a long-running boycott may eventually take their toll, especially as Qatar prepares to host the World Cup.

Qatar has previously said the majority of up to 1.3 million fans visiting in 2022 would likely be Saudis, currently banned from travelling to the country. Regardless of its new-found confidence, Qatar may be forced to blink first, Davidson said. "The only real way out is for Qatar to agree to the blockading nations' original demands," he said. "This is the only practical scenario that will allow Riyadh and Abu Dhabi to sufficiently save face, and that will prevent another crisis emerging further down the line." — AFP

## INDIA SETS UP CENTRE TO HELP MIGRANT...

Continued from Page 1

plaints from migrant workers, ranging from non-payment of wages to torture and abuse. To register these complaints, a multilingual toll free number (800 INDIA) will be run 24/7 at the Sharjah centre, where job offer letters will also be verified to ensure they are not fake. Besides being duped by job agents, many workers are trapped in low paying jobs, unaware of how to seek legal or financial help, Kumar said.

In many cases, the difference in culture, language and food habits becomes a hurdle for workers migrating from poor Indian families, he added. "Counselors will be available at the centre to help workers cope with the place and talk about their worries," Kumar told the

Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview. An extension of the Indian government's safe migration awareness program, the centre will also invite workers to camps to educate them on their rights.

"We are largely dealing with blue collar workers, many of them illiterate and unaware of the terms surrounding their work contract," said Ankit Agarwal of Alankit, the firm collaborating with the Indian government to run the centre. "At the camps, we give out basic information and tell them how to reach us when they are in trouble." In 2010, the Indian government opened its first resource centre in Dubai. In 2016, the Dubai centre received nearly 25,000 calls from workers and more than 2,000 letters, faxes and phone messages, including one from a university professor who wasn't paid his dues. — Reuters



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## REFUGEES START NEW SCHOOL TERM IN SERBIAN LIMBO

By Katarina Subasic, Rachel O'Brien

Young refugee Shvaib Nazari flicks between his native Dari and wobbly Serbian language notes during his first week back at school in Belgrade, where his family lives in a state of limbo. The 12-year-old is one of 700 migrant children enrolled for a new school term in Serbia far from the image of Europe that his Afghan family dreamt of when they left home nearly two years ago.

Since the closure of the "Balkan route" last year, the country has become a cul-de-sac for around 4,000 migrants, mostly from Afghanistan and Pakistan, who want to start new lives in the European Union but cannot cross its borders. Nearly half of them are children, whom Serbian authorities—with the support of UNICEF—are increasingly trying to accommodate at local schools, despite the difficult language barrier. "The school is good, the other boys talk quite a bit and they're noisy but I don't pay attention to them," Shvaib said.

"They only teach us in Serbian and we don't understand some things." But he and his siblings could answer a few basic questions in the local language, which they are gradually picking up thanks to extra classes. Eight family members stay in one clean but cramped room filled with bunk beds in an asylum centre on the outskirts of Belgrade, originally built for refugees in the 1990s Balkan conflicts. Each morning, four of the siblings take a bus to the nearby Jovan Cvijic school, one of 47 establishments now enrolling migrant children throughout the country.

### 'Sense of hope'

"For us it's a very important step," said Michel Saint-Lot, who represents UNICEF in Serbia. "Education is not only a fundamental right for children, but it offers an opportunity to give those children a semblance of normalcy, a structured way of living, a sense of hope." Their inclusion in formal education is not without challenges in non-EU member Serbia, a relatively poor country of seven million people where the average monthly wage is less than 400 euros (\$480). Many of the children in transit are "coming with their baggage of trauma-trauma from conflict, trauma from the journey, the uncertainty of where, what their life will look like three months, six months from now," said Saint-Lot.

Then there is the language issue, exacerbated by a lack of translators. While his younger sister Zainab sat through a recent class with an interpreter, Shvaib attended a music lesson without translation. Valentina Pandjeitan, head teacher at Jovan Cvijic, said the newcomers went to the classes that were easier to follow without fluency, such as music, art and mathematics. Serbian parents were initially worried that "teachers would lose time in class and be focused on migrant children and less on other students," Pandjeitan said. But she said the fears proved unfounded and so "parents made no problems".

### Plans to move

The goal is to have all 1,500 school-age refugee and migrant children in Serbia in formal education. But Shvaib's father, Zaman Ali Nazari, is skeptical of their chance to study without better language skills. "They don't understand the lessons," he said. And in any case, he hopes his family will be able to leave in a few months' time to join another 15-year-old son, who is already in Vienna. All the migrants currently stranded in Serbia are "taken care of", with accommodation, food, healthcare and now schooling, according to Ivan Miskovic, a spokesman for the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees. While the size of the transitory population is stable, he said the average length of stay had "significantly increased". Hungary is allowing only around 50 migrants to enter from Serbia each week, according to the UN's refugee agency. The Nazari family hopes its turn will come to leave via this route in five to six months.

### 'Not the dream country'

Fearing for his life, the father, a former driver for a government-run service in Afghanistan, said he had decided to leave the country after the Taliban stopped him and stole his cargo. The family from Kabul left in early 2016 and reached Turkey. From there they were smuggled by boat to Greece, staying for a few months because of the closure of the Balkan route, which by then had been taken by hundreds of thousands of people. With the help of people smugglers the Nazaris moved on to Macedonia and then Serbia. "During our time here we have not had a single bad experience, but our problem is that we cannot stay," the 45-year-old said. —AFP

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## PAIN AND DESPAIR AS ROHINGYA FAMILIES IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN WATCH FROM AFAR

By Anuradha Nagaraj and Zofeen T Ebrahim

In a dilapidated shelter in south India, surrounded by squalor, Alakamma Bibi dials her home in Myanmar every few hours. All she gets is a beeping tone. In the two weeks since she first heard of the upsurge in violence in Myanmar, she has spent countless hours trying to reach her parents and siblings, desperate to hear their voices. "I can't sleep anymore," she said, hunched over a pot of bubbling rice. "My parents may be dead, you know. They stayed back because it was home. Now suddenly there is no place to call home."

Bibi is one of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who have fled from Rakhine state in Buddhist-majority Myanmar since 2012 to other countries, including Malaysia, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In the last fortnight alone, more than 300,000 Rohingya have fled across the border to Bangladesh, fleeing an explosion of violence. Myanmar's government regards the approximately 1 million Rohingya as illegal migrants from neighboring Bangladesh and denies them citizenship, even though many Rohingya families have lived there for generations.

In retaliation for attacks by Rohingya insurgents on police posts and an army base, the Myanmar army and Buddhist vigilantes have mounted a campaign of arson aimed at driving out the minority group, human rights monitors and fleeing Rohingya say, a charge the Myanmar government denies. Pockets of Rohingya communities are dotted around South Asia, with exiles anxious for news of their relatives back in Myanmar.

In an alleyway in the garbage-strewn Hundred Quarters in Karachi, Hamida, who was born in the Pakistani city but speaks fluent Burmese and only a smattering of Urdu, has been reading verses from the Koran, praying for an end to the persecution of her Muslim relatives in Myanmar. "My cousins fleeing from their village have told us many of our relatives have been butchered, even small babies," said Hamida, aged in her 40s, adding many had asked for help. "We know they desperately need money, but we ourselves live hand to mouth," said the mother

of seven whose fisherman husband Majid is often out of work.

### Houses torched

The United Nations' top human rights official on Monday slammed Myanmar for conducting a "cruel military operation" against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state, branding it "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing". In southern India, Bibi's mobile phone is full of video clips and Whatsapp messages describing the unfolding horror. "We hear some are hiding in forests, their houses burnt down, their children killed," Bibi told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We had farms, a proper home, livestock. Look at where I live now - in dirt, with no savings, no hope and no future if this continues," said Bibi.

In the run-down cyclone shelter in Kelambakkam that now serves as a refugee centre, Rohingya families are constantly on their phones, desperately dialing in to Myanmar, hoping someone will pick up at the other end. Mohammad Yusuf, 30, managed to get a call through to his ageing father last

week. "My mother and sister are missing," said Yusuf, just back from work as a daily laborer. "My father said he was alone and dying. There is destruction everywhere, he told me. The few men left in the village are just about surviving, eating once every three days."

### 'Tenfold more brutal'

On a Karachi backstreet, Hamida's father-in-law, Saeed Islam, relives the terror of his own getaway from Myanmar 40 years ago every time he sees video clips of the current violence on his son's mobile phone. The older members of Karachi's Rohingya community fled Myanmar, formerly Burma, when the military seized power in a 1962 coup, escaping on foot or by boat to Bangladesh, which was then East Pakistan. Eventually, they made their way to Karachi.

"We were told we should go to a Muslim country - like Pakistan - as there was no place for us in Myanmar. But what is happening now is tenfold more brutal," he said, in broken Urdu. "They will wade through rice paddies, and uneven and rocky mountainous terrain; some will come in boats

over the river," said Islam, who took the same path himself decades ago.

"We were 200 people, all related, but 15 of them were my immediate family including my wife Aisha and Majid, then aged just five," he said pointing to his wife and son sitting by his side. From Bangladesh they crossed northern India and reached the port of Karachi after a three-month trek. "We travelled with just the clothes on our back, begged for food on the way and slept along the wayside. We crossed borders illegally during the night," said Islam. "The elderly and the sick died on the way."

### Uncertain future

The Rohingya in Karachi largely work on fishing boats, or clean the catch brought by fishermen who set sail from the nearby Korangi Creek. Like the Rohingya in southern India, they live in uncertainty, on the margins of society. Most of them are stateless as they cannot obtain Pakistani identity cards, essential for opening bank accounts, enrolling into school, using public hospitals, and even getting a job.

In India's Kelambakkam, the Rohingya work as ragpickers and casual laborers. As well as the violence in Myanmar, they are also following the Indian government's talks on deporting them with concern. "We are from Myanmar, but have no documents that recognize that fact," said Yusuf, taking out papers carefully preserved in a plastic folder. "All we can do now is pray for the safety of those back home and hope the Indian government does not deport us."

Recalling his own flight from Myanmar in 2012, Yusuf said it had taken a year to reestablish contact with his family after he crossed over to Bangladesh and then made his way to India. "My son Abu was born here, in this Kelambakkam refugee shelter. I had hoped to take him home one day, show him the house I grew up in, the streets I played in, the mosque I went to pray in. Now, he may never know where he is from and what can be worse than that," Yusuf said, sitting on the steps to his cluttered and cramped room. On the door behind him, scrawled in chalk is "Allah hu". "It's all about keeping the faith now," said Bibi, the woman stirring a pot of rice. "And so we pray for peace back home." — AFP



TEKNAF, Bangladesh: Men prepare food for Rohingya refugees, who crossed the border from Myanmar, in the Bangladesh city of Teknaf. Ordinary citizens have turned out in droves to volunteer in a kitchen that provides hot meals to Rohingya refugees, joining an army of ordinary Bangladeshis pitching in as aid agencies struggle to cope with an overwhelming tide of desperate civilians. —AFP

## WHY IRMA WASN'T AS CATASTROPHIC IN FLORIDA AS FEARED

By Leila Macor, with Kerry Sheridan

Hurricane Irma was supposed to be a monster storm, immense and record-breaking in size as it charged toward Florida packing a punch that could lay waste to a state that is home to some 20 million people. But as the sun rose Monday, floodwaters in Florida quickly receded, and torn off roofs, tree-damaged homes and toppled boats were limited to isolated pockets of the state.

Hurricane Irma is blamed for killing at least 40 people across the Caribbean. Just two deaths in Florida were reported by state officials Monday. "I didn't see the damage I thought I would see," Florida Governor Rick Scott said after an aerial tour of the island chain of the Keys, which were hit by the Category Four storm early Saturday. One of the most alarming warnings had to do with storm surge—a wall of water that rushes over land during a hurricane and often kills far more people than the wind. In the end, the surge was "not as bad as we thought," Scott added. Part of the reason Florida escaped the worst had to do with the path of the storm, meteorologists said.

Hurricane Irma razed the northern coast of Cuba as a potent Category Five storm on its way toward Florida, losing some of its strength in the process. Its westward shift, away from Miami, also spared the coastal tourist haven from the storm's fearsome right-front quadrant, with the highest winds and surge potential. "The storm

surge flooding in Miami is a mere fraction of what would have happened if the core of the storm had been further east," tweeted Rick Knabb, former director of the National Hurricane Center and currently an expert on the Weather Channel.

### Orderly exit

With weather forecasters warning of the impact to Florida a full week in advance, many people took time to shutter their windows and take to highways in search of safer ground. Five and six days out, Irma looked set to charge up the east coast of Florida. In the last day or two, suddenly the Gulf Coast was bracing for the worst. This uncertainty was unsurprising from a meteorological standpoint, said Irwin Redlener, director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness and professor at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. "We are way better than we used to be but we are nowhere near where we could be," he said. Despite fuel shortages and traffic bottlenecks, Florida somehow managed to evacuate six million people from the vulnerable coasts—a far larger exodus than any other storm in recent memory. "The evacuation went more smoothly than I thought it was going to go," Redlener added.

While plenty of Floridians chose to shelter in place, the evacuations likely saved lives and kept first responders out of harm's way. Dennis Jones, chief of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, which includes the city of Tampa, said he was "thankful" for those who left

dangerous areas, noting that 260 people had called 911 in the thick of the storm, when emergency crews could not respond. All those calls were resolved without incident by early Monday, he said.

### The worst to come?

But plenty of challenges remain, and the large scale of the disaster zone presents its own problems. "The real test is going to be in the ability to recover effectively," said Redlener. Some 5.6 million customers or about 15 million people are without power, and officials warn it could be weeks before the electricity is fully restored.

"We are worried about flooding, housing, debris and power restoration," Homeland Security Advisor Tom Bossert told a White House press briefing. "We haven't assessed yet entirely what the damage is... Remember, it's a peninsula, it is a wider-scale problem and it has been a larger-swath storm."

With water lines and sewers damaged in the Keys, debris to clear and power infrastructure to rebuild, Miami Mayor Carlos Gimenez cautioned that the road to normalcy could be rocky.

"We now go through the much longer phase, which is the recovery phase. And believe me, folks, some of this is going to take a while, especially power restoration," he said. "But you know what? Inconvenience is a great thing versus having your home destroyed and your life significantly altered." —AFP

## LIONS CAPTAIN WARBURTON OUT WITH NECK PROBLEM

**LONDON:** British and Irish Lions captain Sam Warburton is set to miss the first four months of the European season following the recurrence of a neck injury, it was announced yesterday. The statement from the Cardiff Blues, the Wales flanker's club, means Warburton will miss Wales's end of year home Tests against Australia, Georgia, New Zealand and South Africa. The Blues said that Warburton had "exacerbated" the injury in training this week. Warburton, 28, had yet to make his first appearance of the season after a post-Lions break before returning to training, having led the combined British and Irish Lions side to a drawn series away to New Zealand, the reigning world champions. "Sam Warburton will undergo surgery following a recurrence of a long-standing neck injury," Cardiff said. "The Cardiff Blues flanker, who led the British and Irish Lions to a drawn Test series with New Zealand in the summer, exacerbated the injury in training this week. He has undergone scans and has been reviewed by a consultant, who confirmed the management plan. — AFP

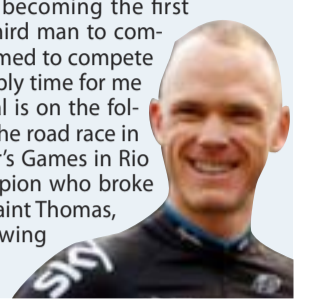


## BOK JACO KRIEL RULED OUT OF ALL BLACKS TEST

**JOHANNESBURG:** A shoulder injury has ruled Springboks flanker Jaco Kriel out of a Rugby Championship Test in New Zealand Saturday, South African Rugby announced yesterday. SA Rugby said in a statement that the 28-year-old suffered a shoulder tear during a 23-23 draw with Australia in Perth last Saturday. No replacement will be called up for the All Blacks Test and Jean-Luc du Preez is likely to be promoted from the bench to form the back row with Siya Kolisi and No. 8 Uzair Cassiem. Coach Allister Coetzee will have to make at least one other change to the pack that started against the Wallabies as tighthead prop Coenie Oosthuizen broke an arm during that match. Trevor Nyakane is the probable starter in the No. 3 shirt with Ruan Dreyer and mid-tour squad addition Wilco Louw the options for a place on the bench as front-row cover. Title-holders and world champions New Zealand have 14 points, South Africa 11, Australia three and Argentina none halfway through the six-round competition. — AFP

## FROOME TO COMPETE IN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**LONDON:** Four-times Tour de France winner Chris Froome will follow up his first Vuelta a Espana victory by competing in the team and individual time trials at the road world championships starting in Norway at the weekend. British Cycling head coach Iain Dyer said in a statement yesterday that the 32-year-old would take one of Britain's two places for the individual time trial. Dyer added that he expected the 31 kilometre course in Bergen, with a 3.4km climb up Mount Floyen to the finish, to play to the rider's strengths. Froome had said after becoming the first Briton to win the Vuelta last weekend, and also the third man to complete a Tour-Vuelta double in the same year, that he aimed to compete for Sky in Sunday's team time trial and then "it's probably time for me to put my feet up". The men's elite individual time trial is on the following Wednesday. Froome, who will not take part in the road race in Bergen, won the Olympic time trial bronze at last year's Games in Rio de Janeiro. Mark Cavendish, the 2011 road race champion who broke his shoulder during the Tour de France in July, and Geraint Thomas, also injured in the Tour, will be absent after withdrawing from selection. — Reuters



DENVER: Denver Broncos inside linebacker Corey Nelson (52) tackles Los Angeles Chargers running back Austin Ekeler (30) during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, in Denver. — AP

NFL

# BRONCOS BLOCK LATE FG, BEAT CHARGERS 24-21

**DENVER:** The rookie head coach iced the rookie kicker. Shelby Harris got a hand on Younghoe Koo's 44-yard game-tying field goal try with a second left and the Denver Broncos began the Vance Joseph era with a 24-21 win over the Los Angeles Chargers on Monday night. "It was a little too exciting," Von Miller said after presenting Joseph with the game ball in the jubilant locker room. "But a win is a win." Koo nailed the kick moments earlier, but Joseph had called a timeout to ice the kicker. "I had two timeouts and I wasn't going to leave with those in my pocket," Joseph said. Derek Wolfe had bull-rushed the first field goal and told Harris, a third-year journeyman who made the team largely because of a rash of injuries along the D-line, that he'd get a chance to slice through this time because the guard would lean his way. Sure enough, Harris got his right hand on the ball, which frittered short of the end zone as the Chargers looked on in dismay and the Broncos dog-piled Harris. "It's too bad because Koo drilled the first one," Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers said. "And they called timeout and I think he drilled the second one, too. At least, that's what it looked like

to me because it was going right down the middle. And I think if we get to OT, we would have finished it off, but we didn't get that chance." Harris got the start only because Jared Crick and Zach Kerr were out with injuries. The ending was reminiscent of last year's opener in Denver, when the Broncos escaped with a 21-20 win over the Carolina Panthers in a Super Bowl 50 reunion when Graham Gano missed a 50-yard field goal with 4 seconds left. Denver took a 24-7 lead into the fourth quarter in this opener and the Broncos were feeling pretty good. And why not? The Chargers were 1-155 in their history when trailing by 17 or more in the fourth quarter and Denver was 175-0-1 with a fourth-quarter lead of 17 or more. Then came a nightmarish eight-minute stretch in which they had two turnovers that were converted into touchdowns, a missed field goal and a punt. "The game was in firm control for about three quarters and we felt good but you turn the ball over twice on the short side of the 50, it's going to be a problem with Philip Rivers," Joseph said. Before those fourth-quarter foibles, Trevor Siemian threw two TD passes to Bennie Fowler and ran for another score.

The Broncos held Rivers to 115 yards passing through three quarters but let him engineer a comeback when Siemian threw an interception and Jamaal Charles fumbled on plays that were upheld despite video evidence that had the crowd of 76,324 convinced they should have been overturned. Rivers threw touchdown passes to Keenan Allen and Travis Benjamin following the takeaways to make it 24-21. Back-to-back sacks of Siemian set up a 50-yard field goal try that McManus pushed wide right, giving L.A. the ball at its 40-yard line trailing by three. But Koo's miss loomed larger in the final seconds. Vikings threw 29, Saints 19. Sam Bradford threw for 346 yards and three touchdowns, and the Minnesota Vikings spoiled Adrian Peterson's return with a 29-19 win against the New Orleans Saints on Monday night. Vikings wide receiver Stefon Diggs made two touchdown receptions in the first half. Bradford completed 27 of 32 passes with no turnovers. Adam Thielen caught nine passes for 157 yards, and tight end Kyle Rudolph added a touchdown reception for Minnesota (1-0). — Agencies

### NFL results/standings

Denver 24, LA Chargers 21; Minnesota 29, New Orleans 19.

American Football Conference						National Football Conference									
AFC East						NFC East									
	W	L	T	OTL	PCT		W	L	T	OTL	PCT				
Buffalo	1	0	0	0	21	12	1.000	Philadelphia	1	0	0	30	17	1.000	
Miami	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Dallas	1	0	0	19	3	1.000	
NY Jets	0	1	0	0	12	21	0	Washington	0	1	0	17	30	0	
New England	0	1	0	0	27	42	0	NY Giants	0	1	0	0	3	19	0
AFC North						NFC North									
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	0	21	18	1.000	Minnesota	1	0	0	29	19	1.000	
Baltimore	1	0	0	0	20	0	1.000	Green Bay	1	0	0	17	9	1.000	
Cleveland	0	1	0	0	18	21	0	Detroit	1	0	0	35	23	1.000	
Cincinnati	0	1	0	0	20	0	0	Chicago	0	1	0	0	17	23	0
AFC South						NFC South									
Jacksonville	1	0	0	0	29	7	1.000	Carolina	1	0	0	23	3	1.000	
Tennessee	0	1	0	0	16	26	0	Atlanta	1	0	0	23	17	1.000	
Indianapolis	0	1	0	0	9	46	0	Tampa Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Houston	0	1	0	0	7	29	0	New Orleans	0	1	0	0	19	29	0
AFC West						NFC West									
Oakland	1	0	0	0	26	16	1.000	LA Rams	1	0	0	46	9	1.000	
Kansas City	1	0	0	0	42	27	1.000	Seattle	0	1	0	9	17	0	
Denver	1	0	0	0	24	21	1.000	San Francisco	0	1	0	0	3	23	
LA Chargers	0	1	0	0	21	24	0	Arizona	0	1	0	0	23	35	0

## PHOENIX, WASHINGTON RALLY TO ADVANCE IN WNBA PLAYOFFS

**NEW YORK:** Phoenix and Washington don't have much time to rest after pulling off double-digit comebacks to advance in the WNBA playoffs. Both teams open the semifinals on the road Tuesday night with the fifth-seeded Mercury visiting No. 2 Los Angeles and the sixth-seeded Mystics at No. 1 Minnesota. The Mercury and Mystics needed big rallies to get to Tuesday night. They became the seventh and eighth teams to win on the road when they trailed by 14 or more points according to the Elias Sports Bureau. "We really didn't change that much up at the half," Washington coach Mike Thibault said. The Mystics were down by 14 to the New York Liberty in the second quarter before Kristi Toliver got going. She finished with a Mystics franchise playoff record 32 points, hitting nine 3-pointers. That's the new WNBA mark for 3s in a postseason game. "I've never witnessed something like that, but to be on court and be on the right side of it was unreal," Elena Delle Donne said. "We just rode her wave today - she was unconscious, but that's her. I mean, I grew up watching her. That was her in the national championship game (for Maryland), so when she's going off like that, we just do all the other little things and let her go." Phoenix faced a 17-point deficit in Connecticut in the second quarter before rallying for the win. "We called a timeout, and I think everyone was just searching for some-

thing," Taurasi said about being down 17. "There comes a time in games if you are just going to lay down or fight back and try to get back into it. And at that moment, we said, 'Let's just go back, take each possession, and try to do our best.' And we did that." Here's a look at a few other tidbits from those two series. **WELCOME BACK WHALEN** Lindsay Whalen missed the final 12 games of the regular season with a broken left hand, but a bye to the semifinals ensured she will be back in time for the playoffs. Surely there will be some rust, but just having her back will help the Lynx, who are in search of their fourth title in the past seven years. The Lynx will play their playoff games at the University of Minnesota because of scheduling conflicts. Their normal home, Target Center, was shut down for the summer as its being upgraded in time for the Timberwolves to open their home schedule on Oct. 20. The Lynx played at the Xcel center during the regular season, but with preseason NHL starting soon it wasn't available for the playoffs. So Minnesota turned to "The Barn," one of the oldest arenas in the United States. Lynx owner Glen Taylor spent more than \$1 million to bring some improvements to the building to accommodate the team and league, including air conditioning units that are generally not needed with the Gophers take the court in the fall. — AP



## TOYOTA PRIUS SECURES PODIUM FINISH AT FUJI

**FUJI:** Toyota continued its run of good form to claim its third straight GT300 podium in the 2017 AUTOBACS SUPER GT series. The No. 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT driven by Koki Saga and Rintaro Kubo finished in third position in a closely fought Round 5 at the Fuji Speedway to maintain the team's impressive start to the season. "I congratulate the team on their performance. This podium finish adds to our proven record in motorsports, whereby the DNA from our racing products trickles down to our production vehicles as we continue our pursuit of creating ever-better cars that will truly put a smile on our customers' faces and make them feel safe and secure," said Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa

Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "The intense competition and the absence of rain despite the cloud cover ensured the race was an entirely enjoyable one for spectators. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our fans for their constant encouragement of our racing initiatives." More than 33,500 spectators turned out to watch the second of the season's two races in Fuji, which got off to a start late afternoon under overcast skies. The No. 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT, starting sixth on the grid, got out of the blocks quickly and edged its way into the fourth position within a few laps of the race. Running strong in fourth, the car chose to be the first among the lead group to make its routine pit stop at the

end of lap 22 and, in a calculated move, the team decided to go without a tire change, thus getting the second stint driver Koki Saga back in the race in just about 21 seconds. The move paid off, as the no-tire-change strategy allowed Saga to move into second position after the rival cars that had delayed their pit stop finally made it to the pit. Saga was however unable to sustain the advantage for long, and on lap 41, had to cede the second position to the chasing car. The No. 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT eventually finished in third to claim their first podium finish of the season. The series now moves to Suzuka for Round 6. The 1,000-km Suzuka is the longest and biggest race of the season.

# OLYMPIC CHIEF DEFENDS HANDLING OF CORRUPTION CASE

**LIMA:** International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach defended his organisation's handling of corruption allegations on Monday, insisting the movement could never make itself immune from scandal. The IOC, which is gathering in Lima to award the 2024 and 2028 Olympics to Paris and Los Angeles today, has been rocked by allegations of graft in the race for the 2016 Olympics.

Top Brazilian official Carlos Nuzman was arrested by police last week, accused of involvement in a scam to funnel cash to IOC members taking part in a 2009 vote in Copenhagen to decide the 2016 Games, eventually won by Rio.

It followed earlier revelations in France about a similar plot involving the 2013 vote in Buenos Aires which awarded the 2020 games to Tokyo. In the Brazilian case, a whistleblower told the New York Times he had warned

the IOC about Nuzman's activities repeatedly in the years leading to his arrest.

However Bach stressed on Monday that the IOC had acted promptly to deal with allegations as they emerged. "Credibility for us is extremely important," Bach said. "We have taken a series of measures with regard to good governance. We have changed the candidature procedure. This does not make us immune.

"No organisation in the world is immune. No law is so perfect that it cannot be broken. There are laws against fraud and theft for centuries and they are still being broken. It does not make us immune. "But we feel we have done what we can do."

**'WE WILL ACT'**

Bach said lawyers for the IOC's Ethics Commission

had contacted Brazilian authorities hoping to obtain further details about the Nuzman case.

"We are following up on everything that has been provided or will be provided by the judicial authorities," he said. "Once evidence is there we will act and we will be in a position to make recommendations in this respect." In response to letters sent to the IOC regarding Nuzman by former Brazilian sports official Eric Maleson, Bach insisted they had been dealt with properly.

"If there had been any evidence they would have followed it up," Bach said. "There are allegations concerning Mr Nuzman, as far as we know he is not even charged yet."

Bach meanwhile was elusive when he was asked to give his assessment of how the IOC's image had been tarnished by the various corruption allegations.

"Everybody has his own judgement of the image of somebody," he said. "You may like somebody your friend does not like, and you may have an image of somebody that your friend does not like. What are you asking me? My personal judgement? My response would be this is not my call to speak about the IOC's image because it's in the eyes of everybody.

"No one wants to have credibility issues in his or her organisation. But we have to be realistic-no organisation in the world is immune to credibility issues." Bach meanwhile said the IOC had agreed to set up a \$1 million fund to provide relief to member nations, mostly in the Caribbean, hit by Hurricane Irma. "We will assess the damages with regard to sports and sports infrastructure and if this leads to more we will reassess this amount of \$1 million," he told reporters. — AFP



PHOENIX: Nolan Arenado #28 of the Colorado Rockies hits a three run home run off of Jake Barrett #33 of the Arizona Diamondbacks during the eighth inning at Chase Field on Monday in Phoenix, Arizona. — AFP

**BASEBALL**

## INDIANS EXTEND WIN STREAK TO 19 WITH VICTORY OVER DETROIT

**CLEVELAND:** Unrelenting and unbeatable at the moment, the Cleveland Indians refuse to lose. With their latest overpowering win, they extended baseball's longest winning streak since 2002 to 19 games with an 11-0 blowout of the Detroit Tigers on Monday night to move closer to a record that has stood for 101 years. Francisco Lindor tripled home three runs off rookie Myles Jaye (0-1) in the second inning, and the Indians, who haven't lost since Aug. 23, added another blowout to their growing list of lopsided conquests. The defending AL champions aren't just rolling, they're steam-rolling opponents, outscoring them 132-32 during a stretch that includes six shutouts. Carlos Carrasco (15-6) struck out nine in six innings, Lindor had four RBIs and Jose Ramirez hit a two-run homer as the Indians lowered their magic number to clinch the Central to six.

**YANKEES 5, RAYS 1**

In the start of a series moved from Florida to Citi Field because of Hurricane Irma, Todd Frazier capitalized on Trevor Plouffe's two-out error with a

three-run homer in a five-run fourth inning that led New York over Tampa Bay. Jacoby Ellsbury broke Pete Rose's major league record by reaching base on catcher's interference for the 30th time, and David Robertson (8-2) pitched a career-high 2 2/3 innings in relief of CC Sabathia, removed with two on and one out in the fifth. Ellsbury was struck by Jake Odorizzi (8-8). Opening a stretch that has 17 of their final 20 games in New York, the Yankees closed within three games of Boston in the AL East and opened a four-game lead over Minnesota for the top AL wild card. The Rays dropped four games behind the Twins with 17 remaining.

**RANGERS 5, MARINERS 3**

Delino DeShields homered after taking a speedier trip around the bases for an earlier run as Texas beat Seattle in the opener of a four-game series matching teams still hoping to get an AL wild card. Cole Hamels (10-3) struck out seven in six innings to win for the first time in his last four starts. DeShields reached on a one-out bunt single in the second, when he was initially called out

before a replay challenge overturned the call. DeShields then raced home from first on Shin-Soo Choo's two-run double that made it 4-1, running through a stop sign from fill-in third-base coach Jason Wood and scoring on a nifty headfirst slide. Two innings later, DeShields hit his fifth homer. Alex Claudio worked a perfect ninth to get his eighth save in 12 chances. Mariners starter Ariel Miranda (8-7) allowed gave up six hits and walked three in only 1 2-3 innings.

**BLUE JAYS 4, ORIOLOS 3**

Ryan Goins hit a solo home run, Marco Estrada won his third straight decision and Toronto beat slumping Baltimore. Darwin Barney had two hits and an RBI as the Blue Jays won their third straight and handed the Orioles their fifth consecutive defeat. Mark Trumbo hit a solo homer for Baltimore, which entered three games back in the AL wild-card race. Estrada (8-8) allowed two runs and four hits in five innings. Dominic Leone pitched around a leadoff single in the ninth to earn his first career save. Ubaldo Jimenez (5-10) is winless in six starts.

**PIRATES 7, BREWERS 0**

Steven Brault and four relievers combined on a three-hitter to lift Pittsburgh over Milwaukee. Milwaukee didn't get a runner past first base against the Pirates and fell 21/2 games behind Chicago in the NL Central after outscoring the Cubs 20-3 in a three-game sweep at Wrigley Field over the weekend. Brault (1-0), making his second start of the season, only allowed a fourth-inning walk to Ryan Braun and a fifth-inning leadoff single to Jesus Aguilar. He struck out six in six innings for his first major-league win. Milwaukee rookie Brandon Woodruff (1-2), allowed six runs on seven hits and a walk in five innings.

**WHITE SOX 11, ROYALS 3**

Jose Abreu had four hits, Adam Engel hit a three-run homer and the White Sox pounded the Royals. Abreu, who hit for the cycle Saturday and had two home runs Sunday, drove in two and scored once while raising his average to .306. He was a homer shy of another cycle.

Engel went deep off Brandon Maurer during a six-run sixth. Yolmer Sanchez, Yoan Moncada and Abreu, the first three White Sox hitters, combined to go 9 for 16 with six runs and four RBIs. Moncada had his first career three-hit game. Reynaldo Lopez (1-3) gave up three runs and eight hits in six-plus innings to pick up his first victory since Sept. 29, 2016. Royals starter Jason Hammel (8-11) was pulled after giving up five runs in 3 1/3 innings.

**ROCKIES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 4**

Nolan Arenado's tie-breaking three-run home run in the eighth inning powered the Rockies to a win over the Diamondbacks. The Rockies took the first game of a key four-game series between the National League wild-card leader, Arizona, and second-place Colorado.

The Rockies moved four games behind the Diamondbacks and 3 1/2 ahead of St. Louis for the second wild card slot. Arenado drove in four runs with a double and his 33rd home run of the season, and the Rockies won their seventh straight road game and fifth overall. Left-hander Tyler Anderson, activated from the 60-day disabled list on Sunday, pitched four scoreless innings in relief for the victory. Anderson (4-5) allowed a hit with four strikeouts. The Rockies' winning rally started with two outs in the eighth. D.J. LeMahieu tripled over the top of an extreme defensive shift toward right field and Carlos Gonzalez walked against Diamondbacks reliever Jake Barrett (1-1). — AP

**CRICKET**

## AUSSIES WILL HAVE ADVANTAGE IN INDIA: MICHAEL CLARKE

**NEW DELHI:** Former skipper Michael Clarke said yesterday the Australians would likely upstage hosts India in the upcoming one-day series thanks to their stints with the Indian Premier League. The Steve Smith-led side, which lost the Test series 2-1 to India earlier this year, will play five ODIs, with the first in Chennai on Sunday.

Smith captained the Pune franchise in the last edition of the cash-rich IPL, arguably the world's most popular Twenty20 tournament. Players like David Warner, Aaron Finch, Glenn Maxwell and Pat Cummins have had successful IPL stints and Clarke said the team should have no excuses in the shorter format.

"It's not just the wicket you are batting on or the ground you are playing, it's the heat, the food you eat, the hotel you are staying at," Clarke told reporters. "(With) these players now being involved in the IPL, India is like a second home because you spend so much time here.

"Yes, it's a shame we don't have Mitchell Starc or Josh Hazlewood available unfortunately due to injury. Those two will be missed. "But this Australian team has no excuses. They know the conditions really well... and this is a massive series for us," he said, predicting a 3-2 win for the visitors.

Clarke saw a "carrot right there" for the Australians, who will topple South Africa from top spot in the ODI table if they beat India 4-1. The cricketer turned commentator also praised Virat Kohli's fear-

less captaincy that has helped India dominate with their aggressive approach.

India not only regained their number one Test spot under Kohli last year but recently blanked hosts Sri Lanka 9-0 across all three formats. "I think this team has certainly got that aggression in them... they are led by an aggressive captain. Seems to me that Virat is not scared to lose and that's a great advantage," said Clarke.

Indian batting great VVS Laxman, who was also present at the event, said he did not foresee any controversy in the ODI series. In the Test series Kohli had expressed his displeasure after Smith looked up to his dressing room while deciding whether to review his lbw dismissal in the Bangalore match, and a war of words erupted between the two captains.

"They are not only two modern-day captains but two modern-day greats. In such a short span of time the impact these two players have had on international cricket is just amazing," said Laxman, who made a match-winning 281 against Australia in the epic 2001 Kolkata Test.

"And I think when you are playing international cricket it's not necessary to be friendly on field... I am sure both will go all out and be aggressive and win the matches for their team... They are both trendsetters according to me," he said. Laxman picked India to win with a 4-1 scoreline. — AFP



NEW DELHI: Former cricketers VVS Laxman (L) of India and Michael Clarke of Australia interact with the media ahead of the India-Australia cricket series starting September 17, in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

## W INDIES LOOK TO RECALLED GAYLE FOR ODI INSPIRATION

**BELFAST:** The recall of Chris Gayle to the West Indies ODI squad, for the first time since the 2015 World Cup, has dominated the countdown to the upcoming five-match series against England. But Gayle-one of the biggest draws in the game-is likely to make his first appearance against Ireland on Wednesday.

Gayle arrived with the 15-man squad in Northern Ireland on Monday after the West Indies board announced an amnesty which has also seen the return of Marlon Samuels and Jerome Taylor.

Previously players had to be available for the corresponding domestic tournament before being selected for limited-overs internationals or Test cricket.

Samuels last played in October 2016, but was dropped for the tri-series against Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe the following month, but while Gayle played in the one-off T20 game against India in July, his next ODI will be his first since the 2015 World Cup. Taylor's last ODI was in July 2016. "The panel welcomes back Chris Gayle and Marlon Samuels, who will both add value to our batting and help with the nurturing of the young batsmen in the team," said chairman of selectors Courtney Browne.

The selectors will also hope the experienced pair-Samuels is 36 and Gayle celebrates his 38th birthday on the day of the second ODI against England next week-can help West Indies qualify for the next World Cup. But unless they beat Ireland and then win four of the five games against England they will find themselves in the qualifying tournament next March, along with Ireland, Afghanistan and hosts Zimbabwe. Only two qualifiers will join the top eight in the

rankings at the end of this month at the 2019 finals in England.

**FANS HAPPY**

After his selection, Gayle confirmed he wanted to play in the finals. "The fans were happy to see me back on the field representing West Indies," said Gayle. "Hopefully, things can get better. Hopefully I can play a few more games. "I definitely want to play the 2019 World Cup. "Things are beginning to open up a little more now between players and the board. It's looking good, and we've to try and build from this to get the best players out on the field."

Only six of the Test squad that has just completed the three-match series in England are staying on for the white-ball action - which also includes a one-off T20 against England on Saturday - but Roston Chase is the only player dropped from the squad that lost 3-1 to India in the home series in July. If the weather allows and the West Indies arrived in Belfast in rain and more is forecast for the next 48 hours-they should gain a morale-boosting win against the newest Full Member, who have failed to win any of their last nine games. It is also the beginning of the end of John Bracewell's two-year reign as Ireland coach. The New Zealander steps down in December and will be succeeded by former South Africa and Sri Lanka coach Graham Ford, who was appointed on a three-year contract last week.

Ford will not be at the match but the players know their performances will be scrutinized by the new coach and, with the likelihood of facing West Indies in the World Cup qualifiers, long-serving captain William Porterfield, who has a virtual full-strength side, said: "We want to lay down a marker." — AFP



LAHORE: Pakistani spectators cheer as they watch the first Twenty20 international match between the World XI and Pakistan at the Gaddafi Cricket Stadium in Lahore yesterday. — AFP

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TO TEST KLOPP'S PROGRESS AT LIVERPOOL

**LIVERPOOL:** When Jurgen Klopp arrived at Liverpool in October 2015, he made a promise: "If we sit here in four years, I think we (will) win one title," he said. Next month will mark the second anniversary of Klopp's appointment, the halfway point of that four-year cycle. There has undoubtedly been progress in that time; a team who were 10th in the Premier League when he arrived finished fourth last season.

Whether they are significantly closer to winning a major trophy is more open to debate. Liverpool reached two finals in Klopp's first seven months as manager, losing on penalties to Manchester City in the League Cup at Wembley, and suffering a more decisive 3-1 defeat by Sevilla in the Europa League in Basel.

That European adventure was an unexpected bonus. Expectations at Anfield are higher now, but Liverpool look far from a complete team as

they prepare to face Sevilla once more, this time in the Champions League. The best and worst of the 2017 Liverpool were shown when they beat Hoffenheim in last month's play-off to reach the Champions League group stage.

Klopp's side showed an attacking verve that could threaten the best in Europe. Close-season signing Mohamed Salah has formed a quick understanding with Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino. Salah and Firmino both scored in the home leg, while Mane was heavily involved in two of the goals.

It is a wealth of attacking talent, and they still have Philippe Coutinho to come back following his failed attempt to engineer a move to Barcelona. Defensively, though, Liverpool were weak in both legs against Hoffenheim; they could easily have conceded more than three goals in the tie.

Liverpool were defensively suspect last season, and those difficulties have continued into the new campaign.

### 'LIKE A WOUNDED ANIMAL'

Klopp signed Loris Karius from Mainz to be his first-choice goalkeeper, then dropped him midway through last season. Ragnar Klavan, another Klopp buy, from Augsburg, replaced Lovren for last Saturday's 5-0 thrashing at Manchester City.

However, the extent of the defeat should be put into the context that they had matched City and were trailing 1-0 when Mane was sent off. "We have to take the first 20 minutes of Saturday's game, and how we played before the international break, and take it into the next game," said goalkeeper Simon Mignolet. "Of course, we can't neglect the performance after that, but we have another game in midweek when we can prove

ourselves." At times, it feels as if Klopp has spent two years, and a lot of money, recreating the Liverpool team who almost won the Premier League under Rodgers four seasons ago.

They are thrilling going forward, an accident waiting to happen defensively. The question is whether Sevilla are ready to punish them. Much has changed at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium since Unai Emery guided them to a third successive Europa League title with victory over Liverpool two seasons ago.

Emery went to Paris Saint-Germain, and his successor Jorge Sampaoli left at the end of last season for the Argentina job. Eduardo Berizzo arrived in May from Celta Vigo and has spent heavily, bringing in Colombian forward Luis Muriel from Sampdoria and Nolito from Manchester City to supplement last season's top scorer Wissam Ben Yedder. — AFP

## RB LEIPZIG RELISHING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE DEBUT

**LEIPZIG:** Just eight years after starting life in the local leagues, RB Leipzig will enhance their rags to riches tale today by hosting Monaco on the German club's Champions League debut.

Backed by energy drinks giant Red Bull, who bought the licence of a fifth-division club, Leipzig began climbing Germany's football pyramid in 2009.

They are widely unpopular with German fans, due to the commercialism they represent, but after four promotions in seven years they finished second last season in the Bundesliga to qualify directly for a Champions League place.

Leipzig make their debut against last season's semi-finalists Monaco at the Red Bull Arena and director of sport Ralf Rangnick is proud of their achievement.

"When you think we were still in the fourth division five years ago, then the Champions League is another promotion," said Rangnick.

"Something like that has never happened before and most likely won't happen again in the next 50 years." This is a step into the unknown for Leipzig with only four members of their squad having Champions League experience.

Swedish playmaker Emil Forsberg, plus new-signings Bruma, Jean-Kevin Augustin

and Kevin Kampl are the only ones to have played at this level.

The quartet have a combined tally of 31 Champions League appearances.

In contrast, 17 of the Monaco squad have 236 Champions League appearances between them and last season's semi-final defeat to Juventus is still fresh.

But Leipzig's coach Ralph Hasenhuetl sees his team's lack of experience as an advantage. "We want to collect some experience for ourselves. It means you more alert, sharper, more focused," said the Austrian.

Rangnick is confident of a win.

"If we can show our full power on the pitch, then we are capable of winning," insisted the RB boss. This is the first time for nearly 29 years that European football will be played in the former East German city.

On the last occasion, Diego Maradona's Napoli drew 1-1 at Lokomotive Leipzig, RB's arch-rivals, on October 26 1988 in the second round of the UEFA Cup. Fast-forward to today and Monaco will want to bounce back after being beaten 4-0 by neighbours Nice last weekend in their first defeat of the season after straight wins to start their French league title defence.

It was the first time they have failed to score in 37 top-flight games. — AFP



**MADRID:** Real Madrid's goalkeeper Keylor Navas stretches to control the ball during a training session in Madrid, Spain, yesterday. Real Madrid will play APOEL Nicosia today in a Group H Champions League soccer match. — AP

### SOCCER

## PRUDENT REAL MADRID REMAIN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FAVOURITES

**MADRID:** Such is Real Madrid's confidence in creating more Champions League history that while others have spent hundreds of millions trying to catch up, the back-to-back European champions were happy to cash in.

Real made a profit of over 75 million euros (\$90 million) in the transfer market thanks to the departures of Alvaro Morata, James Rodriguez and Danilo. Yet they remain very much the side to beat as the Champions League returns on Tuesday having ended a near three-decade long wait for a team to retain the trophy.

"We are the champions so everyone faces us with extra motivation," warned former Real striker Emilio Butragueno, now the club's director of institutional relations. Madrid coped with that challenge admirably last season, dismissing Bayern Munich, Atletico Madrid and Juventus in the latter stages. Their quest to become the first side since Bayern in the mid-seventies to win three in a row starts with a more modest test in the form of APOEL Nicosia at the Santiago Bernabeu today.

Tougher tasks lie in wait in the form of Borussia Dortmund and Tottenham Hotspur in Group H. Dortmund even beat Madrid to top

spot in the group stage last season. But Real have mastered the art of saving their best for when the competition really gets going for the contenders in the knockout stages in the new year. "We have a stupendous squad but this is a competition that takes you to the limit in all aspects," added Butragueno.

"You can have a big squad with all the resources, but when the moment of truth arrives you need to not have injuries, for your players to be in optimum form and have luck. There are so many factors."

### STRENGTH IN DEPTH

Real's strength in depth was used intelligently by coach Zinedine Zidane to win the club's first La Liga and European Cup double for 59 years last season. It is also why one of the richest clubs in the world didn't feel the need to go wild in a hyper-inflated transfer market following Neymar's world record 222 million-euro move to Paris Saint-Germain.

Instead, Real continued their policy of snapping up the best young talent in Spain in Theo Hernandez and Dani Ceballos to add to the likes of Isco and Marco Asensio. Despite a slow start to their campaign in La Liga, Zidane already

seems to be playing the long game this season.

The Frenchman rested a host of first-team regulars including Luka Modric, Isco and Gareth Bale on their return from international duty for a disappointing 1-1 draw against Levante on Saturday. "I am not going to revolutionise what I want to do with this team due to one bad game," Zidane insisted afterwards.

Real will be bolstered for the visit of the Cypriot champions in midweek by the return of Cristiano Ronaldo. The World Player of the Year's absence due to a five-game domestic ban for pushing a referee has exposed the one flaw in Real's squad in a lack of back-up to Karim Benzema.

Having not replaced Morata, Bale was forced to act as an auxiliary striker against Levante after Benzema went off injured. Yet even an enforced rest for Ronaldo could ultimately work in Real's favour come the end of the campaign.

The Portuguese scored 10 goals from the quarter-finals on last season as Zidane's rotation policy left him far fresher and freer of injuries than in previous years. With a fit Ronaldo come the knockout stages, Real will remain the team to beat as the rest of Europe tries to end their hegemony. — AFP



**LEIPZIG:** Leipzig's German forward Timo Werner (C) attends a training session on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match between RB Leipzig and AS Monaco in Leipzig, eastern Germany yesterday. — AFP

## SPURS FIGHT TO END WEMBLEY WOE

**LONDON:** Frustrated by a series of miserable experiences at Wembley, Tottenham Hotspur host Borussia Dortmund today desperate to finally vanquish the ghosts that haunt them at the national stadium.

When Mauricio Pochettino's side kick off their Champions League campaign against the Germans, it won't be just priceless Group H points that are up for grabs. For Tottenham, Wembley is in danger of becoming the bogeyman that wrecks havoc on their ambitions to challenge for silverware at home and abroad.

The north London club have been forced to relocate to Wembley while White Hart Lane is being rebuilt. But Spurs have now played 12 matches at Wembley since the famous old arena was revamped-winning just twice and suffering eight defeats.

Tottenham's struggles at Wembley came into harsh focus last season in the Champions League when they won just one of their group matches there. CSKA Moscow were the only team they could beat as defeats against Monaco and Bayer Leverkusen sent them crashing out.

Even playing against Gent in the Europa League at Wembley proved a painful experience as the Belgians claimed a draw that eliminated Tottenham in the last 32. Remarkably, there was still more Wembley woe in store for Spurs before the end of the season as they lost the FA Cup semi-final to Chelsea 4-2.

The contrast between their form at Wembley and White Hart Lane is stark. Last season's second-place finish in the Premier League was built on a brilliant unbeaten record in front of their own fans, which saw them win 17 and draw two of their 19 home league games.

Yet as soon as they pitch up at Wembley, Tottenham's invincibility evaporates. They've done their best to make Wembley feel like home, draping the stadium in the club's livery, hanging posters with Spurs slogans, and employing a drummer to lift the noise levels.

But after the more intimate atmosphere of White Hart Lane, where the fans were much closer to the pitch, Wembley hasn't been conducive to generating the intensity Tottenham thrive on. Facing Chelsea in their first home game this season, Tottenham fell behind to Marcos Alonso's goal before Michy Batshuayi's late own goal drew them level.

Not for the first time at Wembley, Tottenham couldn't keep calm at the other end and Alonso won it after a mistake from goalkeeper Hugo Lloris with two minutes left. — AFP

## RAMPANT MAN CITY READY TO MARCH ON FEYENOORD

**THE HAGUE:** Pep Guardiola's rampant Manchester City will be keen to keep the momentum going as they open the hunt for Champions League glory against a diminished Feyenoord in Rotterdam today.

After mauling Liverpool 5-0 in the Premier League on Saturday, City now travel to face the Dutch champions who face a daunting prospect after a 15-year absence from the group stage of the competition. Eyes in particular will be on City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne, whose sublime form played a major part in the Liverpool drubbing and who is sure to sniff out and exploit weaknesses in Feyenoord's midfield and defence. Feyenoord may have beaten Heracles 4-2 in a Dutch top-flight match over the weekend, but their opponents came dangerously close to scoring more goals—a fact no doubt that will play on coach Giovanni van Bronckhorst's mind. The Rotterdam club faced a further blow up front after leading striker Nicolai Jorgensen came off with a leg muscle injury 21 minutes into the Heracles game.

The 26-year-old Danish international last year's Eredivisie top scorer with 21 goals in 32 games will not play in the City match which opens their Group F campaign, Feyenoord announced on Monday.

### 'PHYSICAL QUALITY'

With Jorgensen out, former Dutch skipper and Arsenal midfielder Van Bronckhorst will now have to draw on every ounce of Premier

League experience if he is to try and outfox Guardiola's team.

City have spent more than £200 million (\$264 million, 219 million euros) over the summer strengthening their squad after losing to Monaco in the last 16 last season. De Bruyne told British media on Monday: "The guys who have come in have a very physical quality, they are

very strong, very pacy. They make the pitch big, that is a quality of them and it is difficult for the other teams." Meanwhile, Feyenoord winger Steven Berghuis said he expected it to be a tough night for the hosts, European Cup winners in 1970. "It's going to be tough to stay standing against this club (Manchester City)," Berghuis told daily tabloid De Telegraaf. — AFP

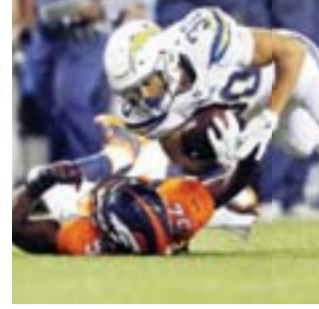


**ROTTERDAM:** Manchester City's Spanish midfielder David Silva (R) takes part in a training session at the City Football Academy in Manchester, northwest England yesterday on the eve of their UEFA Champions League Group F football match against Feyenoord in Rotterdam. — AFP

### Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

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

## Sports

Broncos block  
late FG, beat  
Chargers 24-21W Indies look to  
recalled Gayle  
for ODI  
inspiration

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

RB LEIPZIG RELISHING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE DEBUT

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LIMA: Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo (L) and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti pose for pictures ahead of an International Olympic Committee (IOC) session on Monday in Lima. For the first time in history, the Olympics will confirm two Summer Games host cities at the same time today, when Paris is handed hosting rights for 2024 and Los Angeles wins 2028. — AFP

## IOC READIES TO CROWN PARIS, LOS ANGELES

LIMA: The International Olympic Committee will crown Paris and Los Angeles as hosts for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics here yesterday, delivering a welcome feel-good factor amid a gathering storm of corruption allegations.

For the first time since the awarding of the 1984 Olympics, when only one city was in the race, the traditional frenzy of last-minute lobbying, politicking and schmoozing will be strikingly absent in Lima.

In a historic move, the IOC brokered an agreement that will see Paris handed the 2024 Games with Los Angeles awarded 2028, an outcome that all sides are declaring as victory in a "win-win-win" deal.

IOC members will ratify the agreement following 25-minute presentations by Paris and Los Angeles, the last two cities left in the race for the 2024 Olympics. "It's a big win and we are here to really enjoy it," said Paris 2024 bid co-chief Tony Estanguet, reflecting the triumphant mood amongst the French delegation as today's vote neared.

Los Angeles 2028 officials meanwhile insisted they are satisfied with the deal which means the Californian city will have to wait 11 more years before it stages the

Olympics for a third time.

The city will receive roughly \$100 million more than Paris in IOC funding for the games, a financial sweetener that delivers "a frankly much better economic result," according to 2028 bid chief Casey Wasserman. "We think the result is extraordinary," Wasserman told AFP. "We'll be celebrating on Wednesday night and through the weekend in LA for sure."

IOC chief President Thomas Bach, the driving force behind the double award, described the candidacies of Paris and Los Angeles as a "golden opportunity." "For the IOC it would have been a huge mistake not to seize this golden opportunity," Bach said Monday. Today's vote marks the conclusion of a mostly good-natured bidding campaign notable for the number of cities who withdrew from the race citing waning public support and concerns over budget.

#### 'TOO MANY LOSERS'

Hamburg, Rome, Budapest and Boston all fell by the wayside during the competition, reflecting the political

difficulties in persuading voters that staging the Olympics is worth the multi-billion-dollar price tag.

IOC chief Bach first signalled publicly that the double-award of an Olympics could be on the agenda in December last year, lamenting that the bidding process produced "too many losers." As the bidding battle for 2024 unfolded, and as the field thinned to leave Los Angeles and Paris as the last bids standing, the IOC's determination to lock in two high-quality cities for the next two summer games became apparent.

Los Angeles and Paris, whose bids emphasise a high-level of venue readiness, both wowed the IOC's Evaluation Commission during back-to-back visits in May. In July, the IOC announced it would award the staging rights for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics at the same meeting in Lima.

The drama-free conclusion also guarantees the IOC will not have to confront the explosive fall-out from the vote for the 2016 Olympics, which detonated spectacularly last week when investigators in Brazil swooped on the country's Olympics chief Carlos Nuzman.

Nuzman stands accused of plotting to bribe IOC members into awarding Rio de Janeiro the 2016 Games at a 2009 vote in Copenhagen.

Former IOC member Nuzman was taken in for questioning with his passport confiscated and a search of his house unearthing around \$150,000 worth in cash in various currencies. Brazilian police later said they are probing "an international corruption scheme" aimed at "the buying of votes for the election of (Rio) by the International Olympic Committee as the venue for the 2016 Olympics."

The charges swirling around Rio's bid revive memories of the Salt Lake City bribery scandal, which led to 20 IOC members being either kicked out of the Olympics' ruling body or pleading guilty to accepting bribes for votes.

French investigators meanwhile have already announced they are investigating the 2013 vote in Buenos Aires which awarded the 2020 Olympics to Tokyo, following reports of secret payments into a Singapore-based bank account linked to the son of disgraced former world athletics chief Lamine Diack. — AFP

## JAPAN'S DATE BOWS OUT IN TEARS AFTER 'DOUBLE BAGEL'

TOKYO: Japan's Kimiko Date, the grande dame of women's tennis, bowed out of the sport after being thrashed 6-0, 6-0 by Aleksandra Kronic in the Japan Women's Open yesterday. The former world number four, who turns 47 later this month, was simply no match for a Serbian opponent who at 24 is young enough to be Date's daughter. Kronic took just 49 minutes to inflict the dreaded "double bagel" on Date in a lop-sided first round encounter in Tokyo.

Date tried gamely to mix up her shots in the second set but to no avail as Kronic, ranked 67th in the world, blasted winners past her at will. Kronic continued to swing away from the baseline and put the former Wimbledon semifinalist out of her misery with a huge forehand which Date could only dump into the net.

"It's finally over," a tearful Date told fans, many of whom were sobbing themselves. "I feel sad mostly I guess but also really grateful for what tennis has given me," said the eight-time WTA Tour singles champion, who took a 12-year hiatus from professional tennis after quitting at the peak of her powers in 1996.

Date, a wiry 1.63 metres (5ft 4in), underwent two knee surgeries since appearing at the 2016 Australian Open, but defied the odds to return to action in May this year. The Kyoto native, presented with flowers and a trophy in an emotional ceremony after the match, has

also been nursing a sore shoulder and it showed against Kronic.

"A lot of things were going through my head this morning but during the match I was just trying everything I could to win a game," said Date after taking just 13 points off her opponent. "I just didn't have it physically. It feels strange to be retired but I have to accept it. At the end I was relieved I hadn't made my shoulder worse."

#### 'NERVOUS WRECK'

Date, whose game is a throwback to a time when tennis was more about lobs, dinks and clever use of spin than power-hitting, showed brief glimpses of her former pomp. After warming up to Donna Summer's "Hot Stuff", Date was anything but and lacked the power to trouble Kronic, who after embracing Date told her she had started the match as a nervous wreck.

"I want to apologise," she said after completing the whitewash. "I don't like that I had to be the one but Kimiko has had a great career. "I was a mess at the beginning," added Kronic, who next faces American Alison Riske.

"When I go back to the locker room, I'll probably cry." Date broke several tennis records, most notably at the Korea Open in 2009 when she became the second-oldest player in the modern era after Billie Jean King-



TOKYO: Japan's Kimiko Date returns a shot against Serbian Aleksandra Kronic in the first round of the Japan Women's Open tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

to win a WTA singles title.

Despite playing on until the ripe old age of 46, Date still fell some way short of her idol Martina Navratilova, who retired a month shy of her 50th birthday in 2006. Date insisted she had no desire to become a coach in the future.

"No, I'm definitely not cut out for that," she laughed. "But I don't feel like I did when I first retired and didn't want to go near a tennis court again. I'll stick to just watching." — AFP

## S AFRICA ACCEPTS DECISION TO REPLAY WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

JOHANNESBURG: The South African Football Association won't appeal against FIFA's unprecedented decision to strip it of a victory in World Cup qualifying and order a replay because of match-fixing by the referee, the federation said yesterday.

SAFA announced it would not appeal the order that annulled South Africa's 2-1 win over Senegal last November, but said that its "rights to sue for damages remain open." That raised the possibility that SAFA might seek compensation from FIFA, which it believes should take responsibility for the referee, who was appointed by FIFA's referees committee despite some suspicious performances.

"Why didn't FIFA do an integrity check on the referee since they have these mechanisms?" SAFA senior legal counsel Norman Arendse said. FIFA's decision on the South Africa-Senegal qualifier was the first time the world body ordered a game to be played again because of match-fixing.

FIFA banned Ghanaian referee Joseph Lamptey for life after he awarded South Africa a penalty for a non-existent handball against a Senegal defender. South Africa scored from the penalty and went on to win the qualifier 2-1.

FIFA found neither team was

involved in the fixing, and the referee was likely manipulating the match for illegal betting rings. Lamptey had previously been under scrutiny and was suspended by the Confederation of African Football for allowing a crucial goal from a clear handball to stand in an African Champions League semifinal match in 2010.

The fact that he was still appointed by FIFA's referees committee for the World Cup qualifier is one of two major gripes for South Africa. The other is that SAFA was never invited to make any representation in the process by FIFA, which ultimately ended up in a decision that adversely affected South Africa.

South Africa now has little chance of reaching the World Cup in Russia next year. FIFA's unprecedented decision to order a replay because of fixing must be confirmed by its organizing committee for competitions at a meeting on Thursday. It should be rubber-stamped, with no opposition now from SAFA.

"SAFA has decided on ethical and moral grounds that if this match was manipulated, we should replay it," the South African federation said. The game will be replayed in November, likely after all the other qualifiers in the group are completed. — AP





# ZAIN KICKS OFF 4TH EDITION OF ZAIN GREAT IDEA ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

INITIATIVE TO FOSTER NEXT GENERATION OF KUWAIT'S TECH ENTREPRENEURS



KUWAIT: Zain Kuwait holds a press conference at its headquarters yesterday.



KUWAIT: Zain team with the entrepreneurs.

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, held a press conference at its headquarters and announced the kick-off of the fourth installment of the highly successful Zain Great Idea (ZGI) accelerator program, aimed at identifying and fostering young, hi-tech entrepreneurs in Kuwait.

The accelerator program is a Zain initiative in partnership with Brilliant Lab, a startup accelerator service from Kuwait, and Mind The Bridge, a Silicon Valley-based organization specializing in entrepreneurship education for startups, enterprises and investors.

ZGI is a highly-anticipated activity in Kuwait,

and the previous three successful two-year programs (2010-11, 2013-14, and 2015-16) has seen the empowerment, training, and investment in hundreds of creative and driven young Kuwaitis, of which many now own thriving Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). Waleed Al-Khashti, Corporate Communications and relations Director at Zain Kuwait, said, "Encouraging and providing the proper resources for the local entrepreneurial community is a top priority for Zain. Through our active corporate sustainability program, the company is keen to contribute to Kuwait's economic and national development, much of which will be driven by the country's

youth." Neda Al-Dehani, founder of Brilliant lab, commented: "we are extremely proud of this partnership with Zain throughout the past five years, where we trained and accelerated over 300 tech ideas in Kuwait. Brilliant Lab will be bringing the best tech experiences from the region and the world to the participants. Seven years ago, it was tough to make a tech idea come to life in Kuwait, then came ZGI and made the process easier from A-Z like no other program did".

To be considered for participation in this year's program, applicants must submit their ideas online at [www.ZainGreatIdea.com](http://www.ZainGreatIdea.com) by 30 September, 2017. Successful applicants will be

emailed and given details of the Boot Camp Orientation, which is a two-and-a-half week long intense local accelerator initiative for all valid applicants. During the boot camp, participants will learn about the tech startup culture and workings from leading mentors from Stanford University, IE Business school, entrepreneurs and regional and international venture capital firms. Participants will then be required to prepare pitch decks and present to a panel of judges who will determine the top 10 finalists to enter phase 2 of the program.

Phase 2 will see selected finalists travel to San Francisco (Silicon Valley) and London in

November 2017 with Mind The Bridge, and upon their return, will have their business plans reviewed and evaluated in one-on-one sessions with Brilliant Lab, before finally presenting them to investors in Kuwait at Zain Demo Day in December 2017.

Startup areas of interest for the program extend, but are not limited, to the following: Apps, Websites, e-Commerce, Fintech, Gaming, Tech Products and others. ZGI is open to any Kuwaiti national above the age of 21 possessing a tech startup idea, or prototype/demo, or an established tech business. For more information please visit [zaingreatidea.com](http://zaingreatidea.com).

**Join #ZainGreatIdea Program Now!**

Got a tech idea? Submit it to [ZainGreatIdea.com](http://ZainGreatIdea.com)

Be part of the startup acceleration program in **Kuwait, San Francisco (Silicon Valley) and London.**

Last chance to register is September 30th 2017.

**Brilliant Lab** Startup Accelerator Services **Mind the Bridge**

[zaingreatidea.com](http://zaingreatidea.com)

Zaina Albadar's Great Idea: "Bookr App"

A Wonderful World

Chart 2: Equity markets

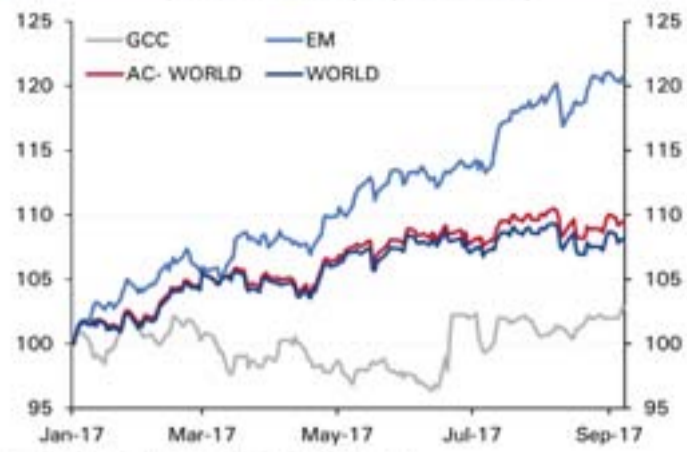
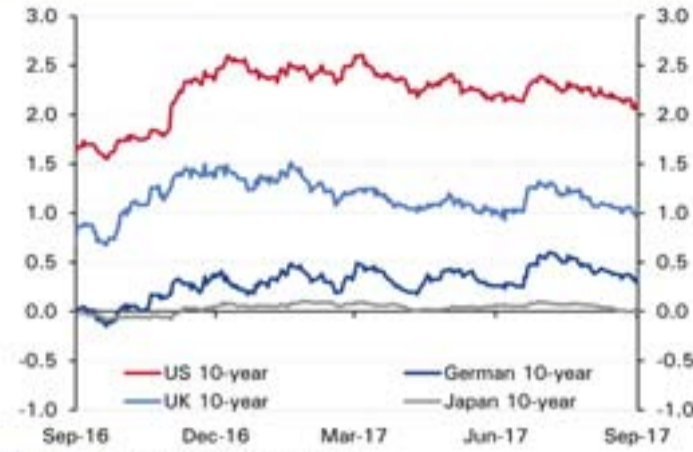


Chart 4: Benchmark yields



# GLOBAL ECONOMY FORGES AHEAD DESPITE POLITICAL HEADWINDS

## NBK INTERNATIONAL MARKET REPORT

**KUWAIT:** The global economy continues to hum along, though political headwinds and weather conditions have complicated matters in recent weeks. While the major economies have either maintained robust growth or seen some improvement, the North Korea crisis and severe weather conditions in the US have weighed on markets. Analysts also began to question whether promised US reforms will materialize following months of legislative failures. Thus, despite the improving economic figures, yields have declined generally and stock markets have lost some of their gains. The US dollar also continued its retreat from its 2016 highs, in part as the eurozone outlook has improved.

In the US, politics has dominated. Markets, which had been anticipating a significant stimulus from promised tax reform, have begun to question whether this can still be agreed upon this year. Also, a debt ceiling and budget fight was expected in September, though this has now been pushed to later in 2017, after president Trump struck a deal with congressional Democrats. Markets were initially worried that failure to reach an agreement on a new budget and the debt ceiling could force a government shutdown, ultimately delaying the Fed's next rate hike. The risk of this has now receded following the deal to postpone the debt-ceiling question.

Meanwhile, US growth has remained robust, with most indicators either steady or improving. The latest ISM indexes were no exception, with

the manufacturing index hitting its highest level since 2011. The employment report, while slightly below expectations, continues to confirm a healthy labor market. Much of the improved momentum has been driven by optimism that Mr. Trump's reform agenda will be implemented in a reasonable timeframe. That is now beginning to look less likely after several legislative initiatives failed to make it through Congress. This could weigh on sentiment in the months ahead, especially given relatively high equity valuations.

Nonetheless, markets are less convinced today than they were just weeks ago that the Fed will see another hike in its policy rate target this year. Indeed, the likelihood of a Fed rate hike in December has now declined to 32%; we do not expect one. As for next year, the market consensus is for 2-3 hikes; we are more sanguine, expecting just one to two 25 basis point hikes. Meanwhile, the Fed is also expected to announce the starting date of an expected balance sheet reduction in the coming weeks. The announcement itself is unlikely to rattle markets.

In Europe, conditions have continued to shift toward a more positive stance. The economic figures have broadly been surprising to the upside, with GDP growth in the eurozone revised upward in recent months. More recently, that trend was bolstered by further strength in the PMI and inflation. Inflation has also been stronger than prior expectations; headline inflation in August rose to 1.5 percent y/y. Though

still well below the 2 percent target, inflation forecasts are now more upbeat.

Retreating political risks have been part of the improving story in Europe. The risk of populists coming to power or gaining traction is much diminished after elections in the Netherlands and France saw those forces defeated. In France, the election of reform-minded Emmanuel Macron even bolstered hopes of a more market-friendly era. Elections in Germany later this month, which never represented a significant risk to begin with, are now expected to be easily won by Mrs. Merkel, maintaining the status quo. Nonetheless, some political risks remain on the horizon including an Italian election sometime in the next 12 months and the progress of Brexit talks, which risk using up valuable political capital and risk souring EU-UK relations.

Robust EU economies and shaky US politics combined to push the euro higher this year. The currency rose to 1.20 versus the dollar in August and is now up 14 percent against the US currency this year. Some of this move has also reflected the changing interest rate outlook in the US, especially on the likelihood of a December Fed hike. However, the euro has been strengthening consistently since late 2016, at a time when optimism of US reforms was still strong and long before markets began to entertain serious doubts on these.

### ECB dilemma

The stronger euro has certainly complicated life for the European Central Bank. The ECB's Mario Draghi, who has been focused on ensuring a smooth transition to a "less-loose" monetary policy, is now having to talk down the euro, lest it derail the economic recovery. However, when it comes to the ECB's quantitative easing (QE), markets know that it is unlikely to continue much longer past the middle of next year due to the structural limitations of the program (i.e. there are few German bonds left to buy). Nonetheless, observers are keen to hear more details about how the ECB plans to end QE.

Japan has also surprised on the upside in recent months, though this trend will be harder to sustain. Generally, quantitative easing there has been far less effective and authorities still do not have their sight on the end of QE. Moreover, though the IMF did nudge their growth outlook for 2017 to 1.3 percent, growth is expected to return to 0.6 percent in 2018. Meanwhile, Japanese inflation remains mired below 1 percent, unlike inflation in the US and the eurozone where it has perhaps started to approach 2 percent. Emerging markets (EM) growth has also been improving despite a moderating pace in China. EM growth is seen rising to 4.6-4.8 percent in 2017 and 2018 by the IMF. The trend there has been relatively steady with China continuing to manage a smooth slowdown while avoiding major bumps along the way. Beyond China, growth has been recovering as recessions in commodity exporting (Brazil, Russia) countries recede.

An improving economic outlook combined with the risks from the North Korea crisis and bad weather have helped push oil prices upward in recent months. Brent rose past \$54 per barrel in early September; this is \$10 higher than recent lows in late June 2017. The price has also been supported by the OPEC decision to extend production cuts for an additional nine months after these were due to expire in mid-2017. The price recovery has remained relatively limited, largely due to resilient shale oil production in the US and high crude oil stocks.

## WESTERN UNION TIES UP AMAN EXCHANGE TO LAUNCH ONLINE MONEY TRANSFER SERVICE IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Western Union, a leader in global money transfer and payments services, in association with Aman Exchange in Kuwait, has announced the launch of the WU.com transactional website in Kuwait, increasing money transfer options, giving customers the choice of a Western Union digital channel and the convenience of sending money any time, any day of the week.

To utilize WU.com services, customers can pay using any debit card issued in Kuwait. The site will then generate a code for the receiver to collect cash in more than 200 countries and territories.

Hatem Sleiman, regional vice president, Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Western Union said, "With over two million internet users, Kuwait is a highly digitized nation. Our new online platform will not only support market growth, but also give customers additional choice and convenience to send money around the world. We believe that when money moves, good things hap-

pen. Our passion for people and innovation continues to grow."

In line with Central Bank of Kuwait regulations, customers are required to register on [www.westernunion.com/kw](http://www.westernunion.com/kw) prior to the first use of the online service, as well as to register in-person with their national ID at one of the 13 Aman Exchange locations. Once registered, Western Union My WUSM global loyalty program members can receive and redeem points online using their current membership number, while those wishing to enroll in the program can do so online as well. Adel Al-Muzaini, General Manager of Aman Exchange added, "We are very pleased to collaborate with Western Union for this digital offering in Kuwait. This new channel will help further our mission to provide customers in Kuwait the advantage of transferring money 24x7 without the necessity to look for open locations. With the assurance of reliable transfers, this will make sending money a pleasant experience."



**FRANKFURT:** A BMW i3 car and a BMW scooter are driven on stage during a show at the stand of German carmaker BMW at the Frankfurt Motor Show IAA in Frankfurt am Main yesterday.—AFP

## GERMAN ECONOMY TO GROW BY MORE THAN 2% THIS YEAR: BDI

**BERLIN:** The German economy is set to grow by more than 2 percent this year adjusted for calendar effects, which would be the strongest rate in six years, the BDI industry association said yesterday as it lifted its growth forecast for Europe's biggest economy. The outlook followed a more muted message from the Economy Ministry, which said the economy could lose some momentum in the second half after powering ahead in the first six months. Record-high employment, rising real wages and ultra-low borrowing costs are driving a consumer-led upswing in the German economy that looks set to help Chancellor Angela Merkel win a fourth term in office in a federal election on Sept. 24.

The ministry, which has a reputation of giving more cautious outlooks, said in its monthly report that growth would continue in the second half. "However, the dynamics are likely to be somewhat weaker," it said. The ministry is so far sticking to its 2017 growth forecast of 1.5 percent unadjusted, which would translate into 1.8 percent on a calendar-adjusted basis. But economists expect the government to raise that in its autumn outlook, due at the end of next month.

Drawing its forecasts from its close links to more than 100,000 large, medium-sized and small firms from all branches of processing industry, which together employ more than 8 million employees, the BDI sees more upbeat figures. "The German economy is picking up speed," BDI said in its quarterly economic report. It now expects unadjusted gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 1.8 percent this year, up from its previous estimate of 1.5 percent. "Adjusted for calendar effects, this

corresponds with a growth rate of slightly more than 2 percent," BDI said, adding the main reason for the improved outlook was the global recovery.

### Retail sector

In the first half of the year German exports rose by almost 4 percent, BDI said. "We also expect a similar expansion rate for the second half," Germany's biggest industry association, which has a track record of nailing the data, said. "In addition to construction investment, equipment investment is also rising thanks to the high capacity utilization in the industry," it said.

The International Monetary Fund said in July it expected the German economy to grow by 1.8 percent in 2017 and by 1.6 percent in 2018. This would be slightly below the 1.9 percent it achieved in 2016. The ministry said private consumption would remain an important growth engine, but a somewhat clouded mood in the retail sector could prompt a slight cooling in the third quarter.

The monthly report chimed with economic data published this month that showed feeble domestic demand drove a surprise fall in industrial orders in July, while industrial production flatlined. In addition, retail sales fell more than expected on the month in July, suggesting that household spending lost some momentum at the beginning of the third quarter.

The ministry said that overall business morale remained high and firms continued to hire new staff. "But employment growth could be somewhat slower. Also, production in manufacturing and construction could expand rather moderately," it added.—Reuters

## BRITAIN INFLATION SURPRISE RENEWS TALK OF RATE HIKE

**LONDON:** Inflation in Britain spiked up to 2.9 percent in the year to August, official figures showed yesterday, in a development that has stoked speculation the Bank of England may raise interest rates sooner than expected regardless of how the country's Brexit discussions shape up.

The Office for National Statistics said the increase from the previous month's 2.6 percent rate was largely due to rising prices for clothing and motor fuels. The scale of the increase, which took the consumer price inflation rate to its joint-highest level in more than five years, was unexpected - the consensus in the markets was for a 2.8 percent rate.

The pound jumped to near year-highs against the dollar, a signal that some traders, at least, think that borrowing rates could be heading higher later this year or early next. The pound was up 0.8 percent at \$1.3261 in early afternoon in London. The pound was also strengthening against the euro, which was down 0.9 percent at 0.8991 pound.

The currency's rebound from its post-Brexit vote lows is potentially negative news for British firms that have big business interests outside the U.K. And the money they make abroad will be worth less when it is brought back to the U.K. That helps explain why the FTSE 100 stock index of leading

British firms was a laggard Tuesday. Whereas other stock markets in Europe firmly higher, the FTSE 100, which is made up of many international companies like BP and

Burberry, was down 0.2 percent. Inflation is now well above the Bank of England's target of 2 percent. In more normal times, that fact alone would have been enough for the central bank to raise interest rates, which can rein in economic activity, thereby keeping a lid on price increases. If inflation ends up being more than 1 percentage point above the target, Bank of England Governor Mark Carney will have to write a letter to the government explaining why that's happened and what he and his central bank colleagues are planning to do about it.

However, policymakers are expected to keep the bank's benchmark interest rate at the record low of 0.25 percent at their meeting on Thursday largely because of Britain's uncertain economic outlook. At least two of the nine-member Monetary Policy Committee are expected to vote for higher rates and the minutes of the meeting, also due for publication Thursday, could show a greater willingness to consider higher rates.

"The inflation data builds a stronger case for the Bank of England to look at hiking rates but it is not yet strong enough for the monetary policy committee to act this week," said Neil Wilson, senior market analyst at ETX Capital. While inflation has risen sharply in the past year largely on the back of the pound's fall since Britain's vote to leave the European Union, the economy has slowed sharply as living standards have been squeezed by higher prices.—AP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.798
Indian Rupees	4.731
Pakistani Rupees	2.864
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.973
Nepali Rupees	2.958
Singapore Dollar	226.030
Hongkong Dollar	38.563
Bangladesh Taka	3.720
Philippine Peso	5.948
Thai Baht	9.133

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.520
Qatari Riyal	82.933
Omani Riyal	784.174
Bahraini Dinar	801.780
UAE Dirham	82.210

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.021
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.212
Tunisian Dinar	126.260
Jordanian Dinar	426.080
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.012
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.942

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	301.750
Euro	365.570
Sterling Pound	400.720

Canadian dollar	250.310
Turkish lira	89.140
Swiss Franc	321.700
Australian Dollar	245.930
US Dollar Buying	300.550

#### GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.650
Canadian Dollar	232.415
Sterling Pound	401.085
Euro	339.245
Swiss Frank	294.580
Bahraini Dinar	800.075
UAE Dirhams	82.630
Qatari Riyals	83.840
Saudi Riyals	81.430
Jordanian Dinar	426.460
Egyptian Pound	33.985
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.076
Indian Rupee	4.531
Pakistani Rupee	2.882
Bangladesh Taka	3.851
Philippines Peso	6.435
Cyprus pound	159.500
Japanese Yen	3.915
Syrian Pound	2.400
Nepalese Rupee	3.815

Malaysian Ringgit	75.855
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.930
Thai Bhat	9.675
Turkish Lira	101.390

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.393722	0.408722
Czech Korune	0.004495	0.016495
Danish Krone	0.041365	0.046365
Euro	0.032150	0.0341150
Norwegian Krone	0.031870	0.037070
Romanian Leu	0.086745	0.086745
Slovakia	0.009007	0.019007
Slovenia Krona	0.031320	0.036320
Swiss Franc	0.305256	0.316256
Turkish Lira	0.096819	0.107119
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.221624	0.233624
New Zealand Dollar	0.211948	0.221448
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.226401	0.235401
Georgina Lari	0.136578	0.136578
US Dollars	0.298300	0.303000
US Dollars Mint	0.298800	0.303000
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003384	0.003968
Chinese Yuan	0.044074	0.047574
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036916	0.039666

Indian Rupee	0.004346	0.004735
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002878	0.003058
Kenyan Shilling	0.003110	0.003110
Korean Won	0.000262	0.000277
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072187	0.078187
Nepalese Rupee	0.002851	0.003021
Pakistan Rupee	0.002719	0.003009
Philippine Peso	0.006317	0.006617
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.220621	0.230621
South African Rand	0.015785	0.024285
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001655	0.002235
Taiwan	0.009299	0.009479
Thai Baht	0.008372	0.008922

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795553	0.804053
Egyptian Pound	0.025234	0.030352
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422358	0.431358
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019264	0.043264
Nigerian Naira	0.001246	0.001881
Omani Riyal	0.779035	0.784715
Qatar Riyal	0.082250	0.083700
Saudi Riyal	0.079553	0.080853
Syrian Pound	0.001281	0.001501
Tunisian Dinar	0.134032	0.142032
Turkish Lira	0.096819	0.107119
UAE Dirhams	0.080907	0.082607
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

## ABE TO LAUNCH \$17BN INDIAN BULLET TRAIN PROJECT AS TIES DEEPEN

**NEW DELHI/TOKYO:** Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will lay the foundation stone for India's first bullet train in Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state this week, in a tightening of ties just days after New Delhi ended a dangerous military confrontation with China.

The move by Abe, who started a two-day visit to India yesterday, highlights an early lead for Japan in a sector where the Chinese have also been trying to secure a foothold, but without much success.

Modi has made the 500-km- (311-mile-) long high-speed rail link between the financial hub of Mumbai and the industrial city of Ahmedabad in western Gujarat a centrepiece of his efforts to showcase India's ability to build cutting-edge infrastructure. The leaders will launch the start of work on the line tomorrow, India's railways ministry said in a statement.

"This technology will revolutionize and transform the transport sector," said Railways Minister Piyush Goyal, welcoming the prospects for growth brought by

Japan's high-speed "shinkansen" technology. In Tokyo, a Japanese foreign ministry official told reporters, "We would like to support 'Make in India' as much as possible," referring to Modi's signature policy to lure investors in manufacturing.

"And for that, we want to do what's beyond the Mumbai-Ahmedabad line and achieve economies of scale." India would make "all-out efforts" to complete the line by August 2022, more than a year earlier than planned, the government said this week. Japan is providing 81 percent of the funding for the 1.08-trillion-rupee (\$16.9-billion) project, through a 50-year loan at 0.1 percent annual interest.

### Ties blossomed

Ties between India and Japan have blossomed as Modi and Abe increasingly see eye-to-eye in countering growing Chinese assertiveness across Asia. Japanese investment into India has surged in areas ranging from automobiles to infrastructure in the remote northeast, making Tokyo its third-largest



**AHMEDABAD:** Indian security personnel stand guard alongside a banner advertising the forthcoming visit to the city by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (right) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the eve of the visit in Ahmedabad yesterday. — AFP

foreign direct investor. India and Japan are also trying to move forward on a plan for New Delhi to buy Japanese amphibious aircraft - ShinMaywa Industries' US-2 - in what would be one of Tokyo's first arms transfers since ending a self-imposed embargo.

Tokyo hopes that by gaining a head start on rival exporters of rail technology such as China and Germany, its companies will be able to dominate business in one of the most promising markets for high-speed rail equipment. In 2015, China won a contract to assess the feasibility of a high-speed link between Delhi and Mumbai, part of a network of more than 10,000 km (6,214 miles) of track India wants to set up, but little progress has been made.

Bullet train critics say the funds would be far better spent to modernize India's slow and rickety state-controlled rail system, the world's fourth largest. But a \$15-billion safety overhaul has hit delays as a state steel firm proved unable to fill demand for new rail. — Reuters

## CHINESE BANKS HALT TRANSACTIONS FOR NORTH KOREANS

**BEIJING:** Branches of China's biggest banks have suspended financial transactions for North Koreans, employees told AFP, suggesting that Beijing has pursued stronger measures against its nuclear-armed ally than previously thought.

Staff at branches in Beijing and the border city of Yanji—a major trade and transportation hub between the two neighbors—said their banks have banned North Koreans from opening new accounts and some have even started to close existing ones. The restrictions were imposed well before the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved, with China's blessing, new sanctions on Pyongyang on Monday following its latest and largest nuclear test. Employees at several branches of the country's "big four"—Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of China and China Construction Bank—confirmed the financial curbs for North Korean clients.

"We have frozen their accounts, which means they cannot withdraw (money)," a staff member at a Yanji branch of China Construction Bank told AFP. "They cannot use (their accounts) in Yanji anymore, as well as our services... We have already started to inform them to cancel their account. If they can cancel, we let them cancel. If they cannot, we will not let them use it," the staffer said.

An employee at the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China in Yanji said the restrictions began last year or the previous year. "We also won't open new accounts now. We offer no service to them. Opening accounts or foreign currency operations, we don't offer such services to them," the employee said.

Other local bank branches said the bans have been carried out for a while, but they did not remember exactly when. Some said they have received a written document on the ban but others said there has only been a "verbally delivered" message. A staff member at a Beijing branch of China Construction Bank said they received a

notice in May, and North Koreans can no longer conduct transactions. An Agricultural Bank of China employee in Beijing said North Koreans are barred from opening new accounts but those with current accounts can carry out transactions.

### Cut off nuclear funds

Zhang Liangui, a professor at the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee school, said the ban is "very normal" and in accordance with UN resolutions. "Chinese banks restricting financial flows between (China and) North Korea is actually restricting trade on the whole," Zhang said. "It mainly aims at limiting North Korea's foreign exchange revenue and cutting off the foreign exchange (supply) that it needs to develop its nuclear plans."

A 2013 UN Security Council resolution stipulates that member states must curb financial services or transactions that could subsidize North Korea's nuclear programs. China has long been accused of lax enforcement of UN sanctions on North Korea, and US President Donald Trump complained earlier this year that trade between the two countries surged in the first quarter.

In June, the United States slapped sanctions on the Bank of Dandong, a Chinese bank located at the border with North Korea which it accused of "facilitating millions of dollars of transactions for companies involved in North Korea's WMD (weapons of mass destruction) and ballistic missile programs." But China has insisted that it adheres to the UN sanctions. It suspended North Korean coal imports in February and more recently banned new business ventures and stopped buying iron, seafood and lead from its neighbor. China also backed Monday's UN resolution, which bans textile exports and restricts shipments of oil products, though it did so only after Washington toned down its original proposal to secure the backing of Beijing and Moscow. — AFP



**PARIS:** A man holds a flare during a demonstration called by several French unions against the labor law reform in Paris yesterday. French unions launched a day of strikes and protests yesterday against Emmanuel Macron's flagship labor reforms, a key test as he stakes his presidency on overhauling the sluggish economy. — AFP

## MACRON FACES CHALLENGE AS UNION PROTESTS LABOR REFORM

### LABOR REFORMS TEST FRENCH PRESIDENT'S METTLE

**PARIS:** President Emmanuel Macron faced the first challenge on the streets to his business-friendly reform agenda yesterday when workers from the hard-left CGT union began marching through French cities to protest against a loosening of labor laws.

Sounding a call to the working class, Philippe Martinez, the head of the Communist Party-linked CGT, branded the reforms a "social coup d'etat" and took offence at Macron's pledge to give no ground to "slackers".

Labor unions have scuppered previous attempts to weaken France's labor code, but this time there was comfort for Macron as two other unions, including the largest, the CFDT, declined to join the protests.

After weeks of negotiations, the government last month set out measures including a cap on payouts for dismissals judged unfair and greater freedom for companies to hire and fire.

The reform makes no direct reference to the 35-hour week, a totem of the labor code, though it hands firms more flexibility to set pay and working conditions. The government plans to adopt the new measures, being implemented by decree, on Sept. 22. During a trip to Athens on Friday, Macron told the local French community: "I am fully determined and I won't cede any ground, not to slackers, nor cynics, nor hardliners." He said the "slackers" comment was aimed at those who had failed to push through reforms in the past, although political opponents and some unions took it as an attack on the unemployed or on workers making the most of job protection.

"Mr Macron knows very well it's a power struggle, that's what he wants," far-left firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon, who has become Macron's most vocal opponent in parliament, said on the sidelines of a demonstration in Marseille. "We will make him back down," he said. Turnout estimates for the march varied widely between sources, as is often the case in France, with the CGT union putting it at 60,000 in France's second city, while police said it was nearer 7,500. Protesters were also gathering in Paris.

### Cherished rights

French workers have long cherished the rights enshrined in the labor code, but companies complain it has deterred investment and job creation and stymied economic growth. Unemployment has been above 9 percent for nearly a decade.

Macron's reforms are being followed in Germany as a test of his resolve to reshape the euro zone's second-biggest economy, a must if he is to win Berlin's backing for broader reforms to the currency union. The CGT is France's second-biggest union, though its influence has been waning. Martinez said yesterday's nationwide protests were the "first phase" and more would follow. He called Macron's reference to "slackers" an insult to workers.

"The president should listen to the people, understand them, rather than cause divisions," Martinez told France 2 television. CGT workers from the rail, oil and power sectors have said they will heed his call for strikes yesterday, but by mid-afternoon there was no apparent impact on power and refining production, spokespeople for utility EDF and oil major Total said.

Just over 11 percent of the workforce at EDF, which operates France's fleet of 48 nuclear reactors, took part in the strike, a spokeswoman for the state-owned utility said.

### Unions divided

Macron landed in the French Caribbean yesterday to survey the devastation wrought by Hurricane Irma on the French territory of Saint Martin. Governments on the political left and right have been trying for decades to overhaul the 3,000-page labor code, but ended up watering down their plans in the face of street demonstrations. Macron was economy minister in the Socialist government of president Francois Hollande, whose attempt at labor reform led to weeks of protests that at their peak brought

400,000 onto the streets, and stoked a rebellion within his own party.

Hollande was forced to dilute his proposals, but so far there are no signs of Macron feeling compelled to back down. An opinion poll published on Sept. 1 indicated that voters have mixed views on the reform. Nearly six in 10 said they opposed Macron's labor decrees overall. But when respondents looked at individual measures, most received majority support. With economic growth accelerating, unemployment on a downward trend and the leading unions divided in their response to the reforms, it is not clear whether the protests will eventually gain significant momentum.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told the newspaper Les Echos that voters had chosen Macron "to carry out the reforms that France has shrunk away from for 30 years". The moderate CFDT union described Macron's labor decrees as a "deep disappointment" but said it would not join the CGT demonstrations. The smaller Force Ouvriere (FO), usually an ally of the CGT, also decided to stay away, a move that has led to discord within its ranks. — Reuters

## BRITAIN EASES PUBLIC SECTOR PAY GRIP WITH RISES FOR POLICE

**LONDON:** Britain's government partially abandoned a cap on public-sector pay yesterday, saying it would raise wages for police and prison guard by more than its long-standing 1 percent limit.

Workers in Britain are unhappy over pay growth since the financial crisis which has fallen by more in inflation-adjusted terms than in any other major economy, dropping by an adjusted 0.5 percent as inflation rose following last year's Brexit vote. Britain is now facing the possibility of strikes over pay after the country's biggest civil service union said last week it would ballot members over industrial action.

And yesterday the head of a union covering more public-sector workers said coordinated strikes over pay were possible.

The new rises will still be less than inflation, with the government, which is trying to fix Britain's budget deficit, saying it would continue to exert discipline while also showing greater flexibility for jobs that are hard to recruit.

But police officers and trade unions said they were unhappy with the offer which will give police the usual 1 percent increase to their basic pay, plus a one-off of 1 percent.

Meanwhile, prison officers will get an average pay rise of 1.7 percent in 2017/18. "We will continue to ensure that the overall package

for public sector workers recognizes their vital contribution ... while also being affordable and fair to taxpayers as a whole," deputy finance minister Elizabeth Truss said.

The government froze pay for all but the lowest-paid public-sector workers in 2010, and capped rises in basic pay at 1 percent in 2013. The new pay rises are below inflation which hit 2.9 percent in August, and the government offered no extra money to fund the increased staff costs, which raises the possibility of job cuts or reduced public services.

A police staff representative said officers would be angry that the pay award was less than the permanent 2 percent increase recommended by an official pay review body. A senior officer who speaks for police chiefs, Francis Habgood, said forces had no money for pay rises.

"Without better real-terms funding protection from government, an award above 1 percent will inevitably impact on our ability to deliver policing services and maintain staffing levels," Habgood said.

Among the factors behind the low wage growth are weak productivity growth and the government's prioritization of reducing the budget deficit.

This reached 10 percent of gross domestic product in 2010 and stood at 2.5 percent of GDP in the 2016/17 financial year. — Reuters



This file picture taken on September 4, 2017 shows the North Korean town of Sinuiju (at rear) being seen behind the Friendship Bridge (L) which connects Sinuiju and the Chinese border city of Dandong, and the Broken Bridge, in Dandong, in China's northeast Liaoning province. — AFP

## EU'S VESTAGER, THE DANE WHO IS GOOGLE'S BANE

**BRUSSELS:** If the critics of Silicon Valley needed a leader, many would turn to Denmark's Margrethe Vestager, the EU's top anti-trust regulator. Around the world, authorities and governments now look to the elegant Dane who in June slapped Google with a record 2.4-billion-euro fine for illegally favoring its shopping service in search results.



**BRUSSELS:** EU Commissioner of Competition Margrethe Vestager gives an interview at the EU Headquarters in Brussels. — AFP

Google hit back on Monday, filing an appeal at EU court, embittering ties between Europe and Silicon Valley even further. The decision was the biggest blow ever inflicted on the US tech juggernaut and came less than a year after Vestager shocked the world with an order that iPhone manufacturer Apple repay 13 billion euros in back taxes in Ireland.

But despite her thunderbolt decisions, Vestager, who took office as EU competition commissioner in late 2014, is also known for infusing one of the EU's most feared positions with a welcome dose of humanity. Across the EU institutions, Vestager is considered one of the most popular of the commission's 28 commissioners.

"She's loved by her team, and hugely respected," said a high-level Brussels official familiar with the often austere corridors of EU power. Vestager's vast, bright office in the commission's Berlaymont headquarters is unlike most others.

The walls are cribbed with personal photographs—including of her three daughters—pinned alongside spirited, colorful pieces by Danish artist Kristina Gordon. Her small desk faces out to the Brussels skyline suggesting more contemplative work than that of an official feared by highly paid lawyers and boardroom executives.

### 'I really liked it'

In an interview with AFP, Vestager spoke of her anti-trust portfolio matter-of-factly, but sparked talk of the promise of Europe that she said had grown stronger from the drama of the debt crisis and Brexit. "It's as if everyone has lifted up their gaze and said OK they want to leave, we'll find the best way to enable that, but for the rest of us: ahead!" she said. — AFP

# US STOCKS ADD TO RECORDS AHEAD OF APPLE LAUNCH

**NEW YORK:** Wall Street stocks rose early yesterday, adding to records ahead of a big Apple product launch and as worries about US hurricanes continued to recede. Apple dipped 0.3 percent ahead an event expected to launch new iPhone models to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the game-changing smartphone. Analysts expect one of the new offerings to include augmented reality capabilities and facial recognition features.

The S&P 500 closed at a record Monday after Hurricane Irma caused less damage in Florida than feared, and as anxiety about North Korea's nuclear program diminished. Those dynamics were still in play early yesterday, analysts said. About 15 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones

Industrial Average was at 22,117.29, up 0.3 percent. The broad-based S&P 500 advanced 0.2 percent to 2,493.74, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 0.1 percent to 6,439.23.

DowDuPont advanced 2.7 percent after confirming it was on target to save \$4 billion following the completion of its merger. The chemicals giant also tweaked its plan to restructure into three companies to try to placate some shareholder activists who had criticized the original plan. Goldman Sachs rose 1.7 percent after executives laid out plans to boost profitability by \$2.5 billion over the next three years in part by hiring more staff in fixed income and currencies trading. The weakening of Irma, the second major natural disaster to hit the United States after

Hurricane Harvey, allayed concerns about the severity of its financial impact.

"Investors have gained confidence that the worst is over and concerns over Irma's economic impact seem to have disappeared for the moment," said Andre Bakhos, managing director of Janlyn Capital in Bernardsville, New Jersey. All eyes will be on Apple as it prepares to unveil the 10th anniversary edition of the iPhone, whose sales will also have repercussions on its rivals and many suppliers.

Apple shares dipped 0.3 percent ahead of the event, scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. ET (1700 GMT). At 9:39 am ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 64.64 points, or 0.29 percent, at 22,122.01 and the S&P 500 was up 6.76 points, or

0.27 percent, at 2,494.87. The Nasdaq Composite was up 16.20 points, or 0.25 percent, at 6,448.46. Nine of the 11 major S&P sectors were higher, led by a 1.03 percent rise in materials index. DowDuPont rose 3 percent after the company said it was making changes to a plan of splitting itself into three. The stock gave the biggest boost to the S&P.

The market also seemed to shrug off North Korea's threat that the United States would soon face the "greatest pain" it had ever experienced in the wake of the UN stepping up sanctions against Pyongyang on Monday due to its nuclear tests. North Korea yesterday rejected the UN Security

Council resolution, which imposed a ban on the country's textile exports and capped crude oil imports.

"Although North Korea is a threat and can make the market nervous because of uncertainty, more and more global powers are coming on board, taking the pressure off of just the US dealing with it. About that, the investors feel good," Bakhos said. Sage Therapeutics slumped more than 19 percent after its drug to treat a life-threatening seizure disorder failed in a late-stage trial. Teva rose 5.24 percent after the drugmaker agreed to sell its contraceptive brand, Paragard, for \$1.1 billion to a unit of Cooper Cos, whose stock was flat. —Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report									
Tuesday 12 September 2017									
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing						
Price Index	▼ -31.05	6,905.98	6,927.03						
Weighted Index	▼ -2.02	440.36	442.38						
KSX 15	▼ -4.54	1,020.49	1,025.03						
Trades									
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change		
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	▲ 0.0		
NAPESCO	838	822	8,823	7,117	9	822	▼ -17.0		
ENERGYH	34.8	33.5	25,550	866	7	34.8	▲ 0.8		
GPI	38.0	37.5	638,000	24,016	24	37.9	▼ -0.1		
ABAR	84	71	26,051	2,036	24	80	▼ -3.8		
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>698,224</b>	<b>34,035</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1016.73</b>	<b>▼ -10.80</b>		
KFOUC	313	295	300,724	91,931	34	302	▲ 2.0		
BPCC	660	645	1,483,870	964,043	85	650	▼ -13.0		
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	▲ 0.0		
ALQURAIN	345	339	854,654	292,300	55	342	▼ -4.0		
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>2,639,258</b>	<b>1,348,334</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1308.88</b>	<b>▼ -8.90</b>		
KCEM	434	425	37,400	15,901	4	434	▲ 2.0		
CABLE	505	496	336,573	168,210	44	504	▼ -9.0		
SHIP	216	214	146,510	31,416	16	214	▼ -2.0		
PCEM	975	960	80,837	56,467	6	975	▲ 0.0		
PAPER	310	290	2	1	2	310	▲ 18.0		
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	▲ 0.0		
ACICO	266	266	1,850	492	1	266	▼ -4.0		
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0		
NCBIM	198	171	58	10	2	198	▲ 0.0		
EQUIPMENT	46.5	46.0	80,050	3,691	8	46.5	▼ -0.5		
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0		
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0		
SALBOOKH	83	82	105,000	6,586	4	82	▼ -1.9		
AGLY	622	607	1,299,260	1,185,408	159	622	▲ 5.0		
EDU	321	319	2,800	894	3	319	▼ -3.0		
CLEANING	51	51	30,000	1,515	1	51	▼ -0.6		
KSL	57	57	17,300	977	2	57	▲ 0.0		
KPCP	160	160	20,000	3,200	3	160	▲ 0.0		
HUMANSOFT	3,900	3,810	133,027	518,027	10	3,894	▼ -9.0		
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0		
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	▲ 0.0		
SHOOTING	26.7	26.5	32,033	854	4	26.7	▲ 1.1		
CGC	550	518	650,000	350,270	32	548	▲ 3.0		
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0		
UPAG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	730	▲ 0.0		
ALAFCO	375	369	390,000	145,081	20	369	▼ -11.0		
MUBARRAD	73	72	201,000	14,577	7	73	▼ -0.4		
LOGISTICS	54	52	1,023,621	53,483	45	52	▼ -0.5		
SCEM	83	83	89,742	7,449	3	83	▼ -1.0		
GCEM	82	81	305,100	24,718	6	82	▲ 2.0		
QIC	82	82	45,908	3,765	2	82	▲ 0.0		
FCEM	83	83	10,000	826	1	83	▲ 0.0		
RKWC	85	82	2,815	219	2	85	▲ 0.0		
SPEC	96	96	50,000	4,800	2	96	▲ 0.0		
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>8,979,686</b>	<b>2,600,947</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>1852.01</b>	<b>▼ -4.10</b>		
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0		
CATL	282	275	20,690	5,700	5	282	▼ -1.0		
DANAH	71	70	806,130	56,561	30	71	▲ 0.2		
FOOH	2,000	1,851	3	8	2	2,000	▲ 0.0		
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>826,823</b>	<b>62,267</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1062.35</b>	<b>▼ -8.80</b>		
MHC	480	402	2	1	2	480	▲ 0		
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	▲ 0.0		
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175	▲ 0		
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1683.91</b>	<b>▲ 0.00</b>		
KCN	1,350	1,250	12	16	2	1,350	▲ 0		
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0		
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▲ 0		
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.0	▲ 0		
EYAS	800	800	1,250	1,000	2	800	▲ 0		
IFHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	▲ 0		
OULAFUEL	124	123	23,472	2,896	13	123	▲ 0		
MUNTAZAHAT	78	77	84,104	6,483	5	78	▼ 0		
JAZERA	600	582	242,449	142,192	28	600	▲ 0		
BOOR	125	122	28,669	3,512	18	123	▲ 0		
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	123	▲ 0		
ALRAJ	125	123	74,855	9,325	4	123	▲ 0		
Jiyad	50	50	95,000	4,750	9	50	▼ -1		
Meezan	860	831	95,698	79,529	13	860	▼ 0		
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>645,509</b>	<b>249,714</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1050.06</b>	<b>▼ -6.00</b>		
ZAIN	510	502	10,890,888	5,415,754	295	510	▲ 2		
QOREDOO	1,250	1,175	27,317	32,119	12	1,250	▲ 0		
AAN	39.0	38.0	1,803,890	68,890	95	38.1	▼ -1		
VIVA	809	803	38,312	30,906	44	805	▼ -2		
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>12,560,187</b>	<b>5,547,669</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>620.34</b>	<b>▼ -1.70</b>		
NBK	785	756	3,972,151	3,077,560	267	785	▲ 0		
CBK	238	236	3,686,094	873,374	76	238	▲ 0		
CBK	399	398	258,852	103,073	12	398	▼ -1		
ABK	309	303	209,900	63,600	23	309	▲ 0		
ALMUTAHED	427	423	133,669	56,565	8	427	▼ -2		
KIB	256	252	4,594,558	1,150,057	143	253	▲ 0		
BURG	373	368	317,591	117,367	38	371	▼ -2		
KFIN	627	571	12,343,556	7,500,475	718	619	▼ -9		
BOUBAYAN	470	452	1,103,509	506,273	70	464	▼ -3		
AUB	222	218	14,506,389	3,192,044	207	220	▼ -4		
ITHMR	39.8	39.0	4,695,400	154,660	93	39.0	▼ -1		
WARBANK	265	262	807,413	236,914	85	263	▼ -1		
<b>Banks</b>			<b>46,689,982</b>	<b>17,130,992</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>982.87</b>	<b>▼ -8.20</b>		
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	▲ 0		
GINS	875	750	28	21	5	875	▼ -24.0		
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420	▲ 0.0		
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	▲ 0.0		
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187	▲ 0.0		
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	▲ 0.0		
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	▲ 0.0		
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0		
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1162.68</b>	<b>▼ -7.30</b>		
SOKOUK	48.5	47.5	160,062	7,656	12	48.0	▼ -1.0		
KRE	67	65	9,118,088	567,057	146	67	▲ 1.5		
URC	100	88	9,376	919	7	100	▼ -8.1		
NRE	129	127	1,302,522	167,362	30	129	▲ 0.0		
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	369	▲ 0.0		
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	405	▲ 0.0		
AREEC	151	150	49,875	7,491	4	150	▲ 0.0		
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.1	▲ 0.0		
ARABREIC	36.5	35.7	212,391	7,660	10	36.5	▲ 0.5		
ERESCO	42.5	41.1	221,100	9,168	5	42.0	▲ 0.0		
MABANEE	819	814	1,197,282	95,382	87	815	▲ 0.0		
INUZZAT	86	84	10,001	835	2	86	▼ -2.3		
INVESTORS	24.0	23.6	1,408,496	33,491	21	23.6	▼ -0.4		
IRC	34.3	33.0	310,528	17,347	19	33.5	▲ 0.5		
ALTUARIA	98	97	537,573	52,076	23	97	▼ -0.3		
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	43.9	▲ 0.0		
AYANRE	81	81	380,000	30,788	12	81	▼ -0.3		
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	▲ 0.0		
ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	4			

# BRITISH AIRWAYS' TOP FIVE AUTUMN GETAWAYS

## FROM PICTURESQUE EUROPEAN TOWNS TO FASHIONABLE COUNTRYSIDE RETREATS



Florence

**KUWAIT:** As summer swings into autumn, British Airways has named its leading hotspots for a seasonal holiday. From charming European villages and towns, to the largest metropolises in North America, the UK's flagship carrier is launching an end of summer sale with dozens of special fares to make it even easier for travellers to experience an unforgettable autumn in some of the world's most picturesque spots.



Germany

Stretching right across British Airways' global network of 200 destinations, customers flying from the United Arab Emirates can choose any of the airline's four class cabins during the sale when they book between September 12 and October 1 for travel until March 31 2018. Whether your penchant is for breath-taking sunset strolls or snapping autumnal colors in some of the world's most famous cities, the airline's team of travel experts have offered tips on where to watch the arrival of autumn - no matter where you fly.



San Francisco

**London**  
Catch your first glimpse of the English capital at the start of the season as you descend into London Heathrow, the home of British Airways. As the city gears up for one of the biggest fashion events of the season, London Fashion Week, and outdoor rooftops open for visitors and residents to enjoy the crisp autumn breeze, there are numerous spots in this iconic city to say farewell to the summer. A short walk from the centre of London, watch the leaves of over 4,000 towering trees turn golden yellow as you stroll through 350 acres of stunning urban greenery in Hyde Park.

If you're looking to step out of the city and follow the fashionable set, escape to celebrity hotspots including Soho Farmhouse, Babington House, the Limewood Hotel and The Ned. Looking for more colour and less flash? Cruise to the Cotswolds or voyage to the Lake District, there's no bustling city vibes, only rolling hills and the cool scents of autumn.

*Fly with British Airways to London this Autumn for as little as KD 124.*

**Italy**  
Milan, Rome, Lombardy, Tuscany: Italy bursts with color in autumn. Tourists have a mix of ancient and modern treasures to explore in some of the world's most romantic cities - from historical sites in Rome, to the fashion boutiques and art stores of Milan. If escaping to the Italian countryside is more your mission, then bask in the change in temperature - and lower prices - in hundreds of towns' autumn festivals of food and grape that pop up across the country.

There's also hiking in Cinque Terre (Five Towns), road trips to Tuscany, classic sightseeing along the Amalfi Coast, Mediterranean swimming in water that remains warm in the cooler months, and a spread of public parks - from the Giardini Pubblici (Public Gardens) in Milan to the Villa Bardini Gardens in Florence



Milan

in New York is unforgettable. The change in foliage is a hallmark of a stroll through the world-famous Central Park. From the Carousel to the Conservatory Garden and the Belvedere Castle, there are numerous picture-perfect locations to witness the leaves turn color and capture 'no filter needed' memories.

Head Southeast and take in the rich wildlife and forest preserves of the Catskill Mountains, home to thirty-five mountain peaks and the famous Woodstock festival. Under a two-hour drive from New York, travellers can get up close to nature and enjoy its many hiking trails. The massive Adirondack Park boasts waterfalls and mountains, it's a must for anyone looking to satisfy their adventurous side.

### American West Coast

From Washington to California, the country's West Coast is made for autumn. It's golden and bronze hues galore across hundreds of forests and natural trails in California. Add a touch of red to the mix with the famous Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, its stunning Bay and the now infamous 'Karl' - the recently-adopted moniker for the city's legendary fog. Or head to Sausalito, a charming and quaint town, to enjoy the local clam chowder while you take in the serene bay.

Travellers can even go slightly inland to Colorado to visit the soon-to-be snow-covered mountains of Colorado. In this case of west, it's southwest is best for autumn. Named after a tree that dominates and defines the entire town, Aspen never fails to impress.

Passengers flying from the Middle East enjoy numerous daily connections to over 25 destinations across North America and will enjoy an enhanced sleep and catering proposition as British Airways' 400-million-pound investment in its Club World cabins is rolled out across the airline's long haul services.

*Fly to the US with special fares on offer across North America starting from as little as KD 219 to New York, KD 312 to San Francisco.*



Central Park

and the Villa Celimontanan, which is walking distance from the famed Colosseum in Rome.

*British Airways offers multiple daily onward connections from London Heathrow to Italy. Enjoy return fares to Italy (via London Heathrow) for as little as KD 121.*

**Germany**  
The centre of Europe is the perfect place to embrace the change in seasons. A favorite with travellers from the Middle East, Germany has a lot to offer - from cosmopolitan cities, enchanting castles and picturesque countryside, including more than 100 national parks.

Munich is also a must-visit city on your journey through Bavaria - a true cultural trip. The home of the legendary Oktoberfest may be world-renowned, but there are celebrations across the entire Bavarian region (also known as Franconia) in autumn, where you can meander through quaint towns and cities - try the

medieval sites of Nuremberg and Bamberg. Alternatively, make a beeline for the Black Forest in the country's mountainous Southwest region to experience evergreen woodlands - the catalyst of folk tales and myths galore thanks to the Grimm Brothers.

*Choose your preferred onward connection when you fly from Kuwait to Germany via London Heathrow with British Airways for as little as KD 131.*

### American East Coast

Pack your best gear and touch down in the Big Apple for Fashion Week, where new trends dominate the conversation and revellers soak up all pomp expected from one of the world's leading fashion capitals. Whether you're in town to catch a seat at a fashion show, looking to wrangle your way to one of the exclusive after-parties, or just taking in the city that has inspired numerous songs and dreams, autumn

## KFH TAKAFUL OPENS SERVICE CENTER AT AL-BABTAIN GROUP GARAGE

**KUWAIT:** Marketing & Development Manager at KFH Takaful Insurance Co "KFH Takaful" Ahmed Al-Nuwaif said that the company has inaugurated a special service center for its customers at Al-Babtain Group Garage at Shuwaikh. The center incarnates the company's interest in providing distinguished services to unique customers through continuous collaboration with automotive agents to provide a faster and easier services to related customers.



Ahmed Al-Nuwaif

Al-Nuwaif emphasized in a press conference that the center shall serve company's customers in case of accidents. The center shall receive customers and complete all procedures without them having to refer to the company. This process shall save customers time and effort. Service will be provided as per the highest safety and efficiency standards. He added that this new center is one of the centers which KFH-Takaful has placed at the disposal of its customers as per cooperation agreements concluded with highly reputable automotive agents in the market in order to facilitate procedures and save customers time and effort and repair cars in a professional manner as per the highest standards under the warranty of the agent. Accordingly the customer is able to complete all his car repair procedures at the center located at the concerned garage.

The center participates in providing high class

service as per the highest safety and security standards, thus enhancing the concept of customer service at the company. KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

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

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

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.



Hurricane Harvey's implications in Houston, Texas



Qatar continues to suffer due to economic blockade

# S&P BOOSTS KUWAIT OUTLOOK, SANCTIONS HIT QATAR ECONOMY

KFIC REPORT FOR THE GLOBAL AND GCC FINANCIAL MARKETS IN AUGUST 2017

**KUWAIT:** Global developed equity markets cut-back during the month of August as the MSCI World Index decreased -0.69 percent MTD Shanghai SE Composite was the top performing developed market index, followed by Dow Jones Industrial Average. In the US, the S&P 500 fell by -0.51 percent as Wall Street dealt with several issues throughout the month, including political events, geopolitical tensions and Hurricane Harvey that devastated Texas's Gulf coast region. During this month, US reported the highest growth in employment since March, totaling 237,000 job additions, President Donald Trump announced plans to reduce US tax rate by 15 percent as it would create additional jobs and a rise in wages.

In the UK, the FTSE 100 declined by -0.09 percent as fears around Brexit continued to unsettle investors. In Europe, the Euro weakened to 1.20 EUR/USD compared to 1.18 EUR/USD during the beginning of the month which led to a moderate inflation rate in August, accordingly in France, the CAC 40 fell by -0.73 percent, Germany's DAX index dropped -0.96 percent as reduction in exports have put pressure on European benchmarks. In Japan, the Nikkei 225 fell by -2.10 percent as Yen strengthened, which is seen as a negative for Japanese export-oriented stocks. In China, the Shanghai composite rose by +2.77 percent due to solid economic and earnings growth in China in recent months. In commodities, oil prices declined as WTI fell -8.56 percent to close at \$46.06/bbl and Brent declined by -4.05 percent to close at \$50.7/bbl. due to hurricane Harvey more than 20 percent of US refineries shut down, which led traders to invest in gold futures instead as Gold prices rose by 3.71 percent to close at \$1,308.6/oz

### GCC economic overview

In Saudi Arabia, fiscal deficit dropped 51 percent (YoY) to SAR 72.73 billion in the first half of

2017 which is "credit positive" for the Kingdom, Moody's Investors Service said in a recent report. The deficit cut is largely attributed to a sharp increase in oil revenues from higher oil prices, despite the government's wide-ranging economic and fiscal reforms to reduce its dependence on oil revenue. In Kuwait, S&P global ratings has maintained Kuwait's credit rating at AA with a stable outlook. The outlook reflected S&P's expectations that Kuwait's public balance sheets and external financial positions will remain strong backed by huge financial assets, the agency also ranked Kuwait '4' on a scale of '1' (strongest) to '10' (weakest) in Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment.

UAE will begin imposing excise tax on selected goods starting October, the legislation covers the production or import of the excise goods, along with stocking of such goods. The rates cannot exceed 200 percent of the excise price, approximately 350,000 companies are expected to register for VAT. The tax was likely to push overall consumer prices up by roughly 1.4 percent. Tax is forecast to generate up to AED 7bn in annual revenues for the federal budget.

In Qatar, S&P Global Ratings affirmed Qatar's 'AA-/A+' long-and short-term foreign and local currency sovereign ratings with a negative outlook, due to the ongoing blockade imposed by a coalition of Arab nations on the country. In Oman, Central Bank of Oman announced plans to raise OMR150mn from development bond issue. The bonds will have a maturity period of 10 years and will carry a coupon rate of 5.75 percent per annum.

### GCC equities review

GCC equities, as indicated by the MSCI GCC IMI Index increased by 0.83 percent. Kuwait's Weighted Index was the top performing regional index and Qatar's QE Index was the worst per-

forming index. Saudi Arabia's Tadawul index surged by +2.23 percent with positive contribution coming from Capital Goods +8.26 percent, Consumer Services +5.15 percent, Banks +4.84 percent, Food & Beverages +3.29 percent and REITs +3.58 percent. Negative contribution coming from Media -8.67 percent, Utilities -1.22 percent and Retailing -0.98 percent. Kuwait's Weighted Index increased by +4.18 percent mainly due to significant gains in Telecom +8.95 percent, Banks 5.62 percent, Real Estate 2.98 percent Industrials +1.93 percent and Consumer Services +0.98 percent. Negative performance came from Consumer goods -3.38 percent and Oil & Gas -1.71 percent. Dubai's DFM index rose by +0.12 percent as strong performance was seen from Real Estate +0.95 percent and banks +0.61 percent and weak performance was reported in Services -8.06 percent, Telecom -4.58 percent and Investment & Financial Services -2.64 percent. Abu Dhabi's ADSM index decreased by -2.14 percent mainly from Services -8.47 percent, Financial Services & Investment -4.57 percent and Telecom -4.00 percent. Positive contribution came from Energy +4.47 percent and Industrial +3.86 percent and Insurance +2.31 percent. Qatar's QE Index dropped by -6.44 percent due to declines in all sectors, mostly Real Estate -11.41 percent, Telecom -8.92 percent, Consumer -7.28 percent, Industrials -6.59 percent and Banks & Financial Services -5.89 percent. Oman's MSM 30 Index strengthened by 0.56 percent meanwhile negative contribution came from Services -1.29 percent and Banking -1.01 percent. Bahrain's BB All Share index fell by -1.91 percent primarily due to a decline from Industrials -0.98 percent, Hotels & Tourism -0.55 percent. Positive impact came from Insurance +3.37 percent and Banks +0.07 percent. — KFIC Research, Reuters, S&P, Moody's, Bloomberg, The Guardian, CNBC, SAMA, Zawya.

## GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 10 September 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 5 - 7 September 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners are:  
(Tuesday 5/9): Nihad Abdullah Abdultahman Al-Jeean , Huda Ismael Hussain Ashkanani  
(Wednesday 6/9): Ahmad Saleh Essa Al-Najem, Omar Subhi Yousef Bdaier



(Thursday 7/9): Yaser Mohammed Khudair Al-Turkmani, Halima Abdullah Jeber Fayed

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al-Danah's 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is 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 KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD200 at any given time, a KD2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days.

## XEROX, ALAMANA LAUNCH NEW TECHNOLOGY TO TRANSFORM THE WORKPLACE

**KUWAIT:** In its continuous endeavor to deploy smarter document solution strategies, Xerox and Alamana Industries are launching 29 new printers and multifunction devices. The new range will feature simple and secure on-the-go capabilities, cloud connectivity, and access to productivity boosting features and apps. The launch, the largest in the company's history, will address growing demand in technological advancements across multiple industry verticals, including healthcare, real estate, education, retail and many others.

The new ConnectKey portfolio transforms traditional printing devices into smart, connected workplace assistants that reflect the evolving needs of today's businesses. Personalized workflows, one-touch access to the cloud and multi-layered security features are the new print, copy and fax.

"We constantly focus on increasing our customers' productivity, efficiency and innovative approach towards how work is being done. At this historical launch, we are introducing a family of products in a variety of sizes, speeds and capabilities to match the needs of small-and-medium-sized businesses as well as large enterprises," said Ayman Mattar, General Manager of Alamana Industries.

"The key highlight of this launch is increased connectivity and secure workplace flexibility. As mobile and cloud technologies are crucial to the evolution of IT environments, we strive to stay one step ahead of document technology development because innovation is always our first priority," adds Ayman Mattar. "The launch of ConnectKey not only promotes inno-



Ayman Mattar

vation in the workplace but also strengthens Xerox's positioning in the Middle East region. Kuwait represents growing potential in document technology and, by strengthening our product offerings, we are enabling our key partners and expanding our channel network. Channel partners strive on technologies that empower them to expand their client base and grow their businesses," said Pui Chi-Li, Head of Marketing for the Middle East and Africa at Xerox.

The new products will be identified as the Xerox VersaLink and Xerox AltaLink series. The VersaLink



Pui Chi-Li

devices are designed for small workgroups and distributed teams and include 19 printers and multifunction printers (MFPs). The AltaLink series includes 10 MFPs designed for larger workgroups or print volume needs. Key attributes include:

- Streamlined business processes - Off-the-shelf or created by channel partners, built-in apps from the Xerox App Gallery help organizations create workflows tailored to their specific operations. For example, patient records filing, real estate contract management and retail invoicing can be streamlined

into fewer, faster steps using digital workflows enabled right from the device.

- Industry-leading intuitive user experience - Benefiting from years of Xerox research in this area, all 29 products share a similar, customizable user interface, which is unique to Xerox workplace solutions and allows the user experience to move with you. The tablet-like touch screen interface can be personalized for different work environments or individual users.

- Mobile and cloud ready - Information flows easily from the device to cloud repositories like Dropbox, Office 365 or Google Drive. Mobile workers can print wirelessly from any computing device.

- Total security for both the device and your information - ConnectKey technology ensures comprehensive safety for system components and points of vulnerability. It offers protection from unauthorized access to devices; keeps confidential communications and information safe with encryption and image overwrite; audits device access attempts and protects both data and device from malicious intent.

By working with industry leaders in network security, ConnectKey-enabled devices offer added security - ensuring they are monitored and trusted in even the most security-conscious environments. AltaLink MFPs feature an added layer of security through our partnership with McAfee.

All 29 devices are scheduled to be available by the end of 2017 for Kuwaiti customers and channel partners.

## ELECTRIC CARS, SMALL SUVs DOMINATE BUZZ AT SHOW

### FRANKFURT AUTO SHOW UNVEILS TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIES



**FRANKFURT:** BMW i vision dynamics is presented at a BMW event during the first media day of the International Frankfurt Motor Show IAA in Frankfurt yesterday which runs through Sept 24, 2017. —AP

**FRANKFURT:** Carmakers at the Frankfurt auto show are unveiling the low-emissions vehicles and technology strategies they hope will let them profit from the sweeping changes due to hit the auto industry in the next few years.

Volkswagen AG showed off a revised version of its electric ID Crozz crossover SUV concept vehicle as it announced a long-term electrification campaign, saying its brands would introduce 80 new electric vehicles by 2025. The company plans to invest 20 billion euros (\$24 billion) in upgrading plants, creating two new electric car platforms and training workers.

The company said that depending on market developments it could sell 3 million battery-only vehicles a year in 2025. Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz was to unveil yesterday a compact electric vehicle under its EQ sub-brand and the GLC F-Cell, a battery-fuel cell hybrid that can run on hydrogen and emits only water vapor. BMW AG is showing off a concept vehicle for the first electric Mini compact due in 2019.

Carmakers are spending heavily to develop and improve electric cars to meet increasingly tough government regulations aimed at limiting air pollution. That is even though current electric models do not enjoy high sales because of limited range, higher price, and a lack of fast-charging stations. Analysts think that as batteries get better and costs come down, electric sales may eventually take off. According to research and analytics firm IHS Markit, battery-only cars were 0.57 percent of global production in 2016 and will increase to 0.86 percent in 2017.

Britain and France have proposed eliminating internal-combustion cars by 2040. China's industry ministry is developing a timetable to end production and sale of traditional fuel cars and will promote development of electric technology, state media on Sunday cited a Cabinet official as saying. "Now the big question that everyone is asking is, when will we see (electric cars) in mass volume," Volkswagen CEO Matthias Mueller said Monday. "But it is not just a matter of what is being offered from manufacturers but also the electric charging infrastructure. That's why it is important to have a fact-based conversation about the urgent problems with electric mobility and how they can be solved. This needs to be discussed jointly, with electricity companies, with states, with local authorities."

The arrival of battery-powered cars is just one anticipated change. Automakers are also searching for ways to adapt to a future in which people find ways of getting from one place to another without necessarily owning a car, such as car-sharing or ride-hailing through smartphone apps. They are also working on developing autonomous vehicles that could drive themselves - under limited circumstances such as corporate campuses or limited access freeways at first, and possibly more widely later.

The three German luxury carmakers were the home team and showed it with large display areas; some other carmakers are skipping the Frankfurt show this year. Reasons include cost, other ways of displaying cars to the public such as livestreamed events, and less focus on Germany and Europe as a market. No-shows include Fiat Chrysler's namesake Fiat and its Jeep and Alfa Romeo brands, Peugeot and its DS luxury division, plus Nissan, Infiniti and Volvo. Even Porsche, part of Volkswagen, didn't wait for the show but showed off its new Cayenne SUV on Aug 29 with an elaborate streamed event from its base in Stuttgart, Germany. Small SUVs are also a theme at the show as manufacturers crowd into a segment that has proven a winner with consumers. New offerings of SUV or SUV-like body stylings on compact car platforms include: Volkswagen's T-Roc, the SEAT Arona, Jaguar's E-Pace, Kia Stonic, Citroen C3 Aircross, Skoda Karoq, and a so-far unnamed offering from Chery.

And high-end cars remain a fixture as before. Rolls-Royce has a new version of its Phantom, and Daimler is unveiling its Mercedes-Benz-AMG Project ONE, a two-seat hybrid with over 1,000 horsepower and a top speed of 350 kph (217 mph). — AP



**FRANKFURT:** A couple sits inside the Renault prototype Symbioz during its world premiere during a show on stage at the Renault stand at the Frankfurt Motor Show IAA in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, yesterday. —AP

## IAA SHOW DISPLAYS INDUSTRY IN THROES OF REINVENTION

**FRANKFURT:** Automakers descended on Frankfurt yesterday, ready to show off their latest innovations at the glitzy International Motor Show (IAA) even as the spectre of tough new environmental rules and a string of no-shows took some of the shine off the event. On the surface there is nothing but good news at the IAA: the European car industry can boast of five years of non-stop growth, projected to continue this year, and its 12.6 million employees on the Old Continent.

Almost 1,000 exhibitors will fan out across the 200,000-square-metre area-the size of 27 football pitches-of the German financial capital's trade show grounds.

The show, which opened with two days of media previews yesterday, will feature 50 carmakers, a string of parts suppliers and internet giants like Facebook and Google. And Germany's VDA car industry federation promises some 228 new models will make their global debut during the show, many of them the urban 4x4s that sprang from nowhere to claim 30 percent of European new car sales over the past 15 years. But away from the gleaming chassis, high-tech presentations and optimistic keynote speeches, warning lights are blinking on the dashboard of an industry that remains key to Europe's economic health.

### Battle on many fronts

The auto industry has yet to atone fully for the "dieselgate" emissions cheating controversy, with suspicion spreading beyond Germany's Volkswagen group-the first domino to fall in 2015.

Fairgoers headed into the convention centre Tuesday were given a stark reminder of the scandal by a group of Greenpeace protesters carrying banners that read "The oil age is ending," as they stood beside an upright blue VW car made to look like it

had crashed nose-first into the pavement. Auto bosses will be closely listening to a Thursday opening speech from Chancellor Angela Merkel-who insists at election rallies that she is still "fuming" about the emissions trickery. As the industry stares down potential diesel bans in cities and compensation claims, executives have taken refuge in grand promises of an electric and hybrid future. German titans Volkswagen, BMW and Daimler all announced far-reaching electric vehicle programs in the run-up to the IAA, hoping to hit ambitious hybrid and all-electric car sales targets with a flood of new models by the mid-2020s. There, too, a shadow hangs over the progress, as gungho US entrepreneur Elon Musk's Tesla Motors steals the spotlight from slower-moving European competitors.

Even mighty Volkswagen, the world's largest carmaker, measures the volume of batteries it will need to produce to power its electric fleets in multiples of the output of the "gigafactory"-Musk's Nevada production facility. Along with Nissan, Peugeot, Volvo and Fiat, Tesla has shunned this year's IAA, months after the first of its keenly-awaited Model 3 cars rolled off the production line.

Ferdinand Dudenhofer, an auto industry analyst at the CAR research institute, called the Model 3 "unquestionably the most important car of the year" and lamented that it would not be shown at the IAA. But carmakers are increasingly balking at the cost of exhibiting at industry shows, which can run into the millions of dollars, preferring to organize their own product launches or appear at higher-profile electronics fairs like the CES in Las Vegas.

Time is running out for manufacturers to get electric, hybrid, and other alternatives to the internal combustion engine right-and to get consumers to share in the excitement. —AFP

## VW SPENDS BILLIONS MORE ON ELECTRIC CARS IN SEARCH FOR MASS MARKET

**FRANKFURT:** Volkswagen is stepping up its shift to electric cars and plans to invest more than 20 billion euros (\$24 billion) in zero-emission vehicles by 2030 to challenge pioneer Tesla in creating a mass market. The world's largest automaker by sales said on Monday it would roll out 80 new electric cars across its multi-brand group by 2025, up from a previous goal of 30, and wanted to offer an electric version of each of its 300 group models by 2030.

The German company had previously said it would spend more than 10 billion euros by 2025 on a move to electric vehicles. Until it admitted two years ago to cheating on US diesel emissions tests, Volkswagen (VW) had been slow to embrace electric cars and self-driving technology.

But the "dieselgate" scandal has prompted a strategic shift, while major advances in batteries and a global fight against pollution in the wake of VW's scandal have raised pressure on carmakers to speed up development of zero-emission alternatives. "A company like Volkswagen must lead, not follow," Chief Executive Matthias Mueller told reporters on the eve of the Frankfurt auto show as he unveiled the group's "roadmap E".

"We are setting the scene for the final breakthrough for e-mobility," VW's so-called I.D. model will compete with Tesla's least expensive car, the new \$35,000 base-price Model 3 sedan, for mass-market buyers. VW's electric car offensive mirrors pre-Frankfurt show announcements by German rivals. Daimler said on Monday its Mercedes-Benz

luxury brand planned to offer electric motors for all models by 2022, though cautioned the shift to lower-margin electric cars required extra cost savings. BMW, which launched the i3 electric car in 2013, said on Thursday it was retooling its factories to mass produce electric vehicles by 2020 and pledged to have 12 purely battery-powered models on offer by 2025. Growing restrictions and charges for diesel and gasoline vehicles are spurring the rise of electric cars, although analysts say big investments in charging points and power networks will be needed to serve a mass market.

China, the world's biggest automotive market, is studying when to stop the production and sale of combustion engine vehicles, echoing moves by Britain and France, which have announced bans for conventional cars from 2040.

To cover the needs of "roadmap E", VW has started a tendering process for the selection of partners in China, Europe and North America to provide battery cells and related technology worth more than 50 billion euros. Tesla in January started mass production of lithium-ion battery cells at its own gigafactory in Nevada, which is aiming for annual battery production capacity of 35 gigawatt-hours. VW said it would require capacity equivalent to at least four gigafactories to power the vastly increased fleet of electric cars. Mueller told Reuters TV that VW had no need to sell assets to fund the electric car offensive. —Reuters



**FRANKFURT:** CEO of German carmaker Volkswagen (VW) Matthias Mueller poses for photographers on a VW Sedic, the group's first autonomous car prototype during a Volkswagen preview night for the media on the eve of the opening of the Internationale Automobil Ausstellung (IAA) motor show in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on Monday. —AFP

## JAPAN TRIALS DRIVERLESS CARS TO KEEP RURAL ELDERLY ON THE MOVE

**NISHIKATA, Japan:** As the annual rice harvest begins this month in the Japanese town of Nishikata, the combines that usually putter along the sleepy roads lining its rice fields are giving way to a vehicle residents have never before seen, a driverless shuttle bus.

Japan is starting to experiment with self-driving buses in rural communities such as Nishikata, 115 km (71 miles) north of the capital, Tokyo, where elderly residents struggle with fewer bus and taxi services as the population ages and shrinks. The swift advance of autonomous driving technology is prompting cities such as Paris and Singapore to experiment with such services, which could prove crucial in Japan, where populations are not only greying, but declining, in rural areas.

Japan could launch self-driving services for remote communities by 2020, if the trials begun this month prove successful. The government plans to turn highway rest stops into hubs from which to ferry the elderly to medical, retail and banking services. "Smaller towns in Japan are greying even faster than cities, and there are just not enough workers to operate

buses and taxis," said Hiroshi Nakajima of mobile gaming software maker DeNA Co, which has branched into automotive software. "But there are a lot of service areas around the country, and they could serve as a hub for mobility services," added Nakajima, the firm's automotive director. In the initial trials of the firm's driverless six-seater Robot Shuttle, elderly residents of Nishikata, in Japan's Tochigi prefecture, were transferred between a service area and a municipal complex delivering healthcare services.

The town mirrors Japan's population profile, with roughly a third of its 6,300 residents aged 65 or more, up from about a quarter four years ago, while the population overall has shrunk 4.5 percent.

Daily bus services are limited to just a handful. "I worry about not being able to go out when I'm no longer able to drive," said one test rider, Shizu Yuzawa, adding that she would be open to using such a service. "As people in towns become older and younger people move away, it's going to become more difficult to get help getting around," said the spry 77-year-old, who drives around in a mini-pick-up truck that belonged to her late husband. —Reuters

## 130-TON MONSTER FATBERG CLOGS LONDON SEWER

**LONDON:** Sewage workers have found a 130-ton ball of congealed fat-dubbed a "monster fatberg"-clogging a Victorian-era sewer in London, utility company Thames Water said yesterday. Engineers expect it will take up to three-weeks to remove the rock-solid mass of festering food fat mixed with sanitary wipes found in drains under a major road in Whitechapel, east London. "This fatberg is up there with the biggest we've ever seen. It's a total monster and taking a lot of manpower and machinery to remove as it's set hard," Matt Rimmer, Thames Water's head of waste, said in a statement. "It's basically like trying to break up concrete. It's frustrating as these situations are totally avoidable and caused by fat, oil and grease being washed down sinks and wipes flushed down the loo," he

added. Images show that the sewer totally blocked by the 250-metre long fatberg. An eight-member crew is removing an average of 20 to 30 tons a day, the statement explained, using high-powered jet hoses to break up the mass which is then sucked out into tankers.

Weighing the same as 11 double decker buses, the fatberg easily eclipses the one found in 2013 in Kingston, southwest London. Described at the time as Britain's biggest ever fatberg, it weighed 15 tons and took ten days to clear up. Thames Water clears up an average of three fat related blockages and five blockages caused by items including wet wipes every hour from its sewers in London and the Thames Valley. It costs the company around £1 million a month to do so. —AFP



**LONDON:** This file photo shows a Thames Water sewer supervisor working in the intersection of the Regent Street and Victoria sewer in London. — AFP



**BEIJING:** Tesla cars charge at a Tesla charging station outside a shopping mall in Beijing. —AFP

## CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS LATIN AMERICA COFFEE PRODUCERS

**WASHINGTON:** Climate change is threatening the Latin American zones most favorable for growing coffee, according to a study out Monday that warns seed production could drop by nearly 90 percent by 2050. The study suggests high quality coffees are most at risk-with Arabica coffee unable to withstand even slight fluctuations in temperature, humidity and sunlight. Robusta coffee, mostly grown in Africa to be made into instant coffee, is slightly more resistant.

"Coffee is one of the most valuable commodities on Earth, and needs a suitable climate and pollinating bees to produce well," said study co-author Taylor Ricketts, director of the University of Vermont's Gund Institute for Environment. "This is the first study to show how both will likely change under global warming-in ways that will hit coffee producers hard."

During the study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS), researchers estimated changes in

Arabica coffee distribution in Latin America among 39 species of pollinating bees. They concluded a temperature increase of over 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050 will reduce seed production by between 73 and 88 percent in locations best known for coffee production today. A fall in the bee population of eight to 18 percent will also contribute to this decline.

The largest production losses are expected in Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela. But it's not all bad news-as researchers suggested bee population and diversity in other areas is in fact likely to increase. This would contribute to a favorable coffee-growing environment in the likes of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico, where temperatures in mountainous regions are expected to be more suitable. The study also highlights the importance of tropical forests for bees and other key pollinators. Around 91 percent of Latin America's most fertile areas for coffee production are currently less than 1.2 miles from a rainforest. —AFP

## TWO YEARS AFTER 'DIESELGATE', CAN DIESEL BE SAVED?

### DIESELGATE DRIVES DIESEL INTO A DEAD END

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** Buffeted by scandals and threatened by driving bans, diesel has become the bete noire of the auto industry. But as the second anniversary of 'dieselgate' approaches, is the engine of choice for millions of European drivers really in its death throes? "For several months now we have seen a net drop in diesel sales in the major European markets of France and Germany," said industry expert Stefan Bratzel of Germany's Center for Automotive Management.

In Germany, diesels now account for 37.7 percent of new car sales, down from 45 percent last year. In France, the share of diesel-powered cars has dipped below the 50 percent-mark for the first time since 2000, to 47.8 percent. It was on September 18, 2015, at the height of the last Frankfurt International Motor Show (IAA), that diesel's descent began, when US regulators revealed that Volkswagen had used cheating software to dupe emissions tests on diesel engines.

The controversy went on to engulf a slew of other car giants, shattering the myth of "clean diesel" and turning off consumers. As the every-other-year IAA readies to open its doors again this week, uncertainty over the technology's

future is casting a shadow over the glitzy industry showcase.

#### Dead end

"Dieselgate has driven diesel into a dead end," Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer, director of Germany's CAR research centre, said. "It will die a slow death." But other experts cautioned against penning diesel's obituary prematurely. Tens of millions of diesel cars are currently on the roads, bought in good faith before the scandal broke out, and politicians have been at pains to stress that drivers won't be made to pay for the industry's misdeeds.

"You can't expect households to replace their cars with clean energy ones from one day to the next," said Euler Hermes analyst, Maxime Lemerle. "Nobody stands to gain from an abrupt change." It's no accident that diesel's fall from grace has been most painful in Europe. One of diesel's biggest selling points, that it is more fuel-efficient than petrol, never did much to sway drivers in the United States accustomed to low fuel prices.

China, the world's biggest car market, meanwhile has bet on the greener engines of the future, and plans to set quotas for electrified

cars that would shake up the industry. But car-makers in Europe, backed by governments desperate to tackle climate change, have for years invested heavily in diesel technology, touting it as more fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly than petrol because of its lower carbon dioxide emissions.

Yet 'dieselgate' has laid bare just how much the industry has resorted to skirting the rules, or outright cheating, to cover up that the technology was spewing far more toxic nitrogen oxide (NOx) than legally allowed. NOx gases cause smog and have been linked to asthma, lung cancer and heart disease.

#### Clean, at a price

The European Commission has responded to the cheating by introducing tough new emissions tests on September 1 that will force carmakers to do a better job filtering the harmful pollutants from diesel engines-a complex feat that is technically doable, but costly. "We know how to remove the pollution from a diesel engine, we know how to make it clean... but it comes at a price," said Patrick Koller, chief executive of French auto equipment supplier Faurecia. —AFP



## 'FLUFFY' THE GREAT WHITE SHARK HEADS BACK TO SEA

**SYDNEY:** A baby great white shark that stunned onlookers when it washed up on a popular Sydney beach was released back into the ocean yesterday after spending the night in an aquarium. The thrashing 1.5-metre animal, nicknamed "Fluffy" by marine experts, came ashore at busy Manly beach on Monday. "When you see a real-life shark, it's scary," Dan Korocz, who was at the beach with his young family, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "I've got a four-year-old and a two-year-old and we went down to the water's

edge and then it came in." Several attempts were made to immediately return the injured shark to the sea by staff from the nearby Manly Sea Life Sanctuary, but it kept coming back to land. The Sea Life team then put the creature in a sling and carried it to a nearby rockpool-attracting crowds of curious onlookers-while they worked out what to do. They later took the shark to the sanctuary, where its health was assessed and it made a good recovery overnight, said the centre's senior aquarist Robbie McCracken. —AFP

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## 7th generation proteges visit Ooredoo's HQ and meet CEO



Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, organized a visit for proteges students last week in the company's head office, where they had a chance in meeting and getting to know Ooredoo's CEO and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani, where they wanted to share their personal experiences and challenges that overcome during the current Proteges program. Ooredoo's CEO exchanged some of his personal challenges and career experiences with the students, sharing his life lessons and taking them through Ooredoo's CSR strategy in which supporting the youth and empowering them is one of its main pillars. Furthermore taking them through the strategy of reflecting

Ooredoo's vision of the company's core values of caring, connecting and challenging. Guest speaker and proteges mentor Abdulaziz Aloughani was also present and had the chance to share his thoughts on the success of the mentorship program and its positive impact on the students. During the visit, the students presented their final project 'Kamala', an Arabic card game aimed at educating youth about historical and cultural Arab figures which will be officially launched later on this year. The students explained that the proceeds from the sale of the game will be donated to rebuild an educational facility in some of the countries in the Arab world. They also talked about their one-of-a-kind

experience with the 24-hour challenge that took place inside the Ooredoo's headquarters, where they participated in workshops that included a number of presentations by Ooredoo Kuwait representatives from a variety of departments, in addition to group sessions focusing on inspirational talks by guest speakers. Ooredoo Kuwait's CEO and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani noted, "We are proud of the project delivered by the Protégés students in conclusion of their program. The project fits our values of caring, connecting, and challenging perfectly. We are eager to see the launch of Kamala launched into the market, and we are certain that it will be received positively." Al-Thani also reiterated

that Ooredoo is keen on supporting initiatives aimed at youth development, and emphasized on the importance of the partnership with various state sectors to accomplish this target. Eman Al-Rasheed, Executive Manager of the Protégés expressed her pride in partnering with Ooredoo for a second consecutive year, which underscores Ooredoo's commitment to supporting youth and providing them with skills that create unique leaders. "We look forward for more partnerships and support in creating a more aware generation of young innovative and creative thinkers," she added. The Protégés program was launched in 2010 to mentor youth between the age of

16 and 24 by local iconic figures in different fields. The program prides itself in the success of many of its graduates, including Mohammed Al-Munaikh and Bader Al Tahous who won a MIT award for their unique smartphone application Ghinwa, in addition to Faisal Al-Duwaihees who now serves as the Secretary of Kuwait's Public Authority of Youth. Ooredoo's commitment to supporting youth is deep-rooted within its core values of caring, connecting, and challenging, in addition to being a direct translation of the recommendations of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah who stressed on numerous occasions the importance of investing in youth.



## THE PALMS HOTEL: THE PERFECT PLACE TO ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAYS

The Palms Beach Hotel and Spa is a destination to charm the whole family members. They were keen to provide a festive program during Eid Al-Adha which has achieved a great feedback from the hotel's guests. On the first day of the feast, we had a festive program which was presented by Osama Fouada which included many different competitions and many gifts. In the following days we had lot of entertainment activities and various competitions for the children organized by the hotel management and had valuable prices that brought joy and pleasure to the children's hearts, leaving a distinctive atmosphere to their memory. The hotel management also promised



to repeat such celebrations on holidays and the end of each week throughout the year to keep The Palms Beach Hotel & Spa the ideal place for you and your family to spend your holidays and enjoy all the new services provided by the hotel.



## SLIM CHICKENS LAUNCHES EXQUISITE VARIETY OF CHICKEN SANDWICHES

Slim Chickens, part of Alghanim Industries and leader of the "better chicken" segment of fast-casual restaurants, launched their new exquisite chicken sandwiches prepared with the brands' renowned Southern tastes and delicious flavors, and using its accustomed fresh and all-natural ingredients. The sandwiches come in three authentic Southern flavors. The "Cayenne Ranch Chicken Sandwich" which is a delicious fried chicken breast prepared with cayenne ranch sauce, lettuce, pickles, homemade fried onions, and cayenne seasoning on a toasted bun. The second sandwich, the "Buffalo Chicken Sandwich" is a delicious fried chicken breast shaken in hot sauce, topped with



lettuce, pickles, homemade fried onions, blue cheese crumbles and a blue cheese sauce on a toasted bun. The third sandwich is the "Hot and Spicy Barbecue Sandwich" which is specially developed for those with a passion for spicy food, its fried chicken breast shaken in hot barbecue sauce, topped with lettuce, pickles, onion, and Monterey Jack cheese on a toasted bun. The rich variety of chicken flavors and meal options, sauces and desserts make Slim Chickens



the ideal reason to host friends and families in a homey Southern atmosphere where real Southern meals cater to every palate of tastes. In the Southern ambience, Slim Chickens in Kuwait uses all natural, delicious ingredients to preserve the same standards of superior quality and taste in every bite, in addition to the Southern hospitality in service and great experience at its restaurant. The brand also gives customers the choice to opt for health options with grilled chicken tenders on the menu, salad options and sandwiches in lettuce wraps.

Customers are invited to experience the new and fresh sandwiches at Slim Chickens' stand-alone restaurant on Blajat Street in Salmiya, opposite the old Showbiz, where customers are served for dine-in and take-away meals from 11 AM to 1 AM every day. Alghanim Industries is actively expanding its Food & Beverage (F&B) portfolio, which began in 2013 with a franchise agreement that enabled it to penetrate the coffee shop market in Kuwait. The company recently expanded further through entering the "better chicken" segment of fast-casual restaurants, and is rapidly growing its F&B portfolio.

## OGILVY APPOINTS PATOU NUYTEMANS AS THE NEW MEMAC OGILVY CEO

**KUWAIT:** One of the region's most beloved and successful marketing pioneers, Edmond Moutran, founder and chairman of Memac Ogilvy, will step down as CEO, a role he has held since Memac's inception in 1984. Ogilvy's EMEA Chief Digital Officer and 22-year company veteran, Patou Nuytemans, will succeed Mr. Moutran, effective September 17, while he shifts his full focus to the Executive Chairman responsibilities. In line with Ogilvy's Next Chapter evolution, an integration strategy outlined by global CEO John Seifert at the start of the year, Mrs Nuytemans has been identified as the ideal candidate to lead Memac Ogilvy forward through this transition.

Nuytemans's incredible experience in the modern marketing world has seen her represent Ogilvy in five markets across multiple continents, including South Africa, France, Belgium, and the US and UK. She has served in her current role as the Chief Digital Officer for EMEA for 14 years, and has been one of the company's most influential figures in transforming Ogilvy from a traditional agency to a digital age group. Nuytemans will continue her role as EMEA's Chief Digital Officer, creating an even stronger relationship between

Memac Ogilvy and the regional leadership team.

Edmond Moutran will maintain his position as Executive Chairman of Memac Ogilvy, having served dual responsibilities since he founded Memac in Bahrain in 1984. After building a one-client, one-office company into the region's most awarded agency, covering 14 countries, with more than 1000 employees, he sold a majority share to Ogilvy in 2013. The partnership between Memac and one of the world's most successful agencies has transformed Memac Ogilvy into one of the network's most influential and important markets. Nuytemans's appointment signifies a milestone in the company's Next Chapter journey, as it seeks to create the modern, integrated agency in one of the network's most promising regions.

"At the beginning of the year, John Seifert and the global leadership team announced Next Chapter: a paradigm shift in the way we think, work, and deliver. This global evolution has been many years in the planning, and



seeks to unify Ogilvy's many parts, and create a truly integrated agency," said Edmond Moutran, Chairman and Founder of Memac Ogilvy.

"Creating One Ogilvy is not only in line with our thinking as a company, and our everlasting goal of making brands matter, but also in response to the changing landscape of industries, societies, and economies around the world. We are a people company, with clients at the heart. Adaptation and evolution are essential requisites to building the most relevant and successful brands, and maintaining our position as one of the leading agencies in the world. It is with this in mind that we proudly and whole-heartedly announce Patou Nuytemans as the new Chief Executive Officer of Memac Ogilvy group. She is an undeniable talent, and true leader in the digital age. We are confident she will drive Memac Ogilvy forward with creativity and gusto," he continued. Nuytemans will assume her new role on September 17, 2017, and be based in Memac Ogilvy's hub office in Dubai.



00:35 Revenge Of The Green Dragons
02:10 Harlock: Space Pirate
04:00 In The Heart Of The Sea
06:00 X-Men: First Class
08:10 Harlock: Space Pirate
10:05 The Darkest Hour
11:45 In The Heart Of The Sea
13:50 X-Men: First Class
16:00 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
18:10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
19:55 Warcraft: The Beginning
22:00 Hardcore Henry
23:40 Green Street 3: Never Back Down

00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Bad Dog
02:35 Snake Sheila
03:00 Snake Sheila
03:25 Project Grizzly
04:15 I Survived An Animal Attack
05:02 Bahama Blue
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Going Ape
07:00 Going Ape
07:25 Snake Sheila
07:50 Snake Sheila
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Bad Dog
10:05 Bahama Blue
11:00 Snake Sheila
11:28 Snake Sheila
11:55 Project Grizzly
12:50 After The Attack
13:45 Bad Dog
14:40 Bahama Blue
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
18:20 Treehouse Masters
19:15 Bad Dog
20:10 Snake Sheila
20:38 Snake Sheila
21:05 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
22:00 Treehouse Masters
22:55 Bahama Blue
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

00:50 Line Of Duty
01:45 Line Of Duty
02:45 Silent Witness
03:45 Doctor Foster
04:40 Holly City
05:30 The Detectivists
06:00 Stella
06:45 New Tricks
07:40 Death In Paradise
08:30 Doctor Who
09:20 Stella
10:10 Holly City
11:05 Death In Paradise
12:00 Doctor Who
12:50 Stella
13:35 Holly City
14:30 Death In Paradise
15:25 Doctor Who
16:15 Stella
17:05 New Tricks
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Poldark
21:00 Last Tango In Halifax
21:55 Prime Suspect: Tennison
22:45 New Blood
23:45 The Secret Of Crickley Hall

00:00 The Jail Atlanta: 60 Days In
01:00 Babies Behind Bars
02:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
03:00 Evil Up Close
04:00 The Jail Atlanta: 60 Days In
05:00 Babies Behind Bars
06:00 Cold Case Files
07:00 Cold Case Files
08:00 It Takes A Killer
08:30 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
14:00 It Takes A Killer
14:30 It Takes A Killer
15:00 Cold Case Files
16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
17:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
18:00 Crime Stories
19:00 It Takes A Killer
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 My Haunted House
23:00 Stalked By A Ghost

00:05 Tosh.0
00:30 Tosh.0
00:55 Russell Howard's Stand Up
Central
01:20 Russell Howard's Stand Up
Central
01:45 Live At The Apollo
02:35 Another Period
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Lip Sync Battle
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:05 Disaster Date
05:30 Sweat Inc.
06:20 Frankenfood
06:50 Frankenfood
07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:05 Disaster Date
08:30 Impractical Jokers
08:55 Ridiculousness
09:20 Impractical Jokers UK
09:45 Lip Sync Battle
10:10 Ridiculousness
10:35 Disaster Date
11:00 Hungry Investors
11:50 Disaster Date
12:15 Frankenfood
12:40 Frankenfood
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:55 Hungry Investors
14:45 Lip Sync Battle
15:10 Lip Sync Battle
15:35 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:00 Impractical Jokers
16:30 Disaster Date
16:55 Disaster Date
17:20 Ridiculousness
17:45 Ridiculousness
18:10 Impractical Jokers
18:35 Impractical Jokers UK
18:59 Frankenfood
19:22 Frankenfood
19:46 Ridiculousness Arabia

20:12 The Jim Gaffigan Show
20:35 Kroll Show
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 The Half Hour
22:00 Tosh.0
22:25 Tosh.0
22:50 IdiotSitter
23:15 The Alternative Comedy Experience
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

00:05 Destroyed In Seconds
00:30 Alaska Gold Diggers
01:20 Driving Me Crazy
02:10 World's Top 5
03:00 Finding Bigfoot
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds
04:15 Destroyed In Seconds
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Alaska Gold Diggers
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Awesome Adventures
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 K9 Cops
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Nextworld
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 K9 Cops
12:00 Finding Bigfoot
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Alaska Gold Diggers
14:30 Awesome Adventures
14:55 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
15:20 Destroyed In Seconds
15:45 Destroyed In Seconds
16:10 Nextworld
17:00 Don't Drive Here
17:50 Zoltan The Wolfman
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Destroyed In Seconds
20:45 Destroyed In Seconds
21:10 Don't Drive Here
22:00 Animal Nation With Anthony Anderson
22:50 Finding Bigfoot
23:40 Destroyed In Seconds

00:30 American Monster
01:20 Who Killed Angie Dodge: Keith Morrison...
02:10 Your Worst Nightmare
03:00 Forbidden: Dying For Love
03:48 Disappeared
04:36 Grave Secrets
05:24 Swamp Murders
06:12 I'd Kill For You
07:00 Disappeared
07:50 Grave Secrets
08:40 Swamp Murders
09:30 I'd Kill For You
10:20 Blood Relatives
11:10 Disappeared
12:00 Disappeared
12:50 Grave Secrets
13:40 Swamp Murders
14:30 I'd Kill For You
15:20 Blood Relatives
16:10 Unravell'd
17:00 Disappeared
17:50 Grave Secrets
18:40 Swamp Murders
19:30 I'd Kill For You
20:20 Blood Relatives
21:10 Evil Online
22:00 Evil Online
22:50 I Am Homicide
23:40 Sin City Justice

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

00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Rolling With The Ronks
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
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Cat Noir
22:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:45 Lolorock
23:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:30 The Lion Guard
08:00 Micky And The Roadster Racers
08:30 Doc McStuffins
09:00 PJ Masks
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
10:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
10:30 Micky And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:30 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
12:00 Goldie & Bear
12:30 Sofia The First
13:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:30 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
15:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
15:30 Micky And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Miles From Tomorrow
16:50 Doc McStuffins
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:45 Sofia The First
18:15 Goldie & Bear
18:45 Micky And The Roadster Racers
19:15 Little Mermaid
19:45 PJ Masks
20:15 The Lion Guard
20:45 Micky Mouse Clubhouse
21:15 Goldie & Bear
21:45 Doc McStuffins
22:15 Little Mermaid
22:45 Micky Mouse Clubhouse
23:15 PJ Masks
23:45 Loopdidoo

00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:05 The Island With Bear Grylls
01:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
02:35 Legend Of Croc Gold
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 The Island With Bear Grylls
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Deadliest Catch
06:45 Wheeler Dealers
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 The Island With Bear Grylls
09:00 Storage Wars Canada
09:25 How Do They Do It?
10:10 The Island With Bear Grylls
10:55 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
11:40 Legend Of Croc Gold
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Storage Wars Canada
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 The Island With Bear Grylls
14:40 Deadliest Catch
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Wheeler Dealers
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Storage Wars Canada
18:20 Storage Wars Canada
18:50 The Island With Bear Grylls
19:40 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Harley And The Davidsons
22:40 X-Ray Mega Airport
23:30 Fast N' Loud

06:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
06:25 Disney11
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Mech-X4
08:05 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Star Vs The Forces Of Evil
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Supa Strikas
10:20 Kickin' It
10:45 Kickin' It
11:10 Mighty Med
11:35 Mighty Med
12:00 Lab Rats
12:30 Lab Rats
12:55 K.C. Undercover
13:20 K.C. Undercover
13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Kirby Buckets Warped
14:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
15:05 Milo Murphy's Law
15:30 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 Supa Strikas
16:50 Disney11
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Gravity Falls
18:05 Milo Murphy's Law
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man
18:35 Lab Rats
19:00 Kirby Buckets
19:25 Walk The Prank
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Right Now Kapow
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Disney11
21:10 K.C. Undercover
21:35 Marvel's Ant-Man
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

03:20 Celebrity Style Story
22:20 Hollywood & Football
04:40 Hollywood & Football
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
06:55 El News
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 El News: Daily Pop
09:10 WAGS Miami
10:10 WAGS Miami
11:05 WAGS Miami
12:00 El News
12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 El News
15:15 El News: Daily Pop
16:15 WAGS Miami
17:05 WAGS Miami
18:00 WAGS Miami
19:00 El News
20:00 Life Of Kylie
20:30 Life Of Kylie
21:00 Life Of Kylie
21:30 Life Of Kylie
22:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
23:00 El News
23:15 Second Wives Club

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Man Fire Food
01:30 Man Fire Food
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
09:55 Cooking For Real
10:25 Cooking For Real
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Bake With Anna Olson
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Cooking For Real
17:30 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Chopped
21:00 Food Network Star Kids
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

00:10 Big Fish, Texas
01:00 Wicked Tuna
02:00 Air Crash Investigation
03:00 Hooked
04:00 Big Fish, Texas
05:00 Britain's Greatest Machines With Chris Barrie
06:00 Salvage Code Red
07:00 Dog Whisperer
08:00 Dog Whisperer
09:00 Britain's Greatest Machines With Chris Barrie
10:00 Rare
11:00 How It Was: Voices Of 9/11
12:00 9/11 Firehouse
13:00 Salvage Code Red
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Dog Whisperer
16:00 Rare
17:00 Inside Combat Rescue: The Last Stand
19:00 Nazi Megastructures
20:00 Rare
20:50 Inside Combat Rescue: The Last Stand
22:30 Nazi Megastructures
23:20 Dog Whisperer

00:20 Venom Island
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Grit: Honey Badger Tough
02:50 Monster Fish
03:45 Man V. Animal (Cutdowns)
04:10 Man V. Animal (Cutdowns)
04:40 Natural Born Monsters
05:35 Grit: Honey Badger Tough
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Man V. Animal (Cutdowns)
07:50 Man V. Animal (Cutdowns)
08:20 Natural Born Monsters
08:15 Gangster Jackals (Aka Beach Jackals)
10:10 World's Deadliest Animals
11:05 Wild Scotland: Highlands
12:00 Secrets Of The Mediterranean
12:55 Valley Of The Wolves
13:50 Monster Fish
14:45 Man V. Animal (Cutdowns)
15:10 Man V. Animal (Cutdowns)
15:40 Natural Born Monsters
16:35 Battle Of The Swamp Dragons
17:30 World's Deadliest Killers
18:25 Wild Scotland: Highlands
19:20 Man V. Animal (Cutdowns)
19:45 Man V. Animal (Cutdowns)
20:10 Natural Born Monsters
20:10 Battle Of The Swamp Dragons
21:50 World's Deadliest Killers
22:40 Wild Scotland: Highlands
23:30 Secrets Of The Mediterranean

00:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
01:00 Clash Of Warriors
02:00 America's Book Of Secrets
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Ancient Aliens
04:30 Engineering Disasters
05:20 America: The Story Of The U.S.
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Clash Of Warriors
08:00 America's Book Of Secrets
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 Engineering Disasters
12:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
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14:00 America's Book Of Secrets
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16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 The Universe
18:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
19:00 Clash Of Warriors
20:00 America's Book Of Secrets
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 United Stuff Of America
23:00 Serial Killer Earth

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

17:40 Mountain Men
18:30 Swamp People
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Counting Cars
21:25 Counting Cars
21:50 Forged In Fire
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 American Pickers

00:45 Fish Of The Day
01:10 My Restaurant In India
01:40 City Chase Marrakech
02:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
03:00 A Is For Apple
03:30 Migue's Tropical Kitchen
03:55 One Man & His Campervan
04:25 One Man & His Campervan
04:50 My Restaurant In India
05:20 World's Greatest Food Markets
06:15 Places We Go
06:40 Places We Go
07:10 City Chase Marrakech
08:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
08:30 A Is For Apple
09:00 Migue's Tropical Kitchen
09:25 One Man & His Campervan
09:55 One Man & His Campervan
10:20 My Restaurant In India
10:50 World's Greatest Food Markets
11:45 Places We Go
12:10 Places We Go
12:40 City Chase Rome
13:35 Carnival Eats
14:00 The Food Files
14:30 Migue's Tropical Kitchen
14:55 One Man & His Campervan
15:25 One Man & His Campervan
15:50 My Restaurant In India
16:20 Chocolate Covered
16:45 Chocolate Covered
17:15 Places We Go
17:40 Places We Go
18:10 My Pacific Quest
19:05 One Man & His Campervan
19:30 My Restaurant In India
20:00 Chocolate Covered
20:30 Chocolate Covered
21:00 Places We Go
21:30 Places We Go
22:00 My Pacific Quest
22:55 City Chase Rome
23:50 Carnival Eats

00:10 Line Of Duty
01:00 Line Of Duty
02:00 Silent Witness
03:00 Doctor Foster
04:00 Holly City
05:00 The Detectivists
06:00 Stella
07:00 New Tricks
08:00 Death In Paradise
09:00 Doctor Who
10:00 Stella
11:00 Holly City
12:00 Death In Paradise
13:00 Doctor Who
14:00 Stella
15:00 Holly City
16:00 Death In Paradise
17:00 Doctor Who
18:00 Stella
19:00 Holly City
20:00 Death In Paradise
21:00 Doctor Who
22:00 Stella
23:00 Holly City

00:00 The Jail Atlanta: 60 Days In
01:00 Babies Behind Bars
02:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
03:00 Evil Up Close
04:00 The Jail Atlanta: 60 Days In
05:00 Babies Behind Bars
06:00 Cold Case Files
07:00 Cold Case Files
08:00 It Takes A Killer
08:30 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
14:00 It Takes A Killer
14:30 It Takes A Killer
15:00 Cold Case Files
16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
17:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
18:00 Crime Stories
19:00 It Takes A Killer
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 My Haunted House
23:00 Stalked By A Ghost

00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
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10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
14:12 School Of Rock

14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 Henry Danger
15:24 The Loud House
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Regal Academy
17:24 Winx Club
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

00:04 Max & Ruby
00:27 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:38 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:48 The Day Henry Met
00:53 The Day Henry Met
00:58 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:21 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:43 Zack & Quack
02:03 Shimmer And Shine
02:26 Olive The Ostrich
02:31 Olive The Ostrich
02:36 Paw Patrol
02:59 Little Charmers
03:11 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:45 Max & Ruby
04:07 The Day Henry Met
04:13 Nella The Princess Knight
04:36 Shimmer And Shine
04:59 Dora And Friends
05:22 Zack & Quack
05:32 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:12 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:08 Paw Patrol
08:31 Shimmer And Shine
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:21 Paw Patrol
09:44 Rusty Rivets
09:56 Bubble Guppies
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Zack & Quack
10:54 Team Umizoomi
11:17 Shimmer And Shine
11:40 Shimmer And Shine
12:04 Max & Ruby
12:27 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:38 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:48 The Day Henry Met
12:53 The Day Henry Met
12:58 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:21 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:43 Zack & Quack
14:03 Shimmer And Shine
14:25 Olive The Ostrich
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14:36 Paw Patrol
14:59 Little Charmers
15:11 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
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17:22 Zack & Quack
17:32 The Day Henry Met
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18:00 Rusty Rivets
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19:21 Bubble Guppies
19:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:08 Paw Patrol
20:32 Shimmer And Shine
20:54 Nella The Princess Knight
21:16 The Day Henry Met
21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Bubble Guppies
22:21 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:44 Zack & Quack
22:54 Team Umizoomi
23:18 Shimmer And Shine
23:41 Shimmer And Shine

00:00 Clash Of Warriors
02:00 America's Book Of Secrets
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Ancient Aliens
04:30 Engineering Disasters
05:20 America: The Story Of The U.S.
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Clash Of Warriors
08:00 America's Book Of Secrets
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 Ancient Aliens
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12:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
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14:00 America's Book Of Secrets
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 The Universe
18:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
19:00 Clash Of Warriors
20:00 America's Book Of Secrets
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 United Stuff Of America
23:00 Serial Killer Earth

00:15 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
02:50 Return To Oz
04:40 The Parent Trap
06:50 Kronk's New Groove
08:10 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
09:45 Atlantis: The Lost Empire
11:25 The Parent Trap
13:35 Toy Story
15:00 Atlantis: Milo's Return
16:25 Zootropolis
18:15 Inspector Gadget
19:40 The Sorcerer's Apprentice
21:30 Toy Story
22:55 Atlantis: Milo's Return

00:00 Neighbors
01:40 Three Men And A Little Lady
03:30 Oscar
05:30 Big
07:20 Three Men And A Little Lady
09:05 Oscar
11:00 Big
12:45 Almost Christmas
14:40 Daddy's Home
16:20 Ride Along 2
18:05 Made In America
20:00 Meet Dave
21:40 The Longest Yard
23:35 Ted 2

00:00 Child Of God
01:50 UN Plus Une
03:50 Operation Avalanche
05:30 Healing
07:30 Pele: Birth Of A Legend
09:20 Eyes Of An Angel
11:00 Healing
13:00 Operation Avalanche
14:40 Land Of Mine
16:25 Boychior
18:10 Oleanna
19:45 Man In The Moon
21:30 Cake

00:25 Mia And The Migoo
02:05 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
03:25 Memory Loss
04:50 Big Baby
06:20 Mia And The Migoo
08:00 Dragon Hill
09:20 Ducktales: The Movie
10:40 Legend Of The Sea
12:05 Outback
13:40 Memory Loss
15:05 Big Baby
16:35 Albert
18:05 Legend Of The Sea
19:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
21:10 The Happy Cricket
22:40 Albert

00:35 Primal Fear
02:50 The Blind Side
05:05 The Guardian
07:30 Gridiron Gang
09:40 Ghostbusters II
11:35 Inception
14:05 Last Knights
16:05 The Legend Of Zorro
18:20 Lucy
19:55 Black Mass
22:00 Straight Outta Compton

00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Secrets Of The Underground
02:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
03:00 Dangerman
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Secrets Of The Underground
06:12 NASA's Unexplained Files
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Dangerman
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 NASA's Unexplained Files
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Secrets Of The Underground
11:26 Dangerman
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 NASA's Unexplained Files
14:38 Dangerman
15:26 Secrets Of The Underground
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 NASA's Unexplained Files
17:50 Dangerman
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Hacking The Wild
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
22:00 Hacking The Wild
22:50 Dangerman
23:40 Mythbusters

01:15 Sympathy For Delicious
03:00 My Boss's Daughter
04:30 Guilty At 17
06:15 Rob Zombie's Halloween
08:15 The English Patient
11:00 Kate And Leopold
13:00 Loosies
14:30 Beneath The Blue
16:00 Kill Bill: Vol. 2
18:15 Sympathy For Delicious
20:10 The Brothers Grimm
22:00 Starsky & Hutch
23:45 To The Wonder

01:00 Married At First Sight
02:00 Making Mr. Right
03:00 Making Mr. Right
04:00 Making Mr. Right
05:00 The Fashion Fund
06:00 Fit For Fashion
07:00 Fit For Fashion
08:00 Married At First Sight
09:00 Married At First Sight
10:00 Making Mr. Right
11:00 Making Mr. Right
12:00 Making Mr. Right
13:00 The Fashion Fund
14:00 Fit For Fashion
15:00 Fit For Fashion
16:00 Married At First Sight
17:00 Married At First Sight
18:00 Bones
19:00 Bones
20:00 Bones
21:00 The Fashion Fund
22:00 Fit For Fashion
23:00 Fit For Fashion

00:05 An Hour To Save Your Life
01:50 Monsters Inside Me
02:35 The Undateables
03:20 Sister Wives
04:05 Toddlers & Taras
04:50 Dare To Wear
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
07:30 Belief
08:15 Sister Wives
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddlers & Taras
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Too Ugly For Love?
11:40 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
12:25 The Undateables
13:10 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
13:52 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
13:55 Toddlers & Taras
14:40 Sister Wives
15:25 Too Ugly For Love?
16:10 Love, Lust Or Run
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
17:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
18:50 Dare To Wear
19:40 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
20:10 Cake Boss
20:35 Cake Boss
21:00 My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now?
21:50 The

CROSSWORD 1709



ACROSS

- The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.
- Small Asian deer with small antlers and a cry like a bark.
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- French dramatist noted for his reinterpretations of Greek myths (1910-1987).
- (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- A deep opening in the earth's surface.
- A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
- A cylindrical tower used for storing silage.
- A communist state in Indochina on the South China Sea.
- The United Nations agency concerned with the interests of labor.
- Roman Catholic theologian (1585-1638).
- Relating to or accompanying birth.
- Of or in relating to the nose.
- A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- A date.
- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- The use of bacteria or viruses of toxins to destroy men and animals or food.
- A slippery or viscous liquid or liquefiable substance not miscible with water.
- A Loish language.
- Sexually transmitted urethritis (usually caused by chlamydia).
- A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
- The quantity that can be held in a mug.
- Baffle that distributes sound waves evenly.
- Being or moving higher in position or greater in some value.
- Without a flaw.
- A siren of German legend who lured boatmen in the Rhine to destruction.
- Type genus of the Aceraceae.
- A kind of heavy jacket ('windcheater' is a British term).
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
- Covered with beads or jewels or sequins.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- News that updates your information v 1.
- A car with two doors and front seats and a luggage compartment.
- The branch of information science that deals with natural language information.
- Italian painter and sculptor and engineer and scientist and architect.
- A bachelor's degree in theology.
- A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
- A great raja.
- Take in solid food.

DOWN

- Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
- German chemist who was co-discoverer with Lise Meitner of nuclear fission (1879-1968).
- A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- Any warm-blooded vertebrate having the skin more or less covered with hair.
- An organization of independent states to promote international peace and security.
- A water wheel with buckets attached to the rim.
- Armor plate that protects the hip and thigh.
- 10 jiao equal 1 yuan.
- Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
- Largest crested screamer.
- Entangle or catch in or as if in a mesh.
- A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
- (usually followed by 'to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
- An elementary particle with a negative charge and a half-life of 2 microsecond.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- (nautical, aeronautical) Situated at or toward the stern or tail.
- A member of a North American Indian people living east of the Sacramento river in California.
- A gum used especially as a thickener or emulsifier.
- Disorderly fighting.
- Hawaiian dish of taro root pounded to a paste and often allowed to ferment.
- Saudi Arabian minister of petroleum who was a central figure in the creation of OPEC (born in 1930).
- A shrub or tree of the genus Rhus (usually limited to the non-poisonous members of the genus).
- A major waterfall in southern Africa.
- A simple machine consisting of a circular frame with spokes (or a solid disc) that can rotate on a shaft or axle (as in vehicles or other machines).
- The upper side of the thighs of a seated person.
- Drought-tolerant herb grown for forage and for its seed which yield a gum used as a thickening agent or sizing material.
- Type genus of the Ardeidae.
- All the plant life in a particular region.
- Climbing garden plant having fragrant pastel-colored flowers.
- Deciduous dioecious Chinese tree having fan-shaped leaves and fleshy yellow seeds.
- Perennial evergreen herbs with white or pink flowers.
- An insect or other arthropod between mols.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- A telegram sent abroad.
- A drama set to music.
- Stem of plants of the Gramineae.
- A substance for packing a joint or coating a porous surface to make it impervious to gas or liquid.
- An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
- The state of owing money.
- A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
- The syllable naming the first (tonic) note of any major scale in solmization.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You find yourself in a very practical mood and may have some serious or contemplative moments this day. Listen to your creative impulses, which may require you to spend more time working alone or drawing up plans. The desire to grow and enlarge your scope of professionalism will benefit by making a careful assessment of your past successes. Let this help guide you in any future professional choices. Your future is created in your mind. Schedule important meetings or make presentations. Your attention this afternoon is in helping a young person understand his or her school or family responsibilities. You are a revolutionary when it comes to the domestic scene. You have very special insights into home, family and surroundings.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A meeting or planned event has been canceled and most of the day is yours. You like to become positively connected to the professional associates around you so you may find a way to share the noon meal and have a meeting at the same time. It is easy to gain support for your ideas. Close relationships take on emotional depth and importance. Nobody makes demands on your time today and life just seems to flow along very smoothly. Time involved in fun activities with your loved ones this evening is a good investment of your time: bonding. Building good memories bonds the family together. You are able to reflect and understand your own situation, just how you feel about yourself and others. Perhaps you could add to the picture album soon.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Community concerns may come to your attention this morning and you may find yourself thinking of ways to improve conditions. After the workday is over you will make time to phone the people that can help you with this project. Others value you for your ability to make practical decisions concerning group issues. You have a natural sense of what the public wants because you are observant and you listen. Your general outlook on life is attractive and people seek you out to help them with their problems. You are an optimistic, positive guide. This afternoon you will find a social gathering enjoyable. You are at your most elegant this evening. You have a grasp for conceptual and spiritual ideas and the ability to present them to others.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You seem to be handling your financial situation much better than in the past. Make important overtures, communicating your intentions and requirements in business situations. Your direct manner and clear thinking can surprise those who are more guarded. People close to you are optimistic and have good prospects. Close relationships offer a lot of potential for growth and good advice toward future investments. A marriage or other partnership can raise high hopes and give your spirits a boost. Faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new horizons are some of the focal points in your life. There may be many requests to consider. Extended travel, enticing education, and other ways to stretch and grow open new doors of opportunity for all.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Speculative ventures pay off by the end of this week. Law, politics, or perhaps religions become opportunities to write interesting novels or short stories. You can express yourself quite well. You may excessively worry about one or more of these subjects. You probably should not get into a conversation regarding these subjects unless you have done your research. Good fortune and just plain old luck surrounds you today. It is easy for you to have your needs met. Allow yourself to receive and enjoy the benefits coming your way. You are still working on your physical image this fall—have you chosen the body you want to give up... Changes that happen in little steps are more permanent. Feelings of compassion can deepen your bond of love.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Individual competitiveness does not seem to work as well as projects that have a cooperative effort. Address the need to improve working conditions. Remember that the bottom line is to increase productivity, not to cater to the whims of others. Investments are best for you at the first of next month; financial advice is a good thing. Charisma, self-transformation and the development of personal power are the things that play a big role in your life now. Remember that tiny causes can lead to big effects. There are profound changes on the personal level—psychological and perhaps physical as well—as if you are transforming into an entirely new person. Think about what a relationship means... A relationship has some reflection on you.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

It seems as if everyone is asking for a handout today. Perhaps it is payback time or perhaps you did not realize that you had more than you really need because you begin to look around, you may decide that tonight is going to be a good time to set aside for getting rid of the old and making room for the new. The universe has a way of making us all create a balance; we either move to get rid of things or decide we need room for new things in our lives. Do not take chances or risks just now—be satisfied with the ordinary. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general receive encouragement this evening. Young people study and adults dive in to contribute toward a garage sale or charity. Enjoy some fun communication with loved ones.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have a tendency to be too strict with yourself, to insist that whatever does not contribute to security and other long-term goals is trivial. Unconventional approaches to philosophy, religion, law and politics come to play now. Developments in these fields can have a big impact on you. You may decide to join a missionary group this fall. You are ready to travel and you enjoy helping others and you enjoy learning about new places. Travel sets you apart, giving you a new, and in some sense, revolutionary perspective. This is a rewarding day—whatever you want to achieve today is yours for little effort. Higher education, publishing, broadcasting or advertising could play an unexpected role in setting new directions.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are most imaginative when it comes to anything spiritual, or psychological. Others find you entrancing and you are always able to draw them into your world of dreams. No one has any doubt that you are intuitive, complete with built-in psychic abilities and probably given to visions. Your creative side is in full swing and others may help you decide if you can pull in some money for your creative ideas. You may be learning all about art shows, exhibitions, etc. You can inspire others with spiritual insights through your art. This could involve cooking, sculpting, writing, music, etc. A little surprise this evening brings new ideas your way; there are answers to some sort of educational problem. This problem could be focused around finances.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A misunderstanding with a loved one this morning needs cooling off—do not push an issue. Outside repairs and working in the yard today may bring the neighbors to your attention. There may be an opportunity to plan an outdoor meal this weekend with friends; you are in a planning mood. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance for you. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need. A family member or relative may have an idea that you will be able to use this afternoon. Take some time to show thankfulness for another's contribution to a particular project. Young people need guidance and the rest of the day may be spent in doing just that—helping young people.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You look for new avenues to improve working conditions. Your direction becomes very clear this week. Put your mind to work and take care of any details that you may have, for mental discipline should come easily. You enjoy improved productivity. You avoid wasting resources by finding ways to invest your time and energy in building a firm financial foundation for you and your family's future growth. You are extremely resourceful and can find a way to make money with practically anything. Repairs and shopping may help you feel more organized. A family member or old friend may be visiting you this evening. There is a natural breaking point in your life now: a time to let go of the past and assume a new attitude.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Setting a reasonable pace is as important in a physical exercise routine as it is in keeping up a pace in cognitive shores. You work hurriedly now to complete tasks that are difficult to complete in one day's time. Slow down a bit and proof your work before trying to beat the clock, so to speak. Review contracts and reconsider legal actions for now. At home, you will find today a good time for meditation, whether it is a study time or whether you are thinking about future plans. You have a real appreciation for creative as well as commonsense thinking. A sporting activity later this afternoon will have positive results and help balance energies. This evening you may find yourself reading, enjoying a long conversation or writing a few letters.

WORD SEARCH

Soccer

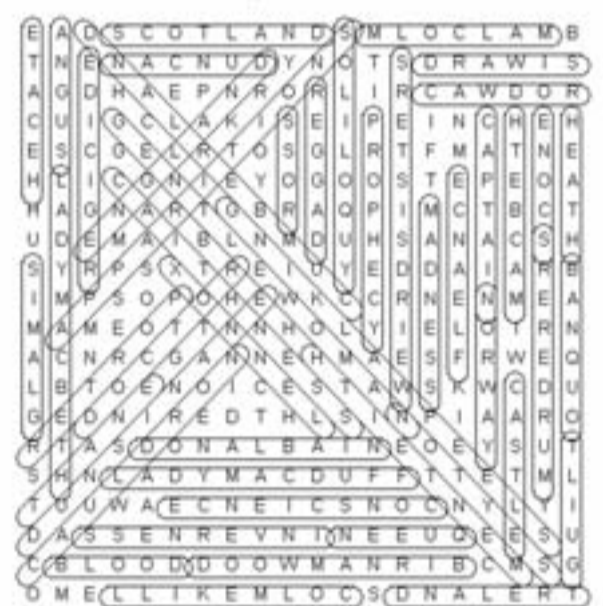
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 37 letters spell a secret message.



- |             |           |              |               |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| ASSIST      | FORMATION | MATCH        | SLIDE TACKLE  |
| BALL        | FORWARD   | OFFENSE      | SOCKS         |
| CAPTAIN     | FOUL      | OFFSIDE      | SPORT         |
| CHEERING    | GAME      | PENALTY KICK | STOPPAGE TIME |
| CLEATS      | GOALIE    | POSITION     | STRIKERS      |
| CLUB        | GOALS     | PRACTICE     | SUBSTITUTE    |
| COACH       | GRASS     | RED CARD     | SWEEPER       |
| COIN TOSS   | HALVES    | REFEREE      | THROW-IN      |
| CORNER KICK | HAT TRICK | SCORE        | TOUCHLINE     |
| DEFENSE     | HEADING   | SHIN GUARD   | WALL          |
| FANS        | JERSEY    | SHOOT-OUT    | WORLD CUP     |
| FIELD       | JUGGLING  | SHORTS       | YELLOW CARD   |
| FIFA        | KICK-OFF  | SHOT         |               |

Yesterday's Solution

Shakespeare: Macbeth



- |             |             |               |               |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| ANGUS       | DAGGER      | IRELAND       | REGICIDE      |
| APPARITIONS | DOCTOR      | LADY MACBETH  | ROSS          |
| BANQUO      | DONALBAIN   | LADY MACDOUFF | SCORE         |
| BIRNAM WOOD | DUNCAN      | LENNOX        | SCOTLAND      |
| BLOOD       | DUNSIANE    | MACBETH       | SEYTON        |
| CATHNESS    | ENGLAND     | MADNESS       | STWARD        |
| CAPTAIN     | FEARANCE    | MALCOLM       | SLEEPWALKING  |
| CASTLE      | GENTLEWOMAN | HEATHWAZEL    | SOLLOQUY      |
| CAULDRON    | GLAMES      | MURDERERS     | THANE         |
| CAWDOOR     | GUILT       | NORWAY        | WEIRD SISTERS |
| COLUMKILL   | HEATH       | PORTER        |               |
| CONSCIENCE  | HECATE      | PROPHECY      |               |
| CUMBERLAND  | INVERNESS   | QUEEN         |               |

Hidden sentence: BY THE PRICKING OF MY THUMBS, SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# CLASSIFIEDS

STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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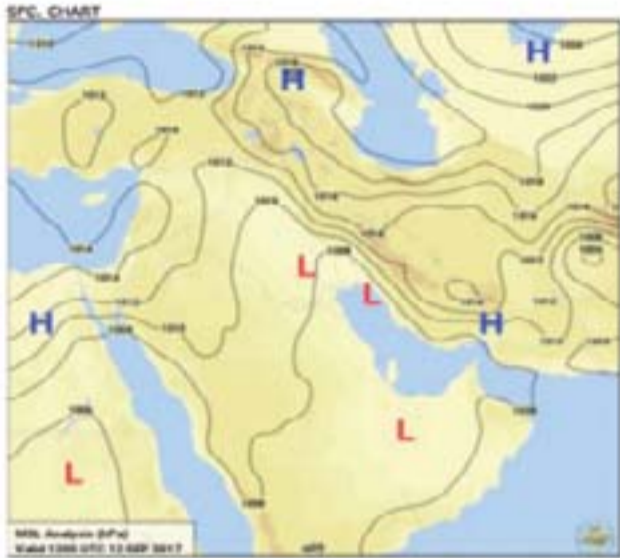


**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**  
Issued 13/09/2017-19:00 LY UTC +3hr

**MIN Temperature 26 °C**

**By Night** Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind later on, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h.

**By Day** Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h causing rising dust specially over open areas.



**Four-Day Forecast**

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Expected Weather</b>	Very hot causing rising dust over open areas	Hot & rising dust over open areas	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas WITH A CHANCE for mist forming at night
<b>Min Temp °C</b>	26	28	27	25
<b>Max Temp °C</b>	47	46	46	45
<b>Wind Direction</b>	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	variable to northerly westerly	variable to south easterly
<b>Wind Speed km/h</b>	15 - 45	15 - 40	08 - 30	08 - 28

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

**Warnings & Weather Watches**

no warnings or weather watches

**Kuwait Forecast**

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C BEC
KUWAIT CITY	28	42
KUWAIT AIRPORT	26	46
ARDABIY	26	46
BUBYAN	29	35
JAHRA	29	47
FALAJA ISLAND	30	39
SALMIYAH	33	38
AHMADI	32	36
JAL ALZAYH	30	47
QAROH ISLAND	33	36
UMH AL-MARADEN	32	36
NUWAISEB	26	42
WAFRA	27	47
SALMIY	27	46
HUTRIYA	27	48

**Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport**

Max Temp (°C)	47
Min Temp (°C)	25
Max Rel Hum (%)	31
Min Rel Hum (%)	04
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	26 SW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	06:31
Sunset	17:56

**Tomorrow Prayer Times**

Fajr	04:11
Sunrise	05:31
Zuhr	11:44
Aqr	15:15
Sunset	17:56
Isha	19:15



**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

**URGENTLY REQUIRED**

- Automobile Mechanic
- Motorcycle Mechanic
- Mechanic helper
- Metal fabricator and welder

To work in well equipped workshop in Shuwaikh.

Contact: **66322222**  
Email: poarsche@gmail.com

Kuwait Times

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Kuwait Times is the first daily in the Arabian Gulf providing all the news and information on business, politics, local, sports and entertainment in Kuwait.

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

**EMERGENCY 112**

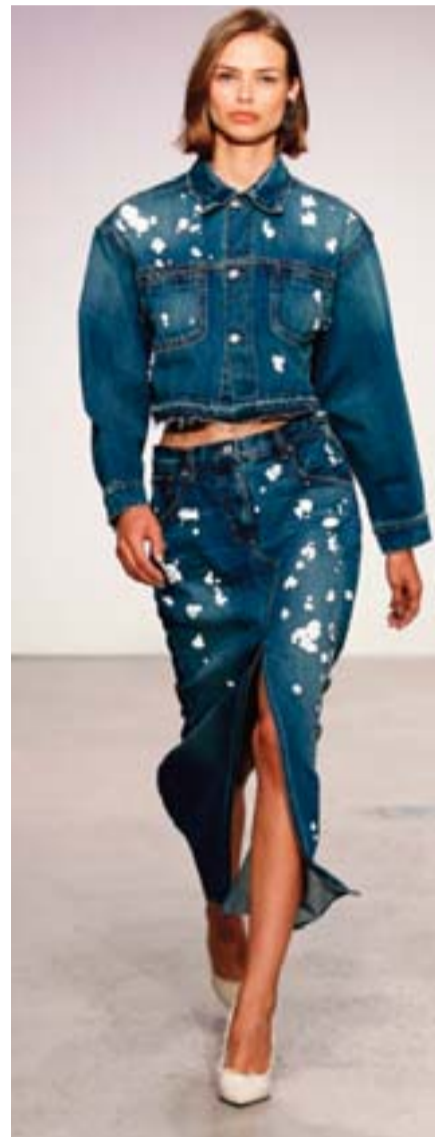
**Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)**

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**



Arrival Flights on Wednesday 13/9/2017				Departure Flights on Wednesday 13/9/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	WAN	954	GKD	13:00
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	FEQ	1933	Sohag	13:05
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	13:15
KAC	102	London	00:55	CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15
SAW	713	Damascus	01:00	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	IRC	6521	Lamerd	14:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	364	Colombo	14:15
SYR	343	Damascus	01:30	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	618	Doha	14:20
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:35
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	JZR	357	Mashhad	14:50
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	562	Amman	15:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	WAN	436	Beirut	15:25
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	502	Bangkok	15:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
PGT	4782	Istanbul	03:15	SAW	705	Damascus	15:50
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	SVA	504	Madinah	16:00
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	RJA	640	Amman	16:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:10
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15
KAC	796	Madinah	03:55	QTR	1072	Cairo	16:15
RBG	559	Alexandria	04:10	KAC	118	New York	16:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC	514	Tehran	17:10
FEQ	931	Alexandria	05:00	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	512	Mashhad	18:40
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	792	Madinah	18:45
KAC	1802	Cairo	06:35	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
WAN	342	Sohag	06:40	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:55	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30
JZR	531	Asyut	07:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	104	London	20:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	620	Doha	20:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15
IRC	6511	ABD	09:10	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KNE	231	Riyadh	20:50
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:55	KAC	564	Amman	21:00
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	BBC	043	Dhaka	22:30
JZR	239	Amman	12:25	JZR	241	Amman	22:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	RBG	551	Alexandria	23:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	JZR	185	Dubai	23:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	RBG	555	Alexandria	23:25
FEQ	953	Asyut	12:55	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30
KIS	7136	Mashhad	13:00	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
				PIA	239	Sialkot	23:40

FASHION



# CASUAL DENIM HINTS AT A NEW ERA FOR OSCAR DE LA RENTA

The sixth day of New York Fashion Week saw the young designers at Oscar de la Renta take the company in a more casual direction with denim and other relaxed garments not normally seen at the storied luxury label. Carolina Herrera, who showed previously at the Frick Collection, found another stunning venue for her runway show: the Museum of Modern Art. The night before at Prabal Gurung, a notable guest was experiencing her first fashion show at age 83: feminist icon Gloria Steinem.

### Denim at Oscar de la Renta?

There was a whiff of change at Oscar de la Renta, where new designers Fernando Garcia and Laura Kim presented a whimsical collection featuring casual garments like midriff-baring denim jackets and roomy windbreakers. It also was what you would call a signature collection - literally. Many of the garments bore the signature, in various forms, of the label's late, legendary founder, de la Renta - either in script, or even in large, sparkly letters spelling out his name. "We're celebrating him unabashedly," Garcia said backstage. The designers noted that the only time until now that de la Renta's signature appeared on his clothes was on a gown that Sarah Jessica Parker wore to the Met Gala in 2014. It had been the actress' idea to embroider his signature on the back.

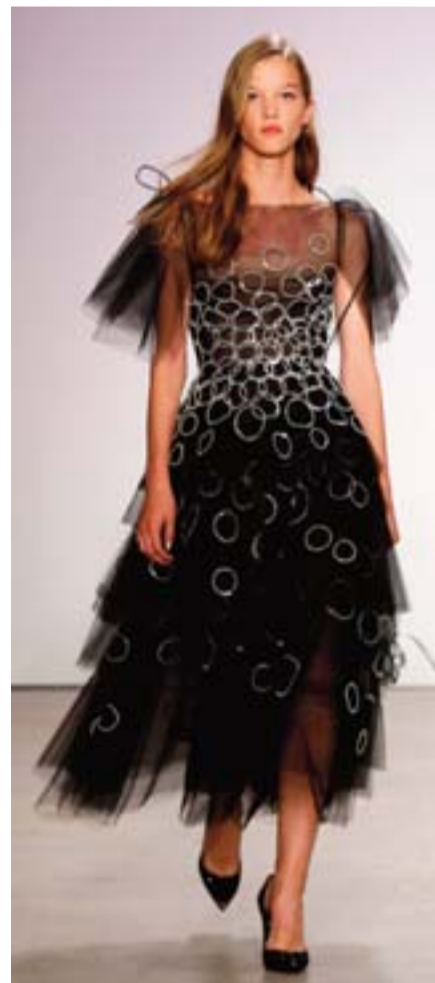
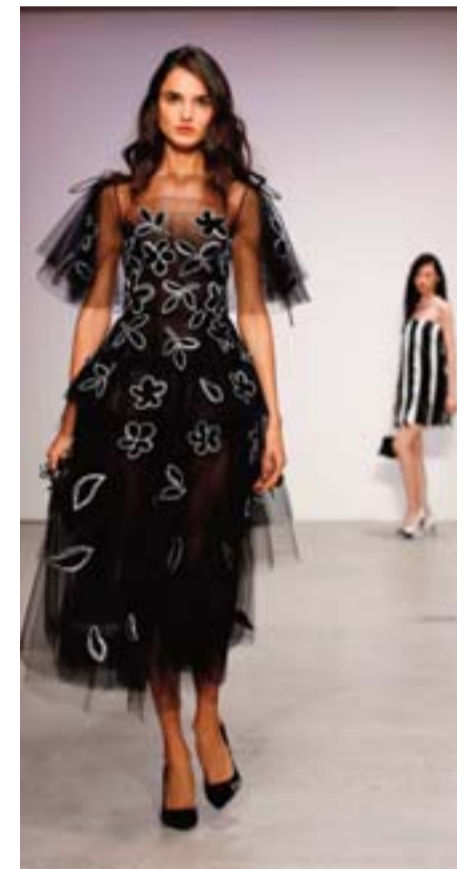
Garcia added that he and Kim had updated the image of de la Renta's signature after looking around and finding that "the signatures he actually left behind were much more legible, and true to his handwriting." The designers, presenting only their second Fashion Week collection for the label after taking over following the sudden departure of Peter Copping, began their runway show with a series of looks with a paint splatter motif. They were telling a story, they explained, of a woman trying to decide what to paint. Once she paints, she signs the canvas.

While dresses and skirts had a paint splatter effect, the theme even extended to the stiletto shoes: The heels looked like the stems of black paint brushes. New techniques used by the label this year included laser-cut leather, Garcia said, along with the denim, part of an effort to expand the clientele and the appeal of the brand. But there was something for the traditionalists, too: Toward the end of the show came the red carpet-ready gowns that define the brand's image, like strapless gowns in tulle with full skirts and even a ruby-dyed mink coat. Guests at Monday's show, held at Sotheby's auction house, included Paris Hilton, Nicky Hilton Rothschild and Nicki Minaj. They were all getting a double dose of Garcia and Kim, having attended their show on Friday for the duo's fledgling label, Monse.

### Gloria Steinem hits fashion week

To designer Prabal Gurung's list of accomplishments, this can now be added: He got Gloria Steinem to her very first fashion show. The feminist author and activist was a front-row guest at Gurung's runway show Sunday night, sitting two seats from Huma Abedin, the longtime top Hillary Clinton aide. Steinem even posted about it on Instagram, saying: "There's a first time for everything, even at 83." She added that Gurung was "a kind man doing great work in fashion and beyond." Gurung, who bowed his head in salute to Steinem during his own lap down the runway, has long been a vocal supporter of feminism. At his February show, he came out wearing a T-shirt that said, "This Is What a Feminist Looks Like." His other models wore shirts with slogans like "The Future Is Female" and "Nevertheless, She Persisted." Gurung said then that he'd been inspired by the women's march he attended in New York in January. At Sunday's show, Gurung said backstage that the title of his collection, "Stronger In Color, When Dreamers Awake," was literal and metaphorical.

"Literally the collection is very colorful - it's spring," he said. "But more than that, what I wanted to talk about was the colors in our world. Politically, socially ... when we have (all colors) represented, that's when the world becomes an interesting place, a



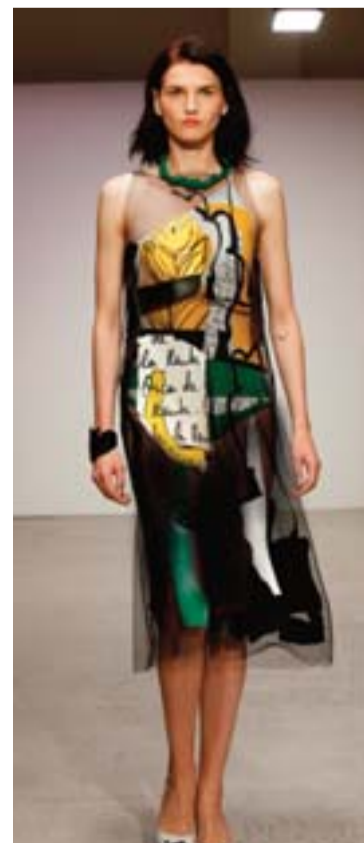
beautiful place to live." He noted that the casting of his show was especially diverse this season - ethnically, in size and in gender. "That's what the collection is all about," he said. Gurung also recalled that he had been inspired by a recent trip to a pearl farm in Japan, where, he said, he had discovered that many of the pearl divers were women.

### Art in movement, at Carolina Herrera

Carolina Herrera believes that fashion is "art in movement," and so naturally one of her favorite places to show her clothes is in a museum. In the past, she's taken her show to the stunning courtyard at the Frick Collection, and this Fashion Week she secured the sculpture garden at the Museum of Modern Art. "I've been trying to do it for many years, and at last I could and I am so honored to be here," the designer said before Monday evening's show. The outdoor courtyard with its bubbling fountains served at the backdrop for Herrera's chic garden party and '80s-inspired collection.

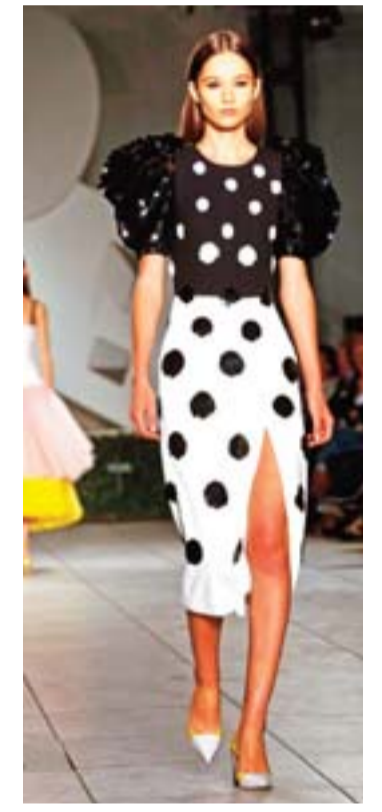
"Being in the garden at the MoMA is one of those moments where, is this really happening? Is this real life? It's so beautiful!" said Disney actress Peyton List, who sat in the front row alongside model Lily Aldridge, actress Michelle Monaghan, and former "Teen Wolf" star Crystal Reed. "I think this is the first time I've actually seen this garden at night so I'm quite mesmerized by it," Monaghan said. There was gingham, and lots of puffed sleeves, big shoulders, colorful polka-dots and waists cinched with oversized bows. Sequins reigned supreme.

"This collection is all about color," Herrera said. "Color is very powerful and makes you think in a different way. Color makes you see things in different eyes." Herrera's signature white blouse also made a runway appearance, this time with a deep V-neck, dramatic sleeves and a gingham wrap skirt. But the designer eschewed her usual crisp white button-down in favor of a black ensemble. — AP



Models walk the runway at the Oscar de la Renta Spring/Summer 2018 fashion show during Fashion Week, Monday in New York. — AP/AFP photos

FASHION



Models walk the runway for the Prabal Gurung SS18 show during New York Fashion Week.

Fashion from Carolina Herrera collection is modeled during Fashion Week.

## Busting the transgender barrier, one model at a time

**D**usty Rose has spent an entire year trying to become a model. Thwarted at every turn, she finally got a lucky break in the form of Peche Di, founder of an exclusively transgender modeling agency. The 19-year-old trans woman born and raised in the conservative southern state of Alabama jumped for joy when she discovered the agency, founded in March 2015, through Instagram. "I thought, 'oh my God, this is kind of why I came to New York, to meet people like this!'" says the six foot one (1.85 meter) wannabe model, dressed in jeans, pink sneakers and a strappy black vest top.

While some transgender models like Brazil's Valentina Sampaio, who graced the cover of French Vogue in February, or Andreja Pejic, who walked here in Fashion Week, have found success, most continue to face a wall of prejudice. It's a problem even in liberal New York, where trans people are widely accepted, says Dusty, who started her transition when she was 15 and still in high school. "The first day me and my mom came up here, someone screamed 'faggot' at me and my mom was like 'my gosh this is New York, this is not supposed to happen here.' And I just said, 'oh it happens everywhere.'"

### 'Don't want this one touching me'

Dusty works in a New York hair salon. "There are clients sometimes saying, 'I don't want this one doing my hair,' 'I don't want this one touching me.' Not even 'her' or 'him', just 'this one' that kind of bothers me," she says. Dusty says she once had to ask

a client to leave. Before meeting Peche, 27, Dusty had sent her resume to modeling agencies each time introducing herself as a young trans woman from Alabama. All to no avail.

"Expectations are definitely higher because you are battling a lot of physical attributes that go along with being trans," she said.

"You have to be smaller or you have to be skinnier. If you are trans you are typically bigger, you just can't help it... and then being too masculine and not feminine." "I mean I've had photographers tell me 'no no no, we only need female models' and I was just like 'oh! ok!'" President Donald Trump's decision to ban transgenders from the military hasn't helped. "He's showing the country, 'I'm the president, I can treat people like this, so can you. So now there's so much more aggression and just outward hatred,'" she says. People "feel like it's ok."

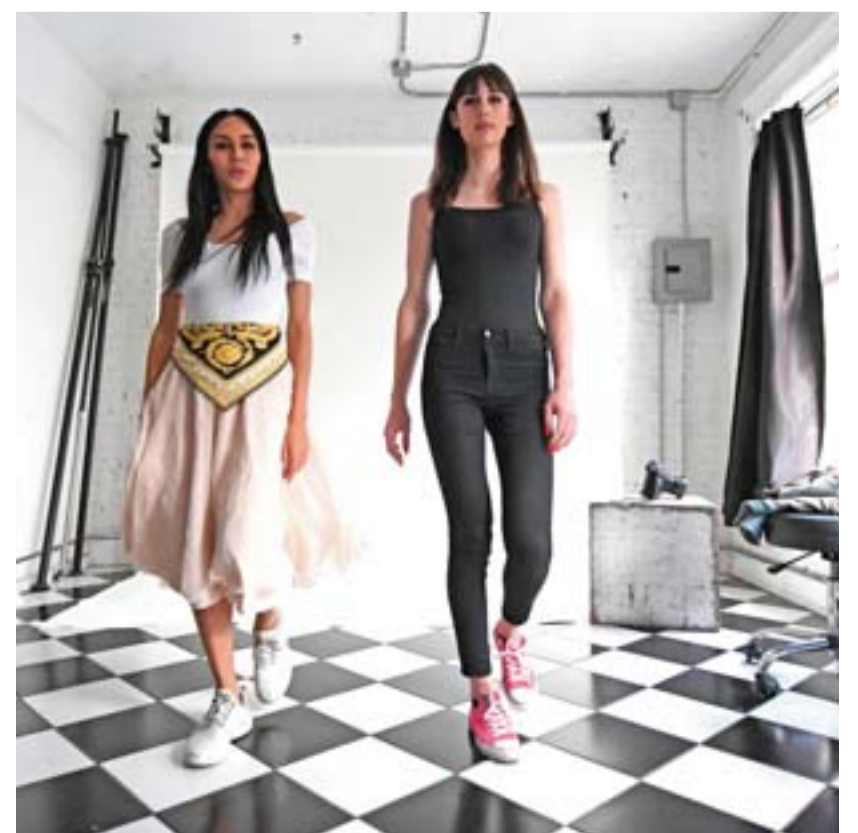
Peche, a fellow trans woman, immediately put Dusty at ease when they first met, at a recent photo shoot in a Greenwich Village studio. Peche, who migrated from Thailand, went through similarly difficult experiences in setting up Trans Models, one of the world's first modeling agencies to specialize in the transgender market. Today she represents 19 models, most of them women but some men, as well as clients who consider themselves neither male nor female. "Of course I see the progress," says Peche when assessing the 10 years since she first began modeling in Thailand. "Trans models have become a thing right now, but before it was not accepted."

### Trump outrage

Peche proudly reels off campaigns for big brands such as Nike, Mercedes-Benz, Smirnoff and L'Oreal Paris, which made model Hari Nef a campaign spokeswoman in the United States. But she chokes up when she talks about the US president. "It's horrifying," she says. "I felt the government is not accepting of us. How are we going to survive?" Peche, who disguised her desire to be a woman throughout her entire childhood, also set up dating app "Teadate" after Tinder blocked transgenders. The app already has 25,000 users.

For New York Fashion Week, which ends Wednesday, Peche's goal is to get more castings and ultimately get her models on the runway. In the longer term, she hopes to book trans men and women for campaigns advertising body lotion, shampoo and body wash, believing it would be "very inspiring" to see trans people on the screen. "Not completely naked but partially," she says, to show off their natural beauty. And Dusty's dream? Becoming a Victoria's Secret Angel—one of the most competitive and prestigious gigs in US modeling. — AFP

Peche Di, model and founder of transgender model agency practices a runway walk with transgender model Dusty Rose from Alabama in New York City. — AFP



FASHION

# Blondie backs experimental eco-fashion in London show



US singer Debbie Harry walks down the catwalk of designers VIN + OMI during their Spring/Summer 2018 collection highlighting the issue of plastic waste in central London. — AFP photos



US singer Debbie Harry (center) walks down the catwalk with designers VIN + OMI.

Blondie star Debbie Harry took to the London catwalk Monday to support sustainably fabrics created by VIN + OMI, designers experimenting with everything from environmentally-friendly latex to leather-style mushrooms. Draped in a golden gown and flanked by the design duo, wearing hoodies reading "Stop fucking the planet", singer Harry said the world had reached a "tipping point" and desperately needed to tackle waste. "I think that they have a great purpose and a great focus in trying to make these sustainable fabrics that are part of the future," the 72-year-old musician told AFP.

"I think it's very important for everybody to recognize it and should be involved in it; because we all are inevitably," she added. Harry was speaking after walking in VIN + OMI's Spring/Summer 2018 collection, ahead of London Fashion Week starting on Friday, which highlighted the issue of plastic waste. Wearing heels encased in plastic and stepping through clear plastic strewn across the floor, models showed off a bold collection including slogans such as "wake up" and "hope". There was a wide range of fabrics used in the show, which the designers said proves environmentally-friendly materials can still make the runway.

"It can still look great, it doesn't have to look like hessian sacks when you're making eco-fashion," designer Vin told AFP. Most of the new collection is made from materials created out of recycled plastic, a technique the designers experimented with around seven years ago when they made t-shirts each created from 11 bottles. "You can make fur-type fabric out of plastic bottles, so you don't need to wear fur. Any type of fabric now can be made out of plastic-based material," explained Vin.

**Pineapple as leather**

But they are also looking beyond plastic and towards natural products which can produce clothes in a more sustainable way. "We've been working with a scientist in Spain who pioneered pineapple skins as leather," said Omi. "We're now looking at locally-sourced chestnuts, that's in abundance here, and it's got the same texture, the same feel to pineapple," he added, recognising that the manufacturing process was however very expensive. Mushrooms which can be grown

to imitate leather, and sustainable latex sourced in Malaysia, are also on the cards.

Although the creation of such fabrics currently comes with high costs, the designers are keen to share their research and have their sights set on an overhaul of the fashion industry. "We want everyone to do it so we can create a global awareness of what can be done, and then governments will change and there will be more processing plants and we can hopefully just get everybody wearing what they've thrown away," said Vin. — AFP



Models present creations by designers VIN + OMI.

## Turn over a new leaf: Chase that autumn foliage on foot

Here's a novel way to enjoy autumn in New England: While the trees are dropping their leaves, you can be shedding some pounds. Activate the "Health" app on your iPhone (it's standard and has a simple red heart icon); don a light jacket; unleash your inner multitasker; and you're good to go. Powered by the same GPS technology your phone's map uses to give you directions, the app will tell you not only how many miles or kilometers you've covered but exactly how many steps you took. If you're a fitness geek, Fitbit, Garmin and other trackers can give you more data than you can shake a poplar branch at, including how many calories you've burned. If you're a beginner looking to start a fitness routine, no sweat. Autumn is the perfect season to get outdoors: crisp and cool, with none of the strength-sapping humidity that can discourage even well-trained athletes.

Scenic trails abound across the region, and they offer some of the most drop-dead-gorgeous places to view foliage off the beaten path while getting in your run or walk. Plus, these places are far less crowded in the fall and are at their most beautiful. Win-win. A guide to some of the more resplendent:

**1. Connecticut: Bull's bridge river walk, Kent**

Route: Don't go chasing waterfalls? Good luck with that if you find yourself hiking this stunning path, which overlaps part of the Appalachian Trail in the Litchfield Hills overlooking the Housatonic River. It's replete with views of cascading falls



Bar Harbor, Maine is seen through a rusting boat cleat attached to a dock. — AP photos

and gorges, and the covered bridge built in 1842 provides an iconic backdrop for foliage photography. You'll find the entrance to the scenic loop off Route 7 between the bridge and the first parking area. Fun fact: George Washington is said to have had a riding accident nearby in 1781.

Steps: 8,448  
Distance: 4 miles, easy/moderate

**2. Maine: Jordan Pond Shore Trail, Cadillac Mountain, Acadia National Park**

Route: Picture a narrow boardwalk hewn from logs, encircling a pinch-me-perfect pond mirroring birch, aspen and oak - all blazing with peak autumn glory. That's the trail around idyllic Jordan Pond, formed by glaciers in the shadow of Acadia National Park's Cadillac Mountain, not far from Bar Harbor and its playful puffins. Part of the trail is over graded gravel; about 4,000 feet of it follows bouncy log bridges. It's mostly flat and affords spectacular foliage-flecked views of the surrounding peaks. Apres-hike, indulge in tea and popovers at the historic Jordan Pond House.

Steps: 6,970  
Distance: 3.3 miles, easy

**3. Massachusetts: Cliff Pond Trail, Nickerson State Park, Brewster**

Route: One of Cape Cod's best-kept secrets isn't its beaches - it's the peninsula's often-overlooked autumn vistas. The foliage itself isn't always five-star, but it's framed by shimmering saltwater ponds and marshes, fieldstone bridges, and acres of crimson cranberries awaiting harvest. You'll find all that and more on a leisurely hike around Cliff Pond, the largest of four ponds contained within Nickerson State Park. The end of Flax Pond Road inside the park is a good place to start. If you're feeling a little more ambitious, the 22-mile Cape Cod Rail Trail can carry you as far as the spirit moves you.

Steps: 6,336  
Distance: 3 miles, easy

**4. New Hampshire: Boulder Loop Trail, Kancamagus Highway, Conway**

Route: Honestly, you don't even have to leave your car to have a religious experience along the serpentine Kancamagus as it winds and twists through the White Mountain National Forest, but you'll be glad you did. There are numerous pullouts for trail heads, but some are steep and rugged. One that's not is the Boulder Loop, on the east side of the highway just off Dugway Road. It'll take you to several rock ledges with leaf-peeping potential that will more than reward any extra huffing and puffing. The



Tourists photograph the sunset at the summit of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park near Bar Harbor, Maine.

roughly circular loop passes numerous gigantic boulders, and an added attraction is the Albany covered bridge.

Steps: 7,392  
Distance: 3.5 miles, moderate

**5. Rhode Island: Colt State Park, Bristol**

Route: On one side, the salt and spray of Narragansett Bay; on the other, undulating footpaths, stone walls and some of the finest flora the Ocean State has to offer. All this is yours within Colt State Park, 464 acres open year-round on a windswept outcropping named Poppasquash Neck in tribute to its Native American roots. The East Bay bikeway connects Colt to other state parks stretching from East Providence to Barrington. Consider a side trip to nearby Blithewold Mansion, whose 33 acres of manicured gardens are well worth wandering.

Steps: 8,236  
Distance: 3.9 miles, easy

**6. Vermont: Island Line Rail Trail, Burlington**

Route: This just might be the hippest, most happening hike in New England. Once known as the Burlington Bikeway, the Island Line Rail Trail skirts the waterfront of Burlington, a vibrant and trendy college town. A promenade here provides sensational views of Lake Champlain

and New York's Adirondack Mountains. The trail runs 14 miles from Burlington to Colchester; it starts at Oakledge Park on Flynn Street, and a good place to turn around is 2.1 miles later at the Union Station trailhead on King Street.

Steps: 8,870  
Distance: 4.2 miles, easy — AP



Peak colors are seen along the Kancamagus Highway in Albany, NH.



A crimson field of blueberry bushes tinged by autumn stretches to the horizon near Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park in Maine.



Leaves turn colors near the summit of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park in Maine.



A man cycles along the Island Line Rail Trail in Burlington, Vt. Viewing fall foliage while walking or running one of New England's many scenic trails is a fun and healthy way to experience autumn.

MUSIC & MOVIES

# Toronto festival doc offers glimpse into sharia, women's rights

Nearly a decade after shattering the glass ceiling of Islamic jurisprudence, the first woman judge to be appointed to a sharia court in the Middle East says women's rights still have a way to go. Kholoud Al-Faqih was at the Toronto film festival on Monday for the premiere of Erika Cohn's documentary "The Judge," which looks at sharia law through the eyes of the first woman judge to be appointed to the Middle East's religious courts. "I'm personally satisfied with the speed of progress in Palestine," Faqih told AFP. "But I wish the rest of the Middle East would hasten their recognition of Arab women's rights."

Eight years ago, Faqih pressed Palestinian chief justice Sheikh Tayseer Al-Tamimi for the judgeship and beat out dozens of male applicants. Tamimi initially laughed off the idea of a woman judge, but eventually was persuaded by her arguments to appoint her and another woman, Asmahan Wuheidi. Many in the West associate sharia courts with religious extremism, but they are used throughout Muslim countries. In the Palestinian territories, civil courts handle criminal, administrative and civil law, while sharia courts adjudicate family issues.

Only two other women have been named to the Palestinian sharia court since Faqih and Wuheidi's appointments in 2009. There are also female religious judges in Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan and Malaysia. Israel appointed its first female judge to a sharia court in April. Faqih and her peers, however, continue to face pushback. "If she gives birth, if she is pregnant or bleeding, she is bound by these things, which affect her work," sharia scholar Husam Al-Deen Afanah was quoted as saying in the film. A young woman at a cafe tells Cohn she would prefer a male judge. "For me, it's painful to hear that a young woman would reject a female judge," Faqih said.

"But if that lady or anybody else comes to my court, they'll have to accept my ruling, because that's the way it is," Tamimi was forced to resign one year after appointing Faqih and Wuheidi to the bench. "Women are not treated equally by the law," he says in the film, holding out hope for change.

**Justice for women**

The film showcases Faqih's tireless fight for justice for women, while illuminating universal domestic conflicts including child custody, divorce and spousal abuse. Cohn



obtained unparalleled court access for the documentary, offering a candid look at life in the Palestinian territories. Getting access, however, was challenging. "People saw me as an American woman with broken Arabic and a tiny camera," Cohn said. "But we just wouldn't take no for an answer." The film opens with the judge discussing women's rights with groups of Palestinian women. It was at one of these meetings that Cohn met Faqih.

In response to a question about Palestinian women needing "equality to men," Faqih comments in the film: "We do indeed need a social revolution." She calls current religious education "shocking," noting: "They have a picture of a woman on the Quran verse about the devil." She points to a lack of understanding of women's rights, and the need for more education. There are moments of levity, such as when a man drags a stranger from a nearby hallway into the court and asks him to testify to his character. Cohn recounts a tragic moment when a man stabbed his wife to death in Faqih's court.

After a moment of reflection during this interview, the director expressed hope that audiences will be inspired by Faqih. "She's an incredibly strong woman and I think a lot of people around the world will identify with her," Cohn said. Then Faqih steps in, offering a piece of legal and personal advice to women. "You must believe in your abilities and your rights in order to reach your full potential," she said. "If you only see yourself in a broken marriage, you will only see pieces of yourself." — AFP

## Patty Jenkins to direct 'Wonder Woman' 2019 sequel

Patty Jenkins will return to direct the 2019 sequel to this year's hit superhero movie "Wonder Woman," film trade publications said on Monday, after she became the highest-grossing female director in Hollywood history. Jenkins, 46, will once again direct Israeli actress Gal Gadot as the superhero in "Wonder Woman 2," scheduled for release on Dec. 13, 2019, publications including Variety and Hollywood Reporter said. Both publications, citing unnamed sources, said Jenkins will be paid around \$8 million to direct the sequel and would also receive a back end of the film's box office gross, which would make her the highest-paid female director in Hollywood history.

Movie studio Warner Bros did not comment on the news and has not given any further details on the sequel. "Wonder Woman" was the first stand-alone movie to star a female superhero since 2005's box office dud

"Elektra," and the first to be directed by a woman. It rode to the top of the box office in June on a wave of good reviews and female empowerment, and with \$816.4 million at the worldwide box office, it is now the second-biggest movie of the year after the live-action version of "Beauty and the Beast." Jenkins overtook Phyllida Lloyd, who directed 2008's musical "Mamma Mia!" for the title of highest-grossing female director. Gadot's "Wonder Woman" will next be seen in November's superhero ensemble movie "Justice League," alongside Ben Affleck's Batman and Henry Cavill's Superman. "Wonder Woman," the fourth film in Warner Bros' current iteration of DC Comics' cinematic franchise, helped boost profits for Warner Bros' parent company Time Warner Inc. — Reuters



In this file photo, director Patty Jenkins poses at the 45th AFI Life Achievement Award Tribute to Keaton at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. — AP

## 'Lady Bird' leads another charge for 'Moonlight' maker A24

Greta Gerwig's directorial debut "Lady Bird" is one of the films that has distributor A24 poised to again be a major player through awards season. After its first best-picture nominee two years ago for the Brie Larson-led "Room," and Barry Jenkins' best-picture winning "Moonlight" last year, A24's blistering streak may well continue. Its films in Toronto also include James Franco's "The Disaster Artist" and Sean Baker's acclaimed "The Florida Project."

"Lady Bird" is an autobiographical coming-of-age tale written and directed by Gerwig and starring Saoirse (SEER-sha) Ronan. The film has been hailed for its witty, honest portrait of a high school senior (a show-stopping Ronan) trying to breaking free of her youth while discovering acting and feuding with her mother. — AP



Liam Neeson attends a premiere for "Mark Felt: The Man Who Brought Down The White House" on day 5 of the Toronto International Film Festival at the Ryerson Theatre. — AP

## Neeson says his days as an action hero are over

Special set of skills or not, Liam Neeson says he's finished making thrillers. In an interview, Neeson said that he plans to stop even though it's hard to turn down the lucrative offers he gets thanks to his box-office success in the three "Taken" films, as well as other thrillers. Neeson believes he's simply getting too old to be an action hero. "The thrillers, that was all a pure accident," said Neeson. "They're still throwing serious money at me to do that stuff. I'm like, 'Guy's I'm sixty-five.' Audiences are eventually going to go, 'Come on.'"

Neeson still has two upcoming revenge thrillers he's already shot: "Hard Powder," in which he plays a snowplow driver who faces off with drug dealers, and "The Commuter," with director Jaume Collet-Serra, who also directed Neeson in "Unknown," "Non-Stop" and "Run All Night." But, Neeson said, those will be his last. "I've shot one that's going to come out in January sometime. There might be another. That's it," said Neeson. "But not 'Taken,' none of that franchise stuff." Instead, Neeson has turned back to dramatic work. His Watergate drama "Mark Felt: The Man Who Brought Down the White House" was to premiere Monday evening at the Toronto International Film Festival. In it, he plays the high-ranking FBI official who was the Washington Post's "Deep Throat" source in the scandal.

Neeson has also lined up to co-star in "Widows," by "Twelve Years a Slave" director Steve McQueen. In December, he starred in Martin Scorsese's spiritual epic "Silence." Neeson was always surprised by the unlikely turn his career took beginning with 2009's "Taken." He thought the film, he once said, would go straight to video. The three "Taken" films have grossed \$929.5 million worldwide. — AP

## THE 'IT' FACTOR: HOW A SCARY BIG HIT COULD CHANGE HORROR

There are no sure things in Hollywood, but modestly-budgeted horror movies come pretty close. This weekend took that thinking to new heights as the big screen adaptation of Stephen King's "It" shattered records and even the boldest predictions with its \$123.4 million debut. Until "It,"

in the works. "It" focuses on the children of Derry, Maine, while Part 2, expected in the third quarter of 2019, will focus on the adults.

Mendelson predicts "It's" success could lead to more modestly budgeted Stephen King adaptations, but cautions against thinking that its results can be replicated. "This was very

that," said Kailey Marsh, who runs her own management company and founded the BloodList, which highlights unproduced "dark genre" scripts. "What I liked about 'It' was that it looked and felt really expensive. It felt as expensive as a \$100 million movie," she said. "It hit a cultural nerve and become one of those rare must-see event movies that all studios long for, but the Warner Bros and New Line production is also a solidly mid-budget film which is its own kind of anomaly in the current moviemaking landscape that has relied heavily on "micro" and low budget horror films in the \$3 to \$15 million range in recent years.

It's a strategy that has worked well for Blumhouse Productions, the company behind the "Paranormal Activity" series, "Insidious," "The Purge," "Sinister," and this year's "Split" and "Get Out" - all of which cost under \$15 million and most under \$5 million - and something other studios have latched on to as well. Aside from "It," only a handful of horror films the past five years have touted budgets over \$20 million, like "The Conjuring" films which are also from Warner Bros and New Line. But even their "Annabelle" spinoffs have been made for \$15 million or less.

"We try to make the best movie that we can with the best content that we can using the best talent that we can. We try to make it at the right price. If the right price is small we'll try to do that," said Jeff Goldstein, who heads up distribution for Warner Bros. Marsh expects some studios to take note of the added return on investment that is possible with a slightly bigger budget. "Because Hollywood is reactionary, and rightfully so, I am excited about not having to develop screenplays that are supposed to be capped at \$10 million," Marsh said. "You can get such a better cast and such better quality in the long run." — AP

much the 'Beauty and the Beast' of horror movies," Mendelson said, referring to the Walt Disney Company's smash live-action hit from earlier this year. "You have a movie that would have been an event by itself, but you also have the source material that captures several generations of interest and nostalgia." Beyond a newly energized appreciation for King's box office potential (excluding "The Dark Tower,") "It" has some wondering whether Hollywood's horror strategy might shift.

**Right price**  
"Everyone has been trying to mold themselves into this low budget model that sort of doesn't work anymore. There are only so many things you can do with a limited budget like



This image released by Warner Bros Pictures shows Bill Skarsgard in a scene from "It." — AP

no horror movie had ever even opened over \$55 million, let alone \$100 million. It had a cast with no movie stars and it only cost \$35 million to produce - on the high end for a modern horror movie, but minuscule compared to standard superhero budgets, which generally cost over \$100 million and often run north of \$250 million.

Even as the industry continues to lament the year's lagging box office, which is down around 5.5 percent from 2016, 2017 has been good for horror with massive successes like "Get Out," "Split," "Annabelle: Creation" and now the new bar set by "It." "If 'It' had made \$120 million total it would have been a huge hit," says Forbes contributor Scott Mendelson. "This is so unprecedented." There is already a sequel



Actress Greta Gerwig attends the InStyle/HFPA Party on day 3 of the Toronto International Film Festival at the Windsor Arms Hotel on Saturday. — AP

## Tonya Harding, Louis C.K. films lead big buys in Toronto

A film that finds the comedy and humanity in Tonya Harding is the biggest acquisition of the Toronto International Film Festival. Domestic distribution rights for "I, Tonya," starring Margot Robbie as the Olympic skater, were on Monday bought by a pair of new companies, Neon and 30West. Trade reports pegged the price at \$5 million.

The film had been the hottest property in Toronto, which many predicting Oscar nominations for Robbie and co-star Allison Janney. The film's producers said it has been "a whirlwind few days" since the movie's well-received premiere. Louis C.K.'s black-and-white "I Love You, Daddy" also sold for a similar amount to the Orchard on Monday. — AP



## BRUNO MARS' FIRST TV SPECIAL TO AIR NOV 29 ON CBS

Bruno Mars is getting his own TV special, a first for the Grammy-winning superstar. Atlantic Records and CBS announced Tuesday that "BRUNO MARS: 24K MAGIC LIVE AT THE APOLLO" will air Nov 29 on CBS. The special was taped at the Apollo Theater in New York's Harlem, and Mars performed on top of the venue's marquee.

Mars and his band also taped performances and interactions with New Yorkers throughout the city. The last year has been a massive success for the singer, songwriter and producer. Mars' recent album, "24K Magic," reached double platinum status, while the single "That's What I Like" hit No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100 and R&B/Hip-Hop songs charts, respectively. The album's first single and title track also reached No. 1 on the R&B charts. Mars will executive produce the special. — AP



The cast and director of "I, Tonya" arrives for its screening during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto on Friday. — AP

# Lifestyle

Casual denim hints at a new era for Oscar de la Renta

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(From left) Maddox Chivan Jolie-Pitt, Pax Thien Jolie-Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Vivienne Marcheline Jolie-Pitt, Knox Leon Jolie-Pitt and Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt attend the premiere of 'First they Killed my Father' at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Ontario. — AFP

## No sand, no problem: Beach football in landlocked Afghanistan

At a makeshift beach in landlocked Afghanistan, children as young as eight, wearing baggy Real Madrid and Barcelona shirts with "Ronaldo" and "Messi" printed on the back, joyfully kick and chase the ball. Kabul's Ghazi stadium was the scene of gruesome executions under Taliban rule but today it is where Afghan youths, the majority of whom have never seen the sea, dream of representing their country at beach football.

"I had no idea about beach football before I joined this program. I have never been to a beach," 14-year-old Mudasir Yousufzai tells AFP, head over heels for his newfound passion.

"We have a lot of problems. We play on dust and rocks, our goals have no net, but because I am in love with it I still like to play," he adds, smiling. Yousufzai is one of dozens of youngsters taking part in a rapidly growing scheme that was set up six months ago to help find the brightest beach football talent in war-torn Afghanistan. The brains behind the project is Hazratgul Baran, who plays for Afghanistan's surprisingly respectable national beach football team—ranked 10 in Asia and 52 in the



world, despite the lack of facilities and sand.

"When I first started this program people wondered what I was doing. They would say, 'How can you prepare people to play beach football when they have no idea what a beach looks like?'" the 28-year-old tells AFP. But Baran has had no problems attracting youngsters to the program. Football is hugely popular in Afghanistan with kids playing on dirt roads, in markets and in schools—wherever the security situation allows. Interest in beach football in particular has boomed since the national team played their first international match, against Qatar, in 2013 — a game they won against the odds.

In the beginning they were inspired by landlocked countries like Switzerland that are doing great internationally, says Ruhullah Rastagar, the director of the Afghan Beach Football Committee. "And now we are doing better than a lot of countries who have beaches. We have beaten powerful teams such as Malaysia and China. If we have enough support, I am sure Afghanistan's beach football team will be at the top of the world rankings soon," he adds.

### Sun, soil, stones

The enthusiasm shown by Afghan children for the beautiful game came to the world's attention last year when six-year-old Murtaza Ahmadi became an online hit after he was pictured wearing an improvised Lionel Messi shirt made out of a plastic bag. He later met his hero. Almost 200 boys, many from extremely poor families, train around three times a week at the Ghazi stadium. "Most of our players are street kids who do not have any other chance to show their talents to the world," says Baran. "I go to very remote areas of Kabul to find these talents. If you can play on the street, you can play on the beach," he adds.

Baran played in the victory over Qatar. Afterwards he signed for a Brazilian beach football club in Sao Paulo but soon returned home, committed to developing Afghanistan's future stars. "Unfortunately, nobody supports us financially. But I hope people help us so that we can continue this program, which is very unique," Baran says. Beach football pitches require a specific type of sand, usually sourced from beaches and desert dunes. But at the Ghazi ground, the kids—many of them barefoot—play on heavier sand used for building construction, which is mixed with soil and rocks. Rather than a glittering ocean as a backdrop, the pitch is surrounded by dried-out thorn bushes.

The laughter of the young players is a welcome change from the ground's sinister past, however. During the Taliban's rule from 1996-2001 thousands of spectators would be called to the stadium to watch a football match. Before kick-off or at half-time people deemed disloyal to the regime were often executed or mutilated in front of the crowd. Now, as dusk falls, the exhausted, dust-covered kids smile as they enthusiastically shake hands before heading home, dreaming of following in Baran's footsteps. — AFP



Afghan youths play beach football at Ghazi stadium in Kabul. — AFP photos

### Bizarre News

#### Robot dog detects smelly feet

A company has invented a robot dog which faints when it detects smelly feet. Hana-chan is the creation of the National Institute of Technology Kitakyushu College, in Kyushu, who have been working on it for over two years. The toy dog, which has been made by their sister company NextTechnology, has a special sensor inside its nose and even sprays air freshener to make the bad pong fresher. NextTechnology's Kimika Tsuji explained how a father's idea came to life. He said: "He told us his daughter had said his feet were smelly. 'But he didn't want to know how bad the odor was because he would feel hurt. That's why we developed this cute robot.'"



#### Police 'severed arm' report is false alarm

Police were called to reports of a "severed hand" on a motorway - but it turned out to be plastic. Avon and Somerset Police were alerted to the cut up body part on Monday morning and jokingly offered "a hand" to anyone in need after finding out it was a false alarm. A tongue-in-cheek tweet on the constabulary's official page read: "Call to say severed hand on motorway. Then confirmed by Highways. Officers take a look - plastic hand! #AnyoneNeedAHand (sic)".



#### Adorable six-year-old pays off classmates lunch debt

A school girl is selling lemonade to pay off her friends' lunch debt. Amiah Van Hill is just six years old, but she had the intuition to setup the stand to make sure her fellow pupils at Hayden Meadows Elementary School in Idaho, are eating properly. She told InsideEdition.com: "Every kid at school needs lunch, so that's my way of helping." Amiah started off by holding up a "lemonade 4 lunch" signpost and managed to make \$40, more than enough for youngsters who receive a reduction in their meal price to be debt free.

#### Man sets Guinness World Record with largest bee beard

A man has set the new Guinness World Record for the biggest bee beard. Juan Carlos Noguez Ortiz has smashed the record for the person who dared to sit still for the longest amount of time whilst the winged animals covered his face, which saw him gain the title. Although Juan works at a honeybee farm and is used to being up close and personal with bees it didn't stop him from being stung. And footage of Juan covered in the insects has taken the world by storm and has gone viral on social media, the video has also been obtained by Metro Online.

#### A study proves 12 year olds are better with technology than their parents

A study has discovered children under 12 years old are better with technology than their parents. Research conducted by Tech Will Save Us has found that almost 70 per cent of parents have noticed their brood are a lot more tech-savvy and are faster on all of the devices than they are. Whilst over 30 percent of those under 12 people can program and code using Python, Javascript, SQL or PHP, in comparison to 24 per cent of mothers or fathers who have perfected the skill. Although children are in the know about a number of topics, parents still worry about how their brood will cope during their first week of school and question whether the youngsters are prepared enough.

#### Pilot faces criticism after taking selfies while flying plane

A pilot was slammed after he posted a selfie of him leaning out of the cockpit whilst flying a plane. Instagram user Pilotganso shared a photograph of him flying above the Palm Islands in Dubai to his 43,000 followers, which received more than 15,000 likes. He captioned the photo: "Its already my second hometown #Dubai Selfie (sic)." However, the unusual image has been met with a lot of criticism, and have caused people to describe the snapshot as a fake, superimposed image. — Bang Showbiz

