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# Kuwaiti, Iraqi media figures discuss boosting cooperation

## KJA delegation hails security situation in Basra



BASRA: Kuwaiti and Iraqi media figures pose for a group photo yesterday. — KUNA

BAGHDAD: The Iraqi Journalists Syndicate (IJS) organized a gathering late Sunday in honor of a visiting Kuwaiti media delegation in Basra. The event was attended by Kuwait's Consul General in Basra Youssef Al-Sabbagh, IJS President Moayad Al-Lami and Iraqi journalists. During the event, Lami hoped that this visit will boost tourism between the two countries and encourage Kuwaiti investments in Basra.

Secretary General of Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) Adnan Al-Rashed hailed the level of security and freedom enjoyed by Basra residents. He also applauded the professionalism of the Iraqi media and its prominent history in the Arab world. Meanwhile, KUNA's Deputy Director General for Editorial Affairs Saad Al-Ali said Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations have notably developed recently. Kuwaiti media will shed light on the positive side of the new and current situation in Iraq, he noted. The gathering involved dialogue on increasing media delegation visits between the two sides

and boosting academic cooperation.

The delegation of Kuwaiti journalists arrived in Basra earlier Sunday for talks with local officials and to visit archeological sites in the nearby Thi Qar governorate. Rashed told KUNA at the Safwan border crossing that meetings and coordination between journalists were important to boost relations between Kuwait and Iraq. He said the fact the delegation arrived by land "is of great significance because it is important to break the psychological barrier facing the communication by land between Iraq and Kuwait".

The delegation is due to meet Basra Governor Asaad Al-Aaidani and visit some archeological sites and the marshes in Thi Qar. The Kuwaiti delegation includes, in addition to Rashed and Ali, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Anbaa Youssef Al-Marzouq, Editor-in-Chief of Kuwait Times Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan and Media Advisor at HH the Prime Minister's Diwan Hassan Al-Sayegh. — KUNA

## Muwaizri in war of words with Ghanem

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri yesterday called on National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem for a full debate over a complaint the lawmaker had filed against the speaker to the International Parliamentarians Union. The complaint was filed several months ago, in which Muwaizri charged that the speaker did not do enough to prevent three Assembly members from going to jail despite enjoying parliamentary immunity.

Ghanem led a strong Assembly delegation to Geneva to explain the Assembly's position over the complaint and declared on Sunday that the IPU rejected the complaint. He lashed out at Muwaizri, accusing him of attempting to tarnish the image of the National Assembly and Kuwait internationally. In his response, Muwaizri said the best way to settle the issue is to have a full debate in the Assembly for everyone to illustrate their viewpoints. Muwaizri also criticized the speaker's use of insults against him. He stressed that he was unaffected by them and demanded a full debate.

Meanwhile, MP Jamaan Al-Harbash said yesterday that the public prosecution informed the Assembly's human rights panel that it has sent a list of pardons to the Amiri Diwan containing the largest number of names in years. Every year, HH the Amir pardons hundreds of prisoners by releasing them or by reducing their jail terms, based on several criteria.

Harbash called on the Amiri Diwan to speed up the procedures to help reduce overcrowding in the central jail. Authorities recently complained that the central jail is highly overcrowded because of the large number of prisoners. The lawmaker said Kuwait should apply a system to make those convicted of simple offences to carry out community services instead of going to jail. He also said the human rights committee wants the life term to be limited to 20 or 25 years in jail.

Separately, opposition MP Mohammad Hayef yesterday asked the finance minister about the requirements and qualifications of board members of Kuwait Airways, which had been transformed into a shareholding company. He demanded the names of the new board formed recently and a copy of the decision appointing them, besides the qualifications and work experience of all the members. Hayef asked if any objections were raised over the makeup of the new board and demanded copies of the complaints and objections, if any.

## Sisi wins 97% of votes; Amir sends congratulations

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has secured a second term with 97 percent of valid votes, according to official results announced yesterday, at an election last week that saw him face no serious rivals. The head of the election authority Lasheen Ibrahim said at a press conference that turnout was 41.05 percent of the almost 60 million registered voters. He said 92.73 percent of the votes were valid from the roughly 24 million cast, while almost two million ballots were spoiled.

Sisi's sole rival and an erstwhile ardent supporter, Moussa Mostafa Moussa, won 2.92 percent of the valid votes, Ibrahim

said. Moussa entered the election at the very last moment after first leading a re-election campaign for Sisi, saving the vote from having just one candidate. Sisi's serious contenders had withdrawn, been sidelined or detained. "These are momentous moments for this nation...which will be written in letters of light, under the title: Battle for the love of Egypt," Ibrahim said. "The entire world heard your chants for the love of Egypt," he said.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday cabled Sisi expressing congratulations on his re-election as president of the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt. The Amir voiced felicitations to President Sisi on his election to a second term in office, expressed good wishes in his service to the nation, lauded the distinguished and historic ties between the two countries and noted his aspiration to stronger bonds and greater

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CAIRO: A man carries a copy of a newspaper bearing the portrait of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi during a press conference by the National Elections Authority to announce the official result of presidential election yesterday. — AFP

## Saudi Arabia bans spying on spouse's phone

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia yesterday announced "spying" on your spouse's phone is now a criminal offence potentially punishable by a hefty fine - and a year in jail. "Married individuals planning to spy on their spouse in Saudi Arabia will need to think twice, because such an activity could potentially attract a fine of 500,000 riyals

(\$133,000), along with a prison term for a year," read an English-language statement released by Saudi Arabia's information ministry.

The provision, part of a new anti-cybercrime law which came into force last week, is meant to "protect morals of individuals and society and protect privacy", the ministry said. The move comes amid a "steady increase in cybercrimes such as blackmail, embezzlement and defamation", the statement said. The ultraconservative kingdom is among the world's top per capita users of cellphone apps and social media. More than half of Saudi Arabia's citizens are under 25, many of whom spend much of their time on mobile platforms, away from official strictures and traditions.

Saudi Arabia has launched a string of highly-publicized policy changes since the rise of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to power last year. The country will allow women to drive from June and has lifted a decades-long ban on cinemas. Saudi Arabia's legislation on cybercrime has drawn harsh criticism from international rights groups in the past. Dozens of Saudi citizens have been convicted on charges linked to dissent under a previous sweeping law, particularly linked to posts on Twitter. Last September, authorities issued a public call for citizens to report on the social media activities of their fellow citizens, under a broad definition of "terrorist" crimes. It directed suspicious activity be reported via the government-run "We are all security" app. — AFP

## Caste protests across India leave 7 dead

NEW DELHI: Low-caste Dalits fought street battles with police yesterday that left at least seven dead as protests against a Supreme Court rights ruling swept across large swathes of India. Protesters clashed with security forces, attacked buses and government buildings, and blocked trains and major roads. Four were reported dead in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, while three others were killed in other states, local media said.

Madhya Pradesh was the worst hit, but Rishi Kumar Shukla, director general of the state police, told AFP the protests had been brought "under control". A curfew was imposed in parts of Gwalior due to the unrest. Anshuman Yadav,

police inspector general for the city, told AFP. There were media reports of more deaths in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh, but police could not immediately confirm fatalities. One death in Uttar Pradesh was in Muzaffarnagar. "Some 30 police and about 30-35 protesters were also injured, one of them seriously," said Praveen Kumar, the state police deputy inspector general.

Rahul Prakash, superintendent of police in Alwar in Rajasthan, said two or three people had been hit by bullets during clashes in the city. Police added that about 20 people had been injured. Trouble was also reported in the capital New Delhi, and Punjab and Bihar states. Television showed police beating protesters and an unidentified person firing shots, with demonstrators in the northern state of Haryana also setting police posts ablaze and attacking shops. The "Bharat Bandh" - or India shutdown - protest was called by groups representing the Dalits, once condemned as the

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MEERUT, India: A protester (center) is beaten by students after members of the Dalit community and other low-caste groups threw bricks at their college during a nationwide protest yesterday. — AFP

## Local

# KFH launches all-new Quran app with enhanced features

## A gift from bank to the public around the globe

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) launched the high-quality version 4 of the Holy Quran Application available on App



Store for iPhone and iPad users with enhanced features of which are a novel display design, compatibility with different languages and screen orientation: horizontal and vertical.

Group Chief Strategy Officer at KFH, Eng Fahad Khaled Al-Mukhaizeem, said that the version 4 of the Holy Quran App is a gift from KFH to all users around the globe who are seeking to benefit from the latest available mobile technology, especially after the great success of previous versions of the Holy Quran app where the number of users worldwide on IOS and Android outpaced 3 million users.

This emphasizes the success of KFH initiatives in adopting technology. It strengthens KFH's identity in all its businesses as a

world leading Islamic financial institution. The application will assist in spreading the Holy Quran and its meanings and teachings among users around the globe. Al-Mukhaizeem added in a press statement, that the all-new Holy Quran app supports the new versions of iPhones and iPads such as iPhone X, iPad Pro. It is specially designed to both display and provide audio for the Holy Quran in an easy and interactive way.

This latest release gives users an ability to interact with the app while keeping the beauty of the Holy Quran such as the Othmani font, inscriptions and directories verses; of Soura and Ayah, side margins to enhance the aesthetics of the content, display more than one page on the screen, the

ability to operate with another application on the screen, save the options used and retrieve them on more than one device, as well as the previous features of interpretations and translations of several languages, night light feature and other features.

Al-Mukhaizeem indicated KFH will continue upgrading the Holy Quran application, revealing that one of the main features of the upcoming phase is the ability to share Holy Quran verses on social media channels, supporting guidance features for the blind in addition to several features and characteristics. iPhone and iPad users can visit App Store and download the free Quran app by adding KFH on the search list. It is worth noting that KFH had launched the first version of the Holy Quran app in 2010.



Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

## Startups in Kuwait

## Shareholder agreements



By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

The startup scene in Kuwait has really taken off. We have a lot of talent, creativity and independence in Kuwait but also the legal and economic system in Kuwait has changed in the past few years. The rise in the number of local startup businesses is also because of the Kuwait National Fund, a fund in Kuwait that provides funding, training and resources for startups and small to medium businesses in Kuwait. They have helped kickstart many successful projects in Kuwait in a wide range of sectors.

There is also the Kuwait Business Center that aims to assist small businesses with obtaining a license in a simple manner, allowing them to apply online. Also KDIPA is playing an important role shifting our economic system encouraging foreign investments in Kuwait. This is all great, but there are other issues that startup owners and partners have to deal with and that require the guidance of a lawyer.

Although there is a lot of positive changes the legal system still has a long way to go for it to be startup-friendly. There are still no commercial licenses in Kuwait for "mobile applications" even though there are many tech startups in Kuwait. There are also many rights that startups or founders of startups need that are not available to them and cannot be included in the shareholders agreement or articles of association of a company, that may otherwise be available in other countries that are startup friendly, such as the BVI.

**Question:** We are starting a company made of three partners. My partner will be working for his shares while the other partner and I will be investing in the company. I tried explaining this to the Ministry of Commerce to register a company, but they needed us to all transfer amounts to a bank account, paying for our shares. Can you please explain what we can do to protect each party and to have a fair shareholding agreement?

**Fajer:** There is more than one thing to think of in this situation. The team is one of the most important assets you have, so it is important to understand where everyone is coming from and their role in the company.

One thing to look out for with sweat equity is a vesting schedule. [Sweat equity is the contribution made to a project or enterprise by one or more key members in the form of effort and work]. A vesting schedule is when you receive stock for every month or milestone you have worked. This is important because you then make sure that the partner is working for the percentage, instead of getting it at the beginning.

There are many other clauses to look at in a shareholders agreement that I won't discuss here, as I mentioned above in Kuwait we keep using a very general shareholder agreement, that doesn't seem to discuss many shareholders issues and definitely doesn't protect investors that depend on sweat equity for the company to continue running. I hope we continue to see changes in Kuwait soon in the legal system to help protect both investors, founders and employees in startups.

For more questions or comments,  
email: [info@ftl-legal.com](mailto:info@ftl-legal.com)

## CRSK restores manuscripts, documents

**KUWAIT:** Center for Research and Studies on Kuwait (CRSK) exerts great efforts to restore damaged manuscripts and documents due to their historic significance in Kuwait's culture and heritage. CRSK targets the conservation and restoration of manuscripts and documents kept inside the center itself or in Kuwait's ministries. The process requires wide knowledge of substances used in creating manuscripts in order to use the right method when restoring, to avoid creating extra damage.

Speaking to KUNA yesterday, head of the restoration department at CRSK Sheikha Al-Suaidan said that the first step is sterilizing the documents using a special device to get rid of insects and other living organisms that cause damage. Such residues could not be traced by the naked eye. The process is then followed by the cleaning phase to remove dust and other dirt from the surface of manuscripts using brushes and sponges hooked to special machines, she said. Meanwhile, Al-Suaidan noted that the center uses manual restoration, which is far more expensive than mechanical; using natural Japanese paper similar to the substances used in the old manuscripts.

The final phase is conservation and storing, where documents and manuscripts are stored under specific conditions, including fixed lighting and temperatures.



The center had restored over 15 million historic documents and manuscripts belonging to Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, 850,000 on the Iraqi Invasion, over 800,000 Islamic documents for the National Library of Kuwait and many more. CRSK was

established in December 1992 by an Amiri decree, aiming to be a main source for knowledge on Kuwait's history and heritage. The center's goal is to conduct research on Kuwait and publish them both locally and internationally. — KUNA



## Kuwait, Philippines officials hold talks

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Director General of the Residency Affairs Directorate Major Gen Talal Maarafi held a meeting with a delegation from the Philippines embassy headed by Deputy Labor Minister, the ambassador and general consul in Kuwait. The meeting was also attended by Assistant Director General of Residency Affairs Maj Gen Abdullah Al-Hajiri, Director of the Central Department of Residency Systems Col Hamad Al-Tawala, Director of Financial, Administrative and Maintenance Services Col Jarrah Al-Adwani and Director of the Domestic Help Department

Mohammad Al-Ajmi. The meeting was to find a mechanism to quickly bring in Philippine domestic helpers and discuss obstacles the community faces.

### Kiosks, shops removed

The Municipality's Public Relations Department said Capital branch inspectors are continuing the removal of kiosks and new shops in markets and investment and industrial areas that are in violation of building codes. Head of the emergency team Zaid Al-Enezi said 12 new shops were removed from industrial and commercial lots.

### Database of catastrophes

Acting Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate Maj Gen Khalid Al-Tarkeet opened the first workshop on the database of catastrophes and losses with the participation of more than 25 government bodies. Deputy Director General for Fighting Sector Affairs Maj Gen Jamal Al-Bulaihees also attended the event.



## Asians to be deported for kissing in public

**KUWAIT:** Hawally Security Director Maj Gen Abdeen Al-Abdeen ordered an Indian and a Filipina be detained prior to their deportation for kissing in public in Jabriya. A security source said police responded to calls about the couple's behavior and made the arrest.

### 'Shot by mistake'

An Egyptian who works in a weaponry shop was hit by a pellet by mistake. A citizen who was in the store at the time of the accident said he did not mean to shoot the expat, adding that he didn't think the weapon was loaded. The Egyptian was rushed to hospital in an unstable condition.

### Kuwaiti swindled

An employee at a travel agency spoiled plans of a media man to travel to Europe after he took his money and cancelled all reservations. The citizen told Nagra police that he gave an Egyptian travel agent KD 1,800 to make hotel reservations in Europe, but he later realized he was swindled, as the employee cancelled the reservations and did not answer calls. Police found the suspect has left the country.

### Drunk citizen arrested

A drunk citizen was arrested after he hit the car of a policeman who was heading to work. The drunk swerved towards the policeman's car, who hit the pavement, damaging the car in the process. The suspect then sped off. Other police patrols pursued the suspect, caught him and found a liquor bottle.

### Tattoo girl reunited

Sharq detectives reunited a girl with her family after she left them due to a dispute with her mother over a tattoo on her arm. Detectives traced her phone and located her near seaside Shaab, where she was found with two persons. All three were taken to the police station, and the girl's family was called in to retrieve her.

### Citizen with lewd toys

A citizen was arrested with lewd toys as well as 11 heroin injections. Police also found he is wanted for a civil sentence implementation. The man was in an abnormal condition in Mahboula when he was stopped. He also had shabu besides the heroin.

### Contractor wanted

A Syrian is wanted for swindling a citizen out of KD 3,500. The citizen told Kabd police that the Syrian placed an ad claiming to be a contractor, and agreed with him to build a swimming pool at the cost of KD 7,000, of which he paid 3,500, but the contractor disappeared. The citizen gave police a receipt of the amount.

—Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

Local

# Kuwait and Comoros agree to form cooperation committee

## Amir and his guest swap top-grade medals



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait and the Republic of Comoros yesterday agreed to form a joint cooperation committee. The accord was inked at Bayan Palace, with attendance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the visiting President of the Comoros Azali Assoumani.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah signed the agreement on behalf of Kuwait. Mohamed El-Amine Souef, the Comoros Foreign Minister inked it on his government's behalf. Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir and his guest swapped top-grade medals at a ceremony at Bayan Palace. His Highness also honored the president and his delegation with a luncheon. Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir held official talks at Bayan Palace with President of the Comoros Azali Assoumani, who is currently on a visit to the country.

The talks were held in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The talks, according to Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, related to bilateral relations and issues of common interest. President of the Comoros and his accompanying delegation arrived to the country yesterday. He was received at the airport by His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior state officials. A mission of honor, headed by Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Abulhassan, was formed to accompany the distinguished guest. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** The visiting President of the Comoros Azali Assoumani meets Finance Minister Mayef Al-Hajraf at the guests' residence at Bayan Palace. Mohammad Abdullah Abulhassan, the Amiri Diwan Advisor, attended the meeting.

## Inspection team destroys inedible food items

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Mubarak Al-Kabeer food and nutrition inspection team announced destroying 3,697 kilos and 1,362 cartons, gallons and buckets of inedible food items. Team leader Abdullah Ahmed Abbas said his department had received a letter from a foodstuff company requesting the official destruction of the aforementioned foul and inedible food items.

### Training Kuwaiti youth

Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan expressed his appreciation of the Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE) as one of the oldest and most professionally operating societies in Kuwait. Speaking on opening the International Young Engineers Training Forum at Al-Raya Ballroom, Roudhan said Kuwait needs young engineers' efforts. He added that an agreement had been signed between Public Authority for Industry and the Small and Medium Enterprises Fund to train young Kuwaiti graduates of PAAET and industrial engineering in various specialties. He added that he had reached an agreement with various German colleges last week to train Kuwaiti youth, who would then be given land plots to start their own industrial projects.

KSE Chairman Faisal Al-Ottol stressed Kuwaiti engineers are working hard to achieve the human development needed to achieve Kuwait's 2035 vision by supporting Kuwaiti engineers. Also speaking on the occasion, Jordanian Engineers Syndicate Secretary General Mohammed Abu Afifa stressed that engineers are mandated to pass special tests to get a license to operate in

Jordan as professional engineers. He noted that around 2,000 Jordanian engineers work in Kuwait.

Chairperson of the Arab Integrated Development Council Moshera Abu Ghali spoke about the role of training in solving employment problems, noting that since its establishment, the council has been working on improving the bonds between Arab youth and the Arab League in terms of social, economic, cultural and scientific development.

### Protect environment law

Chairperson of Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) Wejdan Al-Oqab urged various bodies, citizens and expats to cooperate with the environmental police to help protect the environment law. "Imposing environment law number 42/2014 at various government and private bodies is for the best of protecting both citizens and expats' environmental rights," she said, noting that the environment police are authorized to inspect any public or private facility (except private residences) to make sure the law is respected and fully observed. "The lesson we should probably learn from the recent incident at Jaber Al-Ahmed Secondary school is that people are still unaware of this law," Oqab added, urging all school directors to use the law to improve their schools and protect students' environmental rights in terms of lab safety conditions, disposal of solid and chemical wastes and drinking water quality.

### 'Knowledge Economy Browser'

The Supreme Planning and Development Council's Secretary General Khaled Mahdi stressed the need to continue supporting research as the basic foundation to establish creative human resources capable of achieving the sought sustainable development and attracting investments. Speaking to reporters after signing the contract of the 'Knowledge Economy Browser' project, Mahdi stressed that the browser will help researchers, students and various scientific bodies access the latest scientific studies, researches and papers.

## Constitution guarantees judiciary independence

**MARRAKECH:** Kuwait Minister of Justice Fahad Al-Afasi said yesterday constitution of Kuwait guaranteed independence of judiciary, which was the guardian of rights and freedoms. Al-Afasi, also Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, said constitution was providing guarantees for judges to carry out their role "in an independent manner and away from any influence of guidance."

He was speaking before an international conference on Justice, which featured ministers, chief justices, prosecutors and legal experts from 80 Arab and Western countries. The constitution of Kuwait, he added, affirmed "there is no authority over the judge in the court room and the interference in judicial process is forbidden." Al-Afasi said the constitution also stipulated establishment of the supreme judicial council, which enforces independence of judiciary. "This council, he added, was tasked with appointing the judges and public prosecutors.

Al-Afasi meanwhile highlighted importance of the conference to promoting dialogue over the independence and development of judicial systems, in a way that secured rights and freedoms of societies. Moroccan Minister of Justice Mohammad Aujjar said many countries around the world were reviewing their judicial systems in order to strengthen role of judiciary and ensure fair trials. — KUNA



Fahad Al-Afasi



Sahar Dashti speaking at the 'Financial and Spending Awareness Forum'

## AUB sponsors 'Financial and Spending Awareness Forum'

**KUWAIT:** In line with its ongoing social program, Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced its sponsorship of the 'Financial and Spending Awareness Forum', which originally began in 2013, with the objective of driving more awareness towards youth and younger members of society on managing their money. The event aims also at highlighting the importance of saving, paving the way for a new generation that is financially aware. This initiative was held successfully in 2016, with more than 7 million young people from 132 countries including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates participating.

On this occasion, Tareq Muhmood, AUB's Senior Deputy CEO Banking Group said, "We are extremely pleased to participate in this unique forum, especially when Kuwait is a participant for the first time. We consider this event as a core part of our social responsibility activities in Kuwait as it helps spread

financial awareness amongst the younger generation". "AUB, as a longstanding leading financial institution in Kuwait, supports this forum by sharing our expertise across the banking sector, by driving more financial awareness across society, and by highlighting the importance of sound financial management. Raising awareness amongst young people will positively impact the relationship AUB has with its customers."

Moreover, Sahar Dashti, AUB's Assistant General Manager - Complaints and Customer Protection said, "Awareness around financial management has not received as much exposure across the media in the region as it deserves, especially amongst the younger segments of society". Dashti further noted that "Caring for and providing the necessary tools for young people to prepare them for their future is of paramount importance to AUB and is key amongst the Bank's CSR priorities in 2018."

The Bank recently hosted a number of students from various schools in Kuwait at its Head Office, the visits being aimed at reinforcing students' understanding of the banking sector. Students also had the chance to meet with Richard Groves, AUB's CEO, who showed a major interest in exchanging a two-way dialogue with the students. He further explained the nature of banking operations, in line with AUB's continued efforts to help develop a broad range of educational activities."

## Minister, Parliamentary Committee discuss PAI budget and vacancies

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The parliamentary budgets and final statement committee chairman Adnan Abdulsamad said the committee met yesterday with Ministry of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan to discuss Public Authority for Industry's 2018-2019 budget, final statement and the Audit Bureau report about it. Abdulsamad stressed that Roudhan promised to fill 134 vacancies in PAI soon and explained that the vacancies were the result of referring over 90 employees to retirement.

### Performance bonuses

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fareed Emadi stressed that this year's excellent performance bonuses would be deposited in employees' bank accounts this month. Emadi said 30 percent of the ministry's Kuwaiti employees and 10 percent of expatriate employees will receive the bonus. Meanwhile, Ministry of Electricity and Water Undersecretary Mohammed Boshehri said that the ministry will also deposit the excellence performance bonuses in employees' bank account by the beginning of May. Boshehri said the total bonuses of KD 10 million will be paid to around 80 percent of the ministry's employees (ie over

17,000 out of the ministry's 22,000 employees).

### Northern dock's tender

Following reviewing various offers by KNPC, Arabi Company for Energy and Technology is getting closer to winning a tender to repair the northern dock at Mina Ahmadi refinery. KNPC announced that Arabi Company offered KD 19 million to restore and repair the current dock and extend its validity until 2030.

### No serious violations

Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf stressed that no serious violations had been detected in the performance of the PPP authority. Reviewing the annual report he submitted to both the Cabinet and the parliament, Hajraf said the First Al-Zour Company will build and operate Al-Zour Northern plant with a full capacity of 1539.2 megawatts and 107 million gallons of water.

### Total estimated revenues

Official statistics showed that the total estimated revenues in the Capital Markets Authority's 2018-2019 budget will be KD 2.7 billion, which is KD 502,300 less than those of 2017-2018. Statistics also showed total spending is KD 36.8 billion and that the KD 34 million deficit will be covered from CMA reserves. In another development, the Civil Service Commission agreed to pay the head and members of the temporary committee entrusted to run the Municipal Council's monthly payments equal to those allocated to the original chairman and members, said CSC Chairman Ahmed Al-Jassar, noting that the committee chairman will get a salary of KD 2,300, his deputy will get KD 2,000 and committee members will get KD 1,800 each.

### News in brief

#### KPC, KISR ink accord

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) yesterday inked an agreement aimed at assessing oil projects and backing up the KPC 2040 strategy. The KPC, Kuwait's largest oil body and umbrella of a chain of subsidiaries, said in a statement the deal aimed at employing the two sides' efforts for attaining the aspired development objectives as part of Kuwait Vision 2035. Dr Samira Omar, KISR's General Director, said it also aimed at boosting cooperation with the oil sector, as well as other national institutions. Omar and Nizar Al-Adsani, the KPC CEO, inked the accord. — KUNA

#### Kuwait wins athletics gold

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti athletics team has won the first gold medal in a tournament abroad. Jarrah Al-Fadhli, the rapporteur of the Kuwaiti athletics committee affiliated to the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, said in a statement yesterday that the team won the gold in the fifth Ras Al-Khaimah (UAE) championship. This is a leap for the newly-born game in Kuwait, said Al-Fadhli, speaking after return of the team from Ras Al-Khaimah where the champion, Yousef Jumaa, came first in the 94-kg category. Jumaa was excellent in all the competitions of the championship, which concluded two days ago, he added. — KUNA

#### CBK issues bonds

**KUWAIT:** The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday announced its most recent issues of bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KD 240 million (\$792 million). The issuance is for six months with a rate of return 2.375 percent. The last similar issuance of bonds and related Tawarruq by the CBK was on March 27 for three months with rate of return 2.250 percent. — KUNA

Local

# Boursa Kuwait working on a host of world-class products, services

Modernizing the infrastructure is 'a priority'



Khaled Al-Khaled

**KUWAIT:** Modernizing the infrastructure of Boursa Kuwait (the Kuwait stock exchange) in line with the international criteria is 'a priority' for building a strong, transparent, and fair capital market serving all investment assets related to securities. Boursa Kuwait Company CEO Khaled Al-Khaled made the statement in an interview with KUNA yesterday, a day after the stock exchange applied the second phase of revamping the bourse with a new system dividing the market into three sub-ones, Premier,

Main, and Auctions. The company is working on a host of world-class products and services: short selling, marginal lending, market maker, trading in investment funds and derivatives, Al-Khaled added. To avoid risks, these products will be launched to increase liquidity on the market once the necessary infrastructure is in place. Al-Khaled noted that the bourse is hard at work to lure international, family and government companies to the market, as well as public-private partnerships

firms. He said that the launch of the second phase of developing the bourse on Sunday offered more flexible listing rules. According to the CEO, each sub-market has a particular listing requirements, except for auctions. They focus on the free-floating value and not a ratio from the capital, besides removing the profitability requirement, a matter that will help diversify the listed companies in terms of operation, in a way that mirrors the local economy, Al-Khaled said. The new listing rules have seen the

shareholder condition changed from 200 to 450, with a minimum KD 10,000 (\$33,000) for each stockholder, which will raise liquidity. In the meantime, Al-Khaled noted that the changes in the market after the second phase seek to boost transparency and disclosure, to enhance investors' confidence in the market. On the abolition of the "Price Index" of the old system, Al-Khaled said it was not "suitable for the market, as it did not represent the value of the local economy. —KUNA

## Ghiras honors ABK

**KUWAIT:** In line with its CSR plans to raise awareness for local health-related issues and contribute to economic growth, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently sponsored a program titled 'Building Parents Abilities in the Prevention of Drug Use and Negative Behavior' initiated by The National Anti-Drug Media Project (Ghiras). Held in collaboration with Mentor International and under the supervision of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, Ghiras honored ABK for its contribution at a ceremony that took place at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Kuwait last week. During the event, the Bank received a trophy from Dr Ahmed Al Shatti General Manager of Ghiras and HE Hind Al-Sabeeh, Minister of Social Affairs & Labor and Economic Affairs, which was collected by Fawzy Al Thunayan, General Manager - Board Affairs at ABK. "Through our sponsorship of initiatives by Ghiras, we are engaged in helping to raise awareness on serious issues such as the prevention of drug abuse and negative behavior among



the youth," said Fawzy Al Thunayan, General Manager - Board Affairs at ABK. "We hope to continue contributing to these kinds of activities to promote greater awareness and understanding of the prevention of drug-related issues." The awareness program, which will run for 3 months, aims at educating families to prevent

their children from using drugs and negative behavior, and acts as an educational platform by including training sessions and workshops to build families' abilities in prevention of drug use. For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 18998999.

## Kuwait showcases artistic creativity

**KUWAIT:** The second autism artistic exhibition was launched yesterday at Ahmad Al-Adwani Gallery. The fair, sponsored by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, involves 35 artists from schools, societies and vari-

ous centers. The two-day exhibition aims at shedding light on creativity by artists of special challenges. Special needs' artists are displaying creative works, such as paintings, wax and handicrafts items. —KUNA



# Kuwait Times

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\* Kuwait Times employees, spouses and their second-degree relatives also cannot participate.

## Local

# Kuwait official predicts oil prices near \$70 per barrel

## Crude oil exports to Japan down 1st time in 4 months

**KUWAIT:** The Acting Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Oil Sheikh Talal Al-Sabah has foreboded that the price of a barrel of oil in the global market could hit \$70, citing a "historic" OPEC deal to limit output. Speaking to the press as the ministry unveiled its new website yesterday, the Kuwaiti official expected the price of oil to remain within the range of \$50 to 60 per barrel (pb) - allaying concerns over a further dip in prices. He described OPEC's deal to slash oil production as a significant achievement, saying that the current oil price of \$62 to 63 pb was acceptable.

Sheikh Talal pointed out that the prices of oil are stabilizing thanks in part to an agreement between OPEC and non-OPEC producers to extend output cuts beyond the year 2018, as they seek to clear a global glut of crude. Meanwhile, he revealed that Kuwait is on the verge of sealing a deal to import gas from neighboring Iraq, saying the plan "has reached its final stages." The Kuwaiti official noted that the website promises visitors a better user experience with many new features, including a new design, which makes it easier to navigate. The website also provides a wealth of information on the oil industry,

he added, which makes it a comprehensive source for all the statistics and facts that readers yearn for.

### Crude oil exports

Meanwhile, Kuwait's crude oil exports to Japan fell 22.5 percent in February from a year earlier to 6.29 million barrels, or 225,000 barrels per day (bpd), for the first decline in four months, government data showed. However, Kuwait remained Japan's third-biggest oil provider, supplying 7.5 percent of the Asian nation's total crude imports, the Japanese Natural Resources and Energy Agency said in a preliminary report.

Japan's overall imports of crude oil slid 15.4 percent year-on-year to 2.99 million bpd for the third straight month of drop. Shipments from the Middle East accounted for 87.4 percent of the total, up 1.9 percentage points from a year before. Saudi Arabia continued to be Japan's No.1 oil supplier, but imports from the kingdom shrank 13.9 percent from a year earlier to 1.24 million bpd, followed by the United Arab Emirates with 693,000 bpd, down 7.6 percent. Qatar ranked fourth with 218,000 bpd and Russia fifth with 215,000 bpd, respectively. Japan is the world's-third biggest oil consumer after the US and China. —Agencies

## Ooredoo takes part in 10th GIS User Conference

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait participated in the 10th GIS User Conference which was held over the course of two days last week in the Regency Hotel. The conference which was titled "Collaborating for Better Work Environment" was organized by the Kuwait GIS User Group in collaboration with the Central Agency for Information Technology, and a plethora of private and public sector entities such as the Kuwait Municipality, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, the Ministry of Water and Electricity, the Environment Public Authority, the Kuwait Geography Society, and other academic and professional experts in the field of geographic information system.

Ooredoo Kuwait's Senior Specialist, Geo Marketing Noura Al Rabaiei gave an inclusive presentation about the company's experience from utilizing geo-marketing technologies to better understand consumers and deliver tailored services that best suit their needs. In a statement to the press, Ooredoo Kuwait underscored that its participation in the conference stems from its belief in the important role that GIS plays today in serving both individuals and businesses alike. The company reiterated its commitment to keeping up with the most advanced technologies in this important field, and expressed its gratitude to the Kuwait GIS User Group and the Central Agency for Information Technology for extending this invitation to Ooredoo Kuwait.



In its 10th edition, the conference focused on the latest and most advanced updates in the geographic information system field, especially with the increase of spending in this particular sector which reached more than 1 billion USD. The conference provided an ideal setting to learn about the latest in this field, given that it is the biggest conference for professions and experts locally and regionally. The conference included 49 workshops and lectures aimed to introduce attendees of the latest trends and modalities of usage and methods of application, with regional and international expertise all under one roof.

## GCC Shield II drill kicks off

**RIYADH:** GCC Shield (II), the second phase of the joint military training, kicked off on Sunday with live ammunition. The field exercise will last for five consecutive days, which will include participating forces conducting training on land, air, sea, in addition to air defense and special forces training, the military spokesman for the drill, Brigadier Abdullah Al-Subaie quoted by Saudi press agency (SPA) as saying.

Al-Subaie added that such drills aim at increasing the level of efficiency of the participating forces to meet the challenges and threats within the framework of joint operations, and to achieve an efficient joint action performance, utilizing many modern and advanced weapons. GCC Shield (I) drill, kicked off last month, was organized by the Saudi Ministry of Defense, and included 23 countries, among them the State of Kuwait. Last week the training that took place was one of the largest military action plans to mobilize forces worldwide, Al-Subaie added. Giant military aircrafts were used from participating countries to transport officers, soldiers, equipment and gear to be used during the exercise. —KUNA

## Zain sponsors 'Ma'a Hamad Show'



**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading company in mobile telecommunications in Kuwait, recently concluded its Platinum sponsorship of the third season of the popular TV show 'Ma'a Hamad Show' - shown on Al-Rai TV and presented by the social media star Hamad Al-Ali. A statement issued by Zain stressed that sponsoring the show for three years comes within its keenness in supporting youth efforts and ideas, especially since the shows crew included a group of promising Kuwaiti youth. The show was presented by the famous social media star Hamad Al-Ali (AKA Hamad Qalam). Part of the money realized from the tickets this year was donated to some charities in Kuwait.

# A Millionaire? Forget it...



Malaysia government approves 'fake news' law despite outcry

## Gaza protests fade for now, but both sides brace for more



JOHANNESBURG: In this file photo taken on June 30, 2017 former wife of the late South African President Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela (C) holds the hands of South African President Jacob Zuma (L) and South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa (R) during the opening session of the South African ruling party African National Congress policy conference. —AFP

# Winnie Mandela: S Africa's flawed heroine dies

## Played a high-profile role in battle to end white-minority rule

JOHANNESBURG: Winnie Mandela, the former wife of South African anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, died yesterday at the age of 81, her spokesman said. She died in a Johannesburg hospital after a long illness, spokesman Victor Dlamini said in a statement. Winnie Mandela, who was married to Nelson Mandela for 38 years, played a high-profile role in the battle to end white-minority rule but her place in history was also stained by controversy.

"It is with profound sadness that we inform the public that Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela passed away at the Netcare Milpark Hospital, Johannesburg, South Africa on Monday," said a statement issued by Dlamini, a family spokesman. "She died after a long illness, for which she had been in and out of hospital since the start of the year. She succumbed peacefully in the early hours of Monday afternoon surrounded by her family and loved ones."

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's marriage to Nelson Mandela and her anti-apartheid activism ensured many South Africans saw her as "the mother of the nation", but her past was littered with dark controversies. Born Nomzamo Winifred Zanyiwe Madikizela, and always known simply as "Winnie", she was married to Nelson for 38 years—one of the most storied romances of modern history.

Most of their marriage was spent apart, with Nelson imprisoned for 27 years, leaving her to raise their two daughters alone and to keep alive his political dream under the repressive white-minority regime. In 1990 the world watched when Nelson Mandela finally walked out of prison hand in hand with Winnie. But they separated just two years later and divorced in 1996 after a legal wrangle that revealed her affair with a young bodyguard.

With or without Nelson, Winnie built her own role as a tough, glamorous and outspoken black activist with a loyal grassroots following in the segregated townships. "From every situation I have found myself in, you can read the political heat in the country," she said in a biography. Winnie was born September 26, 1936, in the village of Mbongweni in what is now Eastern Cape.

She completed university, a rarity for black women at the time, and became the first qualified social worker at Johannesburg's Baragwanath Hospital. It was her political awakening, especially her research work in Alexandra township on infant mortality, which found 10 deaths in every 1,000 births. "I started to realize the abject poverty under which most people were forced to live, the appalling conditions created by the inequalities of the system," she said.

### Hounded by police

Nelson Mandela, who was then married to his first wife, met Winnie at a bus stop in Soweto when she was 22. They wed in June 1958, but he soon went underground, pursued by the apartheid authorities. In October that year, Winnie was arrested for the first time at a protest by women against the pass system that restricted movements of black people in white-designated areas.

After Nelson was sentenced to life in prison in 1964, Winnie was also in and out of jail as the police hounded her in a bid to demoralize him. Government security forces tortured her, tried locking her up, confined her to Johannesburg's Soweto township, and then banished her to the desolate town of Brandfort, where her house was bombed twice. She was allowed to visit her husband in prison rarely, and they were always divided by a glass screen.

Throughout the height of apartheid, Winnie remained at the forefront of the struggle, urging students in the Soweto uprising in 1976 to "fight to the bitter end". But in the 1980s, the militant-martyr began to be seen as a liability for Mandela and the liberation movement. She had surrounded herself with a band of vigilante bodyguards called the Mandela United Football Club, who earned a terrifying reputation for violence. Winnie was widely linked to "necklacing", when suspected traitors were burnt alive by a petrol-soaked car tyre being put over their head and set alight. Her notoriety was reinforced by a speech in 1986 when she declared that "with our boxes of matches and our necklaces we shall liberate this country."

### 'Something went horribly wrong'

In 1991, Winnie was convicted of kidnapping and assault over the killing of Stompie Moeketsi, a 14-year-old boy. Moeketsi, who was accused being an informer, was murdered by her bodyguards in 1989. Her jail sentence was reduced to a fine, and she denied involvement in any murders when she appeared before Archbishop Desmond Tutu at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings.

"She was a tremendous stalwart of our struggle, and icon of liberation—something went wrong, horribly, badly wrong," Tutu said as damning testimony implicated her. She served as a deputy minister in President Mandela's government, but was sacked for insubordination and eased out of the top ranks of the ruling party. After a 2003 conviction for fraud, she later rehabilitated her political career winning a seat in parliament in 2009 elections.

But her bitterness emerged in 2010 newspaper interview, saying: "Mandela let us down. He agreed to a bad deal for the blacks." She also called Tutu a "cretin" and the reconciliation process a "charade", though she later claimed the quotes were never meant to be published. Despite it all, she was a regular visitor travelling from Soweto—where she still lived—to Mandela's bedside in his final months, and she said she was present when he died. He did not leave her anything in his will.

At her lavish 80th birthday party in Cape Town, Madikizela-Mandela wore a sparkling white dress and beamed with pleasure as she was lauded by guests that included senior politicians from rival parties. "Mama Winnie has lived a rich and eventful life, whose victories and setbacks have traced the progress of the struggle of our people for freedom," then vice president Cyril Ramaphosa, who is now president, told guests. —AFP



PAARL: In this file photo taken on February 11, 1990, anti-apartheid leader and African National Congress (ANC) member Nelson Mandela and his wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela raise fists upon Mandela's release from Victor Verster prison. —AFP

## Israel cancels plan to deport African migrants

JERUSALEM: Israel announced yesterday it had reached a deal with the UN refugee agency to cancel a controversial plan to deport African migrants and replace it with a new one that will see thousands sent to Western countries. A minimum of 16,250 migrants will be resettled in unspecified Western nations under the agreement announced in a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office.

Netanyahu in January announced the implementation of a program to remove migrants who entered illegally, giving them a choice between leaving voluntarily or facing indefinite imprisonment with eventual forced expulsion. According to interior ministry figures, there are currently some 42,000 African migrants in Israel, half of them children, women or men with families, who were not facing immediate deportation. They are mainly Sudanese and Eritrean.

Thousands of African migrants in Israel will be resettled in countries including Canada, Germany and Italy under an agreement reached with the UN refugee agency, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday. "This agreement will allow for the departure from Israel of 16,250 migrants to developed countries, such as Canada, Germany and Italy," Netanyahu said. Thousands of others are to remain in Israel at least temporarily. "The agreement stipu-

lates that for each migrant who leaves the country, we commit to give temporary residence status to another," Netanyahu said.

As the migrants could face danger or imprisonment if returned to their homelands, Israel offered to relocate them to an unnamed African country, which deportees and aid workers said was Rwanda or Uganda. They had initially been given a deadline of April 1, but Israel's supreme court suspended the plan on March 15 while it continued to examine it. The statement yesterday said the new plan meant there was no longer a need to send migrants to unnamed third countries. The plans had drawn sharp criticism from the United Nations refugee agency as well as from some Israelis and rights activists.

### 'Shame'

The migrants' presence in Israel has become a political issue, with Netanyahu referring to them as "not refugees but illegal infiltrators". Religious and conservative politicians have portrayed the presence of Muslim and Christian Africans as a threat to Israel's Jewish character. A group of residents of southern Tel Aviv, where many of the migrants have settled, immediately denounced the new plan in a statement, calling it "a shame for the state of Israel." Under the new five-year plan, Israel will "regulate" the status of those not being resettled—signalling they will be allowed to stay at least temporarily. It also said a committee will be established to come up with a "rehabilitation plan" for southern Tel Aviv. Migrants began entering Israel through what was then a porous Egyptian border in 2007. The border has since been strengthened, all but ending illegal crossings. —AFP

International

# Costa Rica votes in ex-minister as president, spurns preacher rival

## Conservative preacher had campaigned strongly against gay marriage

**SAN JOSÉ:** Costa Rica on Sunday voted for a former minister from the center-left ruling party as its next president, rejecting his rival, an ultra-conservative preacher who had campaigned strongly against gay marriage. Carlos Alvarado, a former labor minister under current President Luis Guillermo Solís, who was barred from seeking a second term, won a convincing 60.7 percent of the ballots in the run-off, electoral authorities said, based on returns from more than 90 percent of polling stations.

"There is much more that unites us than divides us," he told a cheering crowd in his victory speech, congratulating the defeated candidate. "My duty is to unite this republic, to take it forward, so it is a leading republic of the 21st century," he said. The right-wing preacher, Fabricio Alvarado (no relation), garnered 39.3 percent. He quickly conceded defeat to a crowd of disappointed supporters, thanked God, and congratulated Carlos Alvarado on his triumph.

"We have not won the election, but we can accept this result with our heads held high," he said. Costa Rica, a small Central American nation of five million people, had been polarized ahead of the run-off election. Fabricio Alvarado had surged from obscurity to lead a field of 13 candidates in the first round in February by vociferously slamming moves to recognize same-sex marriage. That stance tapped into widespread social conservatism in the country, particularly in poorer rural areas, and the preacher was also buoyed by support from evangelical churches that have proliferated in recent decades.

### Writer and ex-rock

Carlos Alvarado, in contrast, had offered a more traditional campaign highlighting several issues—boosting education, reducing the growing deficit, enhancing environ-

mental protections—while incarnating continuity with the outgoing leader. Pre-election surveys had suggested a neck-and-neck race. But in the end, the result was a clear and resounding win for Carlos Alvarado. He will take power next month, for a four-year term.

Aged 38, Carlos Alvarado is also a writer, with three published novels, who has a taste for rock music dating back to his university days as a singer in a progressive rock band called Dramatika. He counts Pink Floyd as one of his favorite groups. He started out professionally as a journalist but left that when he realized that "one has to be involved to change things."

After moving to Panama because of his wife's architectural career—and writing a novel there—he returned to Costa Rica to help out on Solís's 2014 presidential campaign. After Solís won, he was made social development minister, then labor minister. He stepped

down in January this year to make his own till for the presidency.

### Deficit challenge

Being the candidate of the ruling Citizens' Action Party was both a help and a hindrance, giving him the machinery of a party in power—but also one diminished by a scandal of officials abusing their power and being unable to prevent a rise in violent crime. Analysts said Alvarado managed to stay a little separate from the government as its reputation slipped, and presented himself as someone who could renew the party. One of the biggest challenges facing Alvarado as he takes charge will be trying to cut down the deficit, which has ballooned to 6.3 percent of gross domestic product. To do so, he will have to succeed where his predecessors have failed, in pushing through unpopular measures to increase tax collection. —AFP

“My duty is to unite this republic”



SAN JOSÉ: Supporters of the presidential candidate of Costa Rica's governing Citizen Action Party (PAC), Carlos Alvarado, celebrate in San Jose. —AFP

## Guatemala dictator Montt, dead at 91

**GUATEMALA CITY:** Efraín Ríos Montt, who ruled Guatemala with an iron fist in the 1980s and was accused of genocide at the peak of its long civil war, died on Sunday at the age of 91. One of his lawyers, Luis Rosales, told reporters that Ríos Montt "died in his home, with the love of his family and a clear conscience."

Ríos Montt, who had been in very poor health for years, was buried in a matter of hours in a small, private ceremony. Relatives and supporters defended him vehemently, saying the man accused of razing indigenous villages had in fact committed no crime.

Protesting relatives of people who died under his rule, however, splashed red paint on the sidewalk outside a former government palace in Guatemala City and on a national flag in a symbol of the blood they said he had shed. They complained that he was never punished. Ríos Montt was accused of ordering the murders of 1,771 indigenous Ixil-Maya people during his short reign in 1982-83, which came at the height of the brutal 36-year civil war.

### Humble beginnings

According to the UN, some 200,000 people died or were made to disappear during the Guatemala's war, which ended in 1996. Ríos Montt was accused of orchestrating an extermination policy against the indigenous population, which was perceived to be collaborating with leftwing guerrillas waging war against government forces. He denied the charges in his original trial.

"I never authorized, never signed, never ordered an attack against a race, an ethnicity or a religion. I never did it!" he said at the time. At the burial Sunday, friends shouted "Long live general Ríos Montt" and said he had saved the country from communism. Short in stature and vigorous until



GUATEMALA CITY: View of the grave of former Guatemalan dictator (1982-1983) retired General Jose Efraim Rios Montt. —AFP

recent years, the former dictator had a humble beginning, with little to suggest a rise to national power.

He was born in Guatemala's remote Huehuetenango province, near the border with Mexico. He enlisted in the army as a teenager and rose through the ranks, receiving training courses at the US-run School of the Americas, where Latin American officers learned harsh tactics used in crack downs on dissidents.

Politically, Ríos Montt came to the forefront in 1974 when, as a brigadier general, he was put forward as a coalition presidential candidate. Historians say he won an overwhelming victory, but electoral fraud prevented him from taking office. Another general, Kjell Eugenio Laugerud, took power instead. As a consolation prize, Ríos Montt was sent to Spain as the military attache.

### US support

Upon returning home three years later, he turned away from Catholicism, his religion of birth, and became a fervent evangelical Christian. On March 23, 1982, he took power in a bloodless coup, deposing Lucas Garcia. During his 18-month rule, ruthless even by the standards of Latin American dictators, Ríos Montt engaged in a "scorched earth" policy

against dissidents, wiping out entire rural towns where leftists were suspected of living or having support.

He appointed so-called faceless judges who mounted summary trials and ordered numerous alleged criminals—often leftist rebel sympathizers or militants—executed. Ríos Montt also used his office to preach to his people: every Sunday night, dressed in a combat uniform, the dictator would take to the airwaves and talk about God, morality and politics. He claimed in one such sermon that a "good Christian" lived their life "with a bible and a machine gun." As conflicts raged in nearby Nicaragua and El Salvador, then US president Ronald Reagan praised Ríos Montt in 1982 as "a man of great personal integrity and commitment."

But as evidence of gross human rights violations mounted, Ríos Montt's defense minister, General Oscar Mejia, ousted him from office in August 1983. In 1989 Ríos Montt founded the right-wing Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG), which reached national power with the election of Alfonso Portillo (2000-2004). Portillo was arrested in 2010 on corruption charges and ended up being extradited to the United States, where he spent a little over a year in prison for money-laundering. —AFP

from the two villages," Bello Dambatto, an official from the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) told AFP. "The victims were killed while trying to escape the fight between the insurgents and the military," said Dambatto.

### 'Huge blasts, gunfire'

One soldier was among the dead, the army said in a statement, which added that it had killed six insurgents and "neutralized" seven suicide bombers. The attackers were trying to infiltrate into the city, said Ba'Kura Abba Ali, a militia leader in the area helping soldiers in fighting Boko Haram.

The assailants climbed up a trench that had been dug in the sand round the city to stave off Boko Haram suicide and gun attacks, and attacked troops, Ali said. Maiduguri residents reported hearing at least five explosions and sounds of gunfire coming from the Cashew Plantation area. "Huge blasts and sounds of gunshots were heard all over the city last night and they continued for more than an hour," said one resident, Ibrahim Gremah.

Boko Haram's nearly nine-year fight to establish a hard-line Islamic state in northeast Nigeria has claimed at least 20,000 lives and displaced more than two million people. Hundreds of thousands are holed up in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, where they are living in camps or with host families. —AFP

## 18 killed in Boko Haram attack on army base

**KANO:** Boko Haram killed at least 18 people and wounded scores in coordinated attacks overnight on a military camp and villages around the flashpoint Nigerian city of Maiduguri, which they also tried to infiltrate across a defensive trench, officials said yesterday.

The brazen operation—which unfolded around the very city where Boko Haram was born—turned the spotlight on the authorities' struggle to quell the jihadists' nearly nine-year-old offensive. Boko Haram fighters attacked a military base in the Cashew Plantation area at the entrance to the city with suicide bombers, mortars and guns, leading to a prolonged battle, a senior military officer in Maiduguri said.

"Eighteen Boko Haram terrorists on foot attacked the military base while seven suicide bombers targeted residents of nearby Bale Shuwar and Alikaranti villages at 8:50 pm (19:50 GMT)," said the officer who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak about the incident. "The terrorists fired mortars at troops," the officer said. "So far we have recovered 18 dead bodies

## Trump renews call to pass border legislation

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump yesterday called on Congress to pass immigration legislation, one day after saying he would not consider a deal to protect young immigrants and terminate a trade deal with Mexico if they did not do more to secure its border with the United States. "Congress must immediately pass Border Legislation, use Nuclear Option if necessary, to

stop the massive inflow of Drugs and People ... Act now Congress, our country is being stolen!"

Trump said on Twitter. Nuclear option is a parliamentary procedure that allow the Senate to effectively decide an issue by a simple majority. Trump reiterated his call for Mexico to stop people from entering the United States, saying Mexico's "border laws work." One of his tweets apparently referred to a group of 1,500 men, women and children from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador who are traveling in a so-called "refugee caravan" organized by Pueblo sin Fronteras, a US-based immigration advocacy group. One of Trump's signature campaign promises was to build a wall along the southern US border and insisted that Mexico would pay for it. Mexico has refused to do. Trump had said he was open to a deal with congressional Democrats to receive funds for the wall in exchange for protection for young immigrants brought to the country as children, who are known as Dreamers.—Reuters



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## International

# Malaysia government approves 'fake news' law despite outcry

## 'This is something very dangerous for our country'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's government yesterday pushed a law through parliament that makes "fake news" punishable by a maximum six-year jail term despite an outcry from critics worried it will be used to stifle dissent before elections. The law targets foreign as well as local media, and is seen in part as an effort to silence criticism of the scandal surrounding sovereign wealth fund IMDB that has rocked the administration of Prime Minister Najib Razak.

The election is expected within weeks and Najib is battling to win a third term at the head of the coalition that has led Malaysia for over six decades. The current parliament is dominated by the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition. The law originally proposed a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a fine of 500,000 ringgit (\$130,000) for publishing what authorities deem to be fake news, but the government lowered the jail term to six years following a storm of criticism.

"This law is not intended to restrict the freedom of speech but to restrict the dissemination of fake news," said minister Azalina Othman Said. But opposition legislators were not convinced, criticizing the law's heavy penalties and its potential to limit free speech. "This bill... is a weapon to close the truth so that what is false can be upheld as true, and what is true can be reversed as false," said Lim Guan Eng of the Democratic Action Party. "This is something very dangerous for our country."

The law must still be debated in the senate but is expected to be passed. More than half of the senate is filled with Barisan Nasional members. After this it needs royal assent before taking effect. The new law has sparked widespread anger from activists, press freedom groups and the opposition, who believe it is aimed at cracking down on dis-

senting voices rather than safeguarding the public from false information.

### Draconian penalties

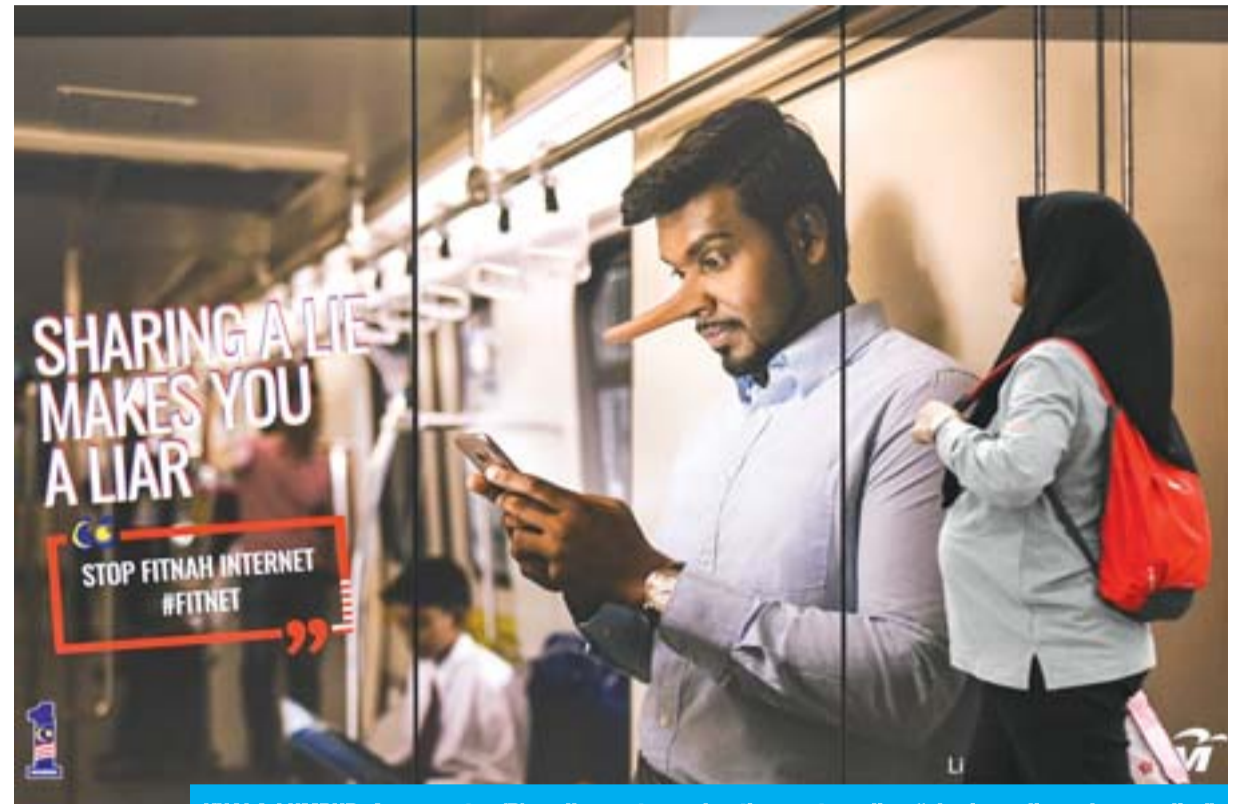
Before it was passed, Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch, condemned it as a "blatant attempt by the government to prevent any and all news that it doesn't like, whether about corruption or elections". He said it "uses draconian penalties and broad language in an audacious and unprecedented effort to control discussion of Malaysia worldwide". The law covers any information that is deemed to be "wholly or partly fake". It includes several examples, such as a blogger publishing a report known to be false; someone sharing information on social media they know to be false; and someone giving a speech containing information they know to be untrue.

Malaysia is one of several countries in Asia turning to such legislation, emboldened by US President Donald Trump's fulminations against "fake news", but activists warn authoritarian regimes will use the laws to target opponents. A parliamentary committee in neighboring Singapore, which is examining possible legislation to combat "fake news", came under fire Monday from activists who alleged it misrepresented them.

Institute of Journalists Malaysia board member Ram Anand said the law, like existing legislation, would hang over journalists in the country and do "very little" to improve press freedom. "We should be removing criminal laws that affect the media, not add more of them," he said. Malaysia ranks 144th out of 180 countries in the 2017 World Press Freedom Index, with number one being the freest.

The law comes less than a week after parliament voted in favor of a move to redraw electoral borders. Opposition

“  
A weapon to  
close the truth  
”



**KUALA LUMPUR:** A commuter (R) walks past an advertisement reading "sharing a lie makes u a liar" at a train station in downtown Kuala Lumpur. —AFP

politicians said this would tilt the election in Najib's favour. Najib is fighting to keep his coalition—which has never lost a national poll-in power while battling allegations that billions of dollars were looted from IMDB, a sovereign wealth fund

he founded. Both Najib and the fund deny any wrongdoing. He faces a tough challenge from an opposition led by his former boss and ex-premier Mahathir Mohamad, 92, who is looking to unseat him at the polls. —FP

## UNHCR concerned over Rohingya in stormy seas

**DHAKA:** The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said yesterday it was concerned about the safety of 56 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar on a boat bound for Malaysia in stormy seas. Some 700,000 Rohingya Muslims fled from their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine State into Bangladesh after militant attacks in August sparked a military crackdown that the United Nations and Western countries have said constitutes ethnic cleansing.

Myanmar rejects that saying its forces have been waging a legitimate campaign against "terrorists" who attacked government forces. The boat, which a UNHCR spokesman said was believed to have set sail from Rakhine State last week, stopped at an island in southern Thailand on Saturday evening after a storm.

It was the first Rohingya vessel, plying a route refugees have used for years to get to Southeast Asia, to be spotted off Thailand in more than a year. There are signs that overcrowding in Bangladeshi camps could prompt many others to make similarly perilous voyages. "Given the poor weather conditions currently prevailing in the waters off the west coast of the Thailand-Malaysia border, we are concerned for the safety of the refugees," said Caroline Gluck, a UNHCR spokeswoman based in southeast Bangladesh. "If they are found to be in distress, we hope they will be rescued and allowed to disembark in accordance with international maritime law," she said in an email.

The boat was restocked with essential supplies in Thailand on Sunday before setting back out to sea, on its way to Malaysia, Thai police said. The UNHCR said it was in touch with Malaysian maritime authorities and was ready to provide any necessary assistance to the refugees when they arrived.

Tens of thousands of Rohingya fled by sea following an outbreak of sectarian violence in Rakhine State in 2012, some falling prey to human traffickers. That exodus peaked in 2015, when an estimated 25,000 people fled across the Andaman Sea for Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Rights groups expect another surge in Rohingya boats sailing for Southeast Asia, even if not at the levels of the past. — Reuters



**Members of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency patrol the waters off Langkawi Island, as a boat carrying Rohingya refugees heads towards Malaysian territorial waters. —AFP**

## Indian police accused of failing rape victims despite new reforms

**BHARATPUR:** More than five years after a horrific rape sparked promises to empower women in India and reform the handling of sexual assault cases, victims say they still face harassment when they turn to police for help. The sickening assault on Delhi student Jyoti Singh in 2012 provoked national soul-searching about widespread failure to tackle sex crimes, and bolstered laws to punish offenders and police accused of turning a blind eye or victim shaming. But rights groups say police still refuse to file cases against suspected rapists and pressure victims to settle with their tormentors, despite such misconduct carrying a two-year jail term under the tough new measures.

"Police came to our house and threatened us, saying 'sign a settlement or we will beat you up,'" said one woman, who was bound and assaulted by her brother-in-law last year in rural Rajasthan. "They also asked for a bribe, intimidated us. Whenever I would go to the police station, they would try to shoo me away, saying things like 'you're just pretending, you're lying, nothing has happened,'" said the woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons.

More than 100 sexual assaults are still recorded every day in India, including five in the capital alone. Human Rights Watch said in a November report that promises to improve the handling of sex crimes in the aftermath of the Delhi attack "have not been fully realized". Victims are still referred by police to local hospitals for degrading virginity tests, says Jan Sahas, a charity assisting women with legal services.

"Victims are often treated like animals," said the



**NEW DELHI:** In this file photo taken on December 8, 2014, Indian police escort Uber taxi driver and accused rapist Shiv Kumar Yadav (C, in black) following his court appearance. —AFP

charity's Harish Chandra Dipankar. Swati Maliwal, head of the Delhi government's Commission for Women, said reporting a rape was now easier thanks to the reforms—"but that is it".

She said glaring gaps in law enforcement remained, pointing to a case in January that horrified even a city used to gruesome sex crimes. "It is sad that even an eight-month-old baby's rape doesn't shake up the sys-

tem," Maliwal said of the high-profile case. But Delhi police's spokesman Madhur Verma said he was confident women "feel safer than they used to feel five years ago". He credited increased patrols, helplines and self-defence classes for women all measures rolled out after 2012 — for cleaning up the city but said more needed to be done. "We are still working towards it," he said. —AFP

## Malala returns home to Britain

**ISLAMABAD:** Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai left Pakistan for London yesterday after a four-day whirlwind visit back to her homeland, her first since militants nearly killed her in 2012, an official said. Yousafzai and her family were taken to Islamabad airport in a security convoy and they boarded a London-bound flight, said aviation official Akmal Kayani. Yousafzai, known by her first name, Malala, has been in Pakistan since Thursday, on her first trip home since Pakistani Taliban militants shot her in the head on her way home from school for advocating for greater education for girls. After the attack, Yousafzai was airlifted abroad and underwent surgery.

Malala on Saturday visited her old home in the Swat valley, a mountain region northwest of Islamabad, which was under the control of the militants for about two years until the army launched an offensive to clear them out. "I miss everything about Pakistan ... from the rivers, the mountains, to even the dirty streets and the garbage around our house," Malala, 20, told Reuters in an interview on Friday.

A family friend said earlier Malala planned to return home after completing her education at Oxford University, where she is reading for a degree in politics, philosophy and economics. Malala wrote an anonymous blog for the BBC Urdu service as a schoolgirl during the Taliban rule and later became outspoken in advocating more educational opportunities for girls.

In 2014, Malala became the youngest Nobel laureate, honored for her work with the Malala Foundation, a charity she set up to support education advocacy groups with a focus on Pakistan, Nigeria, Jordan, Syria and Kenya. —Reuters

## Bodies of Indian workers killed by IS arrive home

**AMRITSAR:** The bodies of 38 Indian construction workers kidnapped and murdered in Iraq by the Islamic State group returned home yesterday four years after their disappearance. Grieving families—who were told for years by government officials that their loved ones were still alive—waited at an airport in the northwest state of Punjab to receive the coffins from Baghdad.

The victims were mostly from poor families in Punjab

and were employed by a construction company in Mosul when they were abducted by extremists. India's foreign minister told parliament last month that 39 bodies were unearthed from a mass grave in Badush, a village northwest of Mosul. DNA testing confirmed the identity of 38 of the corpses. One test was a partial match, with further examination needed, India's junior foreign minister said yesterday.

The Indians were kidnapped in June 2014 as the Islamic State group overran large swathes of territory in Iraq, including the major northern city of Mosul. Indian officials for years insisted the abductees were alive until proven otherwise, drawing criticism from relatives who accused the government of keeping them in the dark. Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj denied the government had given the families false hope. It is not known when the Indians were killed. —AFP



**AMRITSAR:** Indian relative Gurbinder Kaur (R) cries near the coffin of her brother Manjinder Singh, who was killed in Iraq, at the International Airport. —AFP



## International

# Gaza protests fade out for now, but both sides brace for more

## Hamas has called for more mass demonstrations

GAZA CITY: Protests along the Gaza border with Israel have dwindled after the conflict's deadliest day in years, but both sides braced for further tensions yesterday after Palestinians called for more demonstrations. The death toll from Friday's violence along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel rose by one to 17 yesterday when the health ministry in the enclave confirmed another Palestinian had died from his wounds.

The Islamic Jihad militant group said in a statement that Faris Al-Raqib, 29, was a member, but that he was not carrying a weapon when he was shot. In an AFP photo before his injury, Raqib is seen carrying one of the wounded away from the clashes. Hundreds of other Palestinians were wounded on Friday, many of them by gun fire, when a mass protest of tens of thousands led to clashes with Israeli forces along the Gaza border.

The toll prompted the European Union and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to call for an independent investigation, which Israel has flatly rejected. Demonstrations along the border since Friday have included only several hundred people, but large crowds may return in the coming days, including after the weekly Muslim prayer on Friday. Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs the Gaza Strip and which has fought three wars with Israel since 2008, has called for more mass demonstrations.

### 'Determined to continue'

The protests are in support of Palestinian refugees

returning to lands they fled or were expelled from during the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

"The Palestinian people are determined to continue the great 'March of Return,' to free the land and move towards occupied Jerusalem, and they are not concerned by all the sacrifices," senior Hamas member Khalil Al-Hayya told a memorial ceremony, while also vowing that the Islamist group would not disarm. The border area was relatively quiet yesterday morning, but tents erected for the protests remained. Near the Erez crossing into Israel, a few dozen young men sat around while others erected new tents. Israel has defended its soldiers' actions, when they opened fire Friday on Palestinians who strayed from a main protest camp and approached the heavily fortified fence cutting off the blockaded enclave.

The military says soldiers opened fire only when necessary against those throwing stones and firebombs or rolling tires at soldiers. It said there were attempts to damage the fence and infiltrate Israel, while alleging there was also an attempted gun attack against soldiers along the border. Israel accuses Hamas of using the protest as cover to carry out violence.

## Shot while posing no threat

### Key dates ahead

Palestinians say protesters were shot while posing no threat to soldiers and rights groups have criticized Israel's use of live fire. In addition to the 17 Palestinians killed, more than 1,400 were wounded Friday, 757 of them by live fire, with the remainder hurt by rubber bullets and tear gas



A Palestinian protesters use reflective mirrors to divert the attention of members of the Israeli forces during a tent city protest at the Israel-Gaza border, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip. —AFP

inhalation, the health ministry in Gaza said. The armed wing of Hamas said five of those killed were its members who were participating "in popular events side-by-side with their people".

The Israeli army alleges 10 of the dead had "documented terror backgrounds" in Hamas and other groups and were killed "whilst carrying out acts of terror".

There were no casualties among Israelis. Unverified videos being shared online have fuelled the debate, including one appearing to show a protester running with a tire being shot while seeming to pose no threat. Israel's army has issued a statement saying footage is being "edited and fabricated," without referring to specific videos. —AFP

## One year ago, the sarin attack on Khan Sheikhun

BEIRUT: A year ago a sarin gas attack on Syria's rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhun killed 83 according to the UN and 87 according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

### The attack

On April 4, 2017 at around 7:00 am an air strike hits Khan Sheikhun, a small town in the northwestern province of Idlib. Idlib is a stronghold of rebels opposed to President Bashar Al-Assad along with jihadists implanted in the region. Videos distributed by anti-regime activists show corpses lying in the streets, with others convulsing and suffering from suffocation.

Medical sources at the scene say patients suffer from symptoms such as fainting, vomiting and foaming at the mouth—similar to those of previously recorded chemical weapons attacks. Syria's opposition accuses Assad's regime of using munitions containing a toxic gas, a charge categorically denied by the army. According to the Britain-based Observatory it is the second worst chemical attack since the start of the war in 2011. In 2013 more than 1,400 had died in a sarin gas attack in the Damascus suburbs.

### Trump strikes

Overnight on April 7, on the orders of President Donald Trump, the US military fires 59 Tomahawk missiles from warships in the Mediterranean at the central Shayrat airbase, near the central city of Homs. According to the Pentagon, US intelligence have established that the base was the launchpad for the alleged chemical attack. The Syrian government describes the US strike as "foolish and irresponsible". Assad's ally Moscow calls it an "aggression against a sovereign



KHAN SHAYKHUN: Abdulhamid Yusuf (C), who lost 19 members of his family, including his wife and two children in a chemical attack, drinks coffee with his friends and Mohammed Najib Al-Jawhara (2nd-L), who lost his parents and nephew, at his home. —AFP

state". Days later it vetoes a draft resolution at the UN Security Council. Assad says the West "fabricated the whole story in order to have a pretext for the attack".

### UN blames the regime

On June 29 the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) says sarin gas was used in the attack, without saying who was responsible. On October 26 a joint UN-OPCW panel says it is confident

the Syrian regime is responsible, in conclusions rejected by Moscow.

On November 8, the US, Britain, France and Germany, say a presumed chemical attack which just preceded that in Khan Sheikhun "bears the hallmarks of the Syrian regime".

On November 16-17 Russia vetoes on two occasions renewal by the UN Security Council of the mandate of the UN-OPCW investigation. —AFP

## Civilian casualties in Afghan airstrike on madrassa

KUNDUZ: An Afghan airstrike on a religious school in a Taliban stronghold yesterday caused multiple casualties, including civilians, Afghan officials and witnesses said. Top Taliban commanders were gathered inside the madrassa at the time of the attack in the northeastern province of Kunduz, a security source said. He said an unknown number of civilians were among the casualties that also included senior Taliban commanders who were "planning for the next spring operations".

"Several dead and at least 15 wounded", including children, were taken to the regional hospital in the provincial capital Kunduz. Naim Mangal, a doctor, told AFP. Relatives of the wounded told an AFP photographer at the hospital that the attack happened during a graduation ceremony for madrassa students. A defense ministry spokesman confirmed an airstrike in Dashte Archi district but described the location as a kind of Taliban "training centre" and denied civilians were among the casualties.

"Twenty Taliban, including the commander of their Red Unit in the district, and also a key member of the Quetta Shura were killed," Mohammad Radmanish said. The Red Unit is the insurgent group's elite unit, and the Quetta Shura is the group's leadership council. The same number were wounded, Radmanish added. The meeting included a "high-ranking Taliban delegation" from the Quetta Shura. Ghulam Hazrat, a spokesman for the 20th army division in Kunduz, told AFP.

"Fifteen Taliban were killed and 10 were wounded," Hazrat said. He also denied civilians were among the casualties. A senior local official said "around 150" people had been killed and wounded in the airstrike. Afghan officials often give conflicting casualty figures after an attack.



KUNDUZ: An Afghan resident is treated at a hospital following an airstrike. —AFP

Obtaining detailed information is difficult because the Taliban controls the area. Most telecommunication services are cut from late afternoon on Taliban orders, locals say.

A spokesman for US Forces said they were not involved in yesterday's airstrike. Afghanistan's fledgling air force has accelerated bombardments in recent months as the Americans beef up the country's aerial capability with more aircraft and better weapons.

Earlier this month, the Afghan Air Force dropped its

first laser-guided bomb on a Taliban compound in the western province of Farah, where the militants have gone on the offensive.

US and Afghan forces are increasing ground and air offensives against Taliban and Islamic State insurgents as they try to get the upper hand in the 16-year war. The latest airstrike comes weeks before the Taliban usually launches its spring offensive which is expected to be particularly bloody this year. —AFP

## News in brief

### Raid kills 16 near Yemen port

ADEN: An air strike near the Yemeni port of Hodeida yesterday killed 16 people in a building where Houthi rebels were gathering, security sources said. There were conflicting reports on the number of rebels versus civilians killed in the strike which was believed to have been carried out by the Saudi-led coalition. The coalition said it is investigating the reports and could not immediately comment. The strike occurred in the district of Al-Hali in Hodeida province, which is controlled by the Iran-backed insurgents. The security sources said a second air strike targeted the house of a Houthi commander in the same area, but there were no immediate reports of casualties. The rebels' Al-Masirah news outlet also reported two air strikes in Al-Hali district, saying they targeted a camp for displaced people and that most of the victims were women and children. The security sources said there was no camp for the displaced in the area. —AFP

### Turkey orders cleric arrest

ANKARA: Turkey has ordered the arrest of the Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen and seven others over the 2016 assassination of the Russian envoy to Turkey, the Haberturk newspaper said yesterday, a day before Russian President Vladimir Putin visits the country. Andrei Karlov was shot dead by an off-duty policeman while speaking at an Ankara exhibit opening in December 2016. The gunman shouted "Allahu Akbar" and "Don't forget Aleppo!" as he opened fire, apparently referring to Russia's involvement in neighboring Syria. He was shot dead by police at the scene. Putin arrives on a two-day visit on Tuesday and will meet President Tayyip Erdogan and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. Their three countries are the guarantors of the Astana peace talks that has set up "de-escalation" zones across war-torn Syria. Erdogan said Gulen's movement was behind the assassination, a charge the cleric has denied. Erdogan also blames the preacher's network for an attempted military coup in July 2016. —AFP

### 7 killed in Mexico prison

COATZACOALCOS: Seven people including at least six police were killed Sunday in a prison riot in eastern Mexico, authorities said, the latest outburst of deadly violence in the country's jails. Police were trying to transport a group of "highly dangerous" prisoners from the La Toma prison in Veracruz state when inmates attacked the six officers, locked them in an enclosed space and set it on fire, the state government said. "The inmates started a fire, causing six police officers to die of smoke inhalation," it said in a statement. A seventh person who has yet to be identified was also killed, it said. Fifteen police officers were hospitalized with injuries. Seven inmates were also wounded in the riot, two of them seriously. Army troops were sent into the prison to help state police bring the situation under control, the statement said. Anxious prisoners' relatives gathered outside the prison demanding news on their loved ones. —AFP

### Fiji cyclone causes floods

SYDNEY: Floods caused by a tropical cyclone that brought torrential weekend rains to the Pacific island nation of Fiji have killed four people, with another presumed drowned, a disaster management official said yesterday. Tropical Cyclone Josie, a category-one storm, caused severe flooding, with the northwestern town of Ba on Fiji's largest island, Viti Levu, said to be the worst hit. Four bodies had been retrieved and authorities do not expect that the missing person survived, said Anare Leweniqila, the director of the Fiji National Disaster Management Office. "The death toll will go to five when we find their body," he told Reuters by telephone. He said 1,873 people sheltering in 35 evacuation centers would not be able to return home until mosquito spraying was completed. "In two to three days people can go home after the clean-up and the vector spraying for diseases in the worst affected areas," Leweniqila added. —AFP

## Analysis

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## How Beijing is winning in the South China Sea

Earlier last month, the USS Carl Vinson became the first American aircraft carrier to visit Vietnam since the Vietnam War ended in 1975. Coming alongside the news that a record 23 nations from Southeast Asia and beyond would be joining biennial naval exercises in the eastern Indian Ocean, it was a potent reminder of just how eager the nations surrounding the South China Sea are to embrace powerful allies to fend off a rising China.

But as Beijing's regional clout continues to grow, it can be hard for weaker nations to resist it, even with these allies' support. Barely three weeks after the Vinson's visit, the Vietnamese government bowed to Chinese pressure and canceled a major oil drilling project in disputed South China waters. It was yet another sign of the region's rapidly shifting dynamics. For the last decade, the United States and its Asian allies have been significantly bolstering their military activities in the region with the explicit aim of pushing back against China. But Beijing's strength and dominance, along with its diplomatic, economic and military reach, continues to grow dramatically.

Over the last week, Beijing has conducted major military drills, including reportedly sending its aircraft carrier through the Taiwan Strait and flying jets between Japan's southernmost islands (the latter of which was explicitly described by the Chinese military as a preparation for future wars). These drills are both a response to recent US military actions and a bold statement of China's intent to keep up the pressure.

Western military strategists worry that China will, in time, be able to block any activity in the region by the United States and its allies. Already, satellite photos show China installing sophisticated weapons on a range of newly-reclaimed islands where international law says they simply should not be present. In any war, these and other new weapons that China is acquiring could make it all but impossible for the US Navy and other potential enemies of China to operate in the area at all. A simple issue lies at the heart of the problem - Beijing's claim to sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea basin. That assertion - first made by the exiled Republic of China government in Taiwan in 1947 and then repeated by its mainland communist counterpart since - was flatly rejected by a United Nations tribunal in 2016. But that hasn't stopped Beijing from doing more and more to secure its position in the area.

### Challenge

China's increasing confidence in asserting control over the South China Sea has clearly alarmed its neighbors, particularly the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei, all of whom have competing territorial claims over waters that China claims for itself. But it also represents a major and quite deliberate challenge to the United States which, as an ally to all these nations, has essentially staked its own credibility on the issue.

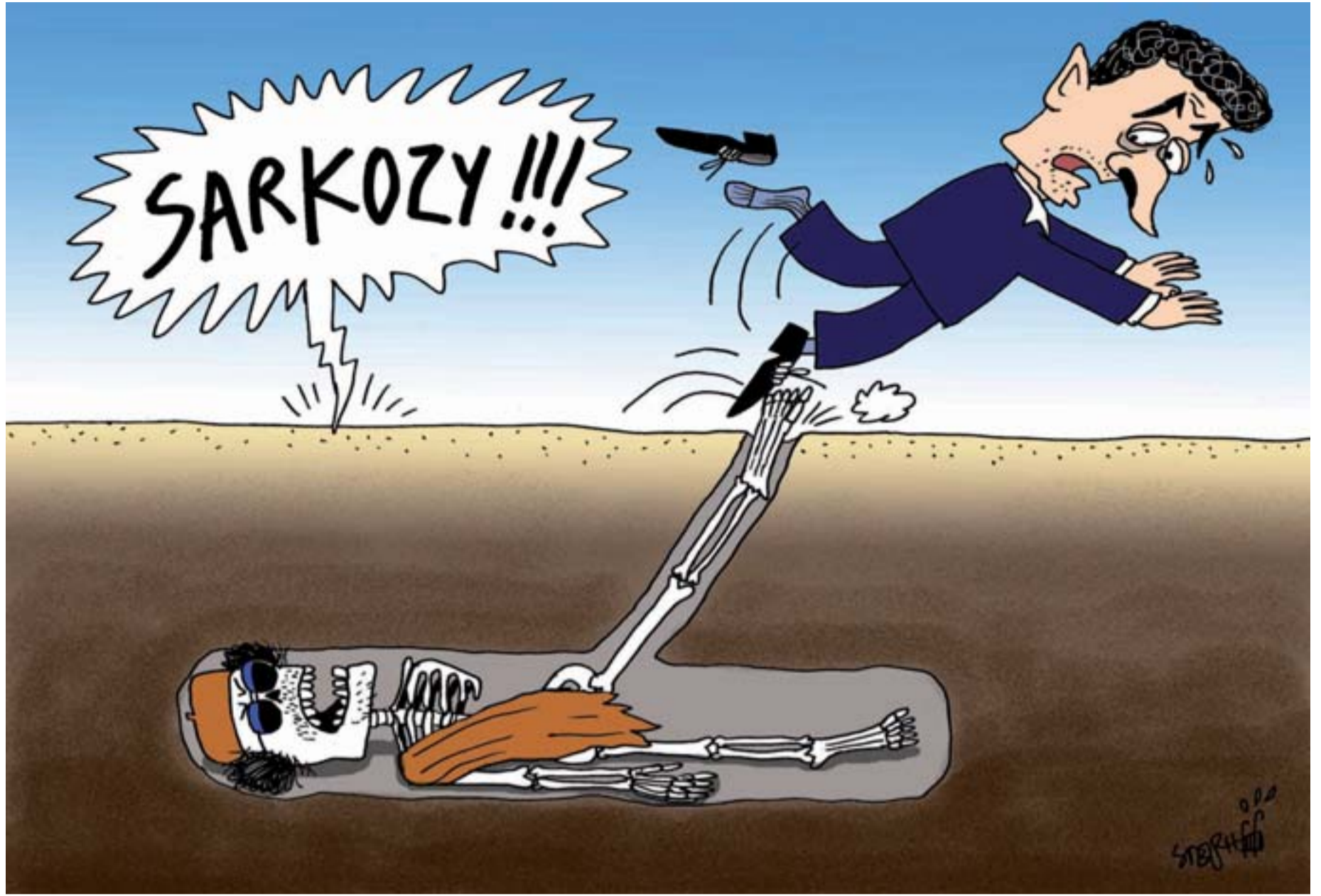
Over the last several years, it has become common practice for U.S. warships to sail through nearby waters, pointedly refusing to acknowledge Chinese demands that they register with its unilaterally-declared air and maritime "identification zones" (which the United States and its allies do not recognize). The last such voyage - dubbed a "freedom of navigation" operation or, in naval parlance, a "FONOP" - took place on Friday, when the destroyer Mustin reportedly passed within 12 nautical miles of Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands, which is claimed by both China and the Philippines.

The Mischief Reef FONOP fits a much wider pattern of increasingly assertive naval activities by Washington and its allies in the region. Earlier this month, the United States announced the first deployment of its cutting-edge F-35B vertical takeoff Joint Strike Fighter - by far the most sophisticated aircraft of its type - to an amphibious assault ship in the region. This kind of military tit for tat appears to be escalating; China now says it plans monthly military exercises in the South China Sea, a substantial increase. That will likely be met by intensified American and allied activity: A British warship is shortly scheduled to conduct its own FONOP, and the United States has pushed Australia to join the program (although whether it will do so remains a topic of considerable debate within the country).

None of this, however, addresses the seismic regional change produced by China's island-building strategy. Over the last five years, China has built ever more sophisticated military and industrial outposts on disputed atolls and reefs, in some cases transforming scrubby patches of rock that barely broke the surface into large concrete installations.

Once a tiny fishing station on stilts, Mischief Reef is now a well-armed Chinese military base. And China's land-reclamation efforts continue, aided by a giant new dredging vessel that its Chinese designers have touted as a "magical island-building machine." Filipino officials say they believe it is only a matter of time before Beijing makes similar moves at Scarborough Shoal, within striking distance of major Filipino population centers and military facilities.

If and when that happens, the Philippines, along with the United States, will face a difficult decision about how best to respond. At stake here are more than energy resources - although the estimated 11 billion barrels of oil and nearly 200 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that the South China Sea is believed to contain are clearly a factor in the conflict. But more broadly, China sees this confrontation as a test case for its ability to impose its will on the wider region - and so far it is winning. (At the very least, foreign energy firms are now unlikely to bid to drill in disputed waters; Spanish oil firm Repsol is said to have lost up to \$200 million, after Chinese pressure prompted Vietnam to cancel its planned exploration.) —Reuters



## Mystery surrounds Gaddafi's son Seif

Nearly a year after a Libyan militia announced it had set free the son and heir apparent of slain dictator Muammar Gaddafi, the fate of Seif al-Islam remains a mystery. His reported release from detention by the Abu Bakr al-Sadiq Brigade which once controlled the town of Zintan in western Libya has never been confirmed and has fuelled wild rumors. While some insist he is still somewhere in Zintan, others claim Seif is dead.

One thing is certain, however: he has not been seen or heard of since June 2014 when he appeared via video from Zintan during his trial by a Tripoli court. And now Seif is back in the news, after France's former president Nicolas Sarkozy was charged in Paris with financing his 2007 election campaign with money from Gaddafi. In a 2011 interview with the Euronews television network, Seif said Sarkozy must "give back the money he took from Libya to finance his electoral campaign".

Seif al-Islam - whose name means "sword of Islam" - was captured by the Zintan-based militia in November 2011, days after Gaddafi was killed in a NATO-backed uprising against his decades-old rule. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is in a legal tug-of-war with Libyan authorities to transfer Seif to The Hague, where he is wanted for crimes against humanity including murder. But in July 2015, a Tripoli court sentenced the now 45-year-old to death in absentia along with eight other Gaddafi-era figures. According to several Libyan sources, and diplomats, Seif has not left Zintan, a largely tribal town 170 km southwest of Tripoli and one of the cradles of the 2011 uprising.

## Latam nations compete for capital in surge of oil auctions

For decades, many Latin America's oil-producing nations have often shunned investment from foreign firms, instead keeping their vast reserves under the tight control of governments and state-run oil companies. They aimed to protect profits to feed public budgets, but in practice have seen some major breakdowns, as with the corruption scandals and heavy debts at Brazil's Petroleo Brasileiro SA, or the inability of Mexico's Pemex to conjure the cash and expertise to tap its vast deepwater reserves.

Now, an unprecedented wave of free-market energy reforms is gaining traction across the region, setting up a fierce competition to attract billions of dollars in investment from the likes of Exxon Mobil, BP and Royal Dutch Shell. Seven governments this year will combine to hold at least 15 oil and gas auctions, offering a record 1,100 blocks of onshore or offshore acreage, according to interviews with officials and a tally of announced auctions. On Thursday, Brazil's latest auction collected \$2.4 billion in pledges, awarding 22 of 68 regions on offer. "In 2018, countries in the region will host the most licensing rounds in history," said Pablo Medina, vice president of energy consultancy Wellience.

The race for private investment reflects an acknowledgment by many countries that they have neither the cash nor the technology to fully explore and develop their reserves. The embrace of foreign capital in Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador also follows the rise of centrist or right-leaning governments. It also signals a willingness by governments to settle for a smaller cut of the profits - which could be slimmed further by the competition to attract investment as governments offer tax incentives, reduced royalties and other inducements. The glaring exception is Venezuela, where state-run PDVSA remains under the firm control of a leftist government in the throes of an economic and political meltdown.

Elsewhere, emerging reforms are giving oil majors and independent producers their pick of some of the region's richest resources - after being shut out of these markets or waiting years for the right moment to invest. But they also

### 'Still a prisoner?'

But is he a prisoner? No one in Zintan, a town of 40,000 inhabitants, is willing to give a clear answer. "Yes. He is still a prisoner," Mokhtar Al-Akhdar, a member of Zintan's militia, said categorically when asked about Seif. "Even if he is not a prisoner, he is wanted by the ICC... and he has nowhere to go," he quickly added, throwing more doubt on Seif's fate. Chaaban Al-Marhani, one of the town's tribal leaders, also provided a confusing account of Seif's whereabouts. "He is here (in Zintan) and his is a prisoner but his fate is not in the hands of Zintan."

A member of the security services, speaking on condition of anonymity, added to the confusion. "In any case Seif al-Islam was never really a prisoner in the full meaning of the word. Ever since his arrest he has been under home arrest... not in a prison," he said. The Abu Bakr al-Sadiq Brigade which captured him more than six years ago had repeatedly refused to hand Seif over to authorities in Tripoli or the ICC.

The group said it released him in June 2017 as part of a general amnesty decreed by parliament based in eastern Libya but legal experts said Seif was not included in the amnesty. The militia - which Zintan residents say was disbanded nearly a year ago - failed to persuade anyone when it announced his release a year ago because it had also reported setting him free a few months earlier.

### Criminal on the run?

Omar Gaith, a member of parliament from Zintan, said he "cannot confirm or deny the liberation of Seif". "Seif al-Islam is considered a



In this file photo taken on May 2, 2013 Seif al-Islam Gaddafi looks on in the accused cell as he stands trial in Libya's northwestern town of Zintan. —AFP

criminal and a fugitive. If he is arrested he will be put on trial again," he said. The Tripoli court sentenced Seif to death, along with other Gaddafi-era officials, for crimes, including murder and complicity to incite rape during the 2011 uprising - a verdict criticized by the United Nations and human rights groups. Due to the nature of these crimes "he cannot benefit from any amnesty," said the office of the prosecutor general in Tripoli.

The ICC prosecutor was not available for comment on Seif's fate. In 2015 the court said it was verifying his whereabouts, reiterating its

demand for his arrest and transfer to The Hague. Meanwhile the mystery surrounding Seif continues to grow, including by diehard Gaddafi regime supporters. On March 19, a man speaking from Tunis and claiming to represent Seif said Gaddafi's son would run in Libya's next presidential election. The claim was rejected by the Abu Bakr al-Sadiq Brigade which said on its Facebook page that it had "contacted" Seif who insists he has not entrusted anyone to represent him. The militia's commander, Ajmi Laatiri, could not be reached for comment. —AFP

face a risk that governments could shift back to resource nationalization or lose the political will to fully establish market reforms. An oil price drop could also undermine profits from such long-term, expensive projects. "We love this continent. We know it well and now need to make sure we will spend the money wisely," said Michel Hourcard, senior vice president of development, exploration and production at France's Total, during an industry conference in Houston last month.

### Incentives to invest

The ground-breaking regulatory changes in Latin America include tax breaks, reduced royalties, longer contracts, relaxed qualification terms and flexible exploration mandates that allow companies to back out of investments more easily than in the past. Brazil and Colombia also plan to set up permanent offers of areas for exploration and production - similar to those offered by the United States - rather than making them available only in occasional auctions. Ecuador is offering shared-profit agreements that are potentially more lucrative for oil firms than fee-for-service contracts that prevented companies from benefiting from oil price gains. Countries have to present terms attractive enough to draw bidders back to the region, said Julie Wilson, research director of global exploration at consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

### \$110 billion in pledges

Strong participation by oil majors in recent auctions of exploration and production rights in Mexico and Brazil have heralded a new era by attracting about \$110 billion in investment pledges. Brazil started its effort to lure outside capital two decades ago, but it fell flat after initially enticing more than 100 companies, said Decio Oddone, head of Brazil's oil regulator. The effort was stymied by too few areas offered for auction, the low quality of some projects and the dominant role of state-run Petrobras. "Many of those companies did not have the expected success," Oddone said.

Now, Brazil is relaxing bidding rules to encourage local firms and medium-size foreign explorers to participate, joining majors already established in its vast pre-salt region. In Mexico, political risks hampered its most recent auction in March, where bidding was dominated by state-run Pemex. The front-runner in a presidential election set for July has promised to scrutinize the nation's energy reforms. But some industry leaders believe the country will stay on the path of opening everything from exploration to refining and gasoline retailing. "There is a very clear long-term strategy," said Jeremy Weir, chief executive of Trading firm Trafifigura.

Broad participation by European, US and Asian firms in several auctions is another sign a "Mexican revival" is underway, added Fatih Birol, president of the International Energy Agency, a 29-nation group representing most of the world's top oil consuming nations. Some of Mexico's and Brazil's efforts are being copied. Argentina is allowing oil companies to recommend specific areas for they would like to see auctioned, as Mexico did in past rounds; Colombia will open a permanent offer of areas, as Brazil plans to do; and Mexico plans to replicate Brazil's three-year auction calendar, giving firms more time to plan capital spending before bidding rounds.

Some countries are keenly aware of the need to adjust its policies to compete with other nations, according to Juan Carlos Zepeda, head of the nation's energy regulator National Hydrocarbons Commission (CNH). "We are flexible enough to accommodate any of our neighbors' creativity," he said.

### Higher risk, higher reward

Compared with Brazil and Mexico, Argentina and Uruguay this year hope to catch investors with offers that hold greater exploration risk - but potentially higher rewards. Argentina officials believe Brazil's oil-rich pre-salt formation could extend to areas off its Atlantic coast, and in July will release terms of its first offshore auction. That is a big change in a nation that just six years ago expropriated Spanish oil firm Repsol's stake in state-owned YPF.

Unlike the rounds for Argentina's vast Vaca Muerta shale formation - which were led locally by provincial governments - the nation's central government will run this year's auctions, standardizing rules and offering better terms. Uruguay, which holds a third offshore auction in April, is putting up 17 blocks for exploration and production after relaxing the qualification terms and reducing the scope of its mandatory exploration programs.

Smaller Latin American countries including Guyana, Suriname and Paraguay are in talks with oil companies to offer rights to oilfields or to find partners for their state-run oil firms. Similar energy market openings have blossomed in the past only to fade as governments reverted to resource nationalization or imposed limits to foreign investment. Latin America has seasawed in prior decades between opening to private investment and returning to oil nationalism. "It's part of the cycle: The countries tend to ask (oil companies) for as much as they can," said Horacio Cuenca, Wood Mackenzie's director of upstream research for Latin America. They only lower costs and royalties "when available capital starts drying up". —Reuters

# Fighters start to quit last rebel pocket of Ghouta

**DAMASCUS:** Syria's regime drew closer to taking full control of Eastern Ghouta yesterday as state media reported that fighters began evacuating the last rebel-held pocket of the former opposition stronghold near Damascus. A Russian-brokered deal had been reported on Sunday for fighters with Jaish al-Islam, the largest rebel group still in Ghouta, to leave the enclave's main town of Douma. But the rebels have not yet confirmed the agreement, amid reports of divisions in the group as hardline fighters refuse to abandon their posts.

The retaking of Eastern Ghouta would mark a major milestone in President Bashar Al-Assad's efforts to regain control of territory seized by rebel factions during Syria's seven-year civil war. Assad's forces have retaken 95 percent of Eastern Ghouta since launching a blistering assault on the besieged enclave on February 18, killing 1,600 civilians and displacing tens of thousands more.

State media yesterday said Jaish al-Islam fighters and members of their families had started leaving Douma in preparation for them heading to a rebel-held town in northern Syria. "Twelve buses carrying 629 Jaish al-Islam terrorists and their families exited Douma... in preparation of them being transported to Jarabulus," state news agency SANA said, using the government's term for all rebel fighters. But journalists on the ground said both the regime and the rebels had restricted access to the evacuation operation from Douma.

## 'We will stay'

Pro-regime newspaper Al-Watan said in an editorial yesterday it was a matter of hours until Douma was declared a "town empty of terrorism". "The town of Douma has come closer to joining other villages and

areas of (Eastern) Ghouta taken back by the army," it said. The rebels have been negotiating with Russia, a key ally of Assad, for days on an agreement to evacuate Douma. Late on Sunday, Russian news agency Interfax quoted General Yuri Yevtushenko as saying a "preliminary deal" had been reached to evacuate Jaish al-Islam fighters.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group yesterday reported divisions within the ranks of Jaish al-Islam, which has previously said it would not leave Douma. "There are attempts to convince the hardline wing of Jaish al-Islam not to obstruct the agreement with the Russians," said the head of the Britain-based monitor, Rami Abdel Rahman.

In video footage published by Jaish al-Islam online on Sunday, the group's leader told a group of men in a mosque he would stay put. "We will stay in this town and will not leave. Those who want to leave should leave," Essam Al-Buidani says in the video, although it was unclear when it was filmed. Jaish al-Islam counts around 10,000 fighters, according to the Observatory. Backed by Russia, Assad's forces have scored a series of victories over rebel forces in recent years, often through campaigns of siege, aerial bombardment and ground offensives that have drawn widespread international condemnation.

## Pile of suitcases

Before Feb 18, some 400,000 people in Eastern Ghouta had lived under regime siege for five years, facing severe food and medicine shortages. After pounding it with air strikes, regime forces have taken back most of the enclave through a combination of ground assaults and Russia-brokered evacuation deals. In the past few weeks, these deals have seen more than 46,000



A Syrian regime member walks amid the destruction in Jobar in Eastern Ghouta on the outskirts of the capital Damascus yesterday. —AFP

people - fighters and civilians - board buses with scant belongings to be driven to the northwestern province of Idlib, which is largely outside government control.

These include more than 1,000 people - fighters from another faction, Faylaq al-Rahman, and family members - who left Douma late Sunday, according to state media. Yesterday before dawn, an AFP cor-

respondent saw men, women and children step off buses in the area of Qalaat al-Madiq in central Hama province, a way station on the road to Idlib. An old woman dressed head-to-toe in black stood by a pile of suitcases, with a child wearing a winter coat and colorful backpack by her side.

A man had a gun slung on his shoulder as he picked up a travel bag, while a

young boy, who appeared weak and unable to move his limbs, was carried into an ambulance. A man in a long white robe walked on crutches, a light weapon visible under his khaki jacket. Syria's war has killed more than 350,000 people and displaced millions since starting in 2011 with a brutal repression of anti-regime protests. — AFP

## Sisi wins 97% of votes; Amir sends...

Continued from Page 1

cooperation in various realms. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Sisi.

Sisi, who as army chief ousted Egypt's first freely elected president Islamist Mohamed Morsi after mass street protests in 2013, won his first term in 2014 with 96.9 percent of valid votes. Turnout of 47 percent in that year's election was sharply higher than this year's 41 percent despite appeals from Prime Minister Sherif Ismail for voters to fulfill their patriotic duty. Nonetheless Sisi has already praised this year's turnout. "The vote by masses of Egypt will remain a testament, no doubt, that our nation's will imposes itself with strength and knows no weakness," Sisi said on his Twitter account late Wednesday.

People who boycotted the election and cannot show a good reason for missing the vote could face a fine of up to 500 Egyptian pounds, the electoral commission has warned. Opposition groups had called for a boycott of last week's vote which they labeled a facade. There were no presidential debates and Sisi himself did not appear at any official campaign events, although he spoke at a number of ceremonies.

In an interview days ahead of the vote, Sisi said he

wished there were more candidates, denying any role in sidelining his rivals. He also sought to drive up voter turnout in a speech in the run-up to ballot as he urged Egyptians to back his bid for another four years in office. "I need you because the journey is not over," Sisi told a mostly female audience. "I need every lady and mother and sister, please, I need the entire world to see us" voting.

In a call to Sisi yesterday, US President Donald Trump expressed his "sincere congratulations" and said the United States was keen on strengthening strategic relations, according to Egyptian state news agency MENA. British foreign minister Boris Johnson appeared to strike a more cautious tone, writing on Twitter: "Look forward to working with President Sisi's government in his 2nd constitutional term. Egypt has an opportunity over next 4 years to build a prosperous & democratic society, building on rights set out in 2014 constitution".

Sisi's main Western and regional allies have been mostly silent over alleged human rights abuses in Egypt. The US State Department said it had noted "reports of constraints on freedoms of expression and association in the run-up to the elections" and "will continue to encourage a broadening of opportunities for political participation for Egyptians, and emphasize the importance of the protection of human rights and the vital role of civil society in Egypt." Russia congratulated Sisi on his election win ahead of the official results, and regional ally King Salman of Saudi Arabia called Sisi yesterday to express support, saying his victory came as a result of strong efforts to combat terrorism. — Agencies

## Caste protests across India...

Continued from Page 1

"untouchables", who make up 200 million of India's 1.25 billion population and are at the bottom of the caste hierarchy.

They are angry at a Supreme Court ruling that banned the automatic arrest of the accused in cases under a special law to protect marginalized groups who suffer widespread discrimination. The 1989 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was intended to guard against the harassment of Dalits and other groups. Dalit leaders say the ruling increases the likelihood of attacks. Dalits are among the most marginalized groups in a country where caste discrimination is outlawed but remains widespread. Last week a young Dalit farmer in Gujarat was beaten to death for owning a horse, which is seen as a symbol of power and wealth.

Across the affected states, groups hurled stones, bottles and burning sticks at police and set buses on fire. Some sat on railway lines to block trains. Reports said a police outpost near Meerut in Uttar Pradesh was set on fire. Authorities in Punjab shut schools and colleges and postponed exams in some affected regions. Media reports said the government had restricted mobile Internet services. Rajnath Singh, India's home minister, called for calm. "The government is appealing

against the court order but it is a responsibility of everyone including all political parties to ensure peace," Singh told journalists in Delhi, where the Dalit protests caused traffic chaos.

The discrimination has become a political issue in the run-up to a national election that must be held before May 2019. Rahul Gandhi, head of the opposition Congress party, hit out at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Thousands of Dalit brothers and sisters are demanding the protection of their rights from Modi government on the roads today. We salute them," Gandhi said.

Dalit voters have apparently swayed towards the BJP in recent elections. Observers say this has helped Modi's party take control in several Indian states. "The opposition's nervousness is due to the never before seen nationwide support of backward castes to the Modi government," Arjun Ram Meghwal, a BJP lawmaker and minister in Modi's government, said on Twitter.

"Get out in strong numbers, block the roads if needed, but do not touch public property," Jignesh Mevani, an independent Dalit lawmaker from the western state of Gujarat, told the India Today news channel. Although he backed the protests, Mevani said, he was opposed to any damage to public property. Mayawati Das, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and a prominent Dalit politician, also supported the protests while condemning violence. Shops were shut as protesters blocked key roads in many areas, including the capital, New Delhi, and the industrial city of Ahmedabad in Modi's home state of Gujarat, the Times of India newspaper reported. — Agencies

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## Sports

# Poulter wins Houston playoff to secure final Masters spot

## Englishman wins with a par at first extra hole

**HOUSTON:** Ian Poulter resurrected his stagnant career by winning the Houston Open in a playoff on Sunday, the victory coming with an added bonus of earning the final invitation to the US Masters and throwing his hat into the ring for Europe's Ryder Cup team.

Poulter was always heading to Augusta to work on the tournament for British television, but the 42-year-old Englishman will now be inside the ropes instead when the first major championship of the year starts on Thursday.

"There's life in the old dog yet," Poulter said after beating American Beau Hossler on the first hole of a sudden death playoff at Golf Club of Houston. Poulter, without a win since 2012, arrived in Houston needing nothing less than victory to qualify for the Masters after missing out by a whisker when he found himself 51st in the world rankings last week.

The top 50 at last Monday's cutoff earned exemption to Augusta and Poulter was so dejected after being initially misinformed he was in the Masters field that he considered skipping Houston.

"Tuesday morning I made the decision to come and play. It was a good decision," he added. "The win doesn't just mean getting to Augusta. There's a lot bigger things on the horizon." Such as, hopefully, the Ryder Cup in France this autumn. Poulter, a five-times European team member, said his win would tell

captain Thomas Bjorn: "Hey, I'm here, my game is in good shape."

But more immediately is the Masters, to which Poulter will go after returning to his Orlando, Florida home for a brief reunion with his family. "I need to unpack, have some chocolate with the kids tonight and repack for Augusta," he said.

### CHEST-BEATING PUTT

The stars aligned for Poulter at the final hole in regulation play on Sunday, when Hossler grazed the hole with a birdie attempt that would have clinched victory. "He thought he had holed it. I thought he holed it," said Poulter, whose 20-foot birdie putt was on a similar line.

Using the same putter he wielded so effectively to lead Europe to victory in the 2012 Ryder Cup, he came through in the clutch yet again to force the playoff. "I hit a great putt, good read and it obviously was very helpful seeing his putt," Poulter added.

He punched his chest with his right fist five times in excitement after matching Hossler's 67 after the pair tied at 19-under-par 269, three shots clear of Jordan Spieth and Emiliano Grillo. Hossler then handed Poulter the tournament at the first extra hole, the par-four 18th, where the American hit his third shot from a greenside bunker into a water hazard.

Poulter's third victory on the PGA Tour followed



**HUMBLE:** Ian Poulter of England poses with the winner's trophy after winning the Houston Open at the Golf Club of Houston on Sunday in Humble, Texas. — AFP

previous wins at World Golf Championships events—the 2010 Match Play and the 2012 HSBC Champions in Shenzhen.

His chances of winning looked remote after he shot 73 on Thursday but rounds of 64, 65, 67 followed

after he flicked what he described as a "mental switch". "Last week was painful," Poulter said. "To come here this week, I was tired, frustrated on Thursday. I didn't play my best stuff. I packed my bags to leave on Friday." — Reuters

## Brilliant Lindberg downs Park in marathon ANA Inspiration playoff

**LOS ANGELES:** Sweden's Pernilla Lindberg held her nerve to claim her first major title yesterday, winning the ANA Inspiration on the eighth hole of a thrilling playoff duel with South Korean star Park In-bee.

Lindberg, who had led for all four rounds of the tournament, drained a 25-foot birdie putt on the par-four 10th to set up her victory over seven-time major winner Park at the Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, California.

The 31-year-old's birdie left Park needing to make an awkward 10-footer to force an extra playoff hole, but the 2013 champion missed to hand Lindberg the win. "I just know I'm a grinder. Towards the end yesterday I felt 'This is mine, I'm going to do this,'" said Lindberg, who has registered only a handful of top-10 finishes on the LPGA Tour after more than 180 tournaments.

"I just knew I could so I just kept fighting away. I couldn't believe it when that last putt went in," added Lindberg, whose previous best finish at a major was a share of fifth at the 2015 US Women's Open. Lindberg celebrated her victory with the traditional dive into the Poppie's Pond hazard at the 18th green—and was joined in the water by her parents, Jan and Gunilla.

"The only reason I'm playing golf is because of them," Lindberg said. "It's so



**RANCHO MIRAGE:** Pernilla Lindberg of Sweden poses with the winner's trophy after defeating Park In-bee of South Korea during the sudden death playoff on the eighth hole during the final round of the ANA Inspiration. — AFP

great that they were here. I've probably given my dad I don't know how many heart attacks over the past few days. "But I'm so happy they're here and I get to celebrate this with them."

### MOUNTING TENSION

The playoff had extended into yesterday after Lindberg and Park finished in near-darkness on Sunday, unable to land a decisive blow through four extra holes. Their duel resumed at just after 8:00am local time yesterday on the par-four 10th, with Lindberg coming within a couple of inches of draining a monster birdie putt that would have completed victory.

Lindberg had to settle for a par however

which left Park a 25-foot birdie putt for the championship. The 29-year-old seven-time major winner's effort rolled up short however, leaving her with a tap-in which she duly converted.

Play then moved to the par-three 17th, but in a sign of mounting tension, both players fluffed their tee shots. Park's seven iron off the tee kicked into the bunker at the front of the green before Lindberg then squandered an opportunity to capitalise by sending her tee shot into the deep rough. Both players then chipped onto the green to leave themselves with long putts to make par. Park ramped up the pressure on Lindberg by draining her putt from 15ft, leaving Lindberg a 12-footer to stay in the match. — AFP

soaring several thousand dollars above face value. "I got a second chance on life," Woods said. "I am a walking miracle." Woods hasn't won a major since the 2008 US Open, hasn't won a tournament since the 2013 WGC Bridgestone Invitational, hasn't played in a major since missing the cut at the 2015 PGA Championship and last won the Masters in 2005.

"I'm just really looking forward to playing," Woods said. "It's the best-run tournament in the world. The golf course, the patrons, the entire atmosphere—it's a golfer's heaven." A streak of 12 rounds at par or better has shown Woods has regained his health. This week will tell if he has found the form that made him a global superstar.

"It's a lot different than the first two comebacks. He wasn't ready," said Australia's Jason Day. "He came back too soon. Now he's hitting it longer than before." That's part of the reason some oddsmakers have made Woods the tournament favorite. "That's kind of funny," Woods said. "Six months ago the odds were I wasn't even going to play."

### TOP RIVALS READY TOO

Woods played two nine-hole practice rounds two weeks ago at Augusta National, his first at the course since the final round in 2015. "They resurfaced a few of the greens but they still look they have been there for 100 years," Woods said. "My yardage book was basically the same."

Woods, whose 79 career PGA wins are three shy of Sam Snead's all-time record, faces a world-class field with several top

rivals playing their best as well. Multiple major winners Rory McIlroy, Bubba Watson and Phil Mickelson plus 2017 PGA Championship winner Justin Thomas have won Masters tuneup events and reigning British Open champion Jordan Spieth, the 2015 US Open and Masters winner who was third Sunday at Houston, is peaking at the perfect time.

"I've made some big strides from my past couple of tournaments. I'm very excited for what next week holds," Spieth said. "I'll try to nail it in the next few days and try a little speed control at Augusta and hopefully I'll have a chance at the weekend."

### GARCIA SHARES A LOCKER

Defending champion Sergio Garcia will try to become the first repeat winner of the Masters since Woods in 2001-02, having become a husband and father since ending his major drought after 73 failures, daughter Azalea named for one of his favorite Augusta National holes.

"Azalea's first flight and she did amazingly well! We made it to Augusta for @TheMasters and are excited for a very special week," Garcia's wife Angela tweeted. Adding to the specialness of the week for Garcia was an image tweeted Sunday by Augusta National of his new Champions Locker Room plate alongside that of Spanish countryman Jose Maria Olazabal.

Last year, Olazabal sent Garcia a note for inspiration saying, "I'm not sharing my locker at the moment, and I hope that I get to do it with you." — AFP

## Kuwait wins first athletics gold

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti athletics team has won the first gold medal in a tournament abroad. Jarrah Al-Fadhli, the rapporteur of the Kuwaiti athletics com-

mittee affiliated to the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, said in a statement to KUNA, yesterday, that the team won the gold in the fifth Ras Al-Khaimah (UAE) championship. This is a leap for the newly-born game in Kuwait, said Al-Fadhli, speaking after return of the team from Ras Al-Khaimah where the champion, Yousef Jumaa, came first in the 94-kg category. Jumaa was excellent in all the competitions of the championship, which concluded two days ago, he added. — KUNA

## Storied Safari Rally seeks a revival in East Africa

**NAIROBI:** In its heyday, half a century ago, East Africa's Safari Rally was renowned as being among the toughest in the world, a formidable challenge for car and driver, across escarpment and savannah. Winners have included Colin McRae, Carlos Sainz, Juha Kankkunen and Ari Vatanen, and the difference between victory and defeat sometimes depended on which car avoided herds of cattle wandering on the road. The rally's fall from grace was slow but steady and, after the 2002 edition, it was dropped from the World Rally Championship (WRC) altogether. It limped on in African competition for a few years but in 2015 and 2016 was reduced to a local Kenyan race.

But now hopes are rising of a revival and a return to its past glory, with the motor sport governing body, the FIA, signalling the rally's possible return to the championship.

Pre-dating Kenya's independence, the race has its roots in imperial adventurism when a group of British colonial farmers decided in 1953 to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's coronation by tearing up East Africa in a five-day, 6,000-kilometre (3,300-mile) rally.

The first race had few rules and, in the end, no clear winner. Cars were categorised according to showroom prices and there were only seven mammoth stages in the entire rally through Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. As word of the rally spread, drivers from outside the region tried their hand but it was nearly 20 years before one from Finland, Hannu Mikkola in a Ford Escort, took the title in 1972, breaking the East African stranglehold on the race.

### 'NOT FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED'

"The East Africa Safari Rally was not for the faint-hearted," recalled Kenyan driver Prem Choda, who participated from 1974 to 1985. "It required extra mental and physical stamina." "It was a

tough rally, usually covering between 7,000 to 8,000 kms of mostly hilly and rugged road terrain," he said.

The Safari Rally was diminished in the late 1970s when it became a Kenyan-only affair, a victim of regional political rivalries, and in 2003 it was crossed off the world circuit due to concerns over safety, organisation and finances.

The loss of the rally was an embarrassment to Kenya and it has been sorely missed by spectators, who enjoyed the roar of the engines through their neighbourhoods and villages, and would often get their hands dirty helping to shove cars out of mud.

"If ever this country had an annual event that made the world stop and look in this direction, it was the Safari Rally," said veteran Kenyan sports journalist Roy Gachuhi. "We failed to build on a great heritage and we are the poorer for it."

The clamour for the rally's return to the championship has grown louder lately. Hopes have been bolstered by the stated desire of FIA president Jean Todt — himself an eight-time Safari Rally participant—to see an African event back in the WRC.

"You deserve to have your rally back in the calendar," he said during a visit to Kenya last month. But he made it clear that safety is the top priority. "The new standards of rallying must be respected. What was possible back when events ran on open roads is not possible these days," he said.

### BUMPY ROAD AHEAD

Glen Edmunds, a former Kenyan national rally champion and Safari Rally winner, said both Kenya and the WRC would benefit from the race's return. "The WRC needs our (African) colour... only then will you really have a true World Rally Championship," he said.

Like many who have participated in, or watched, the Safari Rally, Edmunds waxed nostalgic: "When we were children our mothers or grandparents used to take us to watch these fantastic cars going past our towns and villages, with all the heroes driving through the dust, the rain and the mud. That's the Safari!"

Under President Uhuru Kenyatta, Kenya's government has committed its support to reviving the rally, earmarking \$2 million (1.6 million euros) for the effort. Kenyan driver Patrick Njiru said it's about time government supported the rally again. — AFP

## Excitement builds over Tiger's return

**AUGUSTA:** Anticipation built Sunday around Augusta National for Tiger Woods returning to the Masters, ticket scalpers already offering prized passes to the unfolding drama at the year's first major golf tournament.

Players traveled Magnolia Lane to the clubhouse on the eve of the first official practice session for the 82nd Masters, where 14-time major winner Woods will try for a fifth green jacket after his fourth back operation.

"I'm just there to win," Woods said in a posting on his website this week. "I've been better with each week I've competed. A little more crisp. I'm starting to put the pieces together."

Woods missed his third Masters in four years last year after spinal fusion surgery, but has contended in his past two starts, sharing fifth at the Arnold Palmer Invitational and second at the Valspar Championship. "It's fantastic what we're seeing of Tiger. He looks in control of his game," said Britain's Justin Rose, last year's Masters runner-up.

Woods, who at a low point doubted he would ever play competitive golf again, has seen interest in his comeback tale at age 42 send resale prices for Masters badges

Sports

# Sun, sea and equality at 'relevant' Commonwealth Games

## 4,300 athletes from 71 nations and territories to compete

**GOLD COAST:** The Commonwealth Games are "more relevant now than ever", organisers said yesterday as they got ready to fire the starting gun on 11 days of competition at Australia's Gold Coast. Questions have been asked about the standing and modern appeal of the tournament, an echo of colonialism which began as the British Empire Games in 1930.

But officials said the Games still had a role to play, pointing to the groundbreaking move to have an equal number of men's and women's medal events, and the policy of including para sports in the main programme.

"The Commonwealth has stood for generations now for fighting for fairness and freedom," said David Grevenberg, chief executive of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

"From our standpoint we're more relevant now than ever before for the things that have historically challenged the Commonwealth, to the ambitions and aspirations that this Commonwealth looks to uphold: peace, prosperity, good governance and human rights."

After tomorrow's opening ceremony, about 4,300 athletes from 71 nations and territories will compete across 23 sports in Gold Coast, a beach-fringed city in Australia's east. Games chairman Peter Beattie said the Olympics should take note of the Commonwealth's move to gender equality for medal events, which he described as a first for a major Games.

"The Commonwealth Games stands for some things

that are different: gender equality is one, inclusiveness is another," Beattie said. He added: "Of course it makes a difference that there are equal numbers of medals for men and women. Perhaps that's something the Olympics should follow."

### 'STOLENWEALTH GAMES'

Australian cycling great Anna Meares said the Games remained well regarded by athletes, and provided a crucial opportunity to gain experience. "The people who seem to critique it and question its relevance are people who perhaps aren't involved in the sport itself," the former Olympic and Commonwealth champion said. "You ask any athlete where the relevance of the Commonwealth Games sit and they'll tell you it's right up there." However, not everyone is happy about the tournament and indigenous protesters have organised demonstrations against what they call the "Stolenwealth Games".

As the opening ceremony nears, Games organisers are also grappling with a possible doping controversy after the discovery of syringes in the athletes' village. Grevenberg said the syringes were still being analysed but that one team, believed to be India, had been summoned over a breach of the Games' "no-needle" policy.

England's Adam Peaty and Australia's heavyweight team will highlight the swimming events, while Jamaica's Yohan Blake and Elaine Thompson will kick off the track night following the retirement of Olympic sprint



**GOLD COAST:** People walk past a surfboard display (C) counting down to the start of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast yesterday. — AFP

icon Usain Bolt. Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei headlines a strong badminton tournament and Olympic champions Australia will hope to become the inaugural gold medalists when women's rugby makes its Games debut.

Forecasts of wet weather for Wednesday and the

following days didn't deter Beattie, who declared: "A little bit of rain is not going to ruin the opening ceremony." He added: "Queenslanders and Australians are very tenacious. We'll just do singing in the rain if that's what happens." — AFP

## Olympic champion Peaty would love to have naval gazed

**LONDON:** Adam Peaty is set to do battle in the pool at the Commonwealth Games for England but the 2016 Olympic champion said he would love to have commanded a naval battle. The 23-year-old—who is unbeaten in the 100m breaststroke in four years since taking 2014 Commonwealth Gold—admitted that would be one of his wishes if he could travel back in time.

An appropriate choice perhaps for Peaty, who at one point wanted to join the Royal Marines before swimming took over his life—not bad for someone who confesses to hating water when he was a youngster. "I know how sadistic this sounds but I would love to oversee a naval battle from the 12th or 13th century," he told 'The Times' in an exclusive interview in yesterday's edition.

"Or go back to World War II and have an eagle-eyed view of some of the General Patton battles, maybe the Battle of the Bulge. "You need a hobby that's not weird but different from everyone else," Peaty, who believes at some point he will lower



**BUDAPEST:** File photo shows Britain's Adam Peaty (C) competing in the men's 50m breaststroke final during the swimming competition at the 2017 FINA World Championships in Budapest. — AFP

his world record of 57.13seconds for the event to 56sec, says history was the only subject he enjoyed at school and it is reflected in his choice of his favoured viewing. "It's not a film but a series—Band of Brothers," said Peaty referring to the critically acclaimed World War II drama,

whose executive producers were Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks.

"Ever since I was a kid I've loved that stuff. "I wanted to be in the Marines when I was 15, but obviously swimming got in the way, but even at school, on non-uniform days, I'd be dressed in all-green with a hip flask." — AFP

## Eight stars to watch at the Commonwealth Games

**GOLD COAST:** English swimmer Adam Peaty and Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake will be among the world-class competitors in action when the Commonwealth Games begin next week in Australia's Gold Coast. Ahead of the opening ceremony tomorrow, AFP Sport picks out eight stars to watch during the April 4-15 showpiece.

### VALERIE ADAMS (SHOT PUT, NZL)

Adams seems to have been around forever and this will be her fifth Commonwealths—her haul so far is three gold and one silver. Still only 33, the Kiwi dominated women's shot put for more than a decade. Her remarkable reign includes winning 107 major competitions in a row from 2006 to 2014 and two Olympic titles. But she had to settle for silver at the 2016 Rio Olympics, behind the American Michelle Carter, and is on the comeback trail after having her first child in October.

### YOHAN BLAKE (ATHLETICS, JAM)

With fellow Jamaican Usain Bolt retired, Blake has a prime opportunity to step out of the sprint legend's shadow. The 28-year-old Blake is the second fastest man of all time in the 100m and 200m—behind Bolt—but has never won a Commonwealth Games medal after skipping Glasgow 2014. Blake revealed that Bolt, who will attend the Games as an

ambassador, is expecting him to win. "He said, 'When I come to Australia, if you don't win there is going to be problems'," Blake told Brisbane's Courier-Mail.

### LEE CHONG WEI (BADMINTON, MAS)

Lee is a Malaysian with magic in his racket. The badminton star boasts a formidable trophy haul and is reaching the end of a great career. His triumphs include Commonwealth gold in 2006 and 2010 — he missed 2014 injured. He would have been a multiple Olympic champion too, but lost the final to Lin Dan in 2008 and 2012, and fell to another Chinese player, Chen Long, in 2016. At least Lee, 35, won't have to face Lin or Chen in Australia.

### TOM DALEY (DIVING, ENG)

The 23-year-old with the boy-band looks leads England's hopes in the diving and is also one of the biggest stars at the Games. He burst onto the scene as a fresh-faced teenager and is a double world champion in the 10m platform. In the same discipline he also won gold at the 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth Games. At the Gold Coast Games, the double Olympic bronze-medallist will compete in the 10m platform and also the 3m synchronised event.

### MACK HORTON (SWIMMING, AUS)

The bespectacled Horton is the reigning Olympic 400m freestyle champion and is also slated to go in the 200m and 1,500m events at the Commonwealths. The 21-year-old's preparations hit a snag in the build-up when he was stung by a bee and suffered an allergic reaction, his arm ballooning in size. Horton, who cuts a scholarly-looking figure with his thick specs—but has the daunting nickname "Mack the Knife"—faces stiff competition in the 200m from fellow Australian Kyle

Chalmers, the Olympic title-holder in the 100m freestyle.

### ADAM PEATY (SWIMMING, ENG)

The Englishman is the 100m breaststroke Olympic champion and world record-holder in the 50m and 100m. He will also be defending his Commonwealth title in the 100m. And there is bad news for his rivals because he is in excellent form, winning the 100m at last month's British championships with a season-best 58.78sec. Peaty, unbeaten for nearly four years, warned his rivals afterwards that he was gunning for a world record to go with Gold Coast gold.

### CASTER SEMENYA (ATHLETICS, RSA)

The 27-year-old South African runner is a two-time Olympic gold medallist and three-time world champion over 800m. She will be strong favourite to pull off an 800m and 1,500m double in Australia and has even been tipped for a new world record over 800m if she hits top form. Semenya, South Africa's flag-bearer, has been dogged by gender accusations since shooting to fame when she won the 800m crown as a teenager at the 2009 world championships. — AFP

### ELAINE THOMPSON (ATHLETICS, JAM)

Thompson is the 100m and 200m Olympic champion and another hoping to grab the headlines following the retirement of fellow Jamaican track star Bolt. However, the 25-year-old does not enjoy the dominance that Bolt had and at the world championships in London in 2017 she finished a disappointing fifth. "Losing the world championships was just a big motivation for me and that gives me a big boost to work even harder for 2018," Thompson wrote on Facebook in January. — AFP

## Aussie Campbell eyes redemption after 'choke'

**GOLD COAST:** A defiant Cate Campbell has promised a return to her best form at the Commonwealth Games as the Aussie swimmer looks to exorcise the demons of her Olympic flop two years ago. The 25-year-old is blazing the comeback trail after taking a year out from the sport, prompted by what Campbell described as the "greatest choke in Olympic history" in Rio—her sixth-place finish in the 100 metres freestyle final.

Campbell, who is limbering up for the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast this week, rediscovered her mojo at the national trials, where she dominated the 100m freestyle and broke Australian records in the 50m free and 50m butterfly. "I definitely missed being part of the team," she told reporters. "To be back in the green and gold, it really makes my heart beat a little bit faster." Campbell was the red-hot favourite to win the Olympic 100m title in 2016 and led at the turn before fading badly, allowing Canada's Penny Oleksiak and American Simone Manuel to come through and tie for gold. But Campbell, who helped the Australian women win the 4x100m freestyle title in Rio, brushed off questions about her mental strength before the Commonwealth Games swimming competition, which begins Thursday. "It's not so much the pressure of expectation, because people want you to swim well," she said.

"They're not rooting for you to swim badly. They want to see you swim well so



Cate Campbell

they will support you and not put pressure on you." "I've never had a home crowd advantage," added Campbell, whose 100m time at trials was three-tenths of a second quicker than the effort Oleksiak and Manuel clocked to win gold in Rio.

"We saw in Glasgow in 2014 that the Scots just lifted. There was something in the air that got them ready to swim fast and I'm really hoping we feel that same energy here."

Campbell, who is looking to retain the 100m title she won in Glasgow, will get her shot at redemption when she lines up against teenager Oleksiak in Gold Coast, where Campbell's sister Bronte will be a medal threat. Australia, meanwhile, has finished top of the medals table in swimming since the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, and Cate Campbell backed the host nation to continue that dominance. "We do set the standard of the meet," she said. "I'm incredibly proud of this team." — AFP

## India deny doping at Commonwealth

**GOLD COAST:** India's men's boxing coach denied any doping had taken place yesterday after syringes were found in the Commonwealth Games athletes' village, saying one of his fighters was given a vitamin injection because he was unwell.

Santiago Nieva was speaking to Australia's 7 News after Games bosses said officials from an unnamed team had been summoned over a breach of the event's "no-needle" policy.

"I'm confident that our boxers haven't taken anything," Nieva said, two days ahead of the opening ceremony. "We had one boxer that wasn't very feeling well and the doctor has given him an injection."

Asked if it had been a performance-enhancing drug, Nieva replied: "No, that was a vitamin substance." A cleaner at the athletes' village initially tipped off organisers about the syringes, officials said.

However, Nieva's explanation contradicts India team manager Ajay Narang, who on Saturday told AFP that the needles were nothing to do with them. They were found inside a water bottle on a path outside their accommodation, Narang said.

Games chiefs, who are still analysing the syringes, have repeatedly warned against teams or athletes breaking the "no-needle" edict. Any penalties would be at the discretion of the Commonwealth Games Federation court.

David Grevenberg, the federation's chief executive, declined earlier yesterday to identify which country was under suspicion, but said officials had been summoned to a meeting with the organisation's medical commission. — AGP

## Sports

# Dominant SA build massive lead amid injury concerns

## South Africa declare to set target of 612

**JOHANNESBURG:** Captain Faf du Plessis ended his run of low scores with a classy century, but fitness concerns over all three seamers made South Africa bat until tea before declaring on the fourth day of the final test against Australia yesterday.

South Africa finally called a close to their second innings on 344 for six, setting Australia a massive victory target of 612 runs. But with Kagiso Rabada suffering from a stiff lower back, Morne Morkel struggling with a side strain and Vernon Philander nursing a groin problem, Du Plessis faces a juggling act with his potent seam attack.



### Needs a draw for first home series win over Australia

South Africa need a draw to secure a first home series over Australia since 1970, with the tourists having been rocked by the ball-tampering scandal in which former captain Steve Smith, his deputy David Warner and batsman Cameron Bancroft were sent home after the third test in Cape Town. Du Plessis (120) reached his eighth test century as he passed 50 for the first time in 11 innings, seven of which have been single-figure scores, including a golden duck in the first innings of this test. His stylish innings ended when he edged seamer Pat Cummins (4-58) to a diving Peter Handscomb at second slip, also ending a fourth-wicket partnership of 170 with opener Dean Elgar (81).

Elgar's 250-ball vigil ended shortly afterwards when he tried to attack spinner Nathan Lyon (2-116), but skied his shot to Shaun Marsh at mid-on.

Quinton de Kock (four) was trapped lbw by Cummins, who recorded the best test match figures of



JOHANNESBURG: South African batsman and Captain Faf du Plessis (R) plays a shot on the fourth day of the fourth Test cricket match between South Africa and Australia. — AFP

his career, 9-141. Temba Bavuma (35) and Philander (33) shared an unbeaten stand of 71 for the seventh wicket before the declaration.

South Africa's stay at the wicket may have been frustrating for home fans, but it suited scandal-hit Australia with a draw their best outcome in the match. There are 121 overs remaining in the game, weather

permitting, a long time for Australia's under-performing batsmen to survive, even against a depleted home attack.

South Africa also have front-line spinner Keshav Maharaj to call on, as well as part-timers Elgar, Bavuma and Aiden Markram, who have taken 15 test wickets between them. — Reuters

### SCOREBOARD

**JOHANNESBURG:** Scores at the end of South Africa's second innings on the fourth day of the fourth Test against Australia at the Wanderers Stadium yesterday.

**South Africa, first innings, 488**

**Australia, first innings, 221**

**South Africa, second innings (overnight 134-3)**

A. Markram c Handscomb b Cummins	37
D. Elgar c S. Marsh b Lyon	81
H. Amla c M. Marsh b Lyon	16
A. de Villiers c Paine b Cummins	6
F. du Plessis c Handscomb b Cummins	120
T. Bavuma not out	35
Q. de Kock lbw b Cummins	4
V. Philander not out	33
Extras (b4, lb8)	12
Total (6 wks dec, 105 overs)	344

**Fall of wickets:** 1-54 (Markram), 2-79 (Amla), 3-94 (De Villiers), 4-264 (Du Plessis), 5-266 (Elgar), 6-273 (De Kock)

**Bowling:** Hazlewood 21-6-41-0, Sayers 14-2-68-0, Lyon 41-13-116-2, Cummins 18-5-58-4, M. Marsh 8-0-40-0, Renshaw 3-0-9-0.

Match situation: Australia need 612 runs to win

## S African Klaasen replaces Smith in Rajasthan squad

**NEW DELHI:** South Africa wicketkeeper Heinrich Klaasen will replace banned Australian Steve Smith in the Rajasthan Royals team for this year's Indian Premier League (IPL), organisers said yesterday.

Former Australia captain Smith and his deputy David Warner were handed 12-month bans by Cricket Australia for their roles in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

The pair have also been banned from this year's IPL starting on Saturday with a match between defending champions Mumbai Indians and twice winners Chennai Super Kings. Klaasen was bought for a modest 5 million Indian rupees (\$77,000) to replace Smith whom Rajasthan had retained for 120 million rupees to lead the side in the eight-team tournament. India middle-order batsman Ajinkya Rahane will captain the side.

Klaasen, 26, has played four one-day and three Twenty20 Internationals for South Africa, all against the visiting Indian side last month. Warner, who quit as Sunrisers Hyderabad captain following the scandal in South Africa, has been replaced by England opener Alex Hales in the IPL side. —Reuters

## Bad light hinders England bid for Christchurch win

**CHRISTCHURCH:** England's bid to win the second test against New Zealand and level up the series was hindered by bad light yesterday when play was abandoned early with the hosts 42 without loss chasing an unlikely 382 for victory.

The tourists, without a win in their last 12 overseas tests and needing victory to save the two-test series after losing the opener in Auckland, declared their second innings closed on 352-9 earlier on day four at Hagley Oval. New Zealand openers Tom Latham, who had made 25 not out, and Jeet Raval, unbeaten on 17, will resume on the final day today after weathering an early storm from the seamers and a period where declining light forced England to bowl spin.

England's Jonny Bairstow, who backed up his first innings century with a bright 36 from 54 balls, said the tourists were confident they could take the 10 wickets to get the job done on Tuesday.

"We've seen that if you put the ball in the right areas, we've beaten the outside edge consistently," he told reporters. Problems in getting a full day's play at a ground without floodlights might have been expected this far into the year, especially after the official end of New Zealand's summer came with the changing of the clocks at the weekend.

England had still looked in a strong position to get the win they required to stymie New Zealand's hopes of a first series triumph against them since 1999 when bad light also brought an early end to day three on Sunday. Having made 307 in their first innings before

### SCOREBOARD

**CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand:** Scoreboard at stumps on day four of the second Test between New Zealand and England in Christchurch yesterday:

**England first innings 307** (J. Bairstow 101, M. Wood 52; Southee 6-62, Boult 4-87)

**New Zealand first innings 278** (B. Watling 85, C. de Grandhomme 72, T. Southee 50; Broad 6-54, Anderson 4-76)

**England second innings**

A. Cook c Watling b Boult	14
M. Stoneman c Watling b Southee	60
J. Vince c Taylor b Boult	76
J. Root c Watling b Wagner	54
D. Malan c Nicholls b de Grandhomme	53
B. Stokes c Raval b de Grandhomme	12
J. Bairstow c Nicholls b Wagner	36
S. Broad c Sodhi b de Grandhomme	12
M. Wood b de Grandhomme	9
J. Leach not out	14
Extras: (b4, lb3, w2, nb3)	12

Total: (for 9 wickets declared: 106.4 overs) 352

Fall of wickets: 1-24 (Cook), 2-147 (Stoneman), 3-165 (Vince), 4-262 (Malan), 5-262 (Root), 6-282 (Stokes), 7-300 (Broad), 8-312 (Wood), 9-352 (Bairstow)

Bowling: Boult 28-5-89-2, Southee 19-4-65-1 (1w), de Grandhomme 26-2-94-4 (1w, 2nb), Wagner 22-4-51-2 (1nb), Sodhi 11-0-46-0.

Did not bat: J Anderson

**New Zealand second innings**

T. Latham not out	25
J. Raval not out	17
Extras:	0
Total: (for 0 wickets: 23.0 overs)	42

**Bowling:** Anderson 9-5-9-0, Broad 8-3-16-0, Wood 2-0-13-0, Leach 3-1-4-0, Root 1-1-0-0.

Series: New Zealand lead 1-0

dismissing New Zealand for 278, they resumed on 202-3 and pushed cautiously towards a position where they might declare later in the day. Joe Root and Dawid Malan both reached the half-century mark a 39th for the skipper, number six for his partner-before a double strike in three balls saw them depart for 54 and 53 respectively to leave their side 278-5 at lunch.

England's next four wickets went for only 70 runs, more than half of them coming from the bat of Bairstow with Root calling his players in once the wicketkeeper had departed.

After New Zealand's pace spearhead of Tim Southee and Trent Boult had taken all of the England wickets on

the first three days of the match, Colin de Grandhomme finally got the other home bowlers in on the act.

The all-rounder's gentle medium pace accounted for Malan, Ben Stokes (12), Stuart Broad (12) and Mark Wood (9) and he finished with figures of 4-94. New Zealand just need a draw to take the series 1-0 and batting coach Craig McMillan said it would be quite an achievement if they managed to bat out the final day.

"Series wins have been few and far between for New Zealand test sides, in terms of history it would be very special," he said. "But there's a big day with a lot of cricket ahead tomorrow, so there's a lot of work still to be done." — Reuters

## Ohtani wins pitching debut, leads Angels over A's 7-4

**LOS ANGELES:** Shohei Ohtani did something on Sunday afternoon that hadn't been accomplished in 99 years, and in the process, the Los Angeles Angels' two-way player earned the victory in a 7-4 win over the Oakland A's. Ohtani became the first major-leaguer since Babe Ruth in 1919 to start on Opening Day as a non-pitcher (he went 1-for-5 as the DH), and then start on the mound within his team's first 10 games of the season. Ohtani (1-0) gave up three runs on three hits and one walk in six innings, striking out six along the way. All three hits came in the second inning, including a three-run home run by Oakland third baseman Matt Chapman. That gave the A's a 3-2 lead at the time, but it was short-lived. The Angels offense battered A's starter Daniel Gossett (0-1) and five relievers for 13 hits, including three each by Andrelton Simmons and Jeffrey Marte. Mike Trout and Zack Cozart added two hits apiece.

### BLUE JAYS 7, YANKEES 4

Justin Smoak hit a grand slam with two outs

in the bottom of the eighth inning, lifting Toronto over visiting New York. Smoak won a nine-pitch matchup with David Robertson (0-1) by hitting a full-count fastball into the second deck in center field. Smoak also hit a two-run home run in the seventh with nobody out off Tommy Kahnle. Smoak's grand slam occurred after the Yankees opted to intentionally walk Josh Donaldson after Robertson put runners at second and third by allowing a single to Russell Martin and a double to Aledmys Diaz.

### RED SOX 2, RAYS 1

Rafael Devers delivered a go-ahead RBI single in the sixth inning as visiting Boston claimed its third straight victory against Tampa Bay. Devers drove in four runs in the series for the Red Sox, who won the remainder of the season's inaugural series after blowing a 4-0 lead in Tampa Bay's 6-4 victory Thursday in the opener. Brad Miller clubbed a solo blast off Red Sox starter Hector Velazquez for the Rays, who pushed across only three runs over the final three games of the series.

### NATIONALS 6, REDS 5

Bryce Harper homered twice, while Anthony Rendon and Adam Eaton added two-run shots as Washington earned a weekend sweep of host Cincinnati. Gio Gonzalez picked up the win with six strong innings. He gave up five hits and a run with a walk and seven strikeouts. Four relievers combined to record the final nine outs, with Sean Doolittle pitching the ninth and earning his second save despite giving up a two-run homer

to Phil Gosselin. Sal Romano was charged with the loss even though he logged a quality start. He worked six innings, permitting four hits and three runs with four walks and two strikeouts.

### DODGERS 9, GIANTS 0

Rich Hill threw six scoreless innings, Cody Bellinger hit his first home run of the season, and host Los Angeles beat San Francisco to earn a split in the four-game series. The shutout was the second in a row for the Dodgers' pitching staff, which had Kenta Maeda and three relievers combine to blank the Giants 5-0 on Saturday. For the entire four-game series, the Dodgers allowed just two runs—both coming on solo homers by Joe Panik in the first two games, and both resulting in 1-0 Giants victories. Hill worked his way out of a couple of jams, making 82 pitches and allowing five hits and three walks. He struck out five.

### ASTROS 8, RANGERS 2

Gerrit Cole allowed just two hits over seven innings, and Carlos Correa continued his hot start with two hits and two RBIs as Houston rolled past host Texas in the final of a four-game, opening-weekend series. Cole, a key acquisition by the Astros during the offseason, surrendered a solo home run in the first to Joey Gallo and did not allow another hit until the sixth. He struck out 11 and walked just three during his dominating 102-pitch performance. Mike Minor, who made a major league start for the first time since 2014, took the loss for the Rangers after surrendering two runs (both earned) and three hits in 4



OAKLAND: Zack Cozart #7 of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim dives into first base with a triple against the Oakland Athletics in the top of the first inning of a Major League Baseball game at Oakland Alameda Coliseum in Oakland. — AFP

2/3 innings. He struck out five and walked two in his 93-pitch stint, his most pitches in a game since a September 2014 start against Texas.

### MARLINS 6, CUBS 0

Dillon Peters pitched six scoreless innings and fellow rookie Brian Anderson stroked a three-run double to lead Miami over visiting Chicago. The Cubs and Marlins split their season-opening, four-game series. Peters (1-0) earned just his second major league win in his seventh start and fourth decision. He allowed six hits and one walk, striking out two.

### MARINERS 5, INDIANS 4

Mitch Haniger hit his second home run of the season and Dee Gordon homered in a tiebreaking seventh inning in support of right-hander Mike Leake in Seattle's home victory over Cleveland. Gordon homered off right-hander Dan Otero (0-1), and Haniger hit a two-run shot off left-hander Tyler Olson after Robinson Cano singled for a 5-2 lead. Haniger is 5-for-8 with a pair of solo homers this season. Edwin Encarnacion hit two homers and drove in three runs for the Indians. —Reuters

Sports

# Liverpool style can make tie 'unpleasant' for City: Klopp

## Klopp believes City can clinch title with a win over Man United

**MANCHESTER:** Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp is not about to change his team's trademark style against Champions League quarter-final opponents Manchester City and believes he can make things "unpleasant" for Pep Guardiola's side.

City's dominance in the Premier League has led many teams to try different methods to limit the effectiveness of Pep Guardiola's tactics and the skill of his players. Liverpool, though, are the only team to have beaten City in the league this season, with a thrilling 4-3 victory at Anfield in January, and Klopp suggests he will play in a similar style in the first leg tomorrow.

"The way we attack the opponent, the way we defend high is unpleasant (for our opponents). If we do that well they will have some difficulty coping with it," the German told UEFA.com.

"It will be very exciting. There's no guarantee this will work. In the end it's the lads on the pitch who will decide the game," he added. Key to Liverpool's approach is the attacking trio of in-form Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane, who all scored in the January victory over City but who are also central to the pressing of Guardiola's defence.

One approach Klopp won't be taking is simply trying to shut up shop. "It'll be about doing more things right than the opponents, because you can't simply defend against City and hope that they won't score on the day," the German said. "They're just too good."

Klopp's "gegenpressing" style, honed at Borussia Dortmund, involves a rapid swarming of opponents' territory when they lose the ball, and a high defence to

limit space and make good use of high-energy attacking full backs. Guardiola's teams, including his former clubs Barcelona and Bayern Munich, enjoy playing out from the back, working the ball swiftly through midfield and using space expertly.

### PRESSING GAME

The pressing from Liverpool's forwards and midfielders tests the ability but Klopp says the two methods are more similar than many think. "There's no big difference, actually. It's just that Pep has always had better teams than me. You can see that now with Manchester City - they have a lot more points than we do. However, that difference has never been as small as it is now. When we coached at Bayern

and Dortmund respectively, that difference was really big," he said. While much of the credit for City's success has been given to their manager, Klopp believes City, who are 16 points clear at the top of the Premier League and can clinch the title with a win over Manchester United on Saturday, also owe much of their success to the quality of their players.

"Positioning is important but this is not witchcraft. When the players are in position they move every millisecond in order to be available. And when they are, that's when the individual quality of the player becomes important," he said.

"So they're already well-positioned on the pitch, they are very well orientated and they can pass the ball into the next area. That's what makes them extraordinary," Klopp added.—AFP

“The way we attack the opponent is unpleasant”



LONDON: A combination of pictures shows Liverpool's Egyptian midfielder Mohamed Salah (L) and Manchester City's Spanish midfielder David Silva (R) running with the ball during the English Premier League football match. — AFP

## Key absences unlikely to ruffle Juventus coach

**MILAN:** Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri will have to reshuffle his side again for Real Madrid's visit today, yet it is all water off a duck's back for one of Europe's master tacticians. In just under four seasons at Juve, Allegri, who will be unable to call on suspended defender Medhi Benatia and midfielder Miralem Pjanic, has shown himself to have an uncanny knack of switching formations between and often during matches.

Juventus, who host Real in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final, have won three successive Italian league and cup doubles and reached two Champions League finals under Allegri's pragmatic leadership. During that period, Allegri has repeatedly and successfully managed to rebuild his side after the departures of key players such as Andrea Pirlo, Arturo Vidal, Carlos Tevez, Paul Pogba and Leonardo Bonucci.

Bonucci's departure at the end of last season meant the break-up of the formidable BBC defence, which also featured Giorgio Chiellini and Andrea Barzagli. But Morocco defender Benatia has stepped ably into the gap and the defence remains as miserly as ever, conceding only one goal in Serie A since the start of the year. In the last few months, Allegri has fielded a 3-5-2 formation, a 4-2-3-1, a 4-3-3 and a 4-1-4-1, all proving equally effective. Rather than emphasising fight and commitment, the 50-year-old likes to talk about the importance of "interpreting the moment" and "administering the match".

He says his team enjoys defending as much as trying to score goals and said last year that good defending is "as beautiful as a great attacking move". One of his most recent masterstrokes was in the second leg of the last-16 tie against Tottenham Hotspur



VINOVO: Juventus' head coach Massimiliano Allegri (C), Juventus' Argentinian forward Paulo Dybala (R) and Juventus' Brazilian midfielder Douglas Costa attend a training session on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match Juventus vs Real Madrid yesterday at the Juventus training center in Vinovo. — AFP

when Allegri altered the course of the game with two changes in a minute. Juve were losing 1-0, and trailing 3-2 on aggregate, when Allegri replaced defensive midfielder Blaise Matuidi with left back Kwadwo Asamoah, then one minute later brought on right back Stephan Lichtensteiner for central defender Benatia.

The complexion of the game changed immediately. Juventus scored two quick goals and, despite being on the back foot for most of the two-leg tie, went through to the last eight 4-3 on aggregate. Allegri was similarly successful on Saturday when, with his side drawing 1-1 against AC Milan, he introduced winger Juan

Cuadrado on the hour against AC Milan.

Barely 15 minutes later, the Colombian, returning after three-month injury-enforced absence, scored to set his side on the way to a 3-1 win, heading in at the far post from Sami Khedira's cross. Khedira, who had been greeted with a few jeers when he reappeared for the second half of the match, scored the third and, typically, Allegri praised the German for his tactical nous. "He's an international class player and he is intelligent," he said. "I like to have him on the pitch as knows when to raise the drop the rhythm, and he knows how to read the moment of the match." — Reuters

week. I went into every match super fresh and loose. I will be a force if I can continue to play freely." Both Zverev and Isner were faultless in their service games and the first set predictably went the distance before fourth seed Zverev prevailed when Isner sprayed a backhand wide.

The break, however, finally came for Isner at 4-4 in the second set and when Zverev, who missed the chance to return to number three in the world with this defeat, failed to hold at 5-4 in the third, Isner sealed the best win of his career with an ace. The German, whose frustrations boiled over when he smashed his racket on the ground after that critical break, proved his billing as one of stars of the future by making his third Masters final and now heads to Spain where Germany play in the quarter-final of the Davis Cup. "I missed more shots today than I did the whole tournament. I played badly from the baseline but it's not easy against John," said Zverev who admitted he will have just one day of practice before taking on the Spaniards in Valencia. "He always makes it difficult.

"I kind of lost the match myself but I have known him since I was 14 so although I am never happy to lose, I am happy for him that he's won his first Masters." It was a fitting way for American players to say goodbye to Key Biscayne, home of the Miami Open for the last 32 years, before the move to Hard Rock Stadium next year. Florida born Sloane Stephens won the women's title on Saturday before Isner stepped up to the plate 24 hours later. "With the atmosphere and the support, it was amazing," said Isner. "You just can't replicate that and for me to come out the winner in the last men's single match ever here is unique." — AFP



KEY BISCAYNE: John Isner of the United States holds the Butch Buchholz trophy on Crandon Park Beach after his three set victory against Alexander Zverev of Germany in the men's final during the Miami Open. — AFP

## Lacklustre Atletico beat Deportivo with Gameiro penalty

**MADRID:** Atletico Madrid beat La Liga strugglers Deportivo La Coruna 1-0 at home on Sunday without starting first choice strikers Diego Costa and Antoine Griezmann, cutting the deficit behind leaders Barcelona down to nine points.

French forward Kevin Gameiro scored the only goal of the game from the penalty spot in the 34th minute in a generally underwhelming display against relegation-threatened Deportivo. The spot kick was awarded after Pedro Mosquera tugged the shirt of midfielder Saul Niguez in the area. Valencia tightened their hold on the fourth Champions League spot by winning 1-0 at Leganes and opening up a 15-point lead over fifth-placed Villarreal, who lost 1-0 at basement club Malaga as the Andalusians down to nine points.

Gameiro started on his own in attack for Atletico as top scorer Griezmann was suspended and Costa was recovering from muscle discomfort, although the Spain international came on in the second half, replacing 19-year-old debutant Carlos Isaac.

Deportivo have still not managed to win in 2018 but created the better of the chances against Diego Simeone's side. They could have taken the lead early on when forward Lucas Perez burst into the box with only Jan Oblak to beat but shot straight at the goalkeeper. Later in the half he was again thwarted by the Slovenian with a headed attempt. Mosquera wasted a great chance shortly before halftime when the ball fell to his feet at the back post but he sent it flying over the bar. In the second half, Atletico defender Lucas Hernandez made a perfectly timed challenge to swipe the ball from the feet of Perez as he was racing towards goal. Atletico coach Diego Simeone admitted his side had underperformed.

"It's always difficult after an international break so close to a World Cup and on top of that we had players suspended and injured and we responded by getting a result," Simeone told a news conference.

"Our first half was better than the second, we scored and could have taken more of our chances, but we were up against a side fighting for their lives and we couldn't finish the game off."

Simeone's side are second in the Liga standings on 67 points after 30 games. Leaders Barca have 76 while champions Real Madrid are third on 63.

Deportivo are 19th on 20 points, eight adrift of safety and only three ahead of Malaga, who snapped a 14-match winless run by seeing off fifth-placed Villarreal with a first-half penalty by Gonzalo Castro.

Malaga are now 11 points off safety and coach Jose Gonzalez said the win had injected a new sense of hope into his side of clawing their way out of the relegation mire.—Reuters

## Isner upsets Zverev to win Miami Open

**MIAMI:** John Isner finally put an end to his ATP Masters final agony on Sunday, winning the Miami Open for the first time by beating Germany's Alexander Zverev 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4. The 14th seed had lost his previous three major tour final appearances in 2012, 2013 and 2016 but came back from a set down to beat Zverev in two hours and 29 minutes.

The victory capped a superb tournament for Isner, who endured a difficult start to 2018 which included an early-round exit at Indian Wells in his lead-in to Miami. "I couldn't have scripted this. I came into this tournament, I won one ATP [World Tour] match all year and was playing very poorly," Isner said. "I won my first match in three sets and that's how tennis goes - you start to gain a little confidence and next thing you know things start to roll your way." Isner is the first US player since Andy Roddick in 2010 to lift the Miami title. Isner will also reclaim a career high world ranking of ninth after the victory, the 13th title of his career. "It's up to me now to keep pushing forward," he said. "To get over the hump in tournaments like this is a big thing mentally for me. "We cleared that hurdle this



### Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ITALIAN LEAGUE		
Atalanta v Sampdoria	beIN SPORTS HD 4	19:30
Udinese Calcio v Fiorentina	beIN SPORTS HD 5	19:30
Genoa v Cagliari Calcio	beIN SPORTS HD 6	19:30
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
Juventus v Real Madrid	beIN SPORTS HD 1	21:45
Sevilla v Bayern Munich	beIN SPORTS HD 2	21:45

**12** Brilliant Lindberg downs Park in marathon ANA Inspiration playoff



**13** Aussie Campbell eyes redemption after 'choke'



**15** Isner upsets Zverev to win Miami Open



SAN ANTONIO: Rudy Gay #22 of the San Antonio Spurs goes for a dunk against the Houston Rockets at AT&T Center on Sunday in San Antonio, Texas. — AFP

## Rockets fall to Spurs 100-83

### Jazz leapfrog Minnesota into sixth place in Western Conference

**SAN ANTONIO:** LaMarcus Aldridge posted a double-double and received complementary scoring from Rudy Gay in the San Antonio Spurs' 100-83 win over the visiting Houston Rockets on Sunday. The Spurs averted a season series sweep and snapped the Rockets' 11-game winning streak in the process, holding Houston to 33.8 percent shooting. Aldridge finished with 23 points and 14 rebounds for San Antonio, which desperately needed the victory to maintain pace in the hotly contested Western Conference postseason picture. The Spurs are fourth in the West, a half-game up on Oklahoma City. Gay scored 21 off the San Antonio bench while the starting backcourt of Dejounte Murray and Danny Green combined for 25 points and 13 rebounds. James Harden led the Rockets with 25 points and eight assists.

#### JAZZ 121, TIMBERWOLVES 97

Ricky Rubio poured in 23 points on 5-of-6 shooting from beyond the arc to lead five teammates in double-figure scoring as visiting Utah romped past Minnesota in a game with major postseason implications for both teams. Utah led by 11 at halftime and poured it on in the second half, forging as much as a 29-point lead in the fourth quarter to run away with the contest. The victory allowed the Jazz to leapfrog Minnesota into sixth place in the Western Conference standings. Both teams are part of a group of

seven squads separated by four games for the No. 4-10 spots in the West, and just five of those teams will earn places in the postseason.

#### THUNDER 109, PELICANS 104

Russell Westbrook had a triple-double as Oklahoma City held on against host New Orleans, which is clinging on to the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Westbrook finished with 26 points, 15 rebounds and 13 assists as the Thunder ended a three-game losing streak. Paul George added a game-high 27 points, and Carmelo Anthony had 16 points. Anthony Davis had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and Ian Clark scored 16 for the Pelicans, who lost their fourth straight.

#### CAVALIERS 98, MAVERICKS 87

LeBron James racked up his 17th triple-double of the season with 16 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists as Cleveland came from behind at home to beat Dallas. The Cavaliers were down by four points entering the fourth quarter but used a 13-0 run over a four-minute timeframe in the middle of the period to take charge. With the win, Cleveland remains in third place in the Eastern Conference standings with five games to play. The Cavaliers can finish no better than third, but they are just a half-game up on Philadelphia and a game ahead of Indiana as those three

teams battle for the Nos. 3-5 spots in the East.

#### WARRIORS 117, SUNS 107

Kevin Durant, Draymond Green and Quinn Cook hit 3-pointers during a 17-2, third-quarter flurry that helped host Golden State break open a close game in a victory over Phoenix. Durant finished with 29 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists for the Warriors, who snapped a three-game home losing streak, their longest since January 2014. The Suns lost their 15th straight despite 22-point efforts from Marquese Chriss and Josh Jackson.

#### NUGGETS 128, BUCKS 125 (OT)

Nikola Jokic had 35 points, 13 rebounds, five assists and three blocked shots to help host Denver recover from an 18-point, fourth-quarter deficit and post a crucial victory over Milwaukee. Jamal Murray recorded 27 points and seven assists, and Paul Millsap contributed 26 points, 13 rebounds and five assists for Denver. Will Barton had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Nuggets, who moved within one game of the eighth-place Pelicans for the final Western Conference playoff spot. Jabari Parker scored a season-best 35 points on 14-of-23 shooting and collected 10 rebounds while Eric Bledsoe had 31 points and six assists for Milwaukee. Giannis Antetokounmpo finished with 18 points, 12 rebounds and six assists.

#### 76ERS 119, HORNETS 102

Ben Simmons put on a clinic with 20 points, 15 assists, eight rebounds, three steals and two blocks to lift Philadelphia past host Charlotte for a 10th straight win. Marco Belinelli added a team-best 22 points on 9-of-10 shooting off the bench for the Sixers, who completed a four-game sweep of the season series with Charlotte. The Sixers have their first 10-game win streak since they started the season 10-0 in 2000-01, when they went to the NBA Finals.

#### TRAIL BLAZERS 113, GRIZZLIES 98

Portland outscored visiting Memphis 43-24 in the third quarter, breaking open a tight game and then cruising to victory. Damian Lillard scored 27 points and CJ McCollum added 20 points for the Trail Blazers, who won for the 17th time in 20 outings. Rookie Dillon Brooks scored 28 points for the Grizzlies.

#### PACERS 111, CLIPPERS 104

Victor Oladipo scored 30 points and delivered a season-high 12 assists to lead visiting Indiana past Los Angeles. Oladipo hit 11 of 17 shots. Myles Turner scored 24 points and grabbed eight rebounds for the Pacers, who won their fifth consecutive game, including three in a row on the road. Tobias Harris scored 21 and Lou Williams was right behind with 20 for the Clippers. — Reuters

## Pardew leaves Premier League tailenders West Bromwich

**LONDON:** Alan Pardew paid the price for a club record eight successive Premier League defeats by leaving his managerial role at West Bromwich Albion by mutual consent yesterday. The 56-year-old had only been at the club for four months after replacing Tony Pulis but failed to revive their fortunes and he leaves them bottom of the table 10 points adrift of safety with just six games remaining.

Three of those matches are against Champions League chasing trio Manchester United, Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur. Former Hull and Watford manager Marco Silva is the bookies early favourite to take over the role. "West Bromwich Albion and Alan Pardew have agreed to mutually part company today following discussions between both parties," read a club statement on their website.

"Assistant Head Coach John Carver will also be leaving. "The Club would like to thank Alan and John for their efforts and wish them well in their future endeavours. "First-team coach Darren Moore has been placed in charge of first team affairs until further notice.

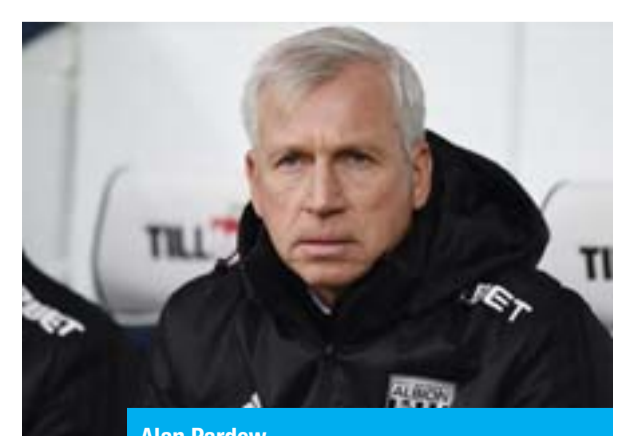
"The Club will not be making any further comment at this time." Pardew-whose last managerial job saw him sacked as Crystal Palace manager in the 2016/17 campaign months after taking them to the FA Cup final-replaced Pulis after the club had failed to win in 10 matches. His cause was not helped by his players off-the-field behaviour either. Four senior players-including

Northern Ireland defender Jonny Evans and England midfielder Jake Livermore-broke a team curfew whilst on a warm weather training camp in Barcelona in February and stole a taxi. Pardew, a former Reading team-mate of West Brom technical director Nick Hammond, was the club's sixth manager since 2011. They won just once in 18 league games under him, and took only eight points from a possible 54.

Pardew's departure comes six weeks after the club sacked chairman John Williams and chief executive Martin Goodman. Goodman's replacement Martin Jenkins found the finances in such a poor state that he had to organise the club's first overdraft in a decade.

"I've come back (he had been chief executive for 14 years before leaving at the end of 2016) and I'm shocked at what I have found in some of the decisions that have been made," he told The Times last week.

"I've come back and can assure you that we are right at our limit on STCC (short-term cost control). There is no more money for (players) wages." West



Alan Pardew

Brom are in their eighth successive Premier League season but have taken only 20 points from their 32 matches this campaign. — AFP



# Business

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018

**18** Japan business confidence slips in March survey: BoJ



**19** France braces for start of 3-month-long rail strikes



**21** Turkish Airlines launches its direct flights to Aqaba



## China slaps tariffs on 128 US goods

### Trump to unveil China tariff list this week

**BEIJING:** China has increased tariffs by up to 25 percent on 128 US products, from frozen pork and wine to certain fruits and nuts, escalating a dispute between the world's biggest economies in response to US duties on imports of aluminum and steel.

The tariffs, took effect yesterday, were announced late on Sunday by China's finance ministry and matched a list of possible tariffs on up to \$3 billion in US goods published by China on March 23.

Soon after the announcement, an editorial in the widely read Global Times newspaper warned that if the United States had thought China would not retaliate or would only take symbolic counter-measures, it could "say goodbye to that delusion".

"Even though China and the US have not publicly said they are in a trade war, the sparks of such a war have already started to fly," the newspaper said. The Ministry of Commerce said it was suspending its obligations to the World Trade Organization (WTO) to reduce tariffs on 120 US goods, including fruit and ethanol. The tariffs on

those products will be raised by an extra 15 percent.

Eight other products, including pork and scrap aluminum, would now be subject to additional tariffs of 25 percent, it said, with the measures effective from April 2.

"China's suspension of its tariff concessions is a legitimate action adopted under WTO rules to safeguard China's interests," the finance ministry said. China is moving swiftly with retaliatory action amid escalating trade tension with the United States, which has rocked global financial markets in the past week as investors fear a full-blown trade dispute between them will damage world growth.

#### US move

The Trump administration this week will unveil the list of Chinese imports targeted for US tariffs to punish Beijing over technology transfer policies, a move expected to intensify trade tensions between the world's two largest economies. The list of \$50 billion to \$60 billion worth of annual imports is

expected to target "largely high-technology" products and it may be more than two months before tariffs take effect, administration officials have said.

The US Trade Representative's office needs to unveil the list of products by Friday under President Donald Trump's China tariff proclamation signed on March 22. The tariffs are aimed at forcing changes to Chinese government policies that USTR says results in the "uneconomic" transfer of US intellectual property to Chinese companies.

The agency's "Section 301" investigation authorizing the tariffs alleges China has systematically sought to misappropriate US intellectual property through joint venture requirements, unfair technology licensing rules, purchases of US technology firms with state funding and outright theft.

China has denied that its laws require technology transfers and has threatened to retaliate against any US tariffs with trade sanctions of its own, with potential targets such as US soybeans, aircraft or heavy equipment. — Agencies



ZHANGJIAKOU: A Chinese employee working on a section of a concrete mixing truck at a factory in Zhangjiakou in China's northern Hebei province. —AFP

**15 Years of Transparency**

KIPCO's 2018 Shafafiyah (Transparency) Forum will take place after the company's General Assembly meeting. KIPCO will present a review of 2017 and guidance for 2018 to shareholders and institutional investors. The event will be broadcast live on the company's website: [www.kipco.com](http://www.kipco.com)

The event will take place on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at 1:00 p.m., 56<sup>th</sup> floor, KIPCO Business Center, KIPCO Tower, Sharq, Kuwait City.

For further information, please call 2294 3477.

Business

# Japan business confidence slips in March survey: BoJ

## Stronger yen dents exporter sentiment

TOKYO: Confidence among Japan's biggest manufacturers has slipped after five quarters of rises, a key central bank survey showed yesterday as a stronger yen dented exporter sentiment. The Bank of Japan's Tankan report—a quarterly survey of about 10,000 companies—showed a reading of 24 among major manufacturers in its March survey against 26 in the December report.

Confidence fell among chemicals, electrical machinery makers and other exporters as the average predicted yen rate for the business year from April appreciated to 109.66 to the dollar in the latest survey from above 110 yen in December.

The sentiment among iron and steelmakers tumbled to 10 from 19 as the US moved to impose hefty tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. A strong yen is negative for Japanese exporters as it makes their products less competitive abroad and erodes profits when repatriated. The latest Tankan, however, hardly made economists pessimistic about the world's third largest economy, with the headline index still close to the

highest level in over a decade. Economists argue Japan is on a solid recovery path on the back of a global economic recovery, with investments linked to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics also giving the economy a shot in the arm. "The yen's appreciation dented corporate confidence temporarily," said UBS economist Takuji Aida. "But the underlying sentiment is solid, as seen in their plans to accelerate spending on plants and equipment," he said. "Weak stock prices (since February) have not prevented them from stepping up capital spending," he said. The index for non-manufacturers also fell to 23 from 25 but Aida said it would also improve going forward, with rises in wages starting to translate into higher consumer spending.

"Readings in the next Tankan will likely turn up," he told AFP. The Tankan report, the broadest indicator of how Japan Inc is faring, marks the difference between the percentage of firms that are upbeat and those that see conditions as unfavorable.

Due to a triennial reshuffling of companies surveyed, the confidence for the

December 2017 quarter was recalculated with the new base in order to make a comparison. The latest survey came after a batch of solid economic data released on Friday, which showed factory production picked up in February while the jobless rate stayed low. Japan's economy expanded by 0.4 percent in the last quarter of 2017 as it notched up its longest period of expansion since the "bubble" days of the 1980s.

The stock market kept soaring in January but took a plunge in February on fears that the US central bank will embark on a sharper pace of interest-rate rises than previously expected to head off inflation.

"Looking forward, we do not see a deterioration," Katsunori Kitakura, lead strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui Trust, said in a commentary. "Business sentiment may see some downward pressure until Q2 2018, but should recover towards year-end" as the global economy grows, he said in a commentary ahead of the release of the latest Tankan. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been trying to boost the economy



TOKYO: A pedestrian walks past a stock indicator showing share prices of Japanese companies in Tokyo. — AFP

with a mix of aggressive monetary easing and huge government spending along with reforms to the economy. But it has failed in

its goal of shrugging off the deflation that has plagued Japan for years and held back growth. — AFP



Chinese employees working on a concrete mixing truck at a factory in Zhangjiakou in China's northern Hebei province. — AFP

## China factory activity drops to four-month low in March: Caixin

BEIJING: Chinese manufacturing activity slowed in March as weak demand weighed on the world's second largest economy, independent data showed yesterday.

The Caixin Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) — an indicator of conditions at small manufacturers—dropped to 51.0 in March, down from 51.6 in February, marking the weakest reading since November.

A PMI figure above 50 represents growth while anything below points to contraction. New order growth slowed due to weak foreign demand, and the pace of production level growth slackened, according to a Caixin statement with data compiler IHS Markit. Inventories of finished items increased marginally while employment dropped. "Demand was not as strong as

expected, leading to lower willingness of manufacturers to produce and restock," Caixin analyst Zhengsheng Zhong wrote.

"The growth momentum of the Chinese manufacturing economy may have weakened in March, but at a marginal pace." The government's official PMI reading Saturday of 51.5 beat forecasts, suggesting factory activity expansion quickened in March.

"We suspect that the official PMI, which is skewed toward firms in heavy industry, has benefited from the easing of winter pollution controls," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a research note. "We tend to put more weight on the Caixin PMI since the index typically does a better job capturing broader cyclical trends in economic activity." — AFP

## CBK announces the winners of Al-Najma account

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the daily draw on "Al-Najma Account" on Sunday 1st April 2018 at the "Kuwait Pulse 88.8 Radio Station Diwaniya Program" to select 5 winners to win a cash prize of KD 7000 for each. The draw was held in the presence of Mr. Abdulaziz Ashkanani, representative of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The following names were announced as winners of the prizes:

1. Arwa Mohammad Al Jawdar
2. Abdolmajid Mohammad Aliany
3. Akmal Ahmed Khan
4. Khaled Adel AlTabtabaei
5. Jassim Hayawi Naser Jassim

Al-Najma Account allows its customers

to win a daily prize of KD 7000 which is the highest daily prize in Kuwait. In addition, the Account offers quarterly draws that provide customers with opportunity to get their dreams turned to reality by winning great prizes starting from KD 100,000 for the first quarter escalating thereafter by KD 50 thousand for each quarter to reach KD 250,000 in the last quarter. Customers can enjoy additional benefits including obtaining ATM card and a credit card against the customer's account along with enjoying all other banking services.

The Bank congratulates all the lucky winners and draws their attention that the cash prizes will be credited into their accounts



with the Bank. Further, the Bank appreciates the Ministry of Commerce & Industry's significant role & its continuous cooperation and effective supervision on the draw that was smoothly & transparently organized.

## KIB sponsors Educate Your Money forum

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) was an ambassador sponsor of the Educate Your Money forum, which was recently organized by Areej Hamada for legal counsel and law practices and held at the JW Marriott Hotel. The forum provided banking and legal professionals with the opportunity to discuss banking and legal awareness, financial education, as well as Kuwait's cooperation with Child and Youth Finance International (CYFI).

On this occasion, Corporate Communications Team Leader at KIB, Fahad Al-Sarhan, said: "Nowadays, we live in an age where financial culture and banking awareness is of the utmost importance to many countries, including Kuwait.

This rings especially true for children and youth, as more and more efforts are being focused on integrating financial education in school curricula to achieve financial inclusion by introducing financial education and savings skills at school age. Moreover, universities offer students specializations that provide an in-depth understanding of financial culture, investment methods, and financial analysis, thereby



Fahad Al Sarhan

enabling students to make effective day-to-day financial decisions in both their personal and future professional lives."

It is worth noting that KIB was the first Kuwaiti entity to partner with the CYFI in 2013, which came as part of the Bank's ongoing efforts to promote financial and economic awareness with the highest international standards on a national level. These efforts aimed at strengthening financial inclusion, as per the specific guidelines set by the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Al-Sarhan also noted that KIB's sponsorship of this forum falls in line with its strong belief in the importance of educating the community on basic saving concepts and good money management, particularly

children and youth. By doing so, the Bank aims at fostering a financially-conscious generation able to build a better, more economically sustainable future for the nation.

Al-Sarhan concluded by saying: "We believe that our strength as a bank does not only stem from our outstanding banking policies, but also from our community efforts that aim at promoting financial awareness amongst the community using our vast banking expertise. For this reason, last year, KIB launched a number of unique initiatives focusing on spreading economic and banking awareness amongst all segments of the community, as well instilling basic values of saving and good money management in children at an early age."

### EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b>	
Japanese Yen	2.857
Indian Rupees	4.631
Pakistani Rupees	2.640
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.922
Nepali Rupees	2.897
Singapore Dollar	229.850
Hongkong Dollar	38.265
Bangladesh Taka	3.591
Philippine Peso	5.749
Thai Baht	9.654
<b>GCC COUNTRIES</b>	
Saudi Riyal	80.133
Qatari Riyal	82.534
Omani Riyal	780.405
Bahraini Dinar	797.930
UAE Dirham	81.837
<b>ARAB COUNTRIES</b>	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.026
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.206
Tunisian Dinar	126.980
Jordanian Dinar	423.600
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.002
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	33.330
<b>EUROPEAN &amp; AMERICAN COUNTRIES</b>	
US Dollar Transfer	300.300

Euro	373.570
Sterling Pound	427.630
Canadian dollar	234.790
Turkish lira	76.120
Swiss Franc	318.960
Australian Dollar	233.780
US Dollar Buying	299.100
<b>GOLD</b>	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570
<b>Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd</b>	
<b>Rate for Transfer</b>	<b>Selling Rate</b>
US Dollar	299.850
Canadian Dollar	233.465
Sterling Pound	426.935
Euro	373.535
Swiss Frank	286.765
Bahrain Dinar	797.410
UAE Dirhams	82.040
Qatari Riyals	83.270
Saudi Riyals	80.855
Jordanian Dinar	424.195
Egyptian Pound	17.000
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.923
Indian Rupees	4.622
Pakistani Rupees	2.598
Bangladesh Taka	3.598
Philippines Peso	5.740
Cyprus pound	17.850

Japanese Yen	3.840	
Syrian Pound	1.585	
Nepalese Rupees	2.892	
Malaysian Ringgit	78.580	
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.185	
Thai Bhat	10.595	
Turkish Lira	75.740	
<b>BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL</b>		
<b>CURRENCY</b>	<b>BUY</b>	<b>SELL</b>
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.416120	0.423620
Czech Korune	0.006546	0.015846
Danish Krone	0.045551	0.050551
Euro	0.364387	0.371877
Georgian Lari	0.136318	0.136318
Hungarian 0.001092	0.001282	
Norwegian Krone	0.034178	0.039378
Romanian Leu	0.062518	0.079368
Russian ruble	0.005242	0.005242
Slovakia	0.008923	0.018923
Swedish Krona	0.031901	0.036901
Swiss Franc	0.308147	0.319147
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.222233	0.234233
New Zealand Dollar	0.210798	0.220298
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.227625	0.236625
US Dollars	0.296500	0.300920
US Dollars Mint	0.297000	0.300920

<b>Asia</b>	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003189 0.003773
Chinese Yuan	0.046407 0.049907
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036213 0.038963
Indian Rupee	0.004127 0.004768
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017 0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002739 0.002919
Korean Won	0.000273 0.000288
Malaysian Ringgit	0.073795 0.079795
Nepalese Rupee	0.002999 0.003169
Pakistan Rupee	0.002499 0.002789
Philippine Peso	0.005671 0.005971
Singapore Dollar	0.223792 0.233792
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001605 0.002185
Taiwan	0.010190 0.010370
Thai Baht	0.009279 0.009829
<b>Arab</b>	
Bahraini Dinar	0.790717 0.799217
Egyptian Pound	0.014076 0.019794
Iranian Riyal	0.000083 0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000202 0.000262
Jordanian Dinar	0.419359 0.428353
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000 1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000148 0.000248
Moroccan Dirhams	0.023282 0.047285
Omani Riyal	0.774461 0.780141
Qatar Riyal	0.078277 0.083217
Saudi Riyal	0.079073 0.080373
Syrian Pound	0.001273 0.001493
Tunisian Dinar	0.122076 0.130076
Turkish Lira	0.071295 0.081595
UAE Dirhams	0.080417 0.082117
Yemeni Riyal	0.000977 0.001057

## Business

# France braces for start of 3-month-long rail strikes

## Air France expects 75% of flights to operate

**PARIS:** France braced yesterday for the start of three months of rolling rail strikes, the first in a series of walkouts affecting everything from energy to garbage collection as President Emmanuel Macron's reform agenda comes up against resistance.

Staff at state rail operator SNCF will walk off the job from 7.00 pm (1700 GMT), kicking off stoppages on two out of every five days which unions warn will cause major disruption for France's 4.5 million train passengers. The real action begins on what the press has dubbed "black Tuesday", with only one high-speed TGV train out of eight set to operate and one regional train out of five in the strike against a major overhaul of the debt-ridden SNCF.

Three out of four Eurostar trains to London and Brussels will run and the Thalys train towards Belgium and the Netherlands will operate almost as normal, but there will be none at all towards Spain, Italy and Switzerland.

Rubbish collectors, some staff in the energy sector and Air France employees will also strike Tuesday in the biggest wave of industrial unrest since Macron's election last May.

Air France meanwhile, said it expected to operate around 75 percent of its flights today, the first day of a strike that will coincide with a larger stoppage on the rail network, paralyzing much of France's transport network.

The flag carrier's unions have called for action yesterday and on April 7 and plan further walkouts on April 10 and 11, over demands for a 6 percent wage increase that management has rejected.

Meanwhile French commuters are bracing for chaos from Monday evening as a series of rolling nationwide rail strikes get under way that nearly half of unionized staff have indicated they will join.

The rail strike, due to run for three months in successive waves of two days, is expected to be the biggest test yet of President Emmanuel Macron's ability to push through wide-ranging labor and economic reforms. SNCF said it expected only one in eight of its high-speed trains expected to run on Tuesday.

The Air France strike, organized separately, is expected to ground 30 percent of the carrier's long-haul flights out of Paris's main Charles de Gaulle airport,

it said. About 67 percent of its medium-haul flights would operate and 85 percent of short-haul ones.

Air France said more than 32 percent of its pilots, 20 percent of cabin crew and 15 percent of ground staff were expected to join the strike.

The rail strikes, set to last until June 28, are being seen as the biggest challenge yet to 40-year-old Macron's sweeping plans to shake up France and make it more competitive, earning comparisons with Margaret Thatcher's showdown with British coal unions in 1984.

Unions say the centrist ex-investment banker intends to "destroy the public railways through pure ideological dogmatism". His changes "will fix neither the debt issue or that of dysfunction" in the railway system", they said in their strike announcement. Air France, meanwhile, is set to operate 75 percent of flights Tuesday as staff stage their fourth strike in a month seeking a six-percent pay rise.

While not linked to Macron's reforms, the Air France walkouts-also planned for April 7, 10, 11 — add to a febrile mood among France's unions.

### Moment of truth for unions

Macron's government says the SNCF needs deep reforms as EU countries prepare to open passenger rail to competition by 2020, arguing it is 30 percent more expensive to run a train in France than elsewhere. Unions fear the changes are a first step towards privatizing the SNCF-a claim the government denies-and object to plans to strip new hires of a special rail workers' status guaranteeing jobs for life and early retirement.

As with his reforms loosening France's rigid labor code, Macron plans to push through the SNCF overhaul by executive order to avoid lengthy parliamentary debate, a move his critics have blasted as undemocratic. Unions have so far failed to block any of his changes despite several mass protests against reforms that include plans to scrap 120,000 public sector jobs. Philippe Martinez, head of the CGT union, has called for different forces opposed to Macron's agenda-including pensioners and student groups-to "bring their fights together".

But analysts say the coming walkouts will be a major



(FILES) This file photo taken on September 18, 2014 shows Air France planes parked on the tarmac at Orly's airport, near Paris. Air France's employees will go on strike today for the fourth time in a month to demand a six-percent general wage increase. —AFP

test of how much weight France's once fearsome trade unions still carry.

Macron's victory virtually swept away the Socialist Party, long the political champion of the labour movement, and union membership now stands at just over 11 percent in France-one of the lowest levels in the EU.

### 'France is tired'

Political expert Philippe Braud said Macron could succeed in reforming France where previous presidents have failed by methodically taking on one reform after another.

With opinion divided between "resignation" and "deep conviction that things must move forward," Braud said, "the planets were aligned: So many reforms

have been aborted over the past 20 years".

The government has so far had public opinion on its side over the rail reforms.

"No one can understand why the rail unions are unleashing a long and punishing strike when the government is engaging in a dialogue," said Transport Minister Elisabeth Borne.

But an Ifop survey on Sunday showed sympathy growing for SNCF staff, with 46 percent backing the strike, up four points from two weeks ago. "France is tired," said an editorial in the regional Sud-Ouest newspaper. "Who will get tired the quickest? The trade unions clinging to their last bastion? Or the ambitious young president determined to turn a page?" —Agencies

## Tough times, tough birds: Kenyan farmers swap back to hardy chickens

**WERU, Kenya:** In Elly Joy Kanani's farmyard in Kenya's Tharaka Nithi County, a few chickens perch while others peck for food, and a cock runs after a hen.

But when Kanani, dressed in a blue chequered apron and carrying a container of grain, walks past the chicken house and gives a familiar call, the yard is in no time packed with birds of many different colors, snapping up the grain almost before it hits the ground.

Kanani has been raising chickens for about four years, along with crops and other livestock, but she has not always reared the local variety of chickens that now make up her flock. She began with imported cross-bred birds - the white or brown chickens common across much of the world and a variety good at gaining weight fast. But Kanani is one of many Kenyan poultry farmers who have now renounced the imports, finding them less able to tolerate the more frequent extreme weather that is hitting the country as a result of climate change.

"I had reared the exotic breed for over two years, but the worsening climatic conditions coupled by frequent disease attacks on the birds made my farming a nightmare," she said. Imported chicken breeds require more food than native chickens, but chicken feed is no longer as cheap as it was as harsh weather hits crops, she said. The exotic birds also need to have heated houses, especially during the cold season, bringing additional costs because of the high price of electricity, she said.

And unlike their native counterparts, they drink a lot of water, which is getting harder to come by in Tharaka

Nithi County, a semi-arid region beset by droughts in recent years.

In the end, switching to local poultry was an easy decision, Kanani said. "One of the most important positive characters of native chickens is their hardiness," she said. "(They) can tolerate the harsh environmental conditions and poor feeding practices without much loss in production."

### Less cost, fewer antibiotics

Elijah Kimani, a farmer in neighboring Kirinyaga County, said that his parents made a living rearing indigenous chickens, and he began doing so himself in 2014. Then a friend suggested he try imported breeds instead, pointing out that they matured more quickly and suggesting there was high demand for their eggs and meat. But prospects for his business faded as he confronted a market glut of chicken meat and eggs, and growing disease problems, Kimani said.

He switched back to native chickens, where there is still strong demand for both eggs and meat, in part because the chickens are less likely to have been fed antibiotics to keep them healthy.

"My priority, or any priority of a rural farmer today, is not just having birds that lay some more eggs, but birds that will also have an ideal body size with an optimal body weight," Kimani explained.

Local breeds can thrive and produce eggs with minimal care and irregular feeding, he said. They can also tolerate a wider range of temperatures, and rainy seasons that can deliver a total of 1,250mm annually in Kirinyaga, one of the country's wettest counties.

Indigenous chicken eggs also sell for about a third more than eggs from imported chickens, with the birds themselves also bringing a similar premium. Benald Kinoti of Meru County's agriculture ministry said farmers find raising indigenous poultry straightforward because the chickens can scavenge around the homestead, eating insects, leftover grain and kitchen scraps, which saves on feed costs. —Reuters

## US factory activity slows; construction spending up slightly

**WASHINGTON:** US factory activity slowed in March amid a decline in new orders, but growth in the manufacturing sector remains underpinned by strong domestic and global economies.

Other data yesterday showed a marginal increase in construction spending in February. The reports support economists' view that economic growth slowed in the first quarter. Economic growth in the first three

months of the year tends to be weak because of a seasonal quirk. The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said its index of national factory activity fell to a reading of 59.3 last month from 60.8 in February. A reading above 50 in the ISM index indicates growth in manufacturing, which accounts for about 12 percent of the US economy.

The survey's production sub-index fell 1.0 point to a reading of 61.0 in March. A gauge of new orders dropped to 61.9 last month from 64.2 in February. A measure of factory employment dropped 2.4 points to 57.3 in March. Seventeen industries including fabricated metal products, computer and electronic products, machinery and chemical products reported growth last month. Apparel, leather and allied products was the only industry reporting a decrease. —Reuters

## CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST FIVE IN DUBAI UAE takes strict action on Kalyan Jewellers complaint against false social media posts

**D**ubai Public Prosecution has directed the Dubai Police to initiate criminal proceedings for charges of cyber crime and abuse using the internet / social media platform against five persons of Indian origin. Investigations by the Dubai Police has confirmed one of the above manipulated and circulated false social media posts giving the impression that the gold jewellery sold by the brand is impure and fake. The said person, has during the investigation process admitted that he had logged in and slandered the Complainant Company. The investigation against the others are under process.

The maligning posts were made viral across social media platforms and more evidently on Whatsapp groups. The posts further claimed that the UAE showrooms of Kalyan Jewellers were sealed and the owners arrested.

The legal action follows a complaint filed by Kalyan Jewellers LLC before the Dubai Public Prosecution against spreading fake videos and false news on social media. Dubai Police is working closely with the cybercrime department and is actively

pursuing investigations to identify other possible perpetrators who had uploaded similar false videos/posts.

Kalyan Jewellers had immediately refuted the false claims by posting a statement on their official social media handles.

Lauding the vigilant and methodical procedure of the Dubai police, Mr. T.S Kalyanaraman, Chairman and Managing Director of Kalyan Jewellers said, "It is very reassuring to see the steps taken by the Dubai Police to contain the social media abusers. This is evidence enough for the perpetrators to know that social media slandering will not be taken lightly. A brand's reputation is built over the years by the contribution and hard work of many people. Such instances of fake propagated by a few irresponsible individuals, is an attempt to tarnish the image and reputation of brands. These acts have deep impact on the emotions of all those associated with the brand and the company. I thank the UAE's legal system and the Dubai Police for taking strict measures in preventing cybercrimes and establishing the truth in such situations.

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## Flights resume at London Stansted after bus fire

**LONDON:** Flights resumed at London's Stansted airport after a shuttle bus fire forced the cancellation of flights as the busy Easter long weekend got under way.

The fire outside the terminal entrance started at 4:20pm (1520 GMT) on Friday and was completely extinguished by 5:00pm (1600 GMT). Departures at Britain's fourth-busiest airport, 30 miles (50 kilometres) northeast of London, were scrapped for the rest of Friday but all flights resumed as normal on Saturday. —AFP

Business

# Amazon shares plunge 4% as Trump renews attack

## Wall Street dives on technology woes

**NEW YORK:** A dreadful week for technology stocks worsened yesterday as Amazon and Tesla shares fell further, setting a grim tone for markets already worried about China's decision to raise import tariffs on US products. Amazon dropped as much as 4 percent after President Donald Trump launched his latest attack over the pricing of the world's biggest online retailer's deliveries through the US postal system and promised unspecified changes. The stock was the biggest drag on the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq and weighed the most on the S&P consumer discretionary index, which fell 1.32 percent.

Shares of Amazon.com Inc fell 4 percent yesterday after US President Donald Trump again attacked the online retailer over the pricing of its deliveries through the United States Postal Service and promised unspecified changes.

"Only fools, or worse, are saying that our money losing Post Office makes money with Amazon," Trump tweeted. "They lose a fortune, and this will be changed. Also, our fully tax paying retailers are closing stores all over the country...not a level playing field!"

Shares of the company were down 3.9 percent at \$1,389.50. Trump has been vocal about its opposition to Amazon's use of the postal service and yesterday's tweet adds to investor worries that the company could see more regulation. Amazon did not immediately respond to requests for a comment.

The Facebook data scandal, self-driving car crashes and Trump's intervention against Amazon pushed the S&P technology sector to post its worst monthly losses in nearly two years in March.

Facebook was down 1.7 percent yesterday, while the other FANG constituents like Netflix, Google-parent Alphabet were down between 2 percent and 3 percent. Tesla shares shed more than 5 percent ahead of the electric car maker's announcement of quarterly production numbers for its crucial Model 3 sedan.

China, late on Sunday, said it would increase tariffs by up to 25 percent on 128 US products, escalating a spat between the world's biggest economies. The move came in response to US duties on imports of aluminum and steel. "That's going to start stoking fears of trade wars and

protectionism. The market doesn't really like that," said Andre Bakhos, managing director at New Vines Capital LLC in Bernardsville, New Jersey. "And if it escalates, the questions could be on if China is going to buy our bonds. We have speculation out there, but it could be some profit taking and some risk-off mentality for the moment." Trump is separately preparing to impose tariffs of more than \$50 billion targeting "largely high-technology" Chinese products.

At 9:56 am ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 46.7 points, or 0.19 percent, at 24,056.41. The S&P 500 was down 17.81 points, or 0.67 percent, at 2,623.06 and the Nasdaq Composite was down 83.60 points, or 1.18 percent, at 6,979.84.

Ten of the 11 major S&P sectors were lower, with only utilities gaining. Facebook was down as the data scandal last month continued to weigh. Brokerage Pivotal Research slashed its price target, citing a faster-than-expected deceleration in the social media company's revenue growth.

Humana jumped about 7 percent after a report that Walmart was in early-stage talks with the health insurer about developing closer ties, with acquisition discussed as one possibility. Walmart fell more than 2 percent. Declining issues outnumbered advancers on the NYSE for a 1.78-to-1 ratio and for a 2.03-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq.

Meanwhile, Asian stocks began the new quarter yesterday with modest gains following a strong performance by global equities last week, while the dollar held steady ahead of key economic indicators. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.15 percent.

South Korea's KOSPI was flat and Japan's Nikkei advanced 0.5 percent. Shanghai was up 0.3 percent. Wall Street surged last Thursday as technology stocks rebounded, ending a tumultuous first quarter on a high note.

Many major financial centers were closed for the Good Friday Easter holiday. Markets in Australia, Hong Kong, Britain and Germany remained shut on Monday while the US market will resume trading. MSCI's world equity index ended up 1.2 percent last week. But it lost about 1.5 percent in the first quarter, pushed away from record highs as tensions over global trade esca-

lated, turmoil in the White House deepened and market-leading technology firms wobbled on fears of regulation and other issues.

"We expect strong and broad-based growth to continue globally," wrote strategists at Barclays. But they warned that there were looming risks: "Trade protectionism, US economic policy uncertainty, concerns about higher cross-market volatility and risk premium in core rates markets call for a more tactical approach to risk assets." While last month's fears of an all-out global trade war have abated somewhat, tensions between the United States and China over tit-for-tat tariffs kept investors on edge.

China yesterday imposed tariffs on US products including frozen pork, wine and certain fruits and nuts in response to US duties on imports of aluminum and steel.

In currencies, the dollar was steady at 106.350 yen, while the euro was almost unchanged at \$1.2317.

The greenback had gained about 0.6 percent against a basket of six major currencies last week helped by a combination of factors including perceived progress on North Korea issues. The dollar index still lost more than 2 percent last quarter, marking its fifth straight quarter of declines.

"A list of important indicators will be released this week, which could help steady market sentiment even though US-China trade concerns and other geopolitical risks continue to linger in the background," said Koji Fukaya, president at FPG Securities in Tokyo.

Crude oil prices extended gains, lifted by a drop in US drilling activity as well as by expectations that the United States could re-introduce sanctions against Iran. US drillers cut seven oil rigs in the week to March 29, bringing the total count down to 797. It was the first time in three weeks that the rig-count fell. US crude futures rose 0.3 percent to \$65.14 a barrel and Brent advanced 0.5 percent to \$69.67 a barrel. "Investors took their cue from falling US drilling counts," Wang Xiao, head of crude oil research with Guotai Junan Futures said.

"But increasing trade friction between China and US is likely to rock global markets and tarnish bullish sentiment in crude oil markets." —Reuters



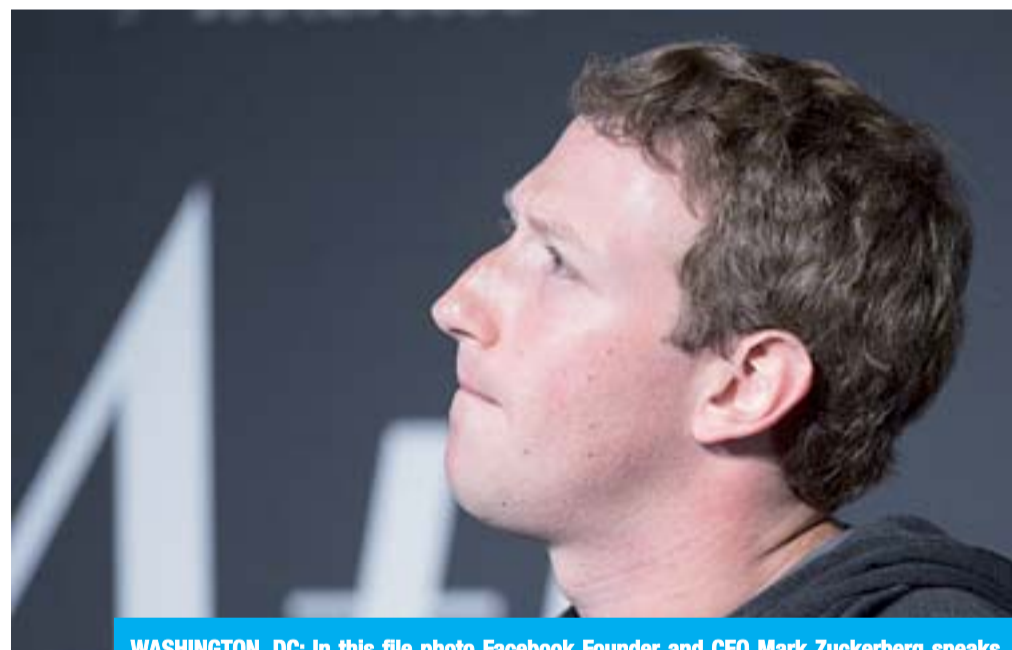
An Amazon Books store seen in Washington, DC. —AFP

## Facebook needs 'a few years' to fix problems: Zuckerberg

**WASHINGTON:** Facebook will likely need "a few years" to fix the problems uncovered by the revelations on the hijacking of private user data, chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said in an interview released yesterday.

Speaking to the news site Vox, Zuckerberg defended the company's business model and shot back at criticism of the social networking giant from Apple CEO Tim Cook last week. Zuckerberg maintained that one of Facebook's problems was that it was "idealistic," focusing on the positive aspects of connecting people and that "we didn't spend enough time investing in, or thinking through, some of the downside uses of the tools."

"I think now people are appropriately focused on some of the risks and downsides as well," he said. "I think we will dig through this hole, but it will take a few years. I wish I could solve all these issues in three months or six months, but I just think the reality is that solving some of these questions is just going to take a longer period of time." Zuckerberg also fired back at comments last week from Cook, who argued that Facebook got into trouble



WASHINGTON, DC: In this file photo Facebook Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks during an interview session. —AFP

because of a business model focused on monetizing people's data.

"I find that argument—that if you're not paying that somehow we can't care about you, to be extremely glib. And not at all aligned with the truth," he said. "The reality here is that if you want to build a service that helps connect everyone in the world, then there are a lot of people who can't afford to pay. And therefore, as with a lot of media, having an advertising-

supported model is the only rational model."

The interview was the latest by the Facebook chief aimed at blunting the impact of a scandal over the harvesting of personal data on 50 million users by a political firm linked to Donald Trump's 2016 campaign. Authorities on both sides of the Atlantic have launched investigations into the mishandling of user data and have been seeking Zuckerberg's testimony. —AFP

## Dollar falls as China-US trade dispute escalates

**NEW YORK:** The dollar fell for a second straight session yesterday in generally thin trading as China imposed extra tariffs on US products, escalating a dispute between the world's biggest economies.

Volume was light as some European markets were closed for the Easter Monday holiday. "Broader market sentiment was dampened by ongoing trade tensions between the US and China," said Joe Manimbo, senior market analyst, at Western Union Business Solutions in Washington.

China has slapped extra tariffs of up to 25 percent on 128 US products including frozen pork, as well as on wine and certain fruits and nuts, in response to US duties on imports of aluminum and steel, China's finance ministry said.

The dollar was down 0.2 percent at 89.934 against a basket of six major currencies, backing off from a one-week high of 90.178 set last Thursday.

But the dollar was up 0.1 percent against the yen at 106.24, after

rising more than 1.5 percent last week for its biggest weekly gain since September 2017. The US currency rose against the yen last week, helped by signs China and the United States were working behind the scenes to avoid a full-blown trade war, as well as hopes for a diplomatic breakthrough over North Korea's nuclear program.

The dollar's gains versus the yen were viewed as short-lived given the tension between the world's two largest economies. The Trump administration is expected to release a list of other products to be targeted with tariffs by Friday.

The US move will likely trigger a second round of countervailing penalties from China, which could include strategically-vital product categories such as soybeans and aircraft, Karl Schamotta, director of global product & market strategy at Cambridge FX in Toronto, said.

Beyond the potential trade war, the markets are also focused on US data this week, led by the non-farm payrolls report for March. The reports should determine the path for future interest rate increases, analysts said.

The euro, meanwhile, was little changed at \$1.2319. Although expectations of an exit from the European Central Bank's stimulus had boosted the euro since last year, the common currency has been in a holding pattern since hitting a three-year high of \$1.2556 on Feb. 16, with its March 1 low of \$1.21545 seen as an immediate support level. —Reuters

National Bank of Kuwait		Financial Markets		Daily Report		At 02:00 PM Previous Day		
<b>Global Stock Indices</b>								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Dow Jones	23,848.42	24,103.11	254.69	▲	1.07	-2.49		
NASDAQ	6,949.23	7,063.45	114.22	▲	1.64	2.32		
S&P 500	2,605.00	2,640.87	35.87	▲	1.38	-1.22		
Financial Times	7,044.74	7,056.61	11.87	▲	0.17	-8.21		
DAX	15,940.71	15,096.73	156.02	▲	1.31	-6.35		
CAC 40	5,130.44	5,167.30	36.86	▲	0.72	-2.73		
Swiss	8,756.12	8,740.97	-15.15	▼	-0.17	-6.83		
Nikkei 225	21,454.30	21,388.58	-65.72	▼	-0.31	-6.04		
Topix	1,716.30	1,708.78	-7.52	▼	-0.44	-5.67		
Hang Seng	30,022.53	30,093.38	70.85	▲	0.24	0.58		
Straits Times	3,427.97	3,430.76	2.79	▲	0.08	0.82		
<b>MENA Stock Indices</b>								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait	6,603.51	6,633.44	29.93	▲	0.45	2.96		
Saudi Arabia	7,800.88	7,776.93	-23.95	▼	-0.31	7.95		
Dubai	3,136.36	3,106.95	-29.41	▼	-0.94	-6.93		
Abu Dhabi	4,583.53	4,581.62	-1.91	▼	-0.04	4.21		
Bahrain	1,303.14	1,294.64	-8.50	▼	-0.65	-2.15		
Qatar	8,669.04	8,729.15	60.11	▲	0.69	1.71		
Oman	4,737.17	4,750.15	12.98	▲	0.27	-7.10		
Lebanon	1,186.35	1,186.35	0.00	-	0.00	3.29		
Jordan	2,222.73	2,216.75	-5.98	▼	-0.27	4.51		
Egypt	17,595.88	17,726.61	130.73	▲	0.74	17.16		
Morocco	13,062.38	13,034.23	-28.15	▼	-0.22	5.21		
Tunisia	7,142.65	7,152.30	9.65	▲	0.13	13.70		
<b>Global Currencies Exchange Rate</b>								
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwaiti Dinar		12.3936	3.3190	2.6922	2.3606	3.1646	352.74	4.3204
Saudi Riyal	0.08069		0.2678	0.2172	0.1905	0.2553	28.46	0.3486
US Dollar	0.30130	3.7342		0.8112	0.7112	0.9535	106.28	1.3017
Euro	0.37144	4.6035	1.2328		0.8770	1.1758	131.06	1.6051
Sterling Pound	0.42363	5.2503	1.4060	1.1403		1.3407	149.47	1.8306
Swiss Franc	0.31599	3.9163	1.0488	0.8505	0.7459		111.50	1.3652
Japanese Yen	0.00283	0.0351	0.0094	0.0076	0.0067	0.0090		0.0122
Australian Dollar	0.23146	2.8686	0.7682	0.6230	0.5463	0.7325	81.64	
<b>MENA Currencies Exchange Rate</b>								
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30130	3.7342	0.3742	3.6270	0.3831	3.6574	17.5750
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3190		12.3936	1.2421	12.0378	1.2716	12.1387	58.3306
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08069		0.1002	0.9713	0.1026	0.9794	4.7065
Bahraini Dinar	2.6721	0.80510	9.9781		9.6916	1.0238	9.7729	46.9418
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08307	1.0296	0.1032		0.1056	1.0084	4.8456
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.78642	9.7466	0.9768	9.4668		9.5461	45.8722
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08238	1.0210	0.1023	0.9917	0.1048		4.8053
Egyptian Pound	0.0569	0.01714	0.2125	0.0213	0.2064	0.0218	0.2081	
<b>Global Interest Rates</b>								
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year			
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.31	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50			
US Dollar	1.74	1.88	2.31	2.45	2.66			
Euro	-0.42	-0.40	-0.37	-0.32	-0.24			
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.51	0.71	0.82	1.00			
Swiss Franc	-0.80	-0.78	-0.73	-0.65	-0.52			
Australian Dollar	1.61	1.79	1.79	1.76	1.80			
Japanese Yen	-0.03	-0.04	-0.03	0.02	0.12			
<b>Global Bond Yields</b>								
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year				
United States	2.28	2.58	2.76	2.99				
Europe	-0.60	-0.11	0.49	1.15				
United Kingdom	0.81	1.10	1.34	1.70				
<b>Commodities</b>								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwaiti Oil	64.50	63.89	-0.61	▼	-0.92	4.56		
Brent	68.23	68.21	-0.02	▼	-0.03	1.69		
West Texas	64.88	64.86	-0.02	▼	-0.03	6.81		
Gold	1324.00	1332.31	8.31	▲	0.63	1.62		
Silver	16.32	16.48	0.16	▲	0.97	-3.86		

Business

# Turkish Airlines launches its direct flights to Aqaba

Airline's second destination to be served in Jordan



**KUWAIT:** With existing services to Amman, Turkish Airlines now adds Aqaba to its flight network as the second destination in Jordan.

Recently, Aqaba flights will be operated three times per week. Round trip fares are available from Istanbul to Aqaba starting at \$404 (including taxes and fees).

Additionally, there is a special offer for Miles&Smiles members to be used for their trips departing from Turkey provided that completed by 11th June 2018, and the trips departing from Aqaba provided that completed by 12th June 2018, with a 25 percent reduction in the miles needed to redeem either award tickets or upgrades. Established in 1933 with a fleet of five aircraft, Star Alliance member Turkish Airlines has a fleet of 328 (passenger and cargo) aircraft flying to 303 worldwide destinations as 254 international and 49 domestic, in 121 countries.

The Star Alliance network was established in 1997 as the first truly global airline alliance to



offer worldwide reach, recognition and seamless service to the international traveller. Its acceptance by the market has been recognized by numerous awards, including the Air Transport World Market Leadership Award and Best Airline Alliance by both Business Traveller Magazine and Skytrax.

The member airlines are: Adria Airways, Aegean Airlines, Air Canada, Air China, Air India, Air New Zealand, ANA, Asiana Airlines, Austrian, Avianca, Avianca Brasil, Brussels Airlines, Copa Airlines, Croatia Airlines, EGYPTAIR, Ethiopian Airlines, EVA Air, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, SWISS, TAP Portugal, Turkish Airlines, THAI and United. Overall, the Star Alliance network currently offers more than 18,450 daily flights to 1,300 airports in 190 countries. Further connecting flights are offered by Star Alliance Connecting Partner, Juneyao Airlines.

## Al-Tijari the first bank in Kuwait to launch Swift GPI service

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait aims to offer its customers world-class financial solutions. As such, the bank continues to enhance its banking services provided through its branch network that covers Kuwait districts and via its various e-channels. To further illustrate its leadership in providing technology based solutions, the bank announced the launch of Swift Global Payment Innovation (SWIFT gpi) service to become the first bank in Kuwait that took the lead to join this advanced service and the second in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Commenting on the launch of the new service, Bader Qamhih, Acting General Manager - Information Technology Department in Commercial Bank of Kuwait, said that transfer tracking service via "gpi tracker" is the modern tool that will be used for tracking end to end transfers among banks. This covers all payments sent thru Swift, and it allows the banks involved in this service to track the status of the transactions. Qamhih went on explaining that this service went live last week, emphasizing that the Bank routing transfer will be able to view the fees and commissions charged and deducted by all banks for each transfer, enhancing thereby the transparency between banks and the customer. Mr. Bader added that in the future, through this service, the bank will be able to provide its customers with the option to track all their electronic transfers (thru SWIFT network) from triggering the transaction to its credit to the beneficiary.

Qamhih further mentioned that the "gpi Tracker" also helps to make a more accurate and easier reconciliations of electronic funds transfer

and with it banks will be able to better manage their liquidity and optimize the use of their fund for investment. It can also reduce exposure to FX risks by making it possible to process the payments in the same day and within the time-lines agreed upon for the beneficiaries, added Qamhih. Being a cloud hosted service, it is possible to connect the "gpi Tracker" to the Bank's systems via Application Programming Interfaces "API" to be in line with computer systems at all banks over the globe.

According to Qamhih, the number of transactions routed via this network and tracked through this service is increasing day after day to represent 10 percent of Swift's cross-border payments traffic.

It is worthwhile to mention that funds transferred among the banks that joined this service amounted to more than \$100 billion sent daily across 220 international payment corridors for sending and receiving payments among countries. The number of banks involved in this service exceeds 155 around the globe and it is on the rise and this will encourage all banks to join.

Concluding his statement, Bader Qamhih commended the innovative e-banking services introduced by Al-Tijari to its customer base denoting that the Bank took the lead to bring this service to Kuwait. In addition to adopting the best technology standards to develop the models and channels used for offering banking services to its customers. The bank steadily takes step forward to accentuate this concept by introducing the Self-Service approach within its branches as well as the e-payment channels and the most updated services via smart phones and tablets.



Bader Qamhih

## VIVA launches Huawei P smart device with KD 10 Plan

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched the new Huawei P Smart device with plans starting from KD 10 that give customers KD 8 credit, 10 GB Internet and 100 local and international SMS.

Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Corporate Communications Director at VIVA said: "We are proud of our concrete partnership with Huawei, and joint efforts between VIVA's team and Huawei's team always lead to announce about new devices. These achievements is yet

a milestone in VIVA's track record." The Huawei P Smart sets full view display and dual camera, it carries a 5.65-inch LCD display with a resolution of 1080 x 2160.

That works out to an aspect ratio of 18:9. The device is powered by the home-grown Kirin 659 chipset, which includes an octa-core CPU. Two versions of the handset will be offered. One comes with 3GB of RAM and 32GB of native storage. The other model features 4GB of RAM along with 64GB of native storage.

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things 'More' for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences.

The company has rapidly established a pioneer position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a consider-



able share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service.

## Global Retail Alliance launches in Middle East and North Africa

**DUBAI:** The Global Retail Alliance (GRA) platform launched in the Middle East and North Africa in a step that aims to provide guidance and inspiration about global and local trends in the retail community to one of the region's largest and most important industry sectors.

"We see three key global trends; increase in online and Ecommerce purchases, customer In-store experience and personalization, that are set to make a significant impact on the region's retailers and shoppers in the coming period, said Massimo Volpe, Global Director of Global Retail Alliance. The Global Retail Alliance is a consortium of businesses and institutions with stakes in the retail industry spanning the globe. The alliance informs and educates its members on changes affecting retail markets, such as technological and social trends, financial systems, economic outlooks, and retail marketing trends, all of which are influential in decision making for both retailers and their customers.

"The retail sector in the Middle East is witnessing game-changing developments with major international brands still entering the market, complemented by an exciting growth of new home-grown brands that have the potential to expand internationally," says Volpe. "With this evolution in the traditional regional franchising model, we see huge opportunities coupled with a pressing need for the retail community to stay connected and up-to-the-minute with cutting

edge insights on local and international initiatives and sector trends."

A recent study by AT Kearney1 indicates the Middle Eastern and North African countries, specifically the major retail markets of UAE and Saudi Arabia, are among the world's most attractive markets for retailers, ranking fifth and 11th respectively in global retail. As for the North African countries, Morocco, at seventh place, rose in the global retail development rankings thanks to increased government efforts to attract foreign investment.

"We are very excited about the arrival of GRA in the region at a time of huge change in the sector, driven by fast evolving technologies, and the rise of 'Big Data'," said Elie Otaki, CEO of Global Retail Alliance in MENA region. "Our aim is to bring together different stakeholders throughout the retail ecosystem, whether they are retailers, brand owners, or consultancies, with a clear focus on raising awareness about the importance of this sector, fostering education and knowledge, and awarding those who excel in their marketing efforts."

With offices in markets across continents, GRA can advise and provide information to its members at a local and international level, and welcomes companies from across the MENA region into its network. Members of Global Retail Alliance are granted access to an international virtual library of research and insights



which allows them to stay up-to-date with the latest news, events, and initiatives dedicated to retail and marketing. In addition, GRA's e-learning platform provides educational training tools and lectures from global experts in various disciplines such as Virtual Merchandising, Retail Design, and Digital Retail. The GRA can also assist members on demand, whether they are aiming to commence new ventures, expand their business, or look for new partners.

The Global Retail Alliance (GRA) is represented in the region by Retail Marketing Network, a UAE-based leading regional retail marketing company dedicated to quality and excellence in the Middle East and North Africa.

## Spotify listing could be roller coaster for retail investors

**NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO:** Spotify Technology SA's unusual stock market debut today levels the playing field for individual investors who are normally at a disadvantage in traditional listings, but could also make them more vulnerable to swings in the music streaming service's share price.

The Swedish company is skipping a conventional initial public offering and listing shares directly on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) with almost none of the safeguards provided by investment banks that would normally manage the process. Spotify is forgoing the

security of having bankers with a financial interest in its success, which will save it millions of dollars in fees to underwriters. The direct listing gives Spotify insiders a chance to sell their shares, but the company will not be selling any new stock to raise money.

In a normal IPO, underwriters promote a company to institutional investors weeks in advance, using roadshows and meetings to gauge appetite for the stock. They use that information to "build a book" and settle on an IPO price, typically the evening before the shares start trading on the exchange. Spotify's

plan introduces an extra degree of uncertainty over how initial trading in its stock will unfold. And a slump in shares of Facebook Inc and other technology-related stocks this week means investors may be less willing to bet on the listing.

The direct offering should give retail investors opportunities to buy in at the same price as hedge funds and other big investors who normally get first dibs on IPOs thanks to their relationships with underwriters. Spotify has warned in filings it expects the popularity of its service to attract outsized interest from individual investors, which could possibly fuel volatility and set an unsustainable trading price.

"There will be people right from the beginning who say, 'I want to own this at any price,'" said Tim Chriskey, chief investment strategist at Inverness Counsel in New York. "I think you'll see a see-saw action. — Reuters

## 10kg gold bar for 100 winners at Malabar Gold & Diamonds

**KUWAIT:** Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the BIG 5 jewelry retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 210 retail outlets spread across nine countries unfolded the details of its much awaited promotion, 'The Great Gold Rush' to celebrate this festive season. This promotion will run at all Malabar Gold & Diamonds outlets in the Middle East & Far East. In Kuwait the offer started from 28th March until 21st April, 2018. The customers get unparalleled opportunities to win a total of 100 gold bars across their showrooms in GCC and Far East. A true shopper's delight, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will captivate the customers by exhibiting eye catching designs in gold, diamonds, platinum and precious gems from different parts of the world to flaunt any occasion or event and are well priced too.

In Kuwait, with every purchase of diamond jewelry worth KD 40, customers will get two raffle coupons and with every gold jewelry purchase worth KD 40 will get one raffle coupon that will entitle them to enter in a raffle draw to get a chance to win 100 gram gold bars. In Kuwait a total of 10 lucky winners will

walk away with 100 gram gold bars each. Adding to the above, customers also get two gram gold coin on diamond jewelry purchase of KWD 400 and a one gram gold coin on purchase of diamond jewelry worth KD 250.

Also, customers will have a great opportunity to get the gold rate protection by just paying 10% of the entire amount on the selected gold jewelry to get protected from the increasing gold rate, this offer is until April 18th only.

All the above offers are valid at their outlets in Kuwait until 21st April 2018.

To add more sparkle to this season, they have also revealed their latest collection of jewelry in gold, diamonds and precious gems to suit the tastes of their multicultural and multinational customers. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has incorporated these designs as a part of various brands presented at Malabar Gold & Diamonds' namely Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewelry, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine - Indian Heritage Jewelry, Precia - Gem Jewelry and Starlet - Kids jewelry.

## Technology

# In Fukushima ghost town, a factory on the road to rebirth

## Nissan hopes to raise Namie's profile with the factory

**NAMIE, Japan:** Namie in Japan's Fukushima region remains a virtual ghost town seven years after a devastating tsunami and nuclear disaster, but officials hope a new factory recycling electric car batteries could help revitalize the area. Tsunami waves inundated Japan's northeastern coast on March 11, 2011 after a magnitude 9.0 earthquake, ripping buildings from their foundations and triggering a nuclear disaster. Namie was under a government-mandated evacuation order, which was partially lifted last year, and encouraging residents to return has proved an uphill struggle.

The facility built by Japanese automaker Nissan in the town is employing new technology to recycle electric car batteries. For now, the factory is basic, virtually empty, and employs just 10 people, but Nissan and government officials hope it might prompt other businesses to follow suit, and eventually draw people back to the region. "Seven years have passed, the evacuation order has been lifted... and we are working hard" to bring residents back, said Reconstruction Minister Masayoshi Hoshino at a ceremony in the factory Monday.

The government lifted evacuation orders on some tsunami-hit areas, including around 20 percent of Namie, last year. The other 80 percent of Namie is still off-limits, and in February just 516 people were registered as living in the city, compared with 21,000 before 2011. "We need infrastructure, jobs, schools," Hoshino said at the factory. The government paid for two-thirds of the facility's construction

costs in the hope of attracting people to the region.

### Recycling batteries

Nissan says it hopes to raise Namie's profile with the factory, which began going up shortly after the evacuation order was lifted. "We will contribute to the reconstruction of Namie," said Eiji Makino, head of 4R Energy Corporation, the partnership between Nissan and Sumitomo Corporation that will run the factory. The facility will use new technology that can rapidly assess the performance of the lithium-ion batteries used by Nissan's electric car, the Leaf.

The process of analyzing the 48 parts of each battery used to take more than a fort-



Eiji Makino, head of 4R Energy Corporation

recycled for use in smaller vehicles, including golf carts and fork-lift trucks, or used to store energy.

### Enormous potential

Work at the factory will begin in May, and while limited for now, Nissan has plans to expand locally. It is betting on a growing stock of used electric car batteries as demand for the vehicles grows thanks to eco-friendly public policy and efforts to move away from petrol. A leader in the sector, Nissan aims to increase its electrified car sales six-fold by 2023, and other automakers are similarly ambitious.

Initially the Namie factory will handle several hundred units a year, but it has a maximum capacity of 2,250 batteries. "There is enormous potential," said 4R Energy's Makino, who envisions "one day employing 1,000 people". But that will depend on finding workers willing to take jobs in an area that remains largely desert-

“We need infrastructure, jobs, schools”

night, but now takes just four hours. Once analyzed, batteries that retain most of their ability to hold charge will be refurbished and sold to replace those in first-generation Leafs, which hit the market in 2010. The recycled batteries will cost less than half the 650,000 yen price of a new battery. Batteries with lower performance will be



NAMIE: This handout shows an employee of 4R Energy Corporation working on a used lithium-ion battery which will be reassembled into battery packs for the Nissan Leaf car at a new plant in Namie, Fukushima prefecture. — AFP photos

ed. Fukushima governor Masao Uchibori recently acknowledged the difficulty of drawing people back, years after they have resettled elsewhere.

"They have bought a new home, their children are going to a local school, they have found work there, they have put down roots, and it is hard for them to return," he said. Investment in infrastructure is already under way, to ensure shops, medical facilities and schools are available, but a psychological barrier remains too. Many people

still worry about the health risks in areas affected by the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl. Activist group Greenpeace warned last month that "there clearly remains a radiological emergency within the areas of Namie and Iitate which were opened by the government in March 2017." The group says the government's decontamination program has left radiation hotspots with levels that would require "immediate action" if they were detected at nuclear facilities. — AFP

## Foreign companies in China brace for VPN crackdown

**BEIJING:** Chinese people and foreign firms are gearing for a weekend deadline that will curb the use of unlicensed software to circumvent internet controls, as the government plugs holes in its "Great Firewall". A virtual private network (VPN) can tunnel through the country's sophisticated barrier of online filters to access the global internet. VPNs give users a way to see blocked websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Google and Western news outlets, as well as certain business network tools such as timesheets, email and directories.

But new government regulations unveiled last year sent chills among users of the software, with a March 31 deadline for companies and individuals to only use government-approved VPNs. Currently, many foreign companies have their own VPN servers in locations outside of China. But in the future, dedicated lines can only be provided by China's three telecom operators. Critics have slammed the new policy as a revenue grab that will eliminate cheaper VPN options and make internet users more vulnerable to surveillance.

But some companies are still planning to comply. "We will apply for a VPN line with (the government)," the chief executive of a foreign-owned technology company said. "As a company that is globally-focused based in Beijing, I think that's the best option... because we don't want to break the rules or have our VPN access disrupted," she said, requesting anonymity. Some embassies in Beijing experienced disruptions to their communications due to restrictions on VPN

usage late last year, prompting the European Union delegation to send a letter to the government to complain, diplomatic sources said.

American Chamber of Commerce Shanghai President Kenneth Jarrett warned that foreign companies and their employees could "bear the brunt of the new policies". "Foreign companies, especially entrepreneurs and smaller companies rely on overseas platforms such as Google Analytics and Google Scholar," Jarrett said.

"Limiting access to affordable VPNs will make it harder for these companies to operate efficiently and just adds to the frustration of doing business in China." The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has dismissed concerns that using state-approved providers could jeopardize the security of private data, saying they "are not able to see information related to your business".

### At the mercy of regulators

A member of China-based anti-censorship group GreatFire.org, which tracks internet restrictions, said the new rules are aimed at wiping out low-cost Chinese VPN providers and increasing control over access to information. "Are foreign companies at the mercy of Chinese regulators? Yes, probably. Will there be more surveillance? Absolutely," said the member, who uses the alias Charlie Smith. Under the new licensing regulations, it is unclear whether companies or individuals will be punished for using unauthorized VPNs, or if the software will be blocked. But on December 21, Chinese citizen Wu Xiangyang from the south Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region was given a five-and-a-half-year prison sentence and 500,000 yuan fine. Wu "illegally profited" from setting up VPN servers and selling software "without obtaining relevant business licenses", according to a news site managed by the Supreme People's Procuratorate. It was the most severe known VPN-related conviction. — AFP

## Out of this world: Inside Japan's space colony centre

**TOKYO:** A newly created Space Colony Research centre led by Japan's first female astronaut is bringing cutting-edge technology to bear on one of mankind's greatest questions: Can we live in space? Tucked away in high-tech laboratories at the Tokyo University of Science, a team of 30 researchers directed by Chiaki Mukai are studying new ways to keep humans alive on a potential moon or Mars colony.

"It's in our nature to explore. The Earth is too small for us, don't you think?" asked Mukai, a petite and energetic 66-year-old who spent more than 500 hours in space on two separate missions. Human space exploration is entering a new era, said Mukai, with commercial ventures like Elon Musk's SpaceX and US President Donald Trump's pledge to explore beyond the moon and towards Mars. Billionaire entrepreneur Musk has grand visions for private space exploration, including sending tourists into orbit around the moon and eventually colonising Mars.

In December, Trump directed US space agency NASA to set up a lunar base as a first step in a mission to Mars. "It's very realistic to establish a colony on the moon by 2030," said Mukai, who said humans needed to think beyond the International Space Station, which she described as a "campsite-you have to bring everything with you". One of her team's innovations is a unique food production system using liquid plasma created by passing high-voltage electricity through a saline solution.

This reduces the damaging algae usually formed in water when growing crops, and tests simulating conditions in space have shown that potatoes can be grown quicker and more efficiently using this system. The Space Colony Research Centre has also developed a system to create electricity using tiny thermoelectric sensors about the size of an iPod Nano that could be attached to a potential colony. The colony would be kept at comfortable room temperature, but outside it would vary between 130 degrees Celsius during the day and -230 at night.

The technology harnesses the difference in temperature-heat flux-



TOKYO: In this picture, a lab technician demonstrates equipment that creates electricity using heat differentials at the Tokyo Space Colony Research Centre in Tokyo. — AFP

between inside and outside to create enough electricity to "power an entire space colony," said Tsutomu Lida, in charge of the project. "The same device can be used for day and night. There are no moving parts, so there is no maintenance required," said Lida. Another team is working on early detection and capture of space debris. More than 29,000 pieces measuring at least 10 centimeters across orbit Earth and could pose a danger to potential space colonists. — AFP

## Microsoft shakes up ranks to shoot for the cloud

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Microsoft yesterday announced a big managerial shakeup including the departure of the head of its Windows group as the technology pushes deeper into a future in the cloud. Restructuring moves laid out in a memo from chief executive Satya Nadella included the departure of longtime Microsoft executive and Windows head Terry Myerson. "With change comes transition, and one transition we have been planning for is for Terry Myerson to pursue his next chapter outside Microsoft," Nadella said in the note.

"Terry has been instrumental in helping me arrive at this new organizational structure, and I deeply appreciate his leadership and insight as we've worked through the opportunity that lies ahead." In a post at LinkedIn, Windows and Devices Group executive vice president Myerson described it as "an emotional day" sharing news of his departure after 21 years at Microsoft. Microsoft is creating two new engineering teams, one focused on experiences and devices, and the other devoted to artificial intelligence and computing capabilities hosted in the internet cloud, according to the note.

The US tech colossus—which has slipped from being the world's largest company —



WASHINGTON: This file photo shows Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella speaking during the annual Microsoft shareholders meeting in Bellevue, Washington. — AFP

also established an internal committee to make sure technological advances, particularly regarding machines thinking for themselves, take into account ethical concerns. "With all this new technology and opportunity comes a responsibility to ensure technology's benefits reach people more broadly across society," Nadella said.

"It also requires that the technologies we

create are trusted by the individuals and organizations that use them." As it has been overtaken by the likes of Google and Apple, Microsoft has been rebooting as consumers shift away from Windows-powered computers to mobile devices. This has pushed Microsoft to focus on the internet cloud, artificial intelligence, and services for connected "internet of things" devices. — AFP

## China tightens rules on transferring tech know-how

**BEIJING:** China has issued new guidelines on transferring intellectual property rights from Chinese firms or individuals to foreign investors, as global tensions rise over technology theft. The instructions made public by the State Council on Thursday stipulate that IP rights related to integrated circuits, computer software copyrights

and new plant breeds will be reviewed by the government before any overseas transfers.

The guidelines aim to "safeguard national security and major public interests", the council said. "The introduction of the guideline is an important move to protect national security," Zhang Zhicheng, officer at the State Intellectual Property Office of China told the state-run China Daily newspaper. This move also complies with international rules, Zhang told China Daily, citing "similar review systems in the EU and Japan". US President Donald Trump has announced new tariffs on Chinese imports over the "theft" of intellectual property, fuelling fears of a looming trade war. — AFP

Health

# Defunct Chinese space lab plunges back to Earth over Pacific

## No immediate confirmation of the final resting place

BEIJING: A defunct Chinese space lab disintegrated under intense heat as it hurtled through Earth's atmosphere yesterday and plunged to a watery grave in the South Pacific, Chinese officials said. The Tiangong-1 "mostly" burnt up above the vast ocean's central region at 8:15 am Beijing time, China's Manned Space Engineering Office said. There was no immediate confirmation of the final resting place of any remaining debris.

"Most of the parts burnt up and disappeared," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters, adding that China kept the United Nations space agency informed about the situation. "According to my knowledge, we have not found any harm to the Earth's surface." Tiangong-1 — or "Heavenly Palace"—was placed in orbit in September 2011, acting as a testing ground for China's efforts to build its own space station by 2022, but ceased functioning in 2016.

Space officials had promised the atmospheric disintegration of the 10.4-meter-long craft would offer a "splendid" show akin to a meteor shower. But the remote location likely deprived stargazers of the spectacle. Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, said the module zoomed over Pyongyang and the Japanese city of Kyoto during daylight hours, reducing the odds of glimpsing it before it hit the Pacific.

"It would have been fun for people to see it but there will be other re-entries," McDowell said. "The good thing is that it doesn't cause any damage when it comes down and that's what we like." Space officials had warned that knowing the exact location of the re-entry would not be possible until shortly before it happened.

The difficulties seemed to wrong-foot Chinese space scientists—just moments before announcing that the craft would come down over the Pacific, they had said it would make its re-entry over Sao Paulo and head towards the Atlantic Ocean. The US military's net-

work of radars and sensors also confirmed that the Tiangong-1 had re-entered over the Pacific, but a minute later than the Chinese estimate, according to a statement by the Joint Force Space Component Command.

### Wrong guess

McDowell said the China space agency's initial estimate for re-entry was off because it "guessed wrong" about the time the space lab would leave its orbital path. "That's all that happened," he said, as models used by experts to estimate a re-entry point pick the middle time in a return window. The European Space Agency had described the probability of someone being hit by debris from Tiangong-1 as "10 million times smaller than the yearly chance of being hit by lightning".

The module—which was used to practice complicated manual and automatic docking techniques—was originally intended to be

used for just two years, but ended up serving considerably longer. It hosted Chinese astronauts on several occasions as they performed experiments and even taught a class that was broadcast into schools across the country.

Huang Weifen, deputy chief designer of the Astronaut Center of China, said it played an important role in China's space history and provided "precious experience" for building a space station, according to the official Xinhua news agency. In an article on a science ministry website, she said the lab achieved many "firsts" for Beijing's space program: the first manual docking of a spacecraft, the first flight by a female astronaut and the first lesson from orbit.

### Out of control?

Tiangong-1 had been slated for a controlled re-entry but ceased functioning in March 2016. Space enthusiasts have been bracing for its return ever



JIUQUAN: This file picture shows China's Long March 2F rocket carrying the Tiangong-1 module, or 'Heavenly Palace,' blasting off from the Jiuquan launch centre in Gansu province.—AFP

since. The European Space Agency (ESA) has said ground controllers were no longer able to command Tiangong-1 to fire its on-board engines, which could have been used to determine where it re-entered Earth's atmosphere.

In contrast, Russia brought down its massive Mir space station through a controlled re-entry over the Pacific Ocean in 2001. A Chinese spaceflight engineer denied earlier this year that the lab was out of control. Chinese media have downplayed comments by the ESA and others that engineers had lost control of the lab, with reports saying the idea that it was "out of control"

was an invention of foreign media. The lab "re-entered the atmosphere because it ran out of fuel, not because it's out of control", according to an expert interviewed by the nationalist tabloid the Global Times. Reports to the contrary, it said yesterday, were because "foreign media envy China's space program".

China in 2003 became the third country able to launch humans into space, following the former Soviet Union and the United States. China sent another space lab, Tiangong-2, into orbit in September 2016. It also plans to send a manned mission to the moon in the future.—AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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## Global Medical Center Welcomes Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader

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## What's On

## PAAET holds reception for new director



KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) held a reception for its new director Ali Al-Mudhaf yesterday at its premises in Adailiya. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Public Relations and Media Staff with the Director General Dr. Ali Al-Mudhaf



By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) held a reception for its new director Ali Al-Mudhaf yesterday at its premises in Adailiya. Mudhaf vowed to resolve all pending

issues and problems and raise the academic and administrative performance of PAAET. He addressed the academic, training and administrative staff, saying that there are many highly qualified staff working at PAAET, and they will improve its performance. "I need time to review the suggestion of separating the training sector from the edu-

cation one, as this needs detailed studies on previous decisions and not just personal opinions," stressed Mudhaf. There is a new plan for accepting students for the next academic year. "We will discuss the plan at PAAET and then submit it to the education minister, and we will find a suitable solution to this problem," he promised.

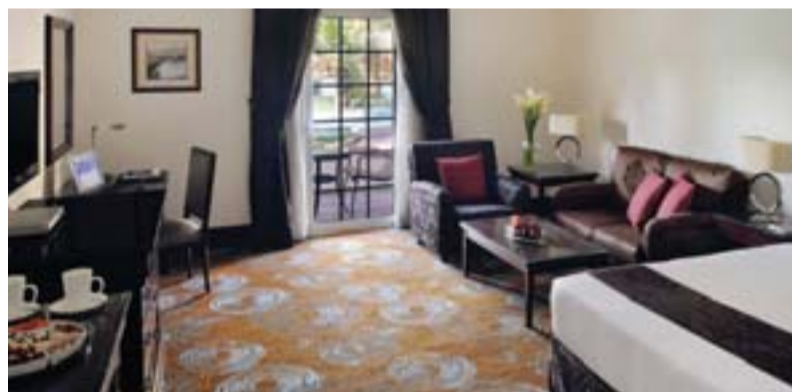
## Movenpick-Free Zone among top 7 business hotels in Kuwait

AME Info, one of the leading business information providers in the Middle East, recently listed Movenpick Hotel - Free Zone amongst the top 7 best business hotels in Kuwait.

In a recent report published on its website, AME Info claimed that Kuwait has become a business hub in the region. In addition to the information provided, they highlighted Kuwait's fusion of elements of modern society with Islamic customs and traditions through the creation of new concepts.

Within this framework, AME Info categorized Movenpick Hotel - Free Zone as amongst its top 7 business hotels in Kuwait. Located in the Shuwaikh Bay of the Free Trade Zone, the hotel was described as elegant, vibrant and designed to meet the needs of business and corporate travelers coming to Kuwait.

All rooms at the Movenpick Hotel - Free Zone are conveniently furnished with a business desk, free Wi-Fi, a direct dial telephone, and a satellite LCD TV. The hotel's top-class and luxurious rooms also include with an iHome, MP3 player, free wired and wireless internet access, and a DVD player. The Movenpick Hotel - Free



Zone has meeting rooms that are equipped with state-of-the-art technology to host business meetings. In addition, its highly qualified and experienced staff offers great service and support in terms of organizing events, business meetings, and corporate conferences.

The hotel offers additional convenience in terms of its location as it offers travelers the benefit of close



proximity to main destinations in Kuwait. The Movenpick Hotel - Free Zone is just 10 minutes from Kuwait International Airport and only six minutes from the capital. Furthermore, it is the country's closest hotel to The Avenues mall. The Movenpick Hotel - Free Zone offers its guests a variety of food and beverages in its unique restaurants.

In the Bays restaurant, visitors can enjoy a rich buffet of international cuisine or try the finest meat at Cuts. In addition, at Al Dante, visitors are offered the choice of Italian cuisine. Furthermore, there is Tea Lounge where visitors can enjoy a casual business chat whilst indulging in Movenpick's famous ice cream and a selection of teas, snacks, and pastries.



### New party room, teens hub at Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait

The kids are alright at Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait, the jewel of Kuwait City! Inspired by Symphony Kids' Club position as the entertainment destination of choice for young in-house guests, a play destination and party venue for kids in Kuwait, Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait has introduced a dedicated Party Room and Teens Hub to accommodate the high demand for children's birthdays and provide teens with a new place to hang out and celebrate.

Situated on the newly-renovated 3rd floor, the Teens Hub is a dynamic entertainment zone exclusively for teenage boys and girls. Guests of the Teens Hub can indulge in the latest video games for Wii and PlayStation and the Interactive Magic Motion virtual reality experience or simply have a special birthday celebration that is filled with action and excitement.

The Party Room is a functional indoor space ideal for children's birthday parties and family celebrations, with special party packages available tailored to every child's needs and requirements. Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait's attentive staff will be available on end to ensure a memorable occasion, whether they are hosting little superheroes, mini princes and princesses or little wild animals. Furthermore, packages start at reasonable prices starting at KD 195.

Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait is committed to ensuring memorable experiences for all guests. The addition of the Teens Hub and Party Room emphasize how much the hotel values young guests and demonstrates why it was named the Best Luxury Family Hotel in Kuwait. The Symphony Kids' Club offers a 500 sqm multipurpose play area, a dedicated cinema, library, dining and sleeping area. Young guests are under the constant supervision of our trained staff, ensuring peace of mind for parents and an exciting adventure for children.

Schools and nurseries can benefit from an exclusive package for their field trips as well and have special offer tailored for them. With only KD 5 entry fee per kid, the kids are welcomed from 9am to 1pm to play and have a fun-filled time in Symphony Kids' Club in addition to snack meal, popcorn, juice and fantastic activities.

### Movenpick-Free Zone launches BBQ nights

The Movenpick Hotel Free Zone, a leading hotel in Kuwait that offers highest standards of hospitality, open day events and catering, held an event to launch its barbecue nights that will be held every Thursday. The event was attended by media delegates, social figures and social media gurus, as well as the

hotel management headed by the General Manager Wajdy (Wes) ElChaar. During the event, guests had a wonderful experience while enjoying the site tour to discover the hotel's fantastic facilities, rooms and dining options, including: "Bays" Restaurant that offers a great selection of international dishes, "Cuts" Restaurant that serves the finest meat selections, "Al Dante" Italian Restaurant and the "Tea Lounge" English-style lounge as well as the fully-equipped conference rooms and the outdoor tents for family and friends gatherings.

On this occasion, the General Manager Wajdy (Wes) ElChaar, thanked guests for their presence and continuous support and invited all BBQ lovers to visit the hotel and delight their taste buds with exceptional, delicious barbecue.





TV



01:25 The Last Survivors  
03:10 American Ninja II: The Confrontation  
04:40 Roadside  
06:00 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II  
08:20 I Am Wrath  
09:55 American Ninja II: The Confrontation  
11:30 Somnus  
13:00 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II  
15:20 Booming II  
17:05 Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope  
19:15 Stratton  
20:50 I Am Number Four  
22:45 Delta Force II: The Colombian Connection

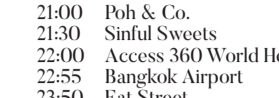
14:45 Disaster Date  
15:10 Friends  
15:35 Key And Peele  
16:00 Nathan For You  
16:30 Friendszone  
16:55 Friends  
17:20 Friends  
17:45 Disaster Date  
18:10 Life Or Debt  
19:00 Friends  
19:25 Friendszone  
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
20:12 Friends  
20:35 Friends  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper  
22:00 This Is Not Happening  
22:25 Why? With Hannibal Buress  
22:50 Comedy Central Presents  
Comedy SalvaGef  
23:20 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:00 Trulli Tales  
00:30 PJ Masks  
00:55 Trulli Tales  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:30 The Hive  
02:40 Loopdidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopdidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:00 Art Attack  
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:45 Loopdidoo  
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:15 Calimero  
06:30 PJ Masks  
07:00 Trulli Tales  
07:30 Jungle Junction  
07:50 Handy Manny  
08:10 PJ Masks  
08:30 Vampirina  
09:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
09:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
10:00 Puppy Dog Pals  
10:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
11:00 The Lion Guard  
11:30 Yampira  
12:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
12:30 Sofia The First  
13:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
13:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital  
14:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
14:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
15:00 Puppy Dog Pals  
15:30 Sofia The First  
16:00 PJ Masks  
16:30 Mission Force One  
17:00 The Lion Guard  
17:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
18:00 Trulli Tales  
18:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
19:00 Sofia The First  
19:30 The Lion Guard  
20:00 Vampirina  
20:30 PJ Masks  
21:00 Trulli Tales  
21:30 Sofia The First  
22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
23:00 Mission Force One  
23:30 PJ Masks



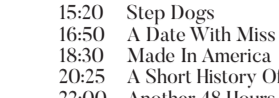
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01:00 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coronation Street  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 The Chase  
03:25 The Voice UK 2018  
04:50 Gino's Hidden Italy  
05:15 Royal Recipes  
06:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
07:10 The Chase  
08:05 The Voice UK 2018  
09:30 Gino's Hidden Italy  
09:55 Royal Recipes  
11:00 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
11:50 The Chase  
12:45 Emmerdale  
13:15 Coronation Street  
13:45 Coronation Street  
14:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
15:10 The Chase  
16:00 Murdoch Mysteries  
16:55 Murdoch Mysteries  
17:50 Royal Recipes  
18:50 Emmerdale  
19:15 Coronation Street  
19:45 Coronation Street  
20:10 The Chase  
21:00 Murdoch Mysteries  
21:55 Murdoch Mysteries  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Coronation Street  
23:40 Coronation Street



00:10 Taste Of The Tropic: Taiwan  
01:00 India's Mega Kitchens  
02:00 Mega Factories  
03:00 Locked Up Abroad  
04:00 Taste Of The Tropic: Taiwan  
05:00 Man Hunt  
06:00 The Happenings  
07:00 Fish Tank Kings  
08:00 Science Of Stupid Compilations  
08:30 Science Of Stupid Compilations  
09:00 Man Hunt  
10:00 Yukon Gold  
11:00 Wicked Tuna  
12:00 Air Crash Investigation  
13:00 Innovation Nation  
13:30 Innovation Nation  
14:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey  
15:00 Fish Tank Kings  
16:00 Yukon Gold  
17:00 Wicked Tuna  
18:00 Air Crash Investigation  
19:00 Drugs Inc Compilations  
20:00 Yukon Gold  
20:50 Wicked Tuna  
21:40 Air Crash Investigation  
22:30 Drugs Inc Compilations  
23:20 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey



06:13 Paw Patrol  
06:37 Dora The Explorer  
07:00 Nella The Princess Knight  
07:21 Kiva Can Do!  
07:33 Kiva Can Do!  
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
08:07 Paw Patrol  
08:29 Shimmer And Shine  
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight  
09:15 The Day Henry Met  
09:21 Paw Patrol  
09:44 Rusty Rivets  
10:07 Wallykazam!  
10:30 Bubble Guppies  
10:54 Team Umizoomi  
11:17 Kid-E-Cats  
11:22 Shimmer And Shine  
11:44 Sunny Day  
12:07 Max & Ruby  
12:30 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
12:40 Kiva Can Do!  
12:52 The Day Henry Met  
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:41 Paw Patrol  
13:52 Kid-E-Cats  
13:58 Kid-E-Cats  
14:04 Shimmer And Shine  
14:26 Nella And The Princess Knight  
14:38 Paw Patrol  
15:02 Max & Ruby  
15:25 Dora The Explorer  
15:48 Sunny Day  
16:10 Nella The Princess Knight  
16:32 Shimmer And Shine  
16:55 Wallykazam!  
17:18 Zack & Quack  
17:29 The Day Henry Met  
17:35 The Day Henry Met  
17:40 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
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23:17 Kid-E-Cats  
23:22 Shimmer And Shine  
23:44 Sunny Day



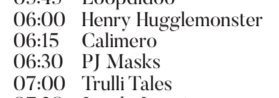
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01:55 Once Upon A Crime  
03:40 Wuthering Heights  
05:35 The Meddler  
07:35 The Benefactor  
09:20 Once Upon A Crime  
11:05 Tini - El Gran Cambio De Violeta  
12:55 Waiting For Superman  
15:00 The New Adventures Of Aladin  
17:00 Lawrence Of Arabia  
20:40 Girl On The Edge  
22:35 Rush



00:45 The Animals' Guide To Survival  
01:40 Preposterous Pets  
02:35 Snake Sheila  
03:00 Snake Sheila  
03:25 Monster Croc Invasion  
04:15 After The Attack  
05:02 Wildest Islands  
05:49 Untamed & Uncut  
06:36 Escape To Chimp Eden  
07:00 Swamp Brothers  
07:25 Snake Sheila  
07:50 Snake Sheila  
08:15 The Animals' Guide To Survival  
09:10 Preposterous Pets  
10:05 Wildest Islands  
11:00 Snake Sheila  
11:28 Snake Sheila  
11:55 Monster Croc Invasion  
12:50 After The Attack  
13:45 Preposterous Pets  
14:40 Wildest Islands  
15:35 Untamed & Uncut  
16:30 The Animals' Guide To Survival  
17:25 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
18:20 Cat vs Dog  
19:15 Preposterous Pets  
20:10 Snake Sheila  
20:38 Swamp Brothers  
21:05 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
22:00 Cat vs Dog  
22:55 Wildest Latin America  
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
01:20 Finding Bigfoot  
02:10 Somebody's Gotta Do It  
03:00 Nextworld  
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor  
04:40 Tanked  
05:30 How It's Made  
05:55 How It's Made  
06:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
06:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
07:00 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor  
07:50 How It's Made  
08:15 How It's Made  
08:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
09:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
09:30 Tanked  
10:20 Nextworld  
11:10 The Next Great Magician  
12:00 Risking It All  
12:50 How It's Made  
13:15 How It's Made  
13:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
14:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
14:30 Tanked  
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19:55 How It's Made  
20:20 Tanked  
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22:00 Risking It All  
22:50 Nextworld  
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor



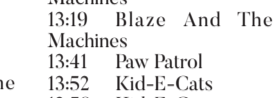
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01:05 Impossible Engineering  
01:50 Fire In The Hole  
02:35 What On Earth?  
03:20 Impossible Engineering  
04:05 Flying Wild Alaska  
04:50 Dirty Jobs  
05:35 Storage Hunters  
06:00 Factory Line  
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks  
06:45 Storage Hunters  
07:10 Storage Wars Canada  
07:35 Flying Wild Alaska  
08:20 Factory Line  
08:45 Dallas Car Sharks  
09:10 Dirty Jobs  
09:55 Impossible Engineering  
10:45 Fire In The Hole  
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12:20 Factory Line  
12:43 Dallas Car Sharks  
13:05 Storage Hunters  
13:30 Storage Wars Canada  
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21:00 Killing Fields: Murder Isle  
21:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert  
22:40 Kidnap And Rescue  
23:30 Flying Wild Alaska



00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
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19:45 Coronation Street  
20:10 The Chase  
21:00 Murdoch Mysteries  
21:55 Murdoch Mysteries  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Coronation Street  
23:40 Coronation Street



00:20 Blood Rivals: Hippo V. Lion  
01:10 Caught In The Act GPU Reversions  
02:00 Lion vs. Giraffe  
02:50 Hooked  
03:45 Wild Case Files  
04:40 World's Weirdest  
05:35 Lion vs. Giraffe  
06:30 Hooked  
07:25 Wild Case Files  
08:20 World's Weirdest  
09:15 How Big Can It Get  
10:10 World's Deadliest Killer Three  
11:05 World's Weirdest  
12:00 Shocking Sharks  
12:55 Blood Rivals: Lion vs. Buffalo  
13:50 Monster Fish  
14:45 Animals Gone Wild  
15:40 Wild 24  
16:35 World's Deadliest Compilations  
17:30 Savage Kingdom  
18:25 America The Beautiful  
19:20 Animals Gone Wild  
20:10 Wild 24  
21:00 World's Deadliest Compilations  
21:50 Savage Kingdom  
22:40 America The Beautiful  
23:30 Shocking Sharks



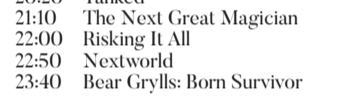
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00:40 How I Met Your Mother  
01:05 Seinfeld  
01:30 Seinfeld  
01:55 According To Jim  
02:20 According To Jim  
02:45 According To Jim  
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
04:00 Alone Together  
04:25 LA To Vegas  
04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
05:40 Bettle!  
06:05 The Bernie Mac Show  
06:30 People Of Earth  
06:55 Mom  
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
09:00 Alone Together  
09:25 LA To Vegas  
09:50 Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
10:15 Quacks  
10:40 Bettle!  
11:05 The Bernie Mac Show  
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
12:20 People Of Earth  
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13:10 How I Met Your Mother  
13:35 How I Met Your Mother  
14:00 Seinfeld  
14:25 Seinfeld  
14:50 Bettle!  
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15:40 Quacks  
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
17:00 People Of Earth  
17:30 Mom  
18:00 How I Met Your Mother  
18:30 How I Met Your Mother  
19:00 Seinfeld  
19:30 Seinfeld  
20:00 Speechless  
20:30 Great News  
21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
22:00 Superstore  
22:30 Superstore  
23:00 Wrecked  
23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:20 A Town Called Panic  
01:45 PapeLuch & The Martian  
03:10 Elias And The Royal Yacht Catcher: Cat City 2  
06:15 Mia And The Migoo  
07:55 Hocus Pocus Allie Atkins  
09:20 The Fairy Tales Tree  
10:45 Dinofroz: The Origin  
12:20 PapeLuch & The Martian  
13:45 Elias And The Royal Yacht  
15:10 Operation Arctic  
16:50 The Fairy Tales Tree  
18:15 Gamba  
20:00 Metropolis  
21:35 Operation Arctic  
23:15 Hocus Pocus Allie Atkins



00:35 Cold Feet  
01:25 Silent Witness  
02:15 Top Of The Lake  
03:10 Father Brown  
03:55 Doctors  
04:30 Doctors  
05:00 Doctor Who: Twice Upon A Time  
06:00 Casualty  
06:55 Father Brown  
07:45 Doctors  
08:15 Casualty  
09:10 Casualty  
10:05 Father Brown  
10:55 Death In Paradise  
11:55 The Coroner  
12:45 Stella  
13:35 Casualty  
14:30 Casualty  
15:25 Death In Paradise  
16:20 The Coroner  
17:10 Stella  
18:00 Holly City  
19:00 Death In Paradise  
20:00 Silent Witness  
20:55 Our Girl  
21:50 Death In Paradise  
22:50 Holly City  
23:45 Silent Witness



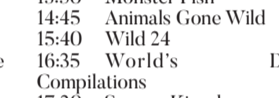
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01:40 A Crime To Remember  
02:35 A Crime To Remember  
03:30 A Crime To Remember  
04:25 Blood Relatives  
05:20 I Almost Got Away With It  
06:10 Evil Stepmothers  
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
07:25 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall  
08:15 Blood Relatives  
09:10 Blood Relatives  
10:05 R! Kill For You  
11:00 A Crime To Remember  
11:55 Betrayed  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:45 Evil Stepmothers  
14:40 R! Kill For You  
15:35 Gone  
16:30 Betrayed  
17:25 Blood Relatives  
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It  
19:15 Evil Stepmothers  
20:10 R! Kill For You  
21:05 Chandra Levy: A Mistress Murdered  
22:00 Death On A Submarine  
22:55 Death On A Submarine  
23:50 Evil Lives Here



00:15 Ice Cold Gold  
01:05 Impossible Engineering  
01:50 Fire In The Hole  
02:35 What On Earth?  
03:20 Impossible Engineering  
04:05 Flying Wild Alaska  
04:50 Dirty Jobs  
05:35 Storage Hunters  
06:00 Factory Line  
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks  
06:45 Storage Hunters  
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20:15 Impossible Engineering  
21:00 Killing Fields: Murder Isle  
21:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert  
22:40 Kidnap And Rescue  
23:30 Flying Wild Alaska



00:20 Forged: Iron & Fire  
00:45 Pawn Stars  
01:10 Swamp People  
02:00 American Pickers  
02:50 WW2 Treasure Hunters  
03:40 Sean Bean On Waterloo  
04:30 Swamp People  
05:15 Swamp People  
06:00 Ice Road Truckers  
06:50 Forged In Fire  
07:40 WW2 Treasure Hunters  
08:30 Road Hauls  
09:20 Ice Road Truckers  
10:10 Alone  
11:00 Forged In Fire  
11:50 WW2 Treasure Hunters  
12:40 Road Hauls  
13:30 Ice Road Truckers  
14:20 American Pickers  
15:10 Alone  
16:00 American Pickers  
16:50 WW2 Treasure Hunters  
17:40 Forged In Fire  
18:30 Ice Road Truckers  
19:20 Forged: Iron & Fire  
19:45 Pawn Stars  
20:10 American Pickers  
21:00 Who Killed Tupac?  
21:50 Forged In Fire  
22:40 Forged: Iron & Fire  
23:05 Pawn Stars  
23:30 Ice Road Truckers



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 Rabbids Invasion  
04:12 Rabbids Invasion  
04:36 Breadwinners  
05:00 Breadwinners  
05:24 The Loud House  
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
06:36 Harvey Beaks  
07:00 Breadwinners  
07:24 Get Blake  
07:48 Sanjay And Craig  
08:12 Rabbids Invasion  
08:36 The Loud House  
09:00 Regal Academy  
09:24 Winx Club  
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School  
10:12 Game Shakers  
10:36 School Of Rock  
11:00 Henry Danger  
11:24 The Thundermans  
11:48 I Am Frankie  
12:12 Rank The Frank  
12:36 Massive Monster Mayhem  
13:00 Hunter Street  
13:24 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
13:48 Toon Marty  
14:00 Toon Marty  
14:12 Harvey Beaks  
14:36 Breadwinners  
15:00 Sanjay And Craig  
15:24 Rabbids Invasion  
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
16:36 The Loud House  
17:00 Toon Marty  
17:12 Toon Marty  
17:24 Massive Monster Mayhem  
17:48 Hunter Street  
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23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



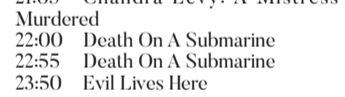
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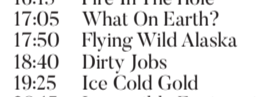
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00:55 Food Factory  
01:20 Invent It Rich  
02:10 The Big Brain Theory  
03:00 Junkyard Wars  
03:48 Mythbusters  
04:36 How Do They Do It?  
05:00 Food Factory  
05:24 Invent It Rich  
06:12 The Big Brain Theory  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:26 Junkyard Wars  
08:14 Mythbusters  
09:02 The Big Brain Theory  
09:50 How Do They Do It?  
10:14 Food Factory  
10:38 Invent It Rich  
11:26 Junkyard Wars  
12:14 Mythbusters  
13:02 How Do They Do It?  
13:26 Food Factory  
13:50 The Big Brain Theory  
14:38 Junkyard Wars  
15:26 Invent It Rich  
16:14 Mythbusters  
17:02 The Big Brain Theory  
17:50 Prototype This  
18:40 Mythbusters  
19:30 Extreme Engineering  
20:20 How Do They Do It?  
20:45 Food Factory  
21:10 The Big Brain Theory  
22:00 Extreme Engineering  
22:50 Prototype This  
23:40 Mythbusters



00:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
01:00 It Takes A Killer  
01:25 It Takes A Killer  
01:55 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
02:50 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence  
03:45 Crimes That Shook Britain  
04:30 It Takes A Killer  
04:50 It Takes A Killer  
05:15 The First 48  
06:00 Live PD: Police Patrol  
06:30 Live PD: Police Patrol  
07:00 It Takes A Killer  
07:20 The First 48  
08:05 Cold Case Files  
08:50 Homicide Hunter  
09:35 The First 48  
10:30 Crimes That Shook Australia  
11:25 Crimes That Shook Britain  
12:20 Cold Case Files  
13:15 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath  
14:10 The First 48  
15:05 Crimes That Shook Australia  
16:00 Homicide Hunter  
17:00 When Life Means Life  
18:00 When Life Means Life  
19:00 Britain's Forgotten Serial Killer: Trevor Hardy  
20:00 Live PD: Police Patrol  
20:30 Live PD: Police Patrol  
21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
22:00 Killers: Behind The Myth  
23:00 It Takes A Killer  
23:30 It Takes A Killer



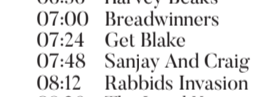
00:00 Hank Zipzer  
00:25 Alex & Co.  
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
00:50 Evermore Chronicles  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Binny And The Ghost  
02:55 Hank Zipzer  
03:15 Disney Mickey Mouse  
03:20 Hank Zipzer  
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 Disney Mickey Mouse  
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks  
06:00 Elena Of Avalor  
06:25 Bunk'd  
06:50 Bunk'd  
07:15 K.C. Undercover  
07:40 K.C. Undercover  
08:05 Raven's Home  
08:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
08:55 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
09:20 Tangled: The Series  
09:45 Elena Of Avalor  
10:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
10:35 Stuck In The Middle  
11:00 Stuck In The Middle  
11:25 Liv And Maddie  
11:50 Liv And Maddie  
12:15 Bizaardvark  
12:40 Bizaardvark  
13:00 Jessie  
13:30 Teen Beach Movie  
15:05 Descendants Wicked World  
15:10 K.C. Undercover  
15:35 K.C. Undercover  
16:00 Raven's Home  
16:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
16:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
17:15 Stuck In The Middle  
17:40 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
18:05 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
18:30 Tangled: The Series  
18:55 Tangled: Short Cuts  
19:00 Tangled: The Series  
19:25 Liv And Maddie  
19:50 Liv And Maddie  
20:15 Disney Mickey Mouse  
20:20 Elena Of Avalor  
20:45 Elena Of Avalor  
21:10 Bizaardvark  
21:35 Bizaardvark  
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
22:50 Lollipop  
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



00:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero  
06:25 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero  
06:50 Avalon Hero  
08:20 Disney Mickey Mouse  
08:25 Milo Murphy's Law  
08:35 Mech-X4  
09:00 Walk The Prank  
09:25 Marvel's Spider-Man  
09:50 Milo Murphy's Law  
10:20 Lab Rats Elite Force  
10:45 The Suite Life On Deck  
11:10 Gravity Falls  
11:35 Pair Of Kings  
12:00 Marvel's Spider-Man  
12:25 Two More Eggs  
12:30 Mighty Med  
12:55 Kirby Buckets  
13:20 Kirby Buckets  
13:45 Supa Strikas  
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
14:15 Supa Strikas  
14:40 Right Now Kapow  
15:05 Right Now Kapow  
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law  
15:55 Two More Eggs  
16:00 The Suite Life Of Zack & Cody  
16:25 Lab Rats  
16:50 Walk The Prank  
17:15 Mech-X4  
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man  
18:05 Kickin' It  
18:30 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
18:45 Kickin' It  
19:10 Mimi Ninjas  
19:25 Walk The Prank  
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
19:55 Mech-X4  
20:20 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero  
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
08:05 Kid vs. Kat  
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
21:45 Lab Rats  
22:10 Lab Rats  
22:35 Phineas & Ferb  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



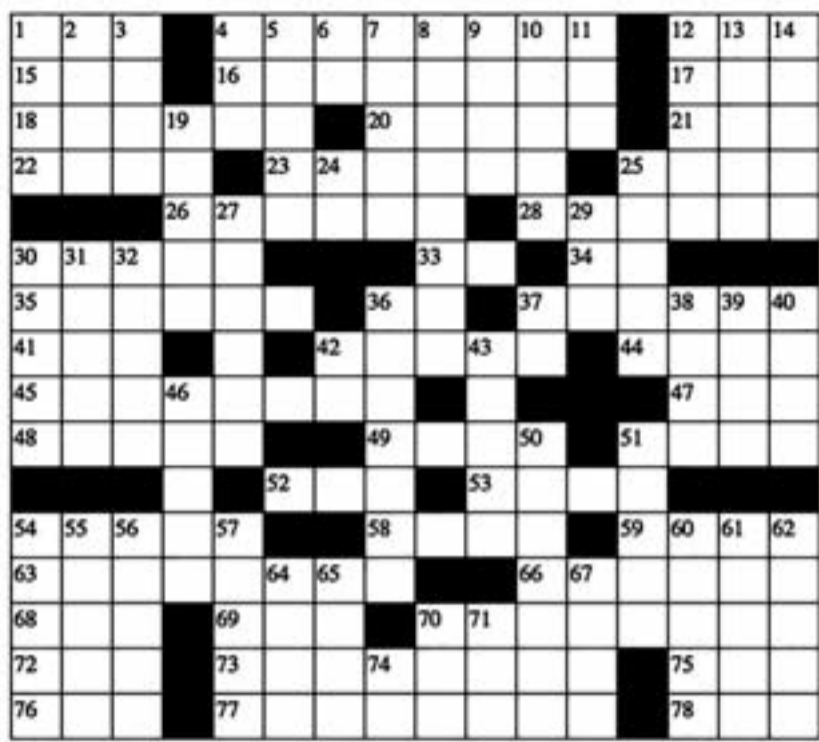
00:20 Forged: Iron & Fire  
00:45 Pawn Stars  
01:10 Swamp People  
02:00 American Pickers  
02:50 WW2 Treasure Hunters  
03:40 Sean Bean On Waterloo  
04:30 Swamp People  
05:15 Swamp People  
06:00 Ice Road Truckers  
06:50 Forged In Fire  
07:40 WW2 Treasure Hunters  
08:30 Road Hauls  
09:20 Ice Road Truckers  
10:10 Alone  
11:00 Forged In Fire  
11:50 WW2 Treasure Hunters  
12:40 Road Hauls  
13:30 Ice Road Truckers  
14:20 American Pickers  
15:10 Alone  
16:00 American Pickers  
16:50 WW2 Treasure Hunters  
17:40 Forged In Fire  
18:30 Ice Road Truckers  
19:20 Forged: Iron & Fire  
19:45 Pawn Stars  
20:10 American Pickers  
21:00 Who Killed Tupac?  
21:50 Forged In Fire  
22:40 Forged: Iron & Fire  
23:05 Pawn Stars  
23:30 Ice Road Truckers



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 Rabbids Invasion  
04:12 Rabbids Invasion  
04:36 Breadwinners  
05:00 Breadwinners  
05:24 The Loud House  
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
06:36 Harvey Beaks  
07:00 Breadwinners  
07:24 Get Blake  
07:48 Sanjay And Craig  
08:12 Rabbids Invasion  
08:36 The Loud House  
09:00 Regal Academy  
09:24 Winx Club  
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School  
10:12 Game Shakers  
10:36 School Of Rock  
11:00 Henry Danger  
11:24 The Thundermans  
11:48 I Am Frankie  
12:12 Rank The Frank  
12:36 Massive Monster Mayhem  
13:00 Hunter Street  
13:24 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
13:48 Toon Marty  
14:00 Toon Marty  
14:12 Harvey Beaks  
14:36 Breadwinners  
15:00 Sanjay And Craig  
15:24 Rabbids Invasion  
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
16:36 The Loud House  
17:00 Toon Marty  
17:12 Toon Marty  
17:24 Massive Monster Mayhem  
17:48 Hunter Street  
18:12 Henry Danger  
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And 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 Harvey Beaks  
21:24 Breadwinners  
21:48 Get Blake  
22:12 Sanjay And Craig  
22:36 Rabbids Invasion  
23:00

Stars

CROSSWORD 1874



ACROSS

1. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
  4. Emperor of Rome.
  12. Term of address for a man.
  15. Canadian hockey player (born 1948).
  16. Become adolescent.
  17. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
  18. At risk of or subject to experiencing something usually unpleasant.
  20. A small island.
  21. A pilgrimage to Mecca.
  22. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
  23. Someone who skates.
  26. A river that rises in northern Colombia and flows generally eastward to the Orinoco in central Venezuela.
  28. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
  30. Stingless male bee in a colony of social bees (especially honeybees) whose sole function is to mate with the queen.
  33. Being ten more than one hundred ninety.
  34. A nonmetallic largely pentavalent heavy volatile corrosive dark brown liquid element belonging to the halogens.
  35. The hip and buttock and upper thigh in human beings.
  41. An antiviral drug used in the treatment of AIDS.
  44. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
  45. Found in the ordinary course of events.
  47. A state-chartered savings bank owned by its depositors and managed by a board of trustees.
  48. Of or relating to or involving an area.
  49. Wife or mistress of Zeus and mother of Apollo and Artemis in ancient mythology.
  52. (Hawaiian) A small guitar having four strings.
  53. Unusually great in size or amount or degree or especially extent or scope.
  54. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
  58. Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing.
  59. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
  63. Disparaging terms for the common people.
  66. Capable of wounding.
  68. A type of submachine gun that is designed and manufactured in Israel.
  69. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
  72. (Irish) The sea personified.
  73. Clover ferns.
  75. A local computer network for communication between computers.
  76. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
  77. The income arising from land or other property.
  78. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- DOWN
1. A commercial center and river port in western Germany on the Rhine River.
  2. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
  3. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
  4. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
  5. A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.
  6. A polyvalent metallic element that resembles chromium and tungsten in its properties.
  7. (anatomy) Of or relating to the ilium.
  8. Testacean rhizopods.
  9. A small island.
  10. Sour or bitter in taste.
  11. Remaining after all deductions.
  12. Formerly a term of respect for important white Europeans in colonial India.
  13. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
  14. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
  19. (Irish) Goddess.
  24. A radioactive transuranic element which has been synthesized.
  25. Spanish poet and dramatist (1898-1936).
  27. Of or involving the rectum.
  29. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
  31. Edge tool used in shaving.
  32. Conspicuously or grossly unconventional or unusual.
  36. A blank leaf in the front of back of a book.
  37. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
  38. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
  39. At a previous time.
  40. The compass point that is one point east of southeast.
  42. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
  43. A levy of one tenth of something.
  46. Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
  50. Bred of parents not closely related.
  51. Brightly colored tropical freshwater fishes.
  55. Having a specified size.
  56. Lighted up by or as by fire or flame.
  57. A painful and involuntary muscular contraction.
  60. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
  61. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
  62. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
  64. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
  65. A card game in which players bet against the dealer on the cards he will draw from a dealing box.
  67. Type genus of the Anatidae.
  70. Dish baked in pastry-lined pan often with a pastry top.
  71. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
  74. A white trivalent metallic element.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

An interesting challenge is presented by a competitive person. Your influence is felt as others look to you for a solution to a sticky problem that could've been avoided. Using a new way, you get something to work out; personal issues are indicated, but nothing you can't handle. Making decisions isn't advised for some time to come; this is most certainly temporary. When you overhear something it stings at first, but you see the truth in it; becoming a bigger person is your focus, and you're doing it! Making changes should feel easier, as you've entered into a new cycle. Your input is requested when there's a problem with a certain coworker you've defended. Your mind keeps going back to a situation you just came upon: you remain silent, sending good energy to those involved. You're a true friend and confidant, aries.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Being able to see straight through a smokescreen saves a lot of trouble! Energy levels are high and bolstered by the confidence you feel very deeply; no obstacles or setbacks can change this attitude or energy. Someone asks a favor you can't grant; this is a person you've known a long time and they understand. When you go to the store for a certain product, you can't find it; you could decide to order on-line instead. You become more involved with family on a larger scale; this new involvement could be out of necessity for you or them. The thanks and appreciation you receive feeds your soul and strengthens your motivation. A window of opportunity has opened; good energy to follow as it leads to abundance while it lasts. You rest well tonight after dinner in a new place; smiles strongly indicated.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

What you have, your possessions, hold a very important place in your life at this time. You've entered a major period of making important strides in your financial and other material gains. You long to be free of want and work yourself silly to insure you have all that you need. Living the high-life is where you want to be now and you make sure of this outcome. You consider what motivates you and begin to look at this very closely. Someone gets your attention when they mention a mutual friend; this person is interesting on several levels. New people, places and things in your life are indicated for quite some time. Attending a flea market or garden show is time well spent with friends or family; you find something special to add to a current collection. Bettering your life is your focus and you do well with this.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

It's easy to pick-up on the feelings of those you share time with. Being at odds with more than one person makes you suspect you're trying to be negative. Knowing what to do in a pinch makes the work place a better place today! A brand-new work week brings with it a surprising opportunity that interests you. Being in the fast lane is exhilarating and stirs your creative energy. Your influence is felt in an important meeting. Knowing the ins and outs of a project puts you in the perfect place to lead. Putting the right people in the right place at the right time is the perfect move in a fast-paced environment. You're able to help a new coworker understand a super complicated truth; this person could come across as terribly lost! Doing whatever you want tonight is indicated. Fun times for you this evening.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You make a good impression on someone that matters. You make it across the finish line of a long project with success. You inspire a number of people when you explain how you accomplished something. Do something special for yourself today when the opportunity presents itself. You catch yourself daydreaming off and on throughout the day about something that may seem impossible; be careful what you wish for! You seek to escape through literature or film or, perhaps, you take in a good play, it's your choice. When you make a difficult decision, you're able to stand by it no matter what; you're beginning to trust your choices now that you understand how to make better ones. New circumstances open that perfectly utilize many of your natural talents and move you forward.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may feel that circumstances block your attempts to move forward; this is short-lived. You formulate a plan and then figure out how to work it down to the smallest detail. A new spiritual oracle strikes your fancy; rune stones or angel cards could be indicated here. You may want to check your natal chart to get some unknown facts regarding your day and time of birth and how this affects you now. Mulling something over is called for; you manage to see all sides and make a hard decision. Someone comes across as rude and overbearing but may actually be an admirer. You may take a shortcut that surprises you! You could demand respect from someone that's not capable of giving it. Doing something for yourself goes a long way when you make a full commitment to going down this road.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You want justice, pure and simple. The energy of balance is present and supportive of moving forward with some important plans. When troubles arise, you embrace them and let them teach you what it is you need to know. You're able to take one look at a certain item and understand its value. Intuition brings important insight into the workings of a new customer or client that no longer seems complicated. When the occasion to make decisions for others arises you're more than capable and ready; the energy is aligned for this very strongly now. Keep your chin up, your spirits high, you're ahead of the game! Someone could belittle your hopes and dreams simply because they have none of their own; give them a break as you're bigger than them! You clearly understand your own motives at this time.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Tradition doesn't interest you and you actively look for new ways to celebrate that others may disapprove of. You get an ego boost from someone who matters. Being independent is important to you, but keep in mind you have others who need your consideration and attention. You continue to carry a torch for someone you treated badly; you wish you could go back, but it's probably too late; keep your chin up and continue to make the changes you need to make. Clear thoughts create clear intention that seem to bring about desired results. You know exactly what you want, but getting it could be another matter. Workplace karma feels extremely good as new assignments or projects come rolling in. Communication skills are very prominent now and you're right on when we use them.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have to regroup and make changes in some strategies regarding a certain project. You could appear to disapprove of something someone suggests; this may actually work in your favor! You could be put in charge of a familiar task. You hear from a friend who needs your help with a sensitive situation; you're a dependable, true-blue friend. You seek information on a topic that turns out to be difficult to research; you love a good treasure hunt, you'll find what you seek. You're in a cycle which promotes education and retaining knowledge. You're impressed with a neighbor or acquaintance when they make a very helpful suggestion. You want the respect of someone who simply won't give it. Being a free spirit makes it easier to up and leave the heaviness of negative energy behind, candid.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You sense that you're engaged in a competition with a person who wants very badly to be in charge. You've learned not to catch that ball challenges, dares or threats when it's thrown, no matter who throws it! Some may not support your efforts but in spite of them, the project prospers and you come out smelling like a fragrant flower, a successful one! You overcome challenges, especially petty ones. Try not to hold a grudge against those causing problems. You're admired for your quick thinking and action. You refuse to be frustrated and keep a positive attitude even through the chaos. Figuring out a new way to do something is necessary. You're interested only in what works. There's strong energy for work goals. You dream of the things you truly want and never stop working toward them.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You may feel a sort of out of body sensation, as though you're looking in from far away. Your thoughts seem to be trapped inside your mind with no way out, explaining yourself seems difficult. Disagreements may occur more than once; someone tries to make amends later. You feel lackluster and bored; you go for the gold with new hair, makeup or wardrobe, basically a brand-new look! Someone disagrees with your living situation; you could engage in lengthy debate that ends in a tie. You enjoy a phone call or a visit from someone who helps with some new plans for innovative home improvements of some kind. Financial and personal plans pay off very nicely at this time. There may be short trip just around the corner if you want; water or mountains or both! - for you, aquarius.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A fast-paced day calls for quick decisions on any approaching deadline that can't be missed. Your solutions are right on target and others eagerly follow where you lead; if you happen to be a follower, doesn't it feel great that the smart choice to listen to a like-minded person you feel compelled to work with a certain person for a reason! While decisions are clear for others, they could be hard for you to make for yourself; take time, the answers come. You value the feelings and opinions of others you know. You're a true-blue friend; you're there when you're needed the most today. Your body aches for movement; a cross-fit, yoga class or aerobic workout may be in the picture; or a nice walk near nature perhaps. Think before you shop today and remember the last impulse purchase you made.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Spring

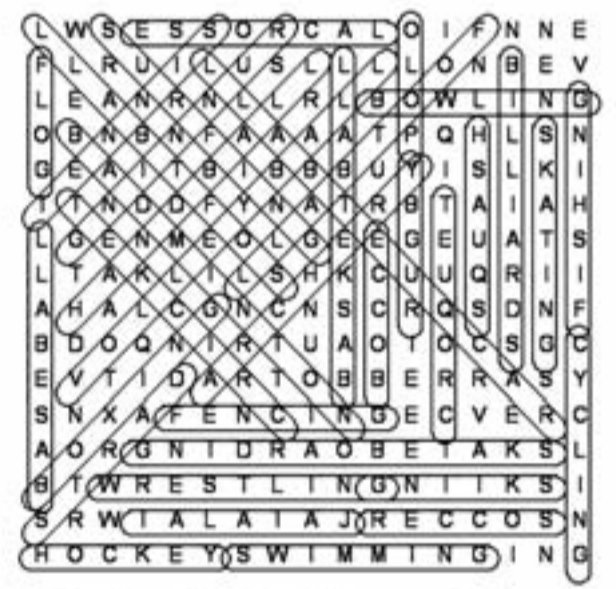
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a message about Spring.



- |            |            |                 |
|------------|------------|-----------------|
| ALLERGIES  | FROGS      | RAIN            |
| APRIL      | GOLF       | RENEWAL         |
| BASEBALL   | GRASS      | ROBINS          |
| BEES       | GREEN      | SEASON          |
| CROCUSES   | GROWTH     | SNOWMELT        |
| CYCLAMENS  | IRISES     | SOFTBALL        |
| DAFFODILS  | LILIES     | SPRING BREAK    |
| DANDELIONS | MARCH      | SPRING CLEANING |
| EASTER     | MAY        | TULIPS          |
| EQUINOX    | NEW LEAVES | WARMER          |
| FLOWERS    | PLANTING   | WET             |

Yesterday's Solution

Sports



- |            |          |               |            |
|------------|----------|---------------|------------|
| ARCHERY    | CROQUET  | JAI ALAI      | SOCCER     |
| BADMINTON  | CYCLING  | LACROSSE      | SOFTBALL   |
| BASKETBALL | DARTS    | POLO          | SQUASH     |
| BILLIARDS  | FENCING  | RACQUETBALL   | SURFING    |
| BOWLING    | FISHING  | RUGBY         | SWIMMING   |
| BOXING     | FOOTBALL | RUNNING       | TENNIS     |
| CRICKET    | GOLF     | SKATEBOARDING | VOLLEYBALL |
|            | HANDBALL | SKATING       | WRESTLING  |
|            | HOCKEY   | SKIING        |            |

The hidden sentence is: WINNERS NEVER QUIT AND QUITTERS NEVER WIN

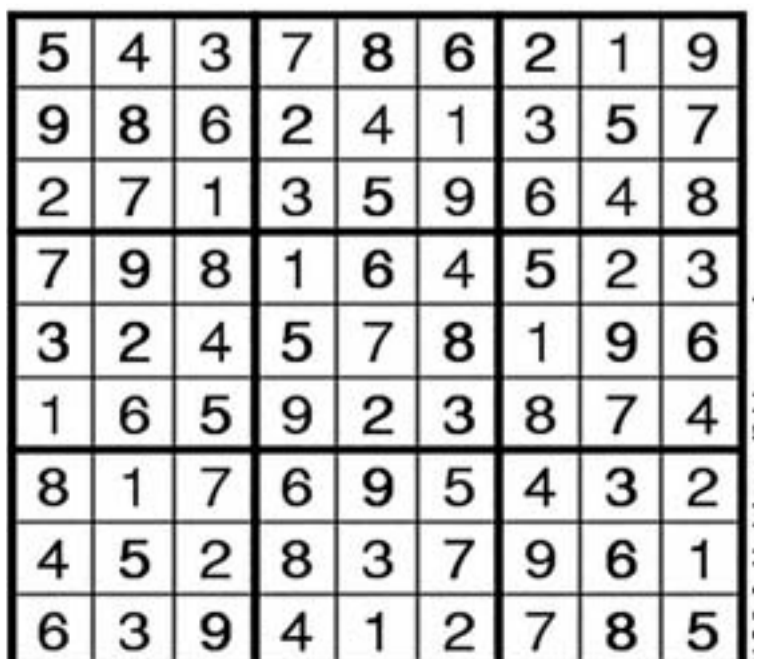
Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Classifieds

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

**Kuwait Times**  
Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
e-mail: [info@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:info@kuwaittimes.net)

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 4419 - 4417  
Fax: (+965) 24348754  
[www.met.gov.kw](http://www.met.gov.kw)



## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

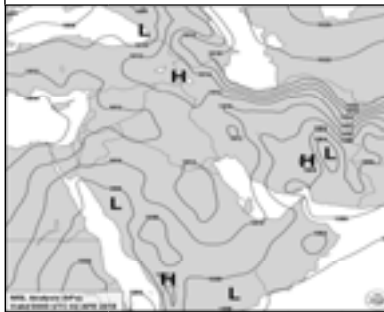
**BY DAY:** Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h with a chance for drizzle.

**BY NIGHT:** Partly cloudy with light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 18 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
-----------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	28 °C	22 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	30 °C	16 °C
ABDALY	29 °C	16 °C
BUBYAN	27 °C	00 °C
JAHLA	31 °C	19 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	28 °C	17 °C
SALMIYAH	26 °C	22 °C
AHMADI	27 °C	00 °C
NUWAISIB	29 °C	18 °C
WAFRA	30 °C	17 °C
SALMY	28 °C	18 °C

SFC. CHART 02/04/2018 0000 UTC



DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	04/03	Partly cloudy	33 °C	18 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	04/04	Cloudy causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	31 °C	21 °C	SW-SE	20 - 45 km/h
Thursday	04/05	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	29 °C	22 °C	SE	15 - 40 km/h
Friday	04/06	Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	30 °C	20 °C	SE	15 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:17
Sunrise	05:37
Zuhr	11:52
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:07
Isha	19:25

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	29 °C
MIN. Temp.	17 °C
MAX RH	49 %
MIN. RH	18 %
MAX. Wind	NW 50 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

## Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
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Arrival Flights on Tuesday 3/4/2018				Departure Flights on Tuesday 3/4/2018			
Airlines	Flight	Route	Time	Airlines	Flight	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KAC	285	Dhaka	00:01
KAC	102	London	00:50	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JZR	528	Asyut	00:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	FDB	072	Dubai	00:35
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	MSC	412	Asyut	01:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	JZR	142	Doha	01:45
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:15	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:50	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:45
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	QTR	1087	Doha	03:40
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:30
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	FDB	070	Dubai	05:45
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:50	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15
PAL	668	Manila	05:00	RJA	641	Riyadh	06:25
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	JZR	560	Sohag	06:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	RJA	164	Dubai	06:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	538	Cairo	07:05
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	ETD	9882	Dubai	07:05
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	167	Paris	07:35
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	08:10
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	165	Rome	08:15
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	QTR	787	Jeddah	08:40
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	BAW	156	London	08:55
KAC	358	Kochi	07:40	KAC	613	Bahrain	08:55
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	117	New York	09:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	671	Dubai	09:45
WAN	352	Luxor	08:30	KAC	101	London	09:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:20
WAN	312	Asyut	10:20	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:40
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
WAN	114	Bahrain	12:10	IRA	674	Lar	11:40
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
JZR	325	Al Najaf	12:20	MSC	404	Asyut	12:15
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	QTR	1075	Doha	12:30
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	JZR	606	Kochi	12:45
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
WAN	542	KTM	12:50				
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50				
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10				
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45				
FEJ	341	Sohag	13:50				

## Lifestyle | Gossip

# Marshmello trusts collaborators not to reveal identity



**M**arshmello trusts his collaborators not to reveal his identity. The world famous anonymous DJ recently teamed up with Anne-Marie on the track 'Friends', and the hit song's co-writer Nat Dunn - who is part of Australian house duo NAATIONS - knows exactly who it is after the trio's studio session because he took off his marshmallow head when they worked together. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, Nat said: "The three of us wrote the song in the studio together. 'He wasn't wearing his helmet, he had it there with him but he wasn't wearing it.' Asked if they had to sign a contract to say they won't say who it is, she said: "No, it's all down to trust." Speaking about working with 'heavy' singer Anne-Marie, Nat said: "Anne-Marie and I just get along really well. 'We had a lot of fun. We wrote the song fairly quickly and just had a good time.'" Nat also recently penned a song which is hopefully going to be on the new Backstreet Boys record. Speaking about the track for the 90s boyband - comprised AJ McLean, Howie D, Nick Carter, Kevin Richardson and Brian Littrell - she said: "It was going to be their first single but apparently it's now going to be their second single. 'You never know - it changes all the time with labels. If it ever comes out at all..." Asked if it is a departure from their boyband era, she said: "It's definitely quite fresh for them, it definitely works for a boyband though." NAATIONS' new single 'Touch Me' it's out now via First Access Records.

## Cardi B battles sickness

**C**ardi B is battling through sickness to get her debut album out on time. The 'Bodak Yellow' hitmaker is still working on her upcoming LP, 'Invasion of Privacy' just a week before it is due to be released, but her efforts have been hampered by her own health. Speaking on her Instagram story, she said: "I slept in the studio, and I'm getting sicker and sicker. This Miami weather with the air conditioner me up, but I need to do one more song for my album, I really need to do it (sic)." It comes after Cardi took to Instagram to show off the album cover and reveal it will be released on April 6. She captioned the image: "My album cover !!! LADIES AND GENTS! My album INVASION OF PRIVACY will be out next week April



6!!!!!! (sic) The highly anticipated album follows her trio of hit singles including 'Bodak Yellow', 'Bartier Cardi' and 'MotorSport', as well as guest appearances ranging from Bruno Mars' 'Finesse (Remix)' to G-Eazy's 'No Limit'. Meanwhile, Cardi previously revealed she is proud that hip-hop is "always" in the charts. She said: "In America, I always look at the

charts. Hip-hop is always there. We are controlling the music industry. We control the fashion world. I don't give care if the fashion comes from a runway or if a Caucasian woman is walking it, once a coloured person wears something, that's when everybody wants to wear it. We always influence. When you see the Olympics, who always wins? Coloured folks. We win everything. We are a big influence and people want to take that shit away. People like Donald Trump, they're always going to make us feel like we're less. But it's okay, because a bxxxx like me knows the truth. It don't matter if the government and the Republicans try to make us feel like we're not, cos we is. I know the truth ... We run the s\*\*t! We influence. We run everything."

## Kodaline would write wedding song for Ed Sheeran



**K**odaline would love to pen a song for pal Ed Sheeran's wedding. The 'Shape of You' hitmaker helped the Irish band's bassist Jason Boland get engaged in 2015 by bringing him on stage following their support slot at Dublin's Croke Park, where the musician asked his long-term girlfriend Etain Corr to marry him in front of 80,000 fans. And now that the 27-year-old singer/songwriter is engaged to Cherry Seaborn, frontman Steve Garrigan would be up for writing a track for the couple's big day. Steve previously wrote 'The One' as a

gift to the band's sound engineer Cameron Young and his wife, but now their fans use it as their song on their wedding days, so he has experience in that department. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, Steve said: "If Ed calls me up and asks me to write him a wedding song, of course I'll write him one. 'I don't know what it is with us and wedding songs. 'I wrote one as a gift to friends, I wrote it the night before and it ended up being a single for us. 'It has grown legs, so many people have used it as their wedding song now. 'My mate is a little bit

annoyed because he is like that's my song. 'So yeah, if Ed wants a wedding song, I will write him one.'" Kodaline's new song 'Follow Your Fire' is produced by Snow Patrol's Johnny McDaid and Steve Mac - who did Ed Sheeran's smash hit 'Shape of You' and Pink's 'What About Us' - and Steve says the pair pushed the band out of their "comfort zone". 'Follow Your Fire' is taken from Kodaline's forthcoming new album - the follow-up to 2015's 'Coming Up for Air' - which sees them experiment with a new sound inspired by tropical house DJ, Kygo.

## West splits from long-time manager

**K**anye West has reportedly split from his long-time manager Izvor 'Izzy' Zivkovic - who started working with the rapper on his 2010 album 'My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy' - is said to no longer be co-managing the 'All Day' hitmaker, with Justin Bieber's manager Scooter Braun now stepping up his responsibilities, according to Billboard.com Neither, Kanye - who is represented CCA - or a representative for Zivkovic have commented on why they've gone separate ways. The Split Second Management owner also looks after acts including Arcade Fire and Banks. The 40-year-old hip-hop star - who is back working on his music comeback - was forced to cancel the remaining dates of his 'Saint Pablo Tour' in 2016, and was swiftly hospitalized for sleep deprivation and exhaustion. In August, Kanye filed a \$10 million lawsuit against the insurers of his tour. The rap star axed his much-anticipated concerts in support of his album 'Life of Pablo', after he suffered a breakdown - but Kanye sued syndicates of insurer Lloyd's of London after they refused to pay him. The suit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, read "Nor have they provided anything approaching a coherent explanation about why they have not paid, or any indication if they will ever pay ... implying that Kanye's use of marijuana may provide them with a basis to deny the claim and retain the hundreds of thousands of dollars in insurance premiums paid." Kanye's legal claim alleged breach of contract, as well as breach of good faith and fair dealing on the insurer's behalf,



according to The Hollywood Reporter. The outspoken star was admitted to the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital in November 2016, which led him to cancel his remaining 21 tour dates. Following his spell in hospital, Kanye reportedly underwent independent medical evaluation in relation to his insurance claim. Howard King, Kanye's lawyer, wrote: "Performing artists who pay handsomely to insurance companies ... should take note ... Lloyd's companies enjoy collecting bounteous premiums; they don't enjoy paying claims, no matter how legitimate."

## Ebru Ellis praises supportive Sam Smith



**S**am Smith has been praised for being "always encouraging". The 'Too Good At Goodbyes' hitmaker is always "really friendly" to those who work with him, and singer Ebru Ellis had a great time lending her vocals to his track 'Stay With Me'. Ebru explained: "I sang on the Vevo recording of the track, and it was such an amazing experience. [Sam Smith] is really down to earth, he's quiet and really friendly, and always encouraging. I also performed live with him on Chatty Man and the Graham Norton Show and it was really nice to experience the TV aspect of it." Sam isn't the only big star the 'Blocks' singer has worked with, as she was part of the London Community Gospel Choir who backed Justin Timberlake at the BRIT Awards last month. And Ebru was pleased to find the 'Say Something' singer was full of praise and very encouraging of their work. She told BANG Showbiz: "I was there performing with the London Community Gospel Choir and the buzz was incredible. [Justin Timberlake] was there at the rehearsal and he was really happy with how it sounded, everyone was in awe of him really! He just basically said 'wow, you sound great', he just wanted the vocals to sound more emphasized. He usually uses American choirs, but the London Community Gospel Choir was really highly recommended, and apparently he was really impressed." Ebru made it to Judges' Houses on 'The X Factor' in 2015 but she wouldn't try out for the show again. She admitted: "I wouldn't go on 'X Factor' again. It's nothing personal to Simon Cowell, it's just reality TV is not the pathway for me. 'Singers go on there when they've tried to knock down so many doors and it hasn't worked, it's like a back up. 'For me, it's important to have creative control, and sometimes with shows you lose your identity as an artist as they tell you who you are supposed to be, and I am just not willing to compromise in that way.' Ebru will perform at London's Jazz Cafe on Friday. Her single 'Blocks' is out now.



## Grohl's first band to reissue debut album

**D**ave Grohl's first ever band are reissuing their debut album. The 49-year-old Nirvana drummer was part of the rock band Scream from 1981 to 1990 and in 2009 the band reformed, and now their 1988 album 'No More Censorship' is set to be rereleased this April. Scream vocalist Peter Stahl said in a press statement: "This record was written and recorded during Reagan's presidency. 'US foreign policy was being disruptive in Central and Latin America, Iran-Contra... Art and music was being censored." "Ed Meese, Ronald's Attorney General was appointed to do a report on the effect of pornography on society. 'Hearings were held in Congress about lyrics and albums, and warnings were placed on album covers. 'One bitter example being Dead Kennedys, who were taken to court over the Frankenchrist album's Geiger poster. 'SCREAM raised money to help in the Dead Kennedys court battle, and more widely participated in benefits to raise money to fight this oppression. 'So much of what was going on then is still so relevant today. History repeats.' The album was originally reissued as a Record Store Day Black Friday exclusive last year. NME report, but now, the new reissued copy 'NMC17' will be pressed to silver vinyl and will include photos, lyrics, poetry and personal writings from the Grohl era of the band. The new edition is slated for release on April 27. Recently Dave - who is the frontman of Foo Fighters comprised also of Pat Smear, Chris Shiflett, Nate Mendel, Taylor Hawkins and Romi Jaffe - revealed he has no plans to go solo. According to the Daily Star newspaper, Dave explained: "It just requires the five of us to make music in a room - it's that simple. 'When I work by myself it doesn't sound like the Foo Fighters, it sounds like me.' The band recently scooped the Best International Group gong at the BRIT Awards, held at London's O2 Arena, in February.

## Sir Elton John won't completely retire

**S**ir Elton John thinks retirement would be "boring". The 70-year-old singer - who has sons Zachary, seven, and Elijah, five, with husband David Furnish - is planning his final three-year world tour, and though he's stepping away from live performance, he insists he'll never give up his career entirely. He told Britain's OK! magazine: "I'll never retire. It sounds so boring to me. I'm simply stopping all the travel. 'My boys are at an age now where it's no longer practical with their schooling and schedules. If we didn't have children, I'd continue travelling. 'I'm still going to record albums, write music, produce movies and write musicals. 'It's not about me, I can't be self-focused. 'I have a family to help me - my husband, my boys. 'I have responsibilities that means I have to pull back. They come first, before anything and anyone else.' The 'Healing Hands' singer is the "most excited" he's ever

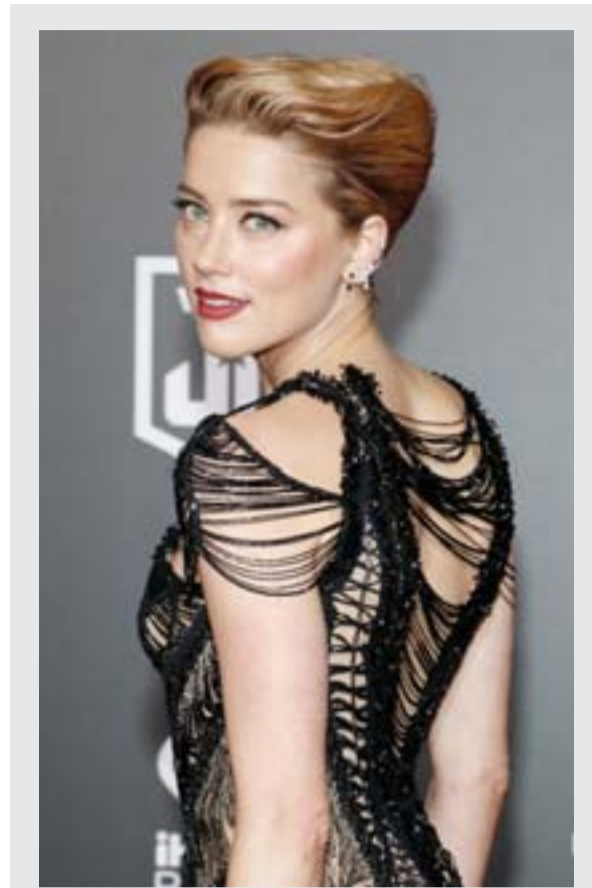
been about tour for his final shows because he views it as more of a "triumphant thank you" than a "sad goodbye". He said: "It's not an easy decision but it's the right decision. 'I'm possibly the most excited I've ever been for a tour because I'm planning on visiting every country in the world who's welcomed and supported me. 'This is my thank you to each and every fan. So it's not a sad goodbye, it's a triumphant thank you.' Though Elton is giving up touring for the sake of his family, after suffering a potentially-deadly infection last year, he admits it would also be good for his health. He said: "Every year I'd do a couple of hundred flights and it's starting to take it out of me. 'I had a health scare last year, it was quite serious. 'I'm fine now but it played into the decision. 'My body isn't invincible, I have to respect it and treat it more kindly, and chopping out those air miles can't hurt."



Lifestyle | Gossip

# Scarlett Johansson to star in World War II movie Jojo Rabbit

Scarlett Johansson is in talks to star in the World War II movie 'Jojo Rabbit'. The 33-year-old actress is set to play a mother who is hiding a Jewish girl in her home during the reign of Adolf Hitler but her German son discovers her secret. Variety report. 'Thor: Ragnarok' director Taika Waititi has penned the script and is set to direct and produce alongside Carthew Neal and Chelsea Winstanley and the film is slated to start production this spring. Not much else is known about the film at the time of reporting but Waititi has reportedly been offered numerous offers to helm movies following the success of the third 'Thor' movie. However, the New Zealand filmmaker - who is currently filming his 'What We Do in the Shadows' pilot - made it clear 'Jojo Rabbit' would be his next film. Johansson will next be seen reprising her role as Black Widow in the highly anticipated 'Avengers: Infinity War' which is set for release this April. The actress has appeared as the character seven times to date, but it has been reported she is set to star in the upcoming standalone movie based around the Russian spy. As reported by The Wrap, 'Blacklist' screenwriter Jac Schaeffer has been hired by Marvel to work on a script, suggesting it could eventually become a reality. While Johansson's contract was due to expire after 'Avengers 4' - which will hit the big screen in 2019 - it is said she may have signed an extension to continue playing the former spy. As the money-spinning franchise looks towards its Post-Phase Three - which includes all the movies made after 'Avengers 4' - Johansson has admitted to having mixed feelings. Speaking recently on the set of the fourth 'Avengers' film, she said: "It's bittersweet to imagine not having these films to come back to. "I've been living this story with these people for 10 years through ups and downs. We've built a great family. Personally, it feels like a loss."



# Heard in new indie drama Gully

Amber Heard has joined the cast of the indie drama 'Gully'. The 31-year-old actress will be starring alongside 'All the Money in the World' actor Charlie Plummer in the new movie which marks the directorial debut of music video director Nabil Elderkin. Variety report. Kelvin Harrison Jr., Jacob Latimore, Alice Eve and Jonathan Majors are also on board the movie which has been penned by Marcus Gullory. The film is set in a dystopian version of Los Angeles and follows three disaffected teenagers - who are all victims of childhood trauma - who are running a hedonistic riot. Heard has reportedly signed on to play Plummer's mother. The movie is being produced by Brad Feinstein along with Tom Butterfield, Ben Pugh, Corey Smyth and Alex Georgiou. Heard will next be seen starring in the DC Extended Universe movie 'Aquaman' alongside Jason Momoa as the titular character. The film follows Arthur Curry/Aquaman - played by the 'Game of Thrones' star - who finds himself caught between a surface world that ravages the sea and the underwater Atlanteans who are ready to revolt. Momoa stars alongside Heard, Nicole Kidman, Temuere Morrison, Patrick Wilson, Abdul-Mateen and Dolph Lundgren. The film has been helmed by filmmaker James Wan who recently said 'Aquaman' does not have "three villains" because that would be evil overkill. Wan said: "This is what I'll say: I don't have three villains. I think that's ridiculous! I would never go into an origin movie with three villains. We don't even know the main character let alone the world and its antagonist. I believe in taking baby steps." Aquaman was briefly seen in a cameo in 'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice' and made his full big screen debut in 'Justice League' last year.

# BLUNT felt nervous starring with husband Krasinski in A Quiet Place



Emily Blunt felt nervous starring in a film with husband John Krasinski. The 35-year-old actress stars as Evelyn Abbott in the new horror 'A Quiet Place' alongside her husband - who she married in 2010 - and the film marks the first time the two have starred in a picture together. And although Blunt said they have always wanted to work together on a project, she admitted they were both nervous but said they brought their own "secret language" with them. Blunt told ES Magazine: "We've always wanted to work together and when this came along I realized the concept was so much bigger than, 'They're a married couple'. "We were nervous because we've always been the second-hand audience to the reshaping of what we might have gone through that day on set. "And ultimately we really understand each other's worlds because it's the same world. "The film was actually going to benefit from the fact that we were a married couple, because we had this secret language we could bring." The film - which has been helmed by Krasinski - follows Evelyn, her husband Lee and their two children Regan (Millicent Simmonds) and Marcus (Noah Jupe) who must live life in silence while hiding from creatures that hunt by sound. 'A Quiet Place' was shot in just six weeks and Blunt revealed it was an "intense world" to be in. She said: "It was just such an intense world to be in, all day, and such an intimate world because we're shooting on this glorious farm, but everything's happening in that moment." And Blunt - who has two children Hazel, four, and Violet, who was born in 2016 with her husband - found that her new movie was a "deeper metaphor of parenthood". She said: "It's a sort of deeper metaphor of parenthood. "Our reluctance and fear of sending our kids out into a brutal, fragile world and here it is in heightened reality."

# STEVEN SPIELBERG WILL NEVER CHANGE ANY OF HIS CLASSIC MOVIES



Steven Spielberg will never go back and "enhance or change" any of his movies. The 71-year-old iconic filmmaker has helmed many popular movies including 'Jurassic Park', 'Jaws' and 'Indiana Jones', but with his latest sci-fi 'Ready Player One', the film takes place in a made-up virtual world called the OASIS and features many iconic references to 1980s pop culture. But during an interview with Collider, Spielberg was asked whether he has been tempted to go back and rework any of his classic movies, but the filmmaker revealed he got in trouble for changing parts of 'E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial'. He said: "Well, I got in trouble for doing that. When 'E.T.' was re-released, I actually digitized five shots, where E.T. went from being a puppet to a digital puppet. I also replaced the guns. "When the FBI ran up on the van, they now have walkie talkies. So, there's a really bad version of 'E.T.', where I took my cue from 'Star Wars' and all of the digital enhancements for 'A New Hope' that George [Lucas] put in. "I went ahead because the marketing at Universal thought we needed something to get an audience back in to see the movie, so I did a few touch-ups in the film. "In those days, social media wasn't as profound as it is today, but what was just beginning erupted in a loud negative voice saying, 'How could you ruin our favorite childhood film?' "So, I learned a big lesson, and that's the last time I ever decided to mess with the past. "What's done is done, and I'll never go back and do anything to another movie that I've made and have control over, to enhance or change it."

# Dame Helen Mirren begged for action roles



Dame Helen Mirren "begged" for her roles in 'Fast & Furious 8' and 'Red'. The 72-year-old actress is more known for her dramatic work but was desperate to be a part of an action series, and joked being an Oscar winner helped her persuade film bosses to give her a chance. She said of the movies: "It was a little hankering definitely. Absolutely it was. "I begged. I put it out there and then I begged. That was one of the wonderful advantages of winning an Oscar. I got to be in action movies! "Because they love having Oscar winners in their action movies. They want to bring you down." And the 'Leisure Seeker' actress found herself having far more fun on set than she'd expected. She added to Total Film magazine: "[It was] more fun. Especially the action sequences, they're the best. I love them. And the technology. "They're extraordinary, these special effects guys and stunt guys. To watch those craftsmen at work... There really should be an Oscar for stunt work. "These guys are incredible and they're so careful and so professional. And they're artists. They do amazing things." When she's working, Helen loves to arrive on set early so she can see the entire process of the shoot. She said: "I always like to get to the set early. Some people always like to get to the set late. "I always like to be there before they're ready, so I can watch what's going on and get a sense of what the shot is, what the problems might be. So I like to get there early."

# Sharknado franchise to come to end after sixth movie

The 'Sharknado' franchise is set to come to an end after its sixth installment. The low-budget mockbuster from Syfy will see the return of Ian Ziering and Tara Reid as shark-battling couple Fin and April Shepard. TVLine report. Following the events of the fifth movie - which ended with Fin walking the streets of earth alone after it has been ravaged by man-eating storm - the currently untitled sixth movie will see the hero attempt to time travel back to where it all started. It has been reported that the film will also feature Nazis, dinosaurs, knights, and Noah's Ark as well as the dreaded Sharknado. 'Sharknado 6' will also see the return of



Vivica A. Fox, Cassie Scerbo and director Anthony C. Ferrante. The movie will be shown in the US this summer with a UK date likely to follow after. The made-for-TV sci-fi disaster comedy franchise kicked off back in 2013 with the very first movie and followed a waterspout that lifts sharks out of the ocean and deposits them in L.A. Although it was first screened on Syfy, the film was given a one-night only special midnight screening in a cinema but it earned less than \$200,000 from 200 screenings. Four sequels have been produced since then with the sixth and final movie currently in development. It has garnered a cult fan base and most recent installment 'Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!' featured several celebrity cameos from Jedward, WWE wrestler Chris Jericho, Bo Derek, Jerry Springer, Holly Madison, Kendra Wilkinson and Ray J among others. While promoting the fourth movie, the producers launched a social media campaign asking fans whether #AprilLives or #AprilDies and fans could only find out by watching the movie.

# Sandler and Aniston reuniting for Netflix's Murder Mystery

Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston are reportedly set to reunite on Netflix comedy 'Murder Mystery'. The two stars - who last appeared opposite each other in 2011's 'Just Go With It' - are said to be working together for the first time in seven years on the upcoming movie. According to Variety, the film will see Sandler and Aniston star as a New York police officer and his wife, as they find themselves as prime suspects in the murder of an elderly billionaire during a trip to Europe. 'The Amazing Spider-Man' scriptwriter James Vanderbilt has penned the comedy, while 'Workaholics' co-creator Kyle Newacheck will direct. It will be Sandler's sixth Netflix movie as part of his deal with the online streaming service - sealed via his own Happy Madison Productions - following 'The Ridiculous Six', 'The Do-Over', 'Sandy Wexler', 'The Meyerowitz Stories (New and Selected)', and 'The Week Of', which is released on April 27. Last April, the star signed a four-film deal with Netflix, and said in a statement that he loves "collaborating with them". He said: "I love how passionate they are about making movies and getting them out there for the whole world to see. They've made me feel like family and I can't thank them enough for their support." Netflix's Chief Content Officer Ted Sarandos described Sandler as "one of the leading comedians in the film world". He added: "His movies have proven to be extremely successful with our subscribers around the world." — Bang Showbiz



## 20 years on, Kazakhs struggle to warm to chilly new capital

For Dina, a hairless Sphynx living in a newly-opened cat cafe in Kazakhstan's capital Astana, this winter was a difficult one to bear. Temperatures in the steppe city of more than one million people reached minus 40 degrees Celsius (minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit) as Central Asia experienced its coldest winter in a decade, testing heating systems across the region. During this time Dina took to sitting near the radiators of the Miki Piki cafe, which opened in 2017 and houses cats of more than a dozen different breeds. "You have to be ever so careful with them," said cafe owner Aigul Kurmanaliyeva of the hairless Canadian Sphynx breed.

"They often need to wear clothes outside. They are very prone to illness," she told AFP. Human residents of Astana, the world's second-coldest capital city behind Mongolia's Ulan Bator, can empathize. Astana, the government's showpiece project on the Ishim river in northern Kazakhstan, took over as the country's capital 20 years ago. But many of its residents compare Astana unfavorably with the former capital Almaty, a city of 1.5 million people that lies 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) further south and where temperatures are notably warmer. "The beginning of the long-awaited spring is felt!" joked a popular local blogger, Rinat Balgabayev. "In Almaty, the apricot trees blossomed. In Astana, citizens put on their festive coloured leg warmers!" he said on Facebook recently.

### Living 'in isolation'

Despite a pantheon of lavish, futuristic architecture, many people who were forced to move to Astana for work or family reasons find the city an uncomfortable fit. Adil Nurmakov, a former resident of Almaty who moved to Astana for his wife's job last year, said life in the city can be a "shock", especially for foreigners and ex-residents of the cosmopolitan former capital. "The way the city is planned means that citizens principally live in isolation, travelling by car from home to work and back again," he told AFP. "There are few public spaces for people to congregate."

Such criticism has been leveled against other planned capitals, notably Brazil's Brasilia, but Astana's harsh climate during the winter months presents an additional challenge. "For a large part of the year, public life in the city practically freezes over," complained Nurmakov. Authorities generally cite Almaty's location in a seismologically active region as the reason for moving the capital north, as well as the opportunity to break with Soviet history. Many observers however argued the decision was made to strengthen control over a part of the country with strong cultural and political affiliations to Kazakhstan's former master Russia.

Kazakhstan's government is sensitive to any criticism of the capital and will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the switch from Almaty on July 6, which is a national holiday called Astana Day. The city now called Astana officially became the capital in December 1997 but the summer holiday was designed to coincide with the birthday of Kazakhstan's long-ruling 77-year-old President Nursultan Nazarbayev. At the beginning of the year the country's ambassador to Britain, Erlan Idrissov, wrote a prickly letter to the Financial Times newspaper, denouncing an article that had referred to Astana as a "bizarre" and "hastily built" vanity project. Kazakh nationals were "immensely proud of this extraordinary achievement, led by President Nursultan Nazarbayev", he wrote in a letter published by the newspaper.

### Shoots of cultural life

One long-standing criticism of Astana that has faded over time is that there is nothing interesting to do in the city. Recent times have seen a subtle shift in the cultural balance of power between the current and former capitals, mainly at the instigation of the state, which has invested heavily in the arts and moved the national ballet troupe up north. Astana has even acquired craft beer bars—in another sign that the nightlife is growing more diverse.

Symbat Karintayev, the co-owner of a bar in the city's unpretentious old town called "The Hop", admitted he "took a risk" opening up. The fashion for experimental ales arrived in Kazakhstan only very recently by way of Russia, he said, with Almaty taking to the trend more quickly than the capital. "Craft beer is a new experience for the residents of Astana, but little by little these kinds of scenes are developing," Karintayev told AFP. Back at the Miki Piki cat cafe—whose opening added diversity to the leisure scene in a city that is already home to malls and gastro-pubs—the owner said the idea came from a trip to South Korea known for its animal cafes. "We knew there wasn't anything like that here," said Kurmanaliyeva. — AFP



Photo shows a small grocery store in the Palermo Soho neighborhood of Buenos Aires, Argentina. — AP photos

## Buenos Aires neighborhood Palermo Soho: Shop, eat, drink

Once you've seen Buenos Aires' wide, crowded boulevards and the balcony where Eva Peron waved to the masses, you might get the impression the city is all about grandiose architecture and the fast-paced attitude that is so common in big cities. But head to Palermo Soho, and you'll notice that the buildings get smaller, the streets get calmer and the crowds get cooler.

Once a rundown warehouse district with shabby stucco homes, the area takes its name from New York's upscale Soho neighborhood. A canopy of oak trees lines the cobblestone streets, which are more pedestrian- and bike-friendly than in many other neighborhoods. Still be careful crossing the street because stop signs and crosswalks are but faint suggestions to most drivers.

For men, try Felix, at Honduras 4916, for a wide selection of local brands in styles ranging from tank tops to suits. Gurruchaga street around the corner is packed with trendy boutiques, and during the weekends, Plaza Serrano and nearby Plaza Armenia transform into a funky arts and crafts fair.

For dinner, Palermo Soho offers a high concentration of quality restaurants. The supper-clubby Casa Cruz, at Uriarte 1658, sits behind 15-foot brass doors and blends updated Argentine standards with Mediterranean flavors. The seafood-focused Crizia, at Gorriti 5143, provides a welcome break from all the beef joints in a soaring con-

verted warehouse. Skip dessert and instead hit up one of the area's numerous ice cream shops. Try dulce de leche, an Argentine specialty, at Tufic, at Guatemala 4597.

Several bars that seem to cater to a get-drunk crowd form a ring around Plaza Serrano, where young people taking advantage of two-for-one drink specials hang out late into the night strumming guitars. But fan out from the plaza for a more sophisticated side. Nicky Harrison, at Malabia 1764, is tucked into the back of a stellar sushi restaurant and serves creative drinks like the Valkiria, honey and lime juice. — AP



In this Oct 17, 1950, file photo, President Juan Peron and his wife Eva Peron wave from the balcony of Casa Rosada, Government House, in Buenos Aires as Argentina celebrated Loyalty Day.

### Getting there

Palermo is Buenos Aires' largest neighborhood, but it can vary greatly from one end to the other and it's divided into several sections. Palermo Soho is roughly bordered by the avenues Cordoba, Scalabrini Ortiz, Santa Fe and Juan B. Justo. From downtown, take the green D line on the subway, known as Subte, to the Plaza Italia station, find Jorge Luis Borges street and walk away from the botanical garden. After about eight blocks, you'll run into the oval Plaza Serrano, which sits at the center of the neighborhood.

### What to do

Palermo Soho isn't exactly undiscovered by tourists, but there aren't many big hotels and it's devoid of the city's most famous historical and cultural attractions. Instead, you come to this part of town to shop, eat and drink. After the Argentine peso plummeted in value in 2002, importing clothes became prohibitively expensive. As a result, young local designers filled the void and opened up shop here. At Agostina Bianchi, located at Thames 1733, you'll find limited edition, handmade clothing for women that seems to fuse knitting with high fashion.



In this March 13, 2013, file photo, faithful gather inside the Metropolitan Cathedral in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



In this Dec 6, 2008, file photo, couples dance tango during a public milonga and tango dance show in Avenida de Mayo, a central avenue in the city of Buenos Aires.



In this July 26, 2002, file photo, a man touches the tomb of Maria Eva Duarte de Peron at Recoleta cemetery in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



A street in the Palermo Soho area of Buenos Aires, Argentina.



A canopy is formed by tree branches over a street in the Palermo Soho neighborhood of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Lifestyle | Fashion

# Beyonce is wonderful to work with, says designer

Designer Mark Zunino admits it was "wonderful" working with Beyonce on outfits for her upcoming tour. The celebrity designer has created a \$20,000 beige-coloured beaded jumpsuit for the 'Lemonade' singer to wear when she embarks on the On The Run II tour with husband Jay-Z, and Mark revealed the star already knew what she wanted when she came to see him. Speaking to Entertainment Tonight, he said: "I have three jumpsuits and some personal clothes that I'm making and she's wonderful. "What everybody likes is the fact that they can move and dance, and it's not going anywhere. "She is quick and she's definite, and that's wonderful.

Women like that have been exposed to so much ... they know what it's going to look like on them, so it makes it really easy. [She said] 'Show me beaded, solid beaded things,' and I was like, 'Do you want something hand-beaded or pre-beaded?' And she goes, 'Pre-beaded is OK.'" Mark wanted to design outfits the 36-year-old singer could move in during her shows, which typically feature impressive dance choreography. He also revealed the outfits he designs for each celebrity are based on how each star performs on stage.

Mark explained: "Shows are really specific because [of the] dance moves, that was the thing with Jennifer [Lopez], she's really moving. Like with Britney Spears,

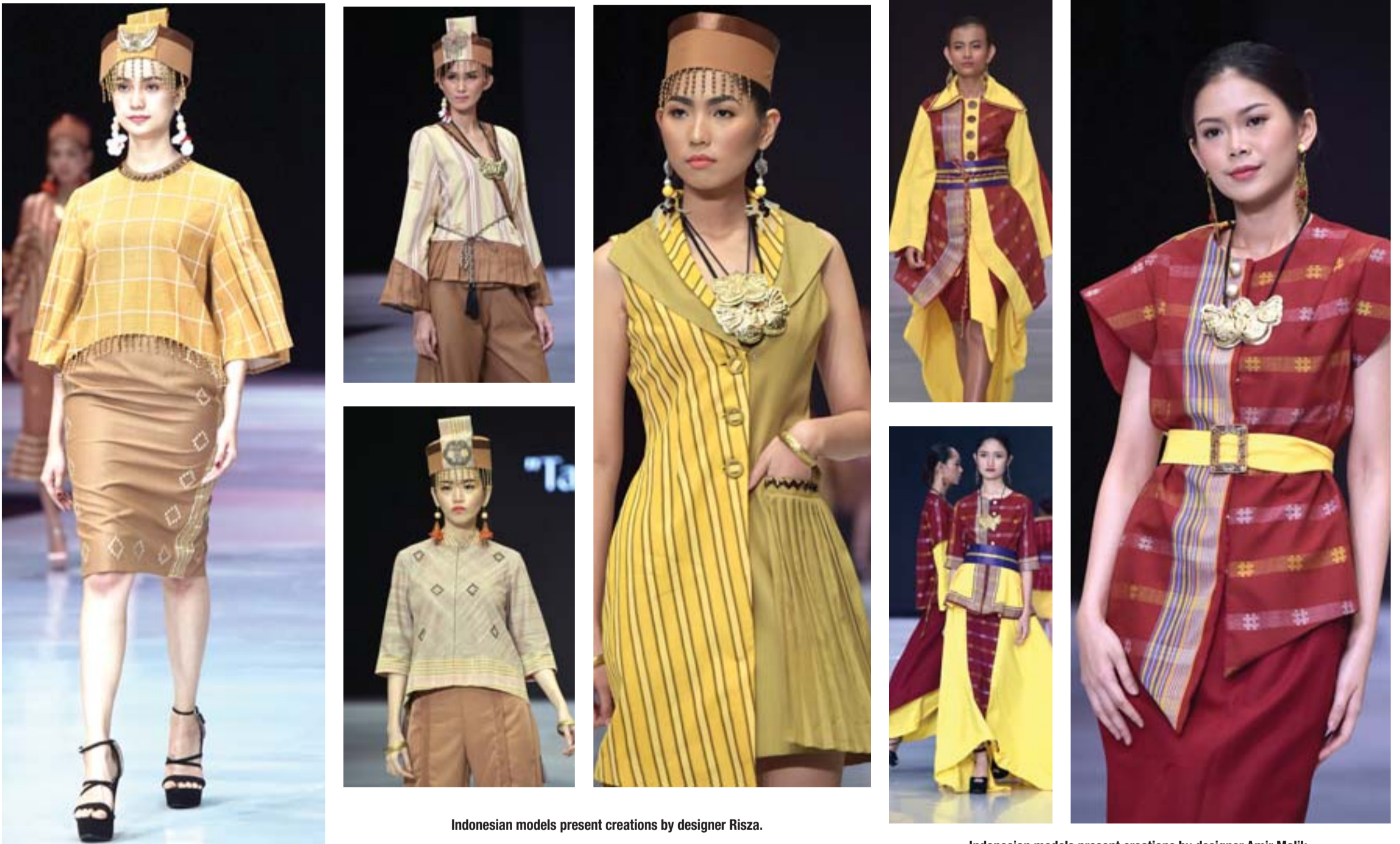
she moves, but it's not so technical, to the clothing. The same thing with Mariah [Carey]. But Beyonce, you never know, because she is all over the stage, so her stuff, it's got to be you can do anything." Mark also said Beyonce is responsible for starting trends with her performance outfits and after he decided to dress her in a jumpsuit, other stars started to follow suit. He explained: "I started with her when no one was wearing them. Then everybody started wearing them, she still wears them, and now everyone is in the vibe where a jumpsuit is normal." — Bang Showbiz



Beyonce



Indonesian models present creations by designer Herman Prasetyo during the Indonesia Fashion Week in Jakarta. — AFP photos



Indonesian models present creations by designer Risza.

Indonesian models present creations by designer Amir Malik.



Stella McCartney

# Stella McCartney goes solo for the first time in 17 years

Stella McCartney has cut ties with Kering. The 46-year-old fashion designer has been in partnership with the luxury French fashion group for 17 years, and they jointly launched her self-titled fashion house, but she has decided to buy back their 50 per cent hold in her brand so she can focus on building an independent business. Stella - the daughter of Beatles legend Sir Paul McCartney - insists the two parties are ending their co-operation on good terms and she will forever be grateful for their "incredible partnership".

Speaking to WWD.com, she said: "I have had an incredible relationship with Kering, and first and foremost with the Pinault family, whom I consider to be

great friends. I'm incredibly close to them. We had such a successful business together, an incredible partnership. We never had any hiccups." Francois-Henri Pinault - the chief executive officer of Kering - released a statement on Wednesday confirming the decision to part ways saying he was "proud" of the success they have achieved together and promises a "smooth transition" in the market.

He said: "Kering is a luxury group that empowers creative minds and helps disruptive ideas become reality. I am extremely proud of what Kering and Stella McCartney have accomplished together since 2001. Stella knows she can always count on my friendship and

support." Stella - whose father is Sir Paul McCartney - did not reveal her plans to finance the buyback but suggested she will not be turning to her famous father for the money. And according to documents at the official register of U.K businesses, Companies House, Stella has had a successful partnership with the Kering house after turnover rose 31 per cent to £41.7 million in the 12 months to December 2016.

# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018



This photo taken on April 1, 2018 shows more than one thousand young models wearing bunny costumes on Easter Sunday as they attempt a Guinness world record for the largest number of people dressed as rabbits, during a fashion show in Beijing. — AFP

## Review: Krasinski's 'A Quiet Place' is intoxicatingly creepy

Let's start with a popcorn warning. If you're bringing your usual tub of multiplex popcorn into "A Quiet Place," just be aware that you'll be hearing every single crunch. That's because much of John Krasinski's ingeniously creepy new film, in which he stars alongside his real-life better half, Emily Blunt, takes place in virtual silence. This is a movie about a world where noise gets you killed. In fact, if you ate popcorn IN the movie, you'd quickly be dead. Unless you were standing by a waterfall. More on that in a minute.

Krasinski, in his third feature outing as director, has a lot going for him here: An inventive premise (was it dreamed up by some vengeful librarian?), a terrific cast featuring two extremely effective child actors, and the always superb Blunt, who can register fear, joy, love and anxiety in one scene without needing to utter a word. He takes all this and runs with it, producing a taut, goose-pimpling thriller that earns its jump-out-of-your-seat moments and only occasionally strains its own logic - and then, who really cares? It's a monster flick!



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Emily Blunt playing Evelyn Abbott and Millicent Simmonds playing Regan Abbott on the set of "A Quiet Place." — AP

We begin on "Day 89." But what exactly happened 89 days ago? Our first clue is that there's nobody in the streets of the desolate town where the Abbott family - Lee, Evelyn and three young kids - makes a precarious shopping trip. The family has ventured out from their farmhouse to search an abandoned store for badly needed medicine. The next clue is all the "Missing" posters on the streets. What happened to all these folks? The most obvious clue is that the family cannot speak, or make a sound. They communicate in sign language, and walk barefoot on soft sand and dirt so even their feet won't give them away.

An early, shocking tragedy makes it clear what they're up against: evil, hungry monsters who consume

anyone who catches their attention with sound. Soon, that fateful Day 89 skips ahead to Day 472. The monsters still rule, and now Evelyn (Blunt) is pregnant. As the family goes about its soundless daily routines - cooking meals silently, eschewing the washer-dryer for hand washing, playing board games with soft pieces, dancing to music on headphones - one wonders how they'll possibly bring a baby into the world without making noise.

### Painful and stressful

Krasinski and fellow screenwriters Bryan Woods and Scott Beck are cleverly tapping into universal parental angst here. First, childbirth, already pretty darned painful and stressful, is made even more difficult - you can't even scream! And how on Earth can you keep a newborn from crying? More broadly, there's the constant fear for Lee and Evelyn that any daily task can lead to an errant noise, and quickly, death. What's worse than feeling like you can't protect your child? "There's nothing to be scared of," Lee (Krasinski) tells young son Marcus reassuringly at one point, as they leave the house. "Of course there is," the boy replies, correctly.

Basically the only place where one can talk freely, in this world, is next to the roaring waterfall where Lee takes Marcus (an appealingly sensitive Noah Jupe) one day. Because the waterfall is louder than they are, they can holler with abandon. They've left older sister Regan at home to help Mom. Despite her obvious smarts and instincts, Regan is technically at even greater risk from the evil creatures, because she is deaf and can't hear them even if they're right behind her. To survive, she will need to be more resourceful than anyone else in the family. (Regan is embodied with warmth and poignancy by young deaf actress Millicent Simmonds). Remember we said this movie earned its jump-out-of-your-seat moments? There's one in particular, involving Blunt, that is applause-worthy, and you'll know it when you see it. There's also a terrifying sequence in a grain silo, reminiscent of the movie "Witness," and an errant nail sticking out of a wooden plank is used quite (ouch) effectively.

"A Quiet Place" may not have the weighty social meaning or piercing comedy of another recent high-profile horror thriller, "Get Out." But like that movie it is smart, it moves fast, it has a hugely satisfying ending - and it deserves to attract a much broader audience than the usual horror film devotees. But just watch out for that popcorn. Crunch too loud, and you're a goner. "A Quiet Place," a Paramount Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America "for terror and some bloody images." Running time: 90 minutes. Three stars out of four. MPAA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. — AP

## COSBY JURY SELECTION UNDERWAY AS #METOO CASTS A SHADOW

Prosecutors and the defense began picking a jury for Bill Cosby's sexual assault retrial yesterday in a #MeToo era that could make the task more difficult. Experts say the movement that has felled major figures in news and entertainment could cut both ways for the comedian, making some potential jurors more hostile toward him and others more likely to think men are being unfairly accused. "We really have had this explosion of awareness since that last trial and it has changed the entire environment," said Richard Gabriel, a jury consultant who has worked on more than 1,000 trials. "It is a huge challenge for the defense, but it could also provide an avenue and open up the topic."

The former TV star appeared in a suburban Philadelphia courthouse yesterday morning as jury selection got underway. About 125 prospective jurors filled out a standard questionnaire, answering questions about their background and their ability to be impartial. Prosecutors and the defense pored over the questionnaires as they began whittling the jury pool down to the 12 who will decide Cosby's fate. A jury deadlocked at Cosby's first trial last June, months before the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct started toppling famous men in rapid succession, among them Harvey Weinstein, Matt Lauer, Kevin Spacey and Democratic US Sen Al Franken.

Veteran lawyers and jury consultants say #MeToo will make jury selection more complex and raise the stakes even higher. The defense is likely to use atti-

tudes toward the movement to weed out jurors. "There may be a juror who says, 'I don't have an opinion about Cosby, but the #MeToo is very important to me,'" said Melissa M. Gomez, a jury expert and author of the book "Jury Trials Outside In." "That person is still very dangerous to the defense."

Cosby, 80, is charged with drugging and molesting Andrea Constand, a former Temple University athletics administrator, at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. Last year's trial was mostly a case of he-said-she-said. For the retrial, a judge has ruled that jurors can hear from five additional accusers, giving prosecutors a chance to portray the man once known as "America's Dad" as a serial predator. "It's going to be much more difficult for the defense to chip away at all six, especially if there is a common thread and story," Gomez said. "That shows a pattern of behavior."

### Other celebrities

Typically prosecutors and defense attorneys can take what happened at the first trial, learn from it and improve on it in the retrial, but some experts say the climate surrounding sexual assault has changed so thoroughly that both sides should go back to the drawing board. "There is no question that this is a very difficult time to try someone who has been accused of sexual assault," said defense attorney and Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz. "For some jurors the whole movement will be on trial, because Cosby has been the poster person for this kind of accusation."

At a hearing last month, Cosby lawyer Becky James argued it would be difficult to find an impartial jury in this climate: "There's no way we will get a jury that hasn't heard these allegations against not just Mr. Cosby but many other celebrities." But Judge Steven O'Neill scoffed at the notion Cosby cannot get a fair trial. Jury experts said the key is getting potential jurors to open up about their personal experiences surrounding sexual assault and misconduct, something that might be better done behind closed doors, in the judge's chambers, where people might be more likely to speak candidly. "Without getting it out in the open, it can be underneath the surface," Gabriel said. "The hidden bias is always the most dangerous bias." — AP



Bill Cosby center, arrives for jury selection in his sexual assault retrial at the Montgomery County Courthouse, yesterday, in Norristown, Pa. — AP