



**3** Iraq's Dhi Qar welcomes Kuwaiti investors, tourists



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## Kuwait to ensure Ethiopian maids 'psychologically' fit

New labor deal with Addis Ababa to be finalized soon



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (second right) and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (left) greet children during a national operetta at Bayan Palace's theater yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 2)

KUWAIT: Kuwait, which has lifted a ban on employing Ethiopian domestic helpers, wants jobseekers from this nation to be psychologically examined. Rashed Al-Hajeri, Kuwait's Ambassador to Ethiopia, said in a phone contact with KUNA yesterday that he held talks with Ethiopian Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Abdulfettah Abdulahi on terms for dispatching domestic workers to Kuwait.

"I have asked the Ethiopian minister to subject those willing to work in Kuwait - namely in houses - to training at habilitation centers and that they undergo psychological tests to avert the recurrence of some of the negative (incidents) that had prompted Kuwait to stop bringing in Ethiopian workers previously," Hajeri said. He added that he agreed with the Ethiopian official on working out a new deal for employment of Ethiopian citizens in Kuwait - a copy of which will be addressed to competent Kuwaiti authorities in the coming days.

A delegation from the Ethiopian ministries of labor and foreign affairs



ADDIS ABABA: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Ethiopia Rashed Al-Hajeri meets Ethiopian Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Abdulfettah Abdulahi. — KUNA

will visit Kuwait very soon to finalize the accord. Kuwait lifted the ban on hiring Ethiopian domestic workers after a series of meetings with representatives from the Ethiopian government, the interior ministry's assistant undersecretary for citizenship and passports affairs Maj Gen

Sheikh Mazen Al-Sabah said in a statement on Tuesday. He pointed out that this is being done on compassionate grounds as well, as the holy month of Ramadan is approaching, "which invariably means more household chores for Kuwaiti families". — KUNA

## 20 MPs ask govt to refile bribery case

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: In a major development, 20 opposition lawmakers yesterday signed a letter calling on the government to refile the corruption case involving 13 MPs, which led to street protests in the country six years ago. The lawmakers warned that if the government does not file the case with the public prosecution, they will use their constitutional tools against the government, which means grilling ministers or the prime minister himself.

The case involves MPs who were elected to the Assembly in 2009. It was reported that at least 13 MPs, some of them still active members, accepted cash bribes of over KD 50 million to vote in favor of certain issues. The exposure of that corruption case led to street protests against the government and demands for former prime minister HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah to resign.

In one of the protests in Nov 2011, hundreds of protesters stormed the National Assembly building and the

appeals court four months ago sentenced 67 of them to harsh jail terms. The corruption case was handled by the public prosecution in late 2011 and early 2012, but it decided to shelve the case. The letter yesterday said that the shelving was because of a lack of legislation, although the crime was established. They added now the legislative vacuum has been filled after the Assembly last month passed the conflict of interests law which deals with such cases. The letter said that such cases do not die with the passage of time and should be resubmitted to the prosecution.

Among those who signed the letter are MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, Jamaan Al-Harbash and Mohammad Al-Mutair, the three MPs who were handed jail terms in the Assembly storming case. The letter stressed that the government has failed to perform its duty in fighting corruption, which has become widespread. The large number of signatories is likely to apply pressure on the government to take some action. MPs Abdulkarim Al-Kandari, Riyadh Al-Adasani and others also sternly warned against any attempts to introduce changes to the Assembly's charter to make it difficult for MPs to grill ministers.

Meanwhile, the Assembly yesterday approved in the first reading a law that regulates registration of commercial records and granting commercial licenses. During the debate on the law, Commerce and Industry

Continued on Page 11

## Overcast skies to persist



KUWAIT: Pedestrians improvise to take cover from the rain yesterday. Kuwait is currently affected by the seasonal Sudan depression accompanied by relatively humid air, which might lead to increasingly cloudy conditions in the coming days and scattered rain. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Rare monkeys remain at zoo as wasta brews

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Thirty-eight monkeys from South America that were smuggled into Kuwait around 10 days ago are currently quarantined at the zoo, amid reports that the 'importer' is trying to retrieve them surreptitiously. According to a source at the zoo, these are New World monkeys including capuchin and squirrel monkeys. These monkeys are listed as endangered animals according to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), so they are banned from being imported according to local and international laws.

"They will be kept in the quarantine for 21 days until we receive results of the medical tests we did to make sure they are free of any contagious diseases, especially those that can be transferred to humans. As these animals were imported illegally, they don't have any health certificates, so they could be sick," explained the source.

An anonymous source told Kuwait Times that these monkeys are kept clandestinely at the zoo so they can be quietly released by the smuggler, but the zoo source insisted this isn't possible.

Continued on Page 11

## Turkey, Russia, Iran urge lasting Syria ceasefire

ANKARA: The presidents of Iran, Turkey and Russia vowed to work for a lasting ceasefire after over seven years of civil war in Syria, following a summit aimed at boosting both peace prospects and also their influence in the country. Turkish President Recep Tayyip

Erdogan, Iran's Hassan Rouhani and Russia's Vladimir Putin reaffirmed their commitment to cooperating for "the achievement of a lasting ceasefire between the conflicting parties", a joint communique said.

The meeting in Ankara was the second such tripartite summit after the first hosted by Putin in November in the Black Sea city of Sochi, in a new symbol of an increasingly deep cooperation. However there was no major breakthrough announced after the summit meeting, and comments by the trio

Continued on Page 11



ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (center), Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani pose for a photo ahead of a tripartite summit yesterday. — AFP

## Bahrain oil find contains 80bn barrels

MANAMA: Bahrain yesterday announced its newly discovered shale oil reserve was estimated to contain more than 80 billion barrels, making the once-marginal oil producer potentially a major player in the market. The amount of recoverable oil - or oil that can be extracted - is still under study, Oil Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa told a press conference in Manama. The field covers 2,000 sq km in shallow waters off the kingdom's west coast, which faces oil giant Saudi Arabia.

The new field would in theory dwarf the Bahrain Field, the country's only other oil field, which contains several hundred million barrels. The actual impact of the discovery is contingent on how much of it is actually extractable. Yahya Al-Ansari, exploration manager at Bahrain's national oil company Bapco, said that the pumping of oil from the field is not expected for at least five years. Speaking to reporters after yesterday's press conference, Ansari said Bahraini authorities, in cooperation with international oil companies, were trying to establish how much oil can be extracted.

"What we have announced is oil in place ... So far, we don't know how much of

it can be extracted and the cost of its production," two important elements that could determine whether the major announcement is viable. "The US shale oil industry normally extracts 5-10 percent of the known shale oil reserves and raising this percentage depends on the advancement of technology," Ansari said. The Bahraini minister and Ansari refused to be drawn into providing details about how much production Bahrain is likely to have in five years.

Shale oil production is a costly business and is far more expensive than conventional oil. In some cases, high cost makes production commercially not possible. International consultants DeGolyer and MacNaughton, Halliburton, and Schlumberger are heading the project with Bahrain's National Oil and Gas Authority. Analyst Stephen Brembeck of broker PVM Oil said the find has "the potential to be a game changer" for the tiny Gulf kingdom. "However, it is still early days and the reserves of the field have yet to be finalized. Moreover, it will be several years before these newly found supplies are brought online," Brembeck told AFP.

JBC Energy, an independent research center, was equally cautious. "It remains completely unclear yet how much of the 80 billion barrels can be seen as recoverable reserves. Furthermore, apparently it is a shale oil reservoir, which would inflate production costs.

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# Amir patronizes national operetta



**KUWAIT:** Under the patronage and attendance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, a national operetta was held yesterday at Bayan Palace's theater. Also, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and other state officials attended the event. The operetta kicked off with the



national anthem, to which students from various schools then proceeded to unveil assorted portraits depicting nationalistic themes. His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince were presented with a souvenir. — KUNA



## EQUATE participates in KU's career fair

**KUWAIT:** In its endeavor to attract the best human capital for the continued growth of the industry and economy, EQUATE Petrochemical Company, a global producer of petrochemicals, continues supporting the professional development of students by participating in the 18th Annual Career Fair at Kuwait's University's (KU) College of Engineering & Petroleum. EQUATE's Human Resources Talent & Performance Management Leader Hussain Al-Omran said, "EQUATE prides itself with having propelled its growth from Kuwait.

Throughout the fair, EQUATE's team will be interacting with students from different majors, such as chemical engineering, to attract, train, develop and qualify our most important elements which are the human resources. Our collaboration with KU includes a memorandum of under-

standing that covers academic, scientific and other fields, which are part of EQUATE's Sustainability Strategy to support the New Kuwait 2035 Vision." During the first quarter of 2018, EQUATE recruited over 35 Kuwaiti fresh graduates from various majors. The company aims to increase its current 54% of local human resources.

The EQUATE Group is a global producer of petrochemicals and the world's second largest producer of Ethylene Glycol (EG). The Group has industrial complexes in Kuwait, North America and Europe that annually produce over 5 million tons of Ethylene, EG, Polyethylene (PE) and Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET). The products are marketed throughout Asia, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The EQUATE Group's shareholders include Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), The Dow Chemical Company (Dow), Boubyan Petrochemical Company (BPC) and Qurain Petrochemical Industries Company (QPIC). The Group is a leading enterprise that pursues sustainability wherever it operates through partnerships in fields that include the environment, economy and society.



## Ooredoo Kuwait sponsors training forum for young engineers

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait participated in the Kuwait Forum of Training Young Engineers, which kicked off its three-day activities agenda on Sunday in Al Raya Hotel. The event, which was organized by the Kuwait Engineers Society, saw participation from various private and public sector entities, and was inaugurated by Minister of Commerce Khaled Al-Roudan.

As part of the program's agenda, Ooredoo was awarded for its participation as one of the main spon-

sors of the forum by Faisal Al-Atel and the organizers. Commenting on this, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Alayoub underscored Ooredoo's commitment to supporting young talent, especially in establishing their career. He noted, "We are proud to participate in this event with such esteemed regional and international entities, to support young engineers carve their career path. Our corporate social responsibility agenda in Ooredoo Kuwait focuses greatly on youth because we strongly believe in the great role they have in building the future."

The forum included a number of workshops and seminars presented by representatives from a number of regional and international leading entities such as SMA, AUTODESK, EUGCC, Red Smith, FIDIC, Kuwait Airways, the Arab Engineers Union, and the Jordan Engineers Association. Ooredoo Kuwait works extensively with private and public sector organizations such as universities in addition to the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program around the year to support youth professional development.





Local

# Iraq's Dhi Qar, Ur welcome Kuwaiti investors, tourists

## Kuwaiti media delegation visits Ur city in southern Iraq

**NASIRIYAH:** Dhi Qar governorate, famous for historical sites and rich natural resources, welcomes with open arms all Kuwaiti investors and tourists, said an Iraqi official yesterday. During his reception of a visiting Kuwaiti media delegation, Dhi Qar governor Yahia Al-Nasseri lauded the strong relations linking Kuwait and Iraq, affirming that what have occurred during the era of the Saddam regime should not distort the historic ties between the two countries. Governor Al-Nasseri said that the southern Iraqi governorate of Dhi Qar has much to offer to Kuwaiti investors.

Briefing the delegation on the investment and touristic opportunities, he revealed that Dhi Qar was the fourth Iraqi governorate in terms of oil production with an output of 200,000 barrels per day and a reserve of about 20 to 30 billion barrels. The governor indicated that there were 1,200 touristic sites in the region, adding that the locations might increase with the continuing of archaeological excavations.

The governorate had made contracts to promote religious tourism in the region, namely the Christian sites in the city of Ur and elsewhere, revealed Al-Nasseri, who added that several foreign oil companies have signed deals to excavate for oil in Dhi Qar. Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Consul to Basra City, Ambassador Yousef Al-Sabbaq, who attended the meeting, took the chance to thank the governorate of Dhi Qar for facilitating visits by Kuwaiti tourists to the region.

The Dhi Qar authorities' goodwill was clearly visible during the tragic event of November last year when a number of Kuwaiti tourists were killed and injured in a horrific traffic accident, said the Kuwaiti diplomat who lauded the governorate's role in providing facilities to bring back the injured Kuwaitis. Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti media delegation met with head of the Dhi Qar governorate's council Hameed Al-Ghazi.

Al-Ghazi welcomed the Kuwaiti media delegation, saying that their visit will contribute to the development of relations. Dhi Qar governorate is keen on attracting Arab investors and this is a priority, said Al-Ghazi who indicated that the people of Dhi Qar welcome all visitors especially those coming from Kuwait. The Kuwaiti media delegation arrived last Sunday for talks with local officials and visit to archeological sites in the nearby Dhi Qar Governorate. The delegation also includes KUNA Deputy Director General for Editorial Saad Al-Ali, Chief Editor of Al-Anbaa Newspaper Yusu Al-Marzouq, Chief Editor of Kuwait Times Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Media Advisor at His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Hassan Al-Sayegh, and others.

### Delegation visits Ur

Organized by the Iraq Journalists Syndicate (IJS), the visiting Kuwaiti media delegation was taken on a tour to the southern Iraqi city of Ur in the governorate of Dhi Qar. During the visit, Iraqi archaeologist Ammar Abdulrazzaq briefed the delegation on the history of Ur, a city which was founded around 5,000 BC. The delegation was introduced to the Ziggurat of Ur, a historical site dating back to the year 2112 BC. Sumerian King Ur-Nammu built the Ziggurat of Ur-located west of Dhi Qar's capital Al-Nassiriya city.

The city of Ur is also believed to be host of a dwelling belonging to Prophet Ibrahim, the father of monotheism. The city of Ur was included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage sites. — Agencies

## Kuwait is Tajikistan's gateway to Arab world

**KUWAIT:** First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Nizomiddin Zohidi appreciated Kuwait's contributions to his country's policy of opening up to the Arab world. Kuwait acts as Tajikistan's gateway to the Arab region and its key partner in the Middle East region, he said in statements to KUNA yesterday following his two-day official visit to Kuwait.

Zohidi said the special relationship made the first president of Tajikistan Qahhor Mahkamov chose Kuwait as destination of his first overseas trip after the independence of his country in 1991. The senior Tajik official said the bilateral ties kept growing thanks to the top-level visit exchanges, noting that the Tajik heads of state paid three visits to Kuwait over the last two and a half decades besides a visit by speaker of the House of Representatives. "Tajikistan's leaders attach great importance to the partnership with Kuwait in all fields and seek to open new horizons for the mutually beneficial cooperation," Zohidi affirmed.

On his visit to Kuwait, the first deputy foreign minister said he held several meetings with senior officials of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs where they discussed ways to cement the already exemplary relations. "The meetings showed that both Tajikistan and Kuwait held identical views on almost all regional and international issues and share desire to enhance coordination of their stances on issues of common interest at the international forums. "We have reviewed the political, economic and cultural relations with emphasis on ways to promote the economic activities of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in Tajikistan," Zohidi revealed.

Regarding the joint investment, he said Tajikistan has many promising opportunities that are open for Kuwaiti investors, noting that his country is blessed with 60 percent of the freshwater resources of Central Asia. "These water resources give a huge advantage to Tajikistan in building power generating stations," he said, affirming that his country has become regional leader in this sector. "We are planning to build a regional power grid linking Tajikistan, Pakistan and India, which could be very attractive for Kuwaiti investors," he pointed out. Tajikistan targets to increase the volume of foreign investments from \$2.7 billion per year over the last two and half decades to seven billion dollars in the coming two years.—KUNA



NASIRIYAH: Dhi Qar governor Yahia Al-Nasseri receives visiting Kuwaiti media delegation. — KUNA



The visiting Kuwaiti media delegation tours the southern Iraqi city of Ur in the governorate of Dhi Qar.— KUNA

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March 11<sup>th</sup> Till April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018



**KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN**

is an art competition open to all students in Kuwait, which aims to encourage students' awareness and respect for Kuwait's environment and its preservation and conservation. Kuwait Times invites all students and all schools in Kuwait to submit their drawings, paintings, sketches and other artwork celebrating Kuwait's natural environment and protection.

KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN is sponsored by Zain, our strategic partner, and Hardee's, and is hosted by Symphony Style Hotel.

**Jury**

Four jury members who are professionals in their field will judge all entries. The decisions of the jury are final and there are no appeals of their decisions. Professional collaboration is not permitted. Associates, relatives, and others connected with the jury members may not enter the competition. Submissions will be judged on the basis of the following criteria: Imagination, creativity and art technique.

**Anonymity and Protocol**

Participation in the competition requires unconditional acceptance of the rules. All competition entries are copyright property of Kuwait Times. Submitted materials will not be returned to their creators.

The winning works and a selection of others will be exhibited at Symphony Style Hotel. Shortlisted entrants shall be announced by Kuwait Times on its website. The winners of the prizes and schools that participate shall be announced by a PERSONAL INVITATION SENT TO THE SCHOOL and presented at a ceremony to be held on April 24, 2018 at Symphony Style Hotel.

**Theme**

**KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN** means more than just plants and nature; it encompasses the methodology and research for best practices in preserving and conserving Kuwait's natural environment. Artworks should reflect ideas of sustainability, economy and value-added benefits for communities in totality, while reducing the environmental footprint and providing more energy efficient management strategies. Participants can submit entries related to these sub-themes.

**Eligibility**

The competition is open to all students aged 6 to 17 years and children in special needs schools. Both individual and team submissions will be accepted. Teams shall not exceed five members. Each student is permitted only ONE entry. Kuwait Times will provide the entry drawing sheets free of charge and no other paper will be accepted.

Only the first 10 winners in each of the five categories (ages 6-8; 9-11; 12-14; 15-17 and special needs) will receive prizes. Other participants will receive merit awards and certificates.

**Closing Date**

All submissions must be received by April 15, 2018 at Kuwait Times' offices in Shuwaikh between 9 am and 5 pm. For additional information, please call 24835616/7 or the organizer Adnan Saad at 99656628 or

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## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A couple enjoys the day's weather on the beach near the Scientific Center in Salmiya Area. — KUNA

# Ministry of Health official denies 'shortage in cancer medication'

## Conferences infuse expertise into local healthcare

**KUWAIT:** Undersecretary at the Ministry of Health Dr Mostafa Redha denied yesterday any 'shortage in cancer medication' supplies in hospitals concerned. In a press statement, he stressed on keenness on providing all medicines and developing strategic stocks to avoid any shortage. Pointing out that the ministry carefully followed up on media reports about the purported shortage, he affirmed that these reports were found to be

"incorrect claims." Dr Redha clarified that all cancer medications are being requested and provided in quantities exceeding the actual requirement from the specialized departments. He called on citizens and means of social media to investigate the accuracy of any news before broadcasting.

In another development, Kuwait's Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah said yesterday that scientific

conferences held abroad provide an opportunity for local physicians to acquire some much-needed medical knowledge. Heading his country's delegation to the inaugural Arab conference over ear surgery and cochlear implant procedures, which kicks off today in UAE, the Kuwaiti minister told the press that it is imperative to keep abreast of the latest information in the medical arena.

He pointed out that cochlear implant surgeries have made tremendous progress in Kuwait over the years, saying that the procedure has proven effective in treating hearing impairment. On the conference that brings together renowned otolaryngology specialists from across the region, Sheikh Basel noted that the event would focus on the most innovative research in the medical realm. —Agencies

## In my view

## Dear expats.. what's awaiting you next?

By Talal Al-Ghannam

Local@kuwaittimes.net

**G**ood morning my honorable brothers and sisters. In this article I would like to shed some light on the recent decision on imposing taxes on expats' remittances. Who are the expats? They are our brothers and sisters who have left their homes in search for better living conditions and are in dire need of even a single fil. They are here to help Kuwait prosper and assist in its welfare.

The recent decision to impose taxes on remittances of expats has shocked everyone, especially those concerned primarily, and citizens who really care about the presence of our dear expatriate brothers and sisters. Expats have been in Kuwait and among us Kuwaitis since the '40s, and things have been well with no complaints whatsoever, as they get their salaries and send them to their loved ones back home. Their salaries are not that much to be deducted or levied tariffs on.

Maybe on those expats in senior positions who make thousands, it may be logical to impose some taxes, but to include all segments and especially those who make very little amounts, they will really feel the difference and will be impacted in the long run. My advice to the authorities behind such a decision is to rethink and only apply it on those who make thousands of dinars every month, who will not be affected, while low-income workers will feel the pinch.

My second issue is the reckless and maniac street skidding by irresponsible drivers who put their lives and that of others in danger while celebrating weddings of family members. The other day in Qusour, crowds were watching reckless drivers showing off in their old sport cars while blocking the main road adjacent to mosques, schools and supermarkets, hindering anyone from trying to reach their homes or destinations. They threatened anyone from approaching them till their evil and sick demonstration was over.

The police showed up and could not do anything but to watch this silly and ridiculous film whose superstars are young, irresponsible and spoiled kids who impose an extra burden on their parents, who have to put up with their wayward skills represented in the burning of tires, wasting money and damaging state properties. Once they are done, their cars are confiscated, and then with a single phone call by an MP, the car is released instead of being scrapped.

Respect Allah's bounties and look right and left and see those people who have no shelter, water, decent living conditions or a little hard piece of bread, while we are lavished here with Allah's bounties, which must be appreciated. Allah will punish those who do not appreciate his wealth. So be careful and be thankful always, otherwise expect punishment from Allah Almighty.

## Zain participates in KU Career Fair

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its participation in the 18th Career Fair organized by the Engineering Training and Alumni Center of Kuwait University's College of Engineering and Petroleum. The event was held in Farouq Barghash Hall under the patronage of Kuwait University President Dr Hussein Al Ansari and the attendance of Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum Dr Abdullah Al Khulaifi.

Zain's annual participation in career fairs comes in line with the company's core belief that contributing to educational development is essential for students to then go-on to be successful and contributing members of the society. Such events play a big role in attracting bright and opti-

mistic youth who are looking for job opportunities in the various industries within the local private sector. Through its dedicated booth, Zain showcased its available vacancies as well as its human resources policy, which closely focuses on attracting national talents that are capable of enriching its internal culture. The company also showcased the available vacancies for undergraduates to work in part-time jobs as part of its Future University Network (FUN) program.

Zain is committed to playing an active role in the investment in the human capital of Kuwait. The company seeks to provide young and eager Kuwaitis with suitable job opportunities that allow them to apply their practical skills, achieve their potential, and fully develop their capabilities. Zain was present at the career fair and its representatives highlighted to visitors the available job vacancies in addition to providing a detailed explanation of the nature of work at various departments and divisions.



KUWAIT: Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum Dr Abdullah Al Khulaifi poses for a group photo with Zain officials at the company's booth.

## Dead man found in a car in Jahra

**KUWAIT:** A motorist called police after spotting a dead man in a car in the Jahra desert. Policemen and paramedics arrived at the scene and confirmed the death, and there are suspicions of foul play. The public prosecution was informed and forensics experts were called in. They referred the body to the coroner. Investigations are continuing.

### Stray bullet hits car

A stray bullet penetrated the body of a citizen's car near Abu Al-Hasaniya on Tuesday while he was driving to work. He did not accuse anyone as the incident took place on a highway.

### Bedoon mugged

Jahra detectives arrested three citizens who mugged a bedoon at gunpoint. The three confessed to the crime, saying it was to settle a financial dispute. The bedoon lodged a complaint at Jahra police station, saying the three waited for him near his house and ambushed him. Police recovered the pistol and found it is not licensed.

### Bloody fight in Khaitan

Farwaniya police arrested some Pakistanis involved in a bloody fight in Khaitan. Police found the fight was between three persons against two. Investigations are underway to find the reason behind the fight. —Al-Rai

## KOTC wins international award

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) announced yesterday it won an international award in ports and marine infrastructure development. KOTC won the award while taking part in the Port and Marine Infrastructure Forum, organized by Global Infrastructure Congress. The event was held between April 2 and 3 in Dubai, UAE under the auspices of Emirati Infrastructure Minister Abdullah Al-Nuaimi. Winning such a significant award is a great achievement that adds to KOTC's multiple international accomplishments, the company said in a press statement.

For his part, KOTC's CEO Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said the award embodied the company's commitment towards its responsibilities as national carrier and strategic partner to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). It also proved the company's implementation of the highest standards and systems of quality inside its efficient and durable marine facilities and manufacturers, said KOTC's CEO. Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled dedicated the global award to all KOTC's staff, commending their faithful efforts and tireless work in hoisting Kuwait's name high at international events. — KUNA

## News in brief

### UN bodies laud Kuwait

**GENEVA:** Various UN bodies and world countries lauded Kuwait's recent \$250 million pledge to international relief and aid efforts in Yemen. Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim said, Al-Ghunaim made his remarks on the sidelines of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) 2018 Yemen High-Level Pledging Event, which concluded on Tuesday. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah's speech at the event reflected Kuwait's political stances and humanitarian principles toward the situation in Yemen, and was met with wide appreciation by the participants, he noted. —KUNA

### Speaker heads to Egypt

**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim left yesterday for Egypt to participate in the 27th Conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU). Al-Ghanim, accompanied by a parliamentary delegation, will deliver Kuwait's speech at the conference, which started yesterday and concludes today. Al-Dustour news network said in a press statement. The Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation is also scheduled to take part in the 23rd session of APU Executive Committee. It would also participate in APU's permanent committees meetings on political affairs, parliamentary relations, financial and economic affairs, and women and child affairs. The Kuwaiti delegation includes MPs Ouda Al-Ruwaiiee, Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie, Ali Al-Deqbasi, and Parliament's Secretary General Allam Al-Kanderi. —KUNA

### 'Wanted man' nabbed

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A man wanted over several theft and drugs cases and sentences implementation was arrested. Forensics experts, in cooperation with criminal detectives, were able to identify him, and he was charged with six thefts in Salmiya. The suspect said he committed the thefts to buy drugs.

### 444 kg of inedible olives

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Food and nutrition inspection teams confiscated and destroyed 444 kg of inedible olives and pickled eggplants (maktous) in Hawally, said Hawally inspection manager Ali Hashim. Meanwhile, Ahmadi inspection manager Saud Al-Jallal said Ahmadi teams closed two stores in Abu Halifa and Egaila, filed two citations, suspended four workers until they get their health certificates and filed 17 warning notices.





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زيت دوار الشمس الصمغية ١.٨ لتر x ٢  
ALHOMAIZI Sunflower Oil 1.8L x 2



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10 LTR  
10 KD.000  
MyCLUB Price  
PER PC **12 KD.990**  
زيت الزيتون سيرجلا ١٠ لتر  
SERJELLA Virgin Olive Oil 10L



+10  
MyCLUB POINTS  
12 PCS **1 KD.550**  
حليب أوفوس رينبوا ١٧٠ جم x ١٢  
RAINBOW Milk 170g x 12



+10  
MyCLUB POINTS  
3 PCS **0 KD.890**  
جبنة الأبقرة الثلاثة ٢٠٠ جم x ٣  
THE THREE COWS White Cheese 200g x 3



6 KG  
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Mob burns homes as caste violence rages

## Trump vows to deploy military to Mexican border

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THE HAGUE: This picture shows an exterior view of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) building in The Hague. —AFP

# Russia, Britain trade barbs at OPCW

## London suspends high-level diplomatic contact with Moscow

**THE HAGUE:** Russia and Britain faced off yesterday trading accusations at a tense meeting of the world's chemical weapons watchdog, as Moscow accused British and US secret services of being behind the poisoning of a Russian former double agent. London slammed as "perverse" a Russian proposal for a joint probe into the poisoning of ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia with a nerve agent, dismissing it as a "diversionary tactic".

But Russian officials hit back that accusations of Moscow engineering the attack were a "grotesque provocation ... crudely concocted by the British and American security services". British authorities say the Skripals were poisoned with the Soviet-designed nerve agent Novichok in the town of Salisbury on March 4, and said it was "highly likely" Moscow was behind it. The crisis has sent the long-difficult relations between Russia and the West plummeting to new lows. Both sides have already expelled scores of diplomats.

Britain has also suspended high-level diplomatic contact with Moscow. Russian foreign intelligence chief Sergei Naryshkin warned yesterday in a speech in Moscow that both sides must avoid tensions escalating to the dangerous levels seen at the height of the Cold War. At a closed-door meeting of the Organization for

the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague, convened at the request of Moscow, Russia insisted it was ready to cooperate.

### Independent OPCW

"We consider this is necessary to ensure that this problem is solved within the (international) legal framework," the Russian embassy to the Netherlands said in a Tweet. It added that it had won backing from 14 other countries on the OPCW's governing executive council and its statement was "supported by solid facts by experts in this field". But the British delegation to the OPCW said "Russia's proposal for a joint, UK/Russian investigation into the Salisbury incident is perverse. It is a diversionary tactic." Moscow was seeking to "evade the questions the Russian authorities must answer," it added in a tweet.

The British defense laboratory analyzing the nerve

agent revealed Tuesday that it could not say whether the substance came from Russia. Moscow hailed that as a vindication of its repeated denials of involvement. Russia's ambassador to the Netherlands and deputy minister for industry and trade Georgy Kalamonov attended the OPCW meeting, along with British chemical weapons expert and acting permanent representative to OPCW John Foggo.

A diplomatic source, who asked not to be named, said that Russia had tabled a motion asking the OPCW to "involve Russia in some way or another in the investigation". He described the atmosphere inside the meeting as "heavy" but said the talks were set to continue after a break for lunch. The OPCW's experts have taken samples from the site in Salisbury and sent them to certified laboratories for analysis, but are still awaiting the results.

"But today the Russians have called a meeting of the executive council even before anything has been pub-

lished," the source said. Under the rules of the Chemical Weapons Convention it is up to Britain to lead the inquiry, with technical assistance from the OPCW which is acting in a "totally independent manner," the source said.

### New Iron Curtain

Russia has accused the West of wanting to put up a new Iron Curtain and warned of a return to the mutual isolation of the Cold War. For Washington, "fighting the non-existent so-called Russian threat has become a real fixation," foreign intelligence chief Naryshkin said. "It has reached such proportions and developed such ludicrous characteristics, that it's time to talk about the return of the grim times of the Cold War." He urged the need "to stop the use of force in relations between states, not to bring matters to a new Cuban Missile Crisis".

That was a reference to the 1962 standoff between the Soviet Union and the United States that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. The Kremlin has also demanded an apology from British Prime Minister Theresa May and her government for implicating Russian President Vladimir Putin in the attack, saying this "idiocy has gone too far". —AFP

## 12 European hostages freed in troubled anglophone Cameroon

**DOUALA:** Twelve European tourists have been freed after being taken hostage in western Cameroon, where anglophone militants are campaigning for an independent state, the government said yesterday. The group of seven Swiss and five Italians "were taken hostage by a band of armed terrorists" in the Southwest Region before being rescued by troops on Monday in a "special operation," the communications ministry said in a statement.

Separately, six municipal councilors in the neighboring Northwest Region another

seat of anglophone unrest—were also released in operations that saw "tens of assailants neutralized, huge stocks of weapons and ammunitions as well as large quantities of drug(s) seized," it said. Cameroon's government is fighting insurgents demanding a separate state for the two regions. They are home to most of the country's anglophones, who account for about a fifth of the predominantly French-speaking population.

### Legacy of colonial era

The Europeans, members of an organization called the African Adventure Group, were seized in the area of Mounjo-Ndor while they were heading for a tourist site called the Twin Lakes, the ministry said. The lakes, lying in volcanic craters, have special significance in the local traditional religion, and are deemed to represent the male and female genders. The statement did not say when the group, or the municipal councilors in the Northwest Region, had gone missing.

The anglophone question in Cameroon is a legacy of the colonial period in Africa.

France and Britain divided up the former German colony under League of Nations mandates after World War I. A year after the French-ruled territory became independent in 1961, the southern part of British Cameroons was integrated into a federal system, scrapped 11 years later for a "united republic". In recent years, agitation has risen among anglophones, chafing under the perception that they suffer prejudice at the hands of the francophone majority, especially in the judicial system and education.

But demands for a return to the federal structure were rejected by the government. In a spiral of radicalization, the breakaway movement issued a symbolic declaration of independence for "Ambazonia," their name for the putative state, on October 1. Cameroon's President Paul Biya met the revolt with a crackdown, including curfews, raids and restrictions on travel. Unrest has increased in recent weeks, with attacks on security forces and civilians and a spate of kidnappings of officials, and new groups are spawning within the separatist movement.

The clashes have prompted around



33,000 people to flee to neighboring Nigeria. The latest violence comes on the heels of visits to the Northwest and Southwest regions last month by Cameroon's newly-appointed interior minister, Paul Atanga Nji, himself an anglophone. He said he brought "a message of dialogue, a responsible dialogue, a dialogue with those who know that Cameroon is one and indivisible". —AFP



International

# Trump vows to deploy military to Mexican border

## Trump accuses Mexico of profiting from illegal immigration

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Tuesday vowed to deploy the military to secure America's southern border, as a caravan of Central American migrants headed north through Mexico toward the United States. The US leader has spent three days attacking the Mexican government for failing to block the estimated 1,500 people from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras from walking north toward the border.

"Until we can have a wall and proper security, we're going to be guarding our border with the military," Trump told journalists. In an evening statement, the White House clarified that Trump's plan involved mobilizing the National Guard—not active duty military troops, which would be barred by US law. Senior officials including Defense Secretary James Mattis, Homeland Security Secretary Kirsten Nielsen, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford and Chief of Staff John Kelly briefed Trump last week and follow-up discussions Tuesday, it added.

"President Trump and senior officials present also agreed on the need to pressure Congress to urgently pass legislation to close legal loopholes exploited by criminal trafficking, narco-terrorist and smuggling organizations," the statement added. Trump accused Mexico of abetting and profiting from illegal immigration, which he pledged in his 2016 election campaign to halt.

### Laws are weak and 'pathetic'

"The caravan makes me very sad that this could happen to the United States, where you have thousands of people that just decide to walk into our country and we don't have any laws that could protect it," he said. "If it reaches our border, our laws are so weak and so pathetic... it's like we have no border," added the president—who lashed out at his predecessor Barack Obama for allegedly weakening border security, without elaborating on his claims.

He also railed against the US Congress for not tightening laws on immigrants, and against Democrats for stalling the border wall he promised to build during his campaign. Trump had previously suggested the military could help

fund and build the wall, but it was the first time he proposed US troops to patrol the 2,000-mile frontier. The Pentagon had no immediate comment on Trump's remarks.

In the past 12 years, National Guard troops have been deployed twice to bolster border security, but none have been there since 2010. Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray said he was seeking further information about the announcement. "Mexico has asked the United States, via official channels, to clarify the announcement by @POTUS on the use of the military on the border," Videgaray said on Twitter. "The Mexican government will decide its response based on said clarification, and always in defense of our sovereignty and national interest."

### People flowing in

The Trump administration has sharply bolstered spending on patrolling the border, and intensified crackdowns on undocumented immigrants inside the country. But the president remains frustrated that other initiatives by his administration to slow both legal and illegal immigration have been stalled or blocked. After a year's delay, Congress budgeted \$1.6 billion last month to begin construction of the wall, a small portion of the \$25 billion Trump asked.

The initial funding might only pay for 100 miles of wall, and Trump last week proposed that the Pentagon's budget be tapped to build the rest. "We need to have a wall that's about 700-800 miles," he said Tuesday. The US president's rekindled anger over immigration was apparently sparked over the weekend by media reports on the migrants heading across Mexico. Like each of the last five years, the so-called caravan set off recently from the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, partly in protest at conditions faced by migrants, and partly to help migrants safely reach the US border.

Trump says the phenomenon is proof of the need for a wall. "The caravan which is over 1,000 people coming in from Honduras thought they were just going to walk through Mexico and right through the border," Trump said. "We cannot have people flowing in our country illegally, disappearing and, by the way, never showing up to court."—AFP



MEXICO: Central American children - taking part in a caravan called "Migrant Vlacrucis"- play at a sports center field in Matias Romero, Oaxaca state—AFP

“We’re going to be guarding our border”

## Thousands protest in Brazil

SAO PAULO: Thousands of Brazilians demonstrated in favor of prison for former president and election frontrunner Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on the eve of a Supreme Court ruling yesterday on whether he should start serving a 12-year sentence for corruption. Up to 20,000 people turned out after work in the country's biggest city, Sao Paulo, as well as a few thousand in Rio de Janeiro and smaller numbers in other cities. The head of the army, General Eduardo Villas Boas, tweeted that the military shared Brazilians' "desire for the repudiation of impunity."

The comment, likely to be seen as backing prison for Lula, was a rare foray into politics by a general in a country that was under military dictatorship for two decades until 1985. Villas Boas also asked "who is really thinking about the good of the country and future generations and who is only worried about personal interests?" The protesters demanded that Lula begin his sentence and be barred from the October 7 presidential election in which the veteran leftist is leading in the polls, despite his legal problems.

"We want Brazil to be freed of this shameful corruption. Imprison Lula and let Brazil turn the page," said Mara Massa, 67, at the protest in Sao Paulo, where the crowd chanted "No more Lula!" Smaller demonstrations in favor of the Workers' Party founder also took place around the country. The court showdown scheduled in the capital Brasilia on Wednesday has become a focal point for Brazil's deeply divided electorate. Lula, 72, was sentenced to 12 years and one month in prison after being convicted last year of accepting a seaside apartment as a bribe from a huge construction company seeking government contracts. He appealed in a lower court, but lost. Under current law, that means he should go immediately to prison, while pressing further appeals. However, Lula

has asked the Supreme Court to grant

him habeas corpus recourse, allowing him to remain free while pursuing those appeals. The court is believed to be evenly split on the issue, so that one judge changing position would be enough to secure Lula's freedom and boost his uphill bid

for a third term in office. If the court turns him down, he could face jail this week.

### Coup threat

Those on the left who remember Lula for lifting tens of millions of people out of poverty during his two terms from 2003-2010 consider the threat of prison an

attack on democracy. Lula told a large crowd in Rio de Janeiro late Monday that he saw his fight as continuation of the struggle against a two-decade dictatorship that ended in 1985. "I did not accept the military dictatorship and I will not accept this dictatorship of the prosecutors," he said.—AFP

## Italy launches talks in fraught quest for new government

ROME: Italy launched talks yesterday aiming to break political deadlock between anti-establishment and far-right leaders and form a new government a month after a general election. Despite agreeing last week on the nomination of the speakers in parliament, the anti-migrant League and the Five Star Movement (M5S) have not budged publicly on their demands to be allowed to govern.

Last month's election yielded a stalemate: a right-wing coalition including the League and former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's party won 37 percent of the vote. M5S got the biggest share of any single party with just under 33 percent. M5S leader Luigi Di Maio stepped up the rhetoric in the lead-up to President Sergio Mattarella's series of consultations, which began at 0830 GMT at the Quirinal presidential palace in Rome and were scheduled to finish on Thursday afternoon.

Di Maio said on television Tuesday that he would only deal with either the League or the centre-left Democratic Party (PD), which leads the outgoing government and suffered a collapse in the election. He said any deal with Matteo Salvini's League must exclude media magnate Berlusconi's Forza Italia, the second largest party in the right-wing coalition and a fierce rival of the M5S. "Salvini needs to choose between revolution and the restoration. Whether to leave Berlusconi and change Italy or whether to stay with him and not change anything," said Di Maio.

### Tricky task

Salvini responded on Facebook that, unlike the M5S, the League "excludes any alliance with a PD rejected by the Italian public". He reiterated that the right will discuss a partnership with Di Maio "but without being subjected to vetoes or impositions." In any case, both will have to make their cases to Mattarella. Mattarella was to meet the Chamber of Deputies and Senate speakers and political leaders for consultations, with the biggest parties penciled in for Thursday. After his consultations the president will decide who, if anyone, can command enough seats to form a government or whether a fresh round of consultations is necessary.—AFP

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CAMRY	2017	663801	21	SUPER WHITE	7505	6250
CAMRY	2017	662672	21	WHITE PEARL	7505	6250
CAMRY	2017	665385	20	DIAMOND WHITE	7505	6250
CAMRY	2017	669286	21	BRONZE	7505	6250
CAMRY	2017	664827	20	SILVER METTALLIC	7505	6250
CAMRY	2017	662011	21	WHITE PEARL	7505	6250
CAMRY	2017	662759	20	DIAMOND WHITE	7505	6250
CAMRY	2017	668844	22	GRAY	7555	6300
CAMRY	2017	667833	25	DIAMOND WHITE	7555	6300
CAMRY	2017	668822	20	SILVER METTALLIC	7555	6300
CAMRY	2017	661871	18	GRAY	7655	6400
CAMRY	2017	664530	20	SILVER	7655	6400
HILUX	2014	499290	53764	SUPER WHITE	5200	4800
FJ CRUISER	2016	226630	47456	WHITE	8800	8500
AVALON	2014	088535	45589	WHITE PEARL	8700	8300
CAMRY	2015	535275	40456	ATTITUDE BLACK	5250	4900
CAMRY	2015	561022	39902	GRAY	4800	4400
AURION	2015	956521	38990	DIAMOND WHITE	5700	5400
AURION	2015	955633	38019	ATTITUDE BLACK	6650	6300
AURION	2015	956156	36723	DIAMOND WHITE	5700	5400
CAMRY	2015	542905	32845	ATTITUDE BLACK	4900	4500
FORTUNER	2015	040751	27949	WHITE PEARL	6600	6400
COROLLA	2016	167947	15879	SILVER METTALLIC	5000	4700
PRIUS	2016	503382	4536	WHITE PEARL	5950	5100
YARIS	2015	024506	49	SUPER WHITE	5500	5300
COROLLA	2016	153460	20	SUPER WHITE	4400	4200

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## International

# Fake Indian website offering girls for 'every taste' stirs up a storm

## StayUncle enables unmarried couples to book into hotels

**MUMBAI:** A fake website offering girls to cater to "every taste and pocket" clocked up more than 1,000 subscribers on its first day, highlighting the challenge of tackling sex trafficking in India. StayUncle, a website that enables unmarried couples to book into hotels without hassle in conservative India, launched the spoof site - staylaid.com - after tiring of requests from clients to procure a sex worker as well.

"We get nearly 3,000 calls every month from people asking for a partner along with a room. It was important to initiate this conversation," Sanchit Sethi, founder of StayUncle, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We wanted people to see how real the problem of trafficking is ... how victims are affected. In our understanding, there was no better way than creating a fake website. It is only through technology that you can reach the masses." Hotels and home rental services such as Airbnb have launched measures to tackle trafficking as concerns mount over their properties being used to exploit vulnerable women and girls.

More than 8,000 cases of human trafficking were reported in India in 2016, up 20 percent on the previous year, government data shows. The website listed about a dozen girls and their physical attributes, adding that some had joined voluntarily while others were "procured

from remote areas of India such as Assam and West Bengal by trusted brokers and promised big dreams". "Getting laid could never be easier," it promised. Subscribers then received an email explaining that thousands of women are forced into sex slavery in India, calling for greater awareness to bring about change.

Many poor victims from rural areas are lured by traffickers with promises of good jobs, only to find themselves sold to brothels, forced to work in fields or brick kilns or enslaved in homes as domestic workers. Staylaid.com's offer of girls "suited for every taste, every demand and every pocket" provoked strong reactions on social media, with #StopWomenTrafficking trending on Twitter until late Tuesday night. "It was surprising that people started talking about it on Twitter - but the fact is that people wanted to use it," said 29-

year-old Sethi.

Launched in 2015, StayUncle helps "privacy-starved lovers" find accommodation in about 900 partner hotels across India, where premarital sex is frowned upon. Hasina Kharbhih, founder of anti-trafficking charity, Impulse NGO Network, called on StayUncle to work more closely with established campaigners. "Their idea might be good, but there was much confusion in the anti-trafficking sector last night on whether this was real," she said. —Reuters

“ We wanted people to see how real the problem of trafficking is ”

“ We wanted people to see how real the problem of trafficking is ”



**NEW DELHI:** Indian Muslim women take part in a protest against the 'triple talaq bill' in New Delhi yesterday. —AFP

## 'Vatican deal' - a new trial for one Catholic village in north China

**YOUTONG VILLAGE:** Choosing a church can be complicated in China under the rule of the officially atheist Communist Party - especially in Youtong village, where roughly half the 5,000 residents are Catholics. Within a mile radius, the village in northern China's Hebei province hosts a Catholic church sanctioned by Chinese authorities, two large "underground" churches, and numerous smaller unofficial house churches, according to villagers. Youtong provides a snapshot of the muddled and delicate situation for China's estimated 12 million Catholics, with allegiances split between government-sanctioned churches and the underground ones endorsed by the Vatican, amid expectations that a historic accord will soon be struck between Rome and Beijing. The underground churches are generally tolerated but closely monitored by the authorities. House churches tend to be ignored so long as gatherings are small. When Reuters visited Youtong on Good Friday, displays of faith were ubiquitous. Villagers poured into the streets to attend afternoon mass at the official church, whose spire is topped with a large cross that glints in the sunlight high above nearby buildings. Bright red banners with religious slogans, including the Chinese characters for "Emmanuel", meaning God is with us, or simply "We have faith in you, Jesus" adorn the gates of many homes.

While some Catholics in Youtong told Reuters that a long-awaited agreement could bring clarity and freedom to practice their religion openly, others said they worry the deal will sow further discord in the community. Dong Guanhua, an outspoken priest who sparked controversy in 2016 when he claimed at his underground church that he had been appointed a bishop in a secret ceremony eleven years before, said the deal would push more people to unofficial churches like his. The Vatican has said that it has not authorized Dong's ordination and, if it occurred, it was a breach of church law. "The word 'compromise' sounds good but to some churchgoers it will sound like you are abandoning your faith," he said. "People say I am trying to break away, but in fact I am sticking to the old road, while the Vatican's policy changes." The expected deal would allow China to appoint bishops, in consultation with the Vatican, and could lead to the restoration of full diplomatic ties for the first time in seven decades.

On Thursday, the Vatican said an accord on appointing bishops was not imminent but talks were continuing. While relations among the rival churches are cordial, some villagers warned that local schisms could arise from renewed attempts to push together the state-sanctioned Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, which claims independence from the Vatican, and underground churches loyal to Pope Francis. "Father Dong does not listen to anyone. He has made some people angry. But lots of people like his style, because he tells it like it is," said a man in his forties who would only give his surname, Pei, a common name in Youtong.

### Suspicion and pressure

The large tin-roofed underground church of Pei Ronggui, 84, a retired bishop recognized by Rome, has long been the most popular for village Catholics whose loyalty to the Vatican makes them suspicious of the official church, villagers said. Exact numbers were not available, but villagers suggested that the congregations of the official church and Pei's were roughly similar, while Dong attracted slightly fewer.

In December 2016, Pei said that Beijing would have to change its attitude towards the Vatican before any deal could work. But Pei, who spent four years in a labor camp after the government raided his church in 1989, appeared to be under pressure from authorities when Reuters recently visited him at home. Pei, who still gives mass and takes confession, was accompanied by a heavyset man, who declined to identify himself, wearing a belt with a police emblem buckle. The man said Pei could not hear well enough to do an interview, ushering him away. —Reuters

## Mob burns homes as caste violence rages

**NEW DELHI:** Hundreds of Indian security forces enforced a curfew on a tense district yesterday after a mob set fire to the homes of two political figures from the country's low-caste Dalit community. Amid heightened communal tensions over caste rights, some 5,000 people angered by earlier Dalit protests torched the houses Tuesday of a state legislator and former lawmaker in the Karauli district of the popular tourist state of Rajasthan.

Neither was at home at the time, the district's top administrative official told AFP. "We have made some arrests following the arson and violence. A curfew is in place and we have also deployed 600-700 extra security personnel," said Abhimanyu Kumar. The incident followed violent nationwide protests by tens of thousands of Dalits on Monday which left at least nine dead. Once dismissed as "untouchables", Dalits make up 200 million of India's 1.25 billion population and are at the bottom of the caste hierarchy. They have been enraged at a Supreme Court ruling that they say weakens a law intended to protect lower caste communities.

The Court last month banned the automatic arrest of people accused of attacking or harassing Dalits and other marginalized groups. While the court says its intention was to prevent fake cases, Dalit leaders say the community is now more vulnerable to attack. Discrimination has become a political issue in the

## 'Blasphemous poem': Islamic groups report Indonesian politician

**JAKARTA:** Hardline Islamic groups yesterday filed a blasphemy complaint against a daughter of Indonesia's first president, accusing her of reciting a poem insulting Islam and prompting fresh concerns over intolerance in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country. Sukmawati Sukarnoputri, a politician, is the third daughter of Indonesia's founding father Sukarno and the younger sister of Megawati Sukarnoputri, who leads President Joko Widodo's ruling party.

Indonesia is a secular country with significant Christian, Hindu, Buddhist and other religious minorities, but a rise of hardline, politicized Islam and stricter interpretations of the religion have undermined its reputation for tolerance in recent years. The Islamic Defenders Front (FPI) was among an alliance of hardline groups that reported Sukmawati, as she is usually known, to police over the poem. The same alliance last year accused Jakarta's former Christian gover-

## Southeast Asians unite as beef over 'chicken rendang' rages on

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Southeast Asians have united to defend hugely popular "chicken rendang" that was knocked out of a British cooking competition television show for not being crispy enough, but the long-standing debate on the origins of the dish rages on. Malaysian-born chef Zaleha Kadir Olpin cooked nasi lemak, a beloved traditional Malaysian dish, served with chicken rendang in the quarter-final of the BBC show "MasterChef UK", in which contestants were asked to prepare a meal that was important to them.

Judges John Torode and Gregg Wallace turned down the chicken accompaniment saying the skin



**AHMEDABAD:** A Gujarat policemen clash with members of the Scheduled Castes at a protest against a Supreme Court order that allegedly diluted the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in Ahmedabad. Street battles and widespread protests by Indian 'low-caste' groups enraged by what they consider the undermining of a law protecting their safety left at least one dead, police said. —AFP

run-up to a national election that must be held before May 2019. India's ruling right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party has accused opposition parties of

orchestrating the protests. The BJP government has however filed a petition asking the Supreme Court to overturn its ruling. —AFP

nor of blasphemy and spearheaded mass rallies that led to his ouster and jailing, a ruling that many believed was politicized and unjust.

"It's clear there is an insult toward the teachings of Islam in the poem," said Eggi Sudjana, a lawyer and an adviser to the alliance. "We hoped that Ahok's case would be the last one, but now there are others who dare to insult Islam again," he said, referring to the ex-Jakarta governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama by his nickname. Sukmawati apologized for reading the poem, which appeared to favor traditional Indonesian culture and beliefs over conservative Islamic customs like the full veil, in public.

"The poem is a reflection of my concern about the sense of nationalism...and to honor our motherland's rich cultural traditions and diversity," a tearful Sukmawati told a news conference in Jakarta yesterday. "I apologize to Islamic people in Indonesia, especially to those who feel offended by the poem," said Sukmawati, whose family remains highly influential in Indonesia. FPI's Novel Bamukmin said the alliance appreciated the apology but would not withdraw its complaint. "There will be no mercy for those who blaspheme," he said. Rights activists feared the controversy was a sign that religious tolerance and freedom of expression are being eroded in the world's third-largest democracy.

"It's creating an atmosphere of fear," said Andreas Harsono of Human Rights Watch. "People never know when someone could report them to the police for blas-



**JAKARTA:** Sukmawati Sukarnoputri, sister of former Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, talks to reporters in Jakarta, Indonesia. —Reuters

phemy against Islam." Suspects can be jailed for up to five years under the blasphemy laws, which have been criticized by rights groups as draconian and vulnerable to abuse. Sukmawati's family issued a statement distancing itself from the issue, saying the poem only reflected the writer's personal opinion. A spokesman for President Widodo said the palace "did not want to be associated with the issue". —Reuters

wasn't crispy, stirring fury on social media and a viral debate in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei where the spicy dish is widely loved. "Chicken rendang should be made authentic. And it is just stupid for it to be crispy," said KF Seetoh, founder of Makansutra and an Asian street food expert based in Singapore. "Saying chicken rendang should be crispy is like saying that hamburgers should be boiled."

Rendang is traditionally made with chicken or beef that is slow cooked with Asian herbs and coconut milk. Haikal Johari, 41, executive chef of Michelin-star restaurant Alma by Juan Amador in Singapore, said he had never heard of chicken rendang being crispy. "Chicken rendang is a dish that many of us grew up with. And to have an angmoh (caucasian) tell us how the dish should be like is a smack on our face," said Haikal.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak waded into the debate on Tuesday saying no one eats crispy chicken rendang - and veteran leader Mahathir Mohamad for once agreed with his arch rival. A hash-

tag "gastrodiplomacy" was soon trending along with "rendanggate". Corporates were not to be left out. In a cheeky Instagram post with a bucket of their classic fried chicken, KFC said: "The only thing that should be crispy is our fried chicken."

Regional e-hailing service Grab offered promotions, asking users to tweet #RendangIsNeverCrispy. However, the jury is still out on which country owns the dish with neighbouring Indonesia already claiming it. Some suggest the first version of rendang was in Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia, some 600 years ago. Torode riled Malaysians by suggesting on Twitter that chicken rendang was from Indonesia, and ending his tweet with "namaste", an Indian greeting.

"I don't know what's wrong with these Malaysians keep saying Rendang theirs, it's like the Koreans claiming Japanese ramen," said one post on Twitter. Many other Indonesians were quick to agree. Haikal from Alma said there were different versions of the dish. —Reuters



International

# UN seeks access to Syrians 'on their knees' in eastern Ghouta

## Egeland calls for humanitarian access to area

GENEVA: The UN humanitarian adviser for Syria called yesterday for access to the eastern Ghouta town of Douma, where he said some 80,000-150,000 civilians were "on their knees" after years of siege and fighting. Syrian government forces backed by Russia have recaptured nearly all of eastern Ghouta, which was the last major rebel enclave on the outskirts of Damascus, in a ferocious assault that began in February, marking a major victory for President Bashar al-Assad.

They were now negotiating with the armed group inside Douma, the last remaining area under armed opposition control, adviser Jan Egeland said, adding that the United Nations was playing no direct role. "We hope that that agreement will lead to people being able to stay if they choose to, to get amnesty for those who put away their arms but also to an opportunity to leave for those who choose to leave Douma," he told a news briefing.

Out of the nearly 400,000 people besieged in eastern Ghouta for years by Syrian government forces, 130,000 had fled in the last three weeks, Egeland said. Evacuations should be voluntary but in some cases might not have been, he added. "The deals might have shortened the battle and that is a good thing. The worst possible thing would have been fighting street-by-street, like in Raqqa, until the very, very bitter end," he

said, referring to the northern city where Islamic State was defeated last year by US-backed forces. The evacuees included 80,000 people now in centers in government-controlled areas, where Egeland said conditions were terrible. Some 50,000 fled to opposition-held Idlib, which Egeland called "the biggest cluster of displacement camps in the world" with around 1.5 million people. "We need to learn from the battles of Homs, Aleppo, Raqqa, Deir al-Zor, and eastern Ghouta. Idlib cannot become a battle zone, it's full of civilians and they are vulnerable displaced," he said.

With no reports of recent fighting or air raids in eastern Ghouta, he hoped the battle there was now over. Rebel group Jaish al-Islam, which has not confirmed any deal with the Syrian government over eastern Ghouta, released five prisoners on Wednesday as part of a deal over Douma, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and state media said. "We would then say anywhere between 80,000 to 150,000 are in the Douma area still under control of the armed opposition groups, Jaish al-Islam the biggest," Egeland said.

"Why can we not deliver to the people of Douma today for example even though we are on the eve of a deal for Douma, they are really, really on their knees in terms of needs."—Reuters



AL-BAB, Syria: Children look out of the window of a bus upon their arrival at the Abu al-Zindeen checkpoint near the northern Syrian town of Al-Bab in Eastern Ghouta.—AFP

## Broken by siege, Syria rebels face worst loss yet in Ghouta

BEIRUT: The expected loss of Eastern Ghouta will deal Syria's fragmented rebels their biggest blow yet, leaving them unable to threaten President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus and increasingly subservient to competing global interests. Just weeks after their ill-fated uprising turned seven years old, Syrian opposition fighters have found themselves bussed out of their one-time bastion on the capital's outskirts. They had overrun the suburb in 2012, setting up independent power structures that served around 400,000 residents and granted them a thriving popular base.

The three main factions—Jaish al-Islam, Faylaq al-Rahman, and Ahrar al-Sham—continually pledged to march on Damascus and rained rockets down on its residential neighborhoods. Weakened by a slow and painful half-decade siege, rebels could hardly hold out under weeks of bombing that culminated in negotiated withdrawals, a strategy polished by Syria's regime elsewhere. "What happened is an absolutely huge loss strategically, militarily, and politically for the rebels. However you look at it, it's a total loss," says Nawar Oliver, an analyst at the Omran Institute.

Just having a presence at the gates of the capital, near foreign embassies, was enough for rebels to impose themselves as essential players. "Even during Ghouta's dying days, its rebels maintained their deadly ability to lob mortar bombs and rockets on the capital, killing dozens. It had granted them leverage for years, Oliver said. "The regime had to talk to them, had to release prisoners, because they held the gates of the capital," he said. "Now, they're nothing."

### Nowhere is safe

After the crumbling last year of the Islamist State (IS) jihadist group's "caliphate" in Syria and neighboring Iraq, Assad's troops have shifted their focus elsewhere. Helped by air strikes from steadfast ally Russia, Syrian troops are now

in control of 55 percent of the war-ravaged country. Swathes of the north and northeast are held by Kurdish militia and IS still holds small pockets in the country's centre and east. The conventional armed opposition still holds most of the southern province of Daraa, a few towns in central Syria, and part of Aleppo province in the north.

They are also present in northwest Idlib, but their influence has been shrinking as Islamist and jihadist groups tighten their grip on the province. Just like Ghouta, those areas have been designated as "de-escalation zones" meant to pave the way for a nationwide ceasefire. But after Ghouta, nowhere is safe, Nawar said. "This is the essential thing the opposition knows now: nowhere is an exception," he said.

The evacuation deals that appear to have sealed Ghouta's fate were preceded by years of similar withdrawals, most famously in December 2016 from second city Aleppo. After a bombing blitz, tens of thousands of rebels and civilians were bussed out of their stronghold in the city's east in what was, at the time, their most devastating defeat. "The fall of Aleppo was the beginning of the end, but Ghouta is more symbolic," said Thomas Pierret, a researcher at the University of Edinburgh.

At the time, mainstream rebels held more territory in Idlib, Homs, and around Damascus—and they still had Ghouta. "At a rather symbolic level, there was this idea that we still have something. (Ghouta) was a meaningful challenge to the regime," said Pierret.

### Biggest loss

Now, rebels across the country face three options, Pierret said. They could reconcile with the regime and join loyalist forces, or could throw their lot in with the opposition's main remaining backer—Turkey. "The only alternative is the jihadi option. The jihadists would be the only group left fighting the regime and not directly under the control of another state," said Pierret. Syria's conflict has drawn in a host of international players—including rebel backer Turkey, regime allies Russia and Iran, and the US-led coalition fighting IS.

The "Syrian National Army"—the Turkey-backed force tied to the political opposition—said Ghouta's rebels were welcome to join its ranks. "Developments in Ghouta and elsewhere make us more insistent on maintaining and organizing the SNA," said its spokesman Mohammad Abadeen.—AFP



AL-BAB, Syria: A Turkish-backed rebel fighter fires ammunition as buses arrive at the Abu al-Zindeen checkpoint near the northern Syrian town of al-Bab transporting Jaish al-Islam fighters and their families from the former rebel bastion's main town of Douma after being evacuated from the last rebel-held pocket in Eastern Ghouta.—AFP

# Kuwait Times

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## Analysis

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## Russia short of foreign policy options if bet on Trump fails

Russia long saw Donald Trump as the wild card in its strategy to improve relations with the United States. But 14 months after he became US president, Moscow is close to viewing him as a busted flush, unable to enact his pledge for better ties. Trump reluctantly signed off on new sanctions against Moscow last summer over allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential election. Last week he backed the expulsion of 60 Russian diplomats and the closure of Russia's Seattle consulate over the poisoning of an ex-Russian agent in Britain.

After betting the farm on Trump, Russia has seen relations with the West sink so low that there is talk of a new Cold War. President Vladimir Putin's options for a change of strategy, banking less on Trump and his ability to sway those around him on Russia, is severely limited as he prepares for a new term. One option being explored is to try to widen splits in the West by courting France and Germany. Another is to draw closer to China and India. But the relationship with Washington is still seen in Moscow as central to Russian foreign policy. "Washington has become fixated with the fight against a non-existent, so-called Russian threat," Sergei Naryshkin, Russia's foreign intelligence agency chief, said yesterday. "This has reached such proportions and acquired such absurd characteristics that it's possible to speak of a return to the dark times of the Cold War." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said earlier this week that the standoff was worse than during the Cold War between East and West after World War Two. "...Then some kind of rules and appearances were kept up. Now, as I see it, our Western partners... have cast aside all proprieties," Lavrov said.

The Cold War saw the Soviet Union square off against the United States, with the threat of nuclear war hanging over the world until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. But the standoff was kept under control by arms treaties, superpower summits and both proscribed and informal rules of engagement. The new standoff, raw and unpredictable, has been likened to a "fight without rules" by Konstantin Kosachev, head of the upper house of Russian parliament's foreign affairs committee. The risk of miscommunication, miscalculation and sudden escalation into a hot war is higher than during the original Cold War, he says.

### Arch hawks

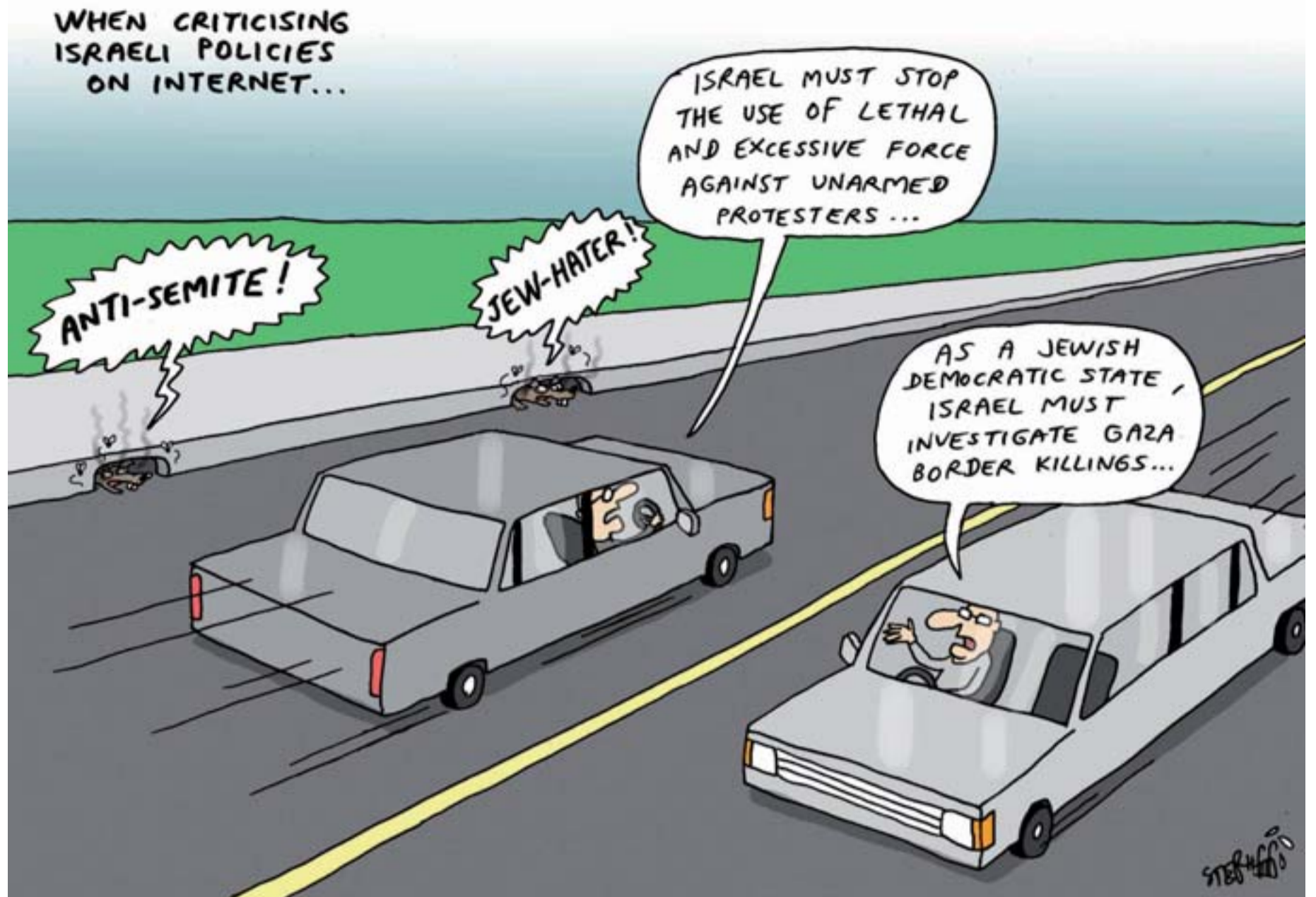
Trump's appointment of Mike Pompeo and John Bolton, whom Moscow regards as arch Russia hawks, to key foreign policy posts last month has further soured the mood in Moscow, say analysts and people close to Russian decision makers. When it comes to the United States, these sources say Moscow is not willing to change course, make concessions or launch new initiatives. Russia will therefore continue to engage only if and when the United States is ready to do so, and, if faced with more hostile action - such as further diplomatic expulsions - will respond in kind, the people close to decision makers say. "All we can do is keep the doors open for negotiation and wait and see what will happen. That's the predominant view," said Andrey Kortunov, head of a think-tank close to the Russian Foreign Ministry. In particular, Moscow is keeping the door open to a possible summit between Trump and Putin, an idea floated by Trump, and is also keen for US-Russia talks on strategic nuclear stability to avoid a costly arms race. But its baseline scenario is a downward spiral in ties. "Washington is the standard bearer of a new Cold War," Fyodor Lukyanov, a foreign policy expert close to the Kremlin, wrote in government daily Rossiyskaya Gazeta after last week's US diplomatic expulsions. "There's no point in hoping for an improvement in ties or any progress in any area for the foreseeable future," said Lukyanov, who has warned the Russian elite to brace for sweeping Iran-style financial sanctions.

### Eastwards, Franco-German pivot

While better ties with the United States are seen as a remote possibility, improved relations with France and Germany are seen as "more interesting opportunities for political investment," said Kortunov. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov praised France's "constructive position" after Paris confirmed French President Emmanuel Macron would still visit Russia in May despite tensions. Alexei Pushkov, a senator specialising in foreign policy, has lauded German Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision to back Russia's proposed Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline.

The planned pipeline will connect Germany and Russia, despite concerns from other EU nations who fear it will harm the bloc's energy security. Lukyanov said Moscow should look to beef up ties with Beijing and Delhi as they had "freedom to maneuver" on the world stage and were not vulnerable to Western pressure on Russia. Moscow believes the only wild card it has with Washington is Trump who, in Russian eyes, appears to have been playing a game of good cop bad cop, offering Russia a glimmer of hope, while Congress and his administration read Russia the riot act.

Russia casts Trump as a hostage of the US political establishment who it accuses of reducing his room for manoeuvre by boxing him in with the special investigation into his associates' possible collusion with Moscow and what Russia says are false allegations it meddled in US politics. Its disappointment with Trump has unfolded in stages. Trump's decision to launch a missile strike against a Syrian air base, drop a large bomb in Afghanistan in an attack on Islamic militants and stick with Obama-era policies over Russia's annexation of the Crimea region from Ukraine, and, until recently, his tough talk on North Korea, went down badly in Moscow. —Reuters



## Hit to Boeing depends on definitions

China yesterday announced plans to place a 25 percent tariff on certain US aircraft, in a move expected to affect some older Boeing Co narrow-body models, according to documents from China's Ministry of Commerce and the US manufacturer. But it was not immediately clear how far they would affect Boeing's upgraded 737 MAX family, a key source of future Boeing profits, because of a lack of detail in the announcement and the fact that not all airplane characteristics are published.

Boeing shares fell as much as 6 percent in early trading after China hit back at US tariffs with the announcement of duties on key US imports including soybeans, cars, beef and chemicals, as well as planes. These include aircraft with an "empty weight" of between 15,000 kilograms and 45,000 kilograms, or 15 to 45 tonnes. Depending on how "empty weight" is defined, this places a question mark over the fate of Boeing's new big-selling 737 MAX 8 jet - though the larger MAX 9 and MAX 10 could be spared.

The stakes are high. The United States exported \$15 billion of aircraft to China in 2016, ranking it equally with agricultural products like soybeans also targeted for tariffs as the biggest category of goods, according to US trade data. Several definitions of "empty weight" are used in the aircraft industry and the ministry document did not contain any footnotes or further explanation. Industry experts said the rules most likely refer to the "manufacturers' empty weight," or the core aircraft structure.

But manufacturers are usually shy about publishing

this number because of its commercial sensitivity, while they do give estimates for the slightly higher "operating empty weight," which includes crew and some fluids and equipment, but not fuel. Yet even this number can vary according to an airline's specific requirements, so it is seen as a guideline only. Whatever category is used, the range appears comfortably to include the current-generation 737 narrowbody aircraft, which is in the midst of being replaced by the newer 737 MAX.



### China to place 25% tariff on certain aircraft

#### 737 Max 8 fate unclear

Boeing documents available online list the "operating empty weight" of the 737-700, 737-800 and 737-900 well within the tariff zone at 37.6 to 42.9 tonnes. The "manufacturer's empty weight" would typically be about 1 to 1.5 tonnes lower than this, a plane appraisal expert said.

In contrast, the newer 737 MAX 8 is heavier than its predecessor, with an operating empty weight of 45,070 kilograms, according to a Boeing airport document published in August 2017.

Depending on how the rules are applied, this leaves it on the edge between the tariff zone and escaping the trade spat. But the larger 737 MAX 9 and MAX 10 could both be spared. A Beijing spokesman for Boeing declined to comment when asked about the impact of the tariffs. Chinese airlines have been on a buying spree from Boeing and rival Airbus SE as air travel grows. Boeing and China's Commercial Aircraft Corp of China (COMAC) are expected to open a 737 completion centre in the coastal city of Zhoushan to install interiors and paint liveries this year.

The bulk of published 737 orders from Chinese that have not yet been delivered are for the newer MAX version. However, China Southern Airlines, Ruili Airlines and Okay Airways each have two 737-800s on order and Xiamen Airlines has four more, according to the Boeing order book. It remains unclear whether the trade dispute between the US and China could affect future jet purchases. Asked if the airline's plane buying plans could shift away from Boeing, China Eastern Airlines Corp CEO Ma Xulun said yesterday "it's too early to say, we will keep an eye on the situation of the China-US trade war".

Apart from some Boeing jets, the Gulfstream G650, a large corporate jet manufactured by General Dynamics Corp, also appears within the weight range targeted by the tariffs. Gulfstream did not respond immediately to a request for comment. —Reuters

## Coffee conquers conflict for business-savvy Filipino farmers

Five years ago, Filipina farmer Marivic Dubria would buy Nescafe sachets to serve visitors because she was embarrassed by the quality of the coffee she grew next to her main vegetable crops. Life was tough for her family in Mindanao, the second largest island in the Philippines, as they struggled to earn \$1,000 a year from their produce, with their coffee beans fetching only 20 cents per kilo from local traders. But Dubria is now one of hundreds of farmers nationwide who are brewing up a storm with training from Coffee For Peace (CFP) - a social enterprise striving to boost growers' profits, protect the environment and foster peace between communities.

Having learned how to grow, harvest and process high-quality Arabica beans at a time when global demand for coffee is soaring - it is set to hit a record high this year - Dubria exports her crop to buyers as far away as Seattle for at least \$5 per kilo. "But it's not all about the money - it's about taking responsibility for the environment and other communities," Dubria told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in her home on Mount Apo while brewing a pot of thick, aromatic, treacle-like coffee.

Beyond helping coffee growers get a better deal, CFP aims to encourage dialogue between communities, with tensions ranging from colonial-era conflict between native Muslims and Christian settlers to land and resource disputes between ethnic groups. The Philippines is battling to restore order to troubled Mindanao, where militant groups have pledged allegiance to Islamic State, and five decades of communist insurgency and separatist bombings have displaced at least 2 million people.

By bringing people together through

trade, businesses with a social mission can help build peace, industry experts say. "Social enterprise presents an emerging pathway or approach to conflict resolution," said Angel Flores, East Asia business head at the British Council, which backs companies seeking to help people, invest in the environment and tackle social ills. "Being inclusive, participatory and prioritizing community benefit over personal agendas enhances the social fabric from a place of distrust to ... confidence and mutual understanding."

### 'Farmerpreneurs'

CFP was set up in 2008 on the conflict-hit southern island of Mindanao, after its founders stopped Christian and Muslim neighbors going to war over the ownership of a rice field. The men were invited to put down their guns and talk over coffee, a tradition which quickly spread across the region. CFP offers a three-year scheme to train farmers to produce coffee while encouraging native and settler communities and various tribes to harvest and process the beans together.

While the social enterprise buys the farmers' beans above market value - selling them on to local coffee shops and exporting as far as Canada - communities can sell to any buyer, but are encouraged to demand higher prices. "We don't treat them as suppliers or just part of the chain - they are farmerpreneurs," said CFP senior vice president Twinkle Bautista. "The aim is to unite the settlers and indigenous people to teach each other, share techniques and tools ... and harmony," she added. "Our product is peace - coffee is just the tool."

For Kagawad Abe and his indigenous community, setting up a processing center through CFP has brought them closer to the Christian settlers - who work with them to process their beans. "It has also brought women together, and given them a chance to work independently ... to contribute to the tribe," he said. About 80 percent of CFP's coffee-growing partners are women. "Just five or so years ago, we didn't really know each other - but now we are talking and working together," Abe added.



Local chieftain Baby Jerlina Owok poses for a photo with coffee beans grown by her community in Mindanao on March 26, 2018. —Reuters

CFP says business is booming, having tripled sales to at least \$46,000 last year from \$15,000 in 2012 and won United Nations and regional awards for promoting peace and development. Although social enterprises in the Philippines have more than tripled in the last decade to 165,000, many are struggling due to limited state support and a lack of funding, said the British Council and the Philippines Social Enterprise Network.

CFP's success is likely largely due to its unusual mission, said Gerry Higgins, chief executive of Community Enterprise in Scotland (CEIS), Britain's largest agency to support the sector. "Coffee for Peace is unusual ... there aren't many social enterprises that recognise that if a community is resilient and sustainable, (then) fewer conflicts will emerge," Higgins said.

### Conquerors of coffee

By walking farmers through every step of the supply chain, CFP says they no longer see the coffee industry as "a mystery". Once dependent on traders and big brands such as Nestle, the world's biggest coffee maker and producer of Nescafe, farmers can now

demand higher prices for better quality beans, CFP said. Yet winning communities over remains a major challenge. Some are proud of their traditional methods and reluctant to embrace change, while others are wary of civil society groups and used to instant cash or aid, rather than long-term support.

"We had to convince and convince our people, many times, to move from the traditional to the technical way of doing things," said Baby Jerlina Owok, chieftain of a native tribe which has seen their coffee beans almost double in value in recent years. Yet for women such as Owok and Dubria and their coffee cooperatives, the ambitions are much bigger than making money. Pointing at huge swathes of coffee trees covering the hills, painting once barren land vibrant shades of green, Dubria spoke about planting more to combat deforestation and soil erosion.

Lastly, she said they need to share their prosperity. "We need to encourage and help other communities to produce quality coffee," she said. "We want to pull them up - to improve their standard of living - so they can experience what we have." —Reuters



News

## YouTube shooter was vegan blogger who 'hated' site

**SAN BRUNO, California:** An Iranian-born woman who blogged about veganism had railed online about dictatorship and accused YouTube of limiting viewers of her videos before opening fire at its California corporate headquarters, wounding three people and killing herself. San Bruno police yesterday were investigating why Nasim Najafi Aghdam, 39, of San Diego, opened fire with a handgun on Tuesday at the company owned by Alphabet Inc's Google. A review of her postings online in Persian and English showed glimpses of resentment and anger at the video-sharing company.

"BE AWARE! Dictatorships exist in all countries. But with different tactics. They care only for short term profits," she wrote on a website called NasimeSabz.com, which translates as "Green Breeze" from Persian. "I am being discriminated. I am being filtered on YouTube. I am not the only one," Aghdam said in an English language video on YouTube before her channel was deleted on Tuesday.

San Bruno police said yesterday her motive appeared to be related to her anger over YouTube policies, and that there were no other suspects in the case. "Currently, there is no evidence linking Aghdam to any individuals at the scene of this incident," said police chief Ed Barberini. "At this point in the investigation, it is believed that the suspect was upset with policies and practices of YouTube. This appears to be the motive for this incident." Barberini said they had recovered a handgun registered to Aghdam, and that she had gone to a local gun range on Tuesday before driving to YouTube, where she entered the building via the parking garage.

A man was in critical condition and two women were seriously wounded in the attack at an outdoor patio at YouTube's Silicon Valley headquarters, which employ about 2,000 people. Police said Aghdam seemed to have chosen victims at random. The shooting came in the midst of a par-

ticularly intense phase of the United States' long-running debate on gun rights, following the killing of 17 students and educators at a Florida high school in February. While mass shootings have become a regular occurrence in the United States, they are rarely carried out by women.

Writing in Persian on her Instagram account, Aghdam said she was born in the Iranian city of Urmiah and that she was not planning to return to Iran. "I think I am doing a great job," she wrote. "I have never fallen in love and have never got married. I have no physical and psychological diseases. But I live on a planet that is full of injustice and diseases."

Californian media reported that Aghdam's family had warned authorities that she could target YouTube prior to the shooting. The San Jose Mercury News quoted her father,

Ismail Aghdam, as saying he had told police that she might go to YouTube's headquarters because she "hated" the company. Efforts to reach her relatives by phone were unsuccessful. Her family in Southern California recently reported her missing because she had not been answering her phone for two days, police said. At one point Tuesday, Mountain View, California, police found her sleeping in her car and called her family to say everything was under control, hours before she walked onto the company grounds and opened fire.

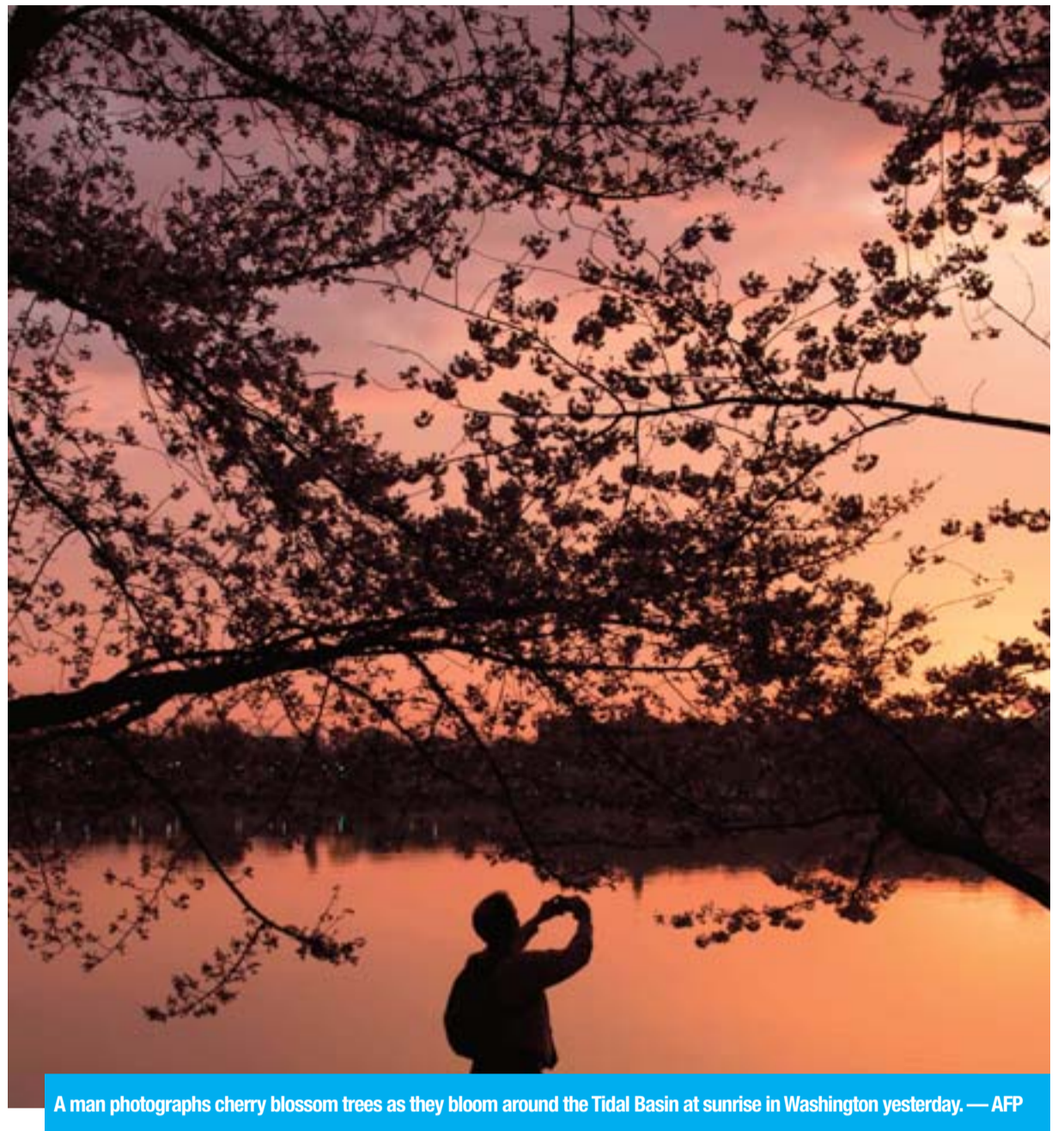
A survivor of the February shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in the Parkland, Florida, weighed in on the YouTube incident yesterday. "The YouTube HQ shooting is proof that this is

NOT just schools," Jaclyn Corin said on Twitter yesterday. "Our country has a GUN problem. End of story." Gun rights advocates have argued that more armed guards and citizens could prevent mass shootings.

YouTube has long faced complaints about alleged censorship on its site, and says it attempts to balance its mission of fostering free speech while still providing an appropriate and lawful environment for users. In some cases involving videos with sensitive content, YouTube has allowed the videos to stay online but cut off the ability for their publishers to share in advertising revenue. Criticisms from video makers that YouTube is too restrictive about which users can participate in revenue sharing swelled last year as the company imposed new restrictions. — Agencies



Nasim Najafi Aghdam



A man photographs cherry blossom trees as they bloom around the Tidal Basin at sunrise in Washington yesterday. — AFP

## Bahrain oil find contains...

Continued from Page 1

"Nonetheless it is a significant discovery and even if only a small fraction of it can be produced it would change Bahrain's position in the region substantially," a JBC analyst said.

Bahrain, which sits between regional archrivals Saudi Arabia and Iran, was the first of the Gulf states to discover crude but is today the smallest of the Gulf producers. The tiny kingdom currently produces some 50,000 barrels per day of crude oil from the Bahrain Field, discovered in 1932.

Manama also gets another 150,000 barrels daily from the Abu Saafa offshore field, which it splits equally with Saudi Arabia. The kingdom has also discovered natural gas estimated at between 10 trillion cubic feet and 20 trillion cubic feet, Sheikh Mohammed said.

Bahrain, which is not a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), is nonetheless part of an agreement between OPEC and non-OPEC members to cut oil production in the wake of the 2014 market crash. The Gulf Cooperation Council, which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, together pump around 17 million barrels of oil per day, equivalent to some 18 percent of global production or 55 percent of OPEC's output. To help cope with the drop in oil revenues following the collapse in crude prices, slashed by half since mid-2014, the GCC states decided to impose a value-added tax of five percent from 2018. — AFP

edged that illegal importers usually try to find ways to help them release illegal animals.

No decision has yet been taken regarding the monkeys. "After we get the results of the tests, the zoo administration will decide what to do with them. Maybe we will correspond with the authorities in the country of origin to ship the monkeys back there, and the costs will be paid by the smuggler. Or the administration may decide to keep them at the zoo. Although we have limited space, we can somehow find a suitable place for them here if we have to keep them," he concluded.

will soon allow the establishment of a consumer protection society. Also during the debate, Islamist MP Osama Al-Shaheen clashed with MP Safa Al-Hashem over the Transparency Society, after Hashem lashed out at the society's officials, accusing them of being corrupt. Shaheen defended the society, saying its officials were elected by society members and were performing their duties in accordance with the law.

## Turkey, Russia, Iran urge lasting...

Continued from Page 1

indicated possible tensions in what analysts see as a potentially brittle alliance. The three powers have backed peace talks in the Kazakh capital Astana, which they argue are a parallel process to UN-supported discussions in Geneva.

Erdogan insisted their meetings and the Astana talks were not an "alternative" to the Geneva process to find peace in Syria, at a post-summit press conference. But the three presidents said that so far, "the Astana format had been the only effective international initiative that had helped reduce violence across Syria and had contributed to peace and stability".

Experts say that Ankara, Moscow and Tehran are looking to take advantage of the waning Western influence in Syria and reluctance to commit militarily. Hours before the summit, US President Donald Trump said he wanted to "bring our troops back home" from Syria after indicating last week the US would withdraw from the country "very soon". But Rouhani hit back, complaining that the "Americans say something different every day".

Unlike the West, the three countries have deployed significant military resources in Syria, with Tehran having a strong ground presence and Moscow ruling the skies. Turkey meanwhile drove out Kurdish militia from Afrin city on March 18, two months after it launched an offensive in northern Syria supporting Syrian rebels. Ankara has indicated Turkey could extend its operation to the Kurdish-held town of Manbij and further east, as well as the northern Syrian town of Tal Rifaat. "We are ready to work together with our Iranian and Russian friends to make Tal Rifaat region livable for our Syrian

brothers and sisters," Erdogan said.

So far the three powers - whose imperial predecessor states spent much of the last centuries at war - have managed to keep a lid on their differences on Syria. While Moscow and Tehran support the regime of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad politically and militarily, Turkey has repeatedly called for his removal and supported Syrian opposition fighters. But experts say disputes between Moscow and Ankara could come to the fore when the regime turns its attention to Idlib province. Idlib's civilian infrastructure is largely controlled by the jihadist alliance Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate.

Turkey is keen to prevent a Russia-backed regime assault on the province home to around 2.5 million people. But Moscow wants Ankara to also exert influence over the militants in control of Idlib. Tensions may also be emerging behind the scene between Russia and Iran, with Moscow much more concerned to press for reform under Assad than Tehran.

Meanwhile, according to the Iranian presidency, Rouhani said in the closed-door session that the Afrin area taken by Turkey and its allied forces should be handed over to the Syrian regime's army. He argued that the Syrian army "is still the symbol of this country's national sovereignty". Turkey's reaction was not made public. Erdogan also expressed alarm over the situation in Eastern Ghouta near Damascus, which has come under heavy regime bombardment over the last weeks, creating a major humanitarian crisis.

Syrian state news agency SANA said evacuations from the former rebel bastion's main town of Douma of Jaish al-Islam fighters and family members were ongoing for a third day. Erdogan said that the bloodshed in Ghouta had been "ruthless" but avoided any direct criticism of Russia and Putin as the backers of the Syrian regime. More than 350,000 people have been killed since the war began following anti-government protests in 2011, while millions have been internally displaced or forced to flee. — AFP

## Rare monkeys remain at zoo...

Continued from Page 1

He said the monkeys are in four or five large cages, and the zoo is guarded by 24-hour security, so nothing can leave the zoo undetected. He however acknowl-

## 20 MPs ask govt to refile...

Continued from Page 1

Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan said that the ministry

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## Sports

# Tokyo 2020 Olympics 'back on track' after rocky start

## Tokyo making 'steady progress' towards hosting the games

**TOKYO:** On a nondescript patch of land east of Tokyo, cranes are whirring frantically against a city skyscraper backdrop as 200 workers toil on the 2020 Olympic canoe venue. With the Pyeongchang winter games closed, Tokyo is stepping up preparations for the next event on the Olympic calendar, with busy building sites dotted around the Japanese capital.

Unlike in previous Olympic host countries, where there was a scramble to finish venues on time, Japan appears to be living up to its reputation for efficiency, with foreman after foreman telling AFP on a recent tour of sites: "We are on schedule." The Aquatics Centre in Tokyo Bay is a hive of activity with workers scurrying around the huge site, pushing to finish a venue that will eventually welcome 24,000 cheering supporters.

"Roughly 25 percent of the work is already done," said Daishuu Tone, director of venues for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. "We are confident we will be on time," he added, with the first test events scheduled for mid-2019.

The city's governor Yuriko Koike told AFP in an interview that Tokyo was making "steady progress" towards hosting the games, the second in its history after 1964. "We hope to make it a wonderful Games," she said during an interview in an imposing 48-floor office looming over the Tokyo skyline. And Tokyo 2020 chief executive officer

Toshiro Muto is also bullish, telling reporters: "Everything is going very smoothly and I can clearly say that most of the competition venues are on track and they will be completed as scheduled."

### 'SIGNIFICANT' CUTS

During the bid process, Japan sold itself as a "safe pair of hands"—an advanced economy with a history of efficiency and excellence. But organisers are still battling to wrench the Games back on track following a

Tokyo's budget seriously ballooned. We have reviewed it and then we reviewed it again. So it has been very much squeezed from the previous budget." In December, Tokyo 2020 organisers announced a "significant" cut of \$1.4 billion in the budget, bringing the overall bill to 1.35 trillion yen (\$12.6 billion).

"The budget should be reduced to the greatest extent possible," stressed Koike, adding she would continue to make efforts towards "creative" budget solutions. Tokyo 2020 organisers were also embarrassed by a plagiarism scandal that led to the scrapping of the original games logo due to its similarity to that of a Belgian theatre and a separate Spanish design.

But the unveiling last month of a pair of futuristic "superhero" mascots picked by schoolchildren around Japan sought to draw a line under that scandal and rekindle enthusiasm for the Olympics and Paralympics.

### BATTLE AGAINST HEAT

If the pace of constructing venues is unlikely to cause headaches for Tokyo, plenty of challenges remain, notably dealing with the summer heat in the Japanese capital where temperatures regularly top 35C (95F).

Koike noted that Pyeongchang had the opposite problem, with fans urged to wrap up warm in extreme cold and buffeting winds forcing organisers to postpone the



**TOKYO:** File photo shows Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games CEO, Toshiro Muto, speaks during a press conference after an executive board meeting of the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympics and Paralympic Games in Tokyo on March 28, 2018. — AFP

showcase men's downhill. "In Tokyo, we will... need to implement various creative efforts and ideas to deal with the heat," she said. The governor said she was more concerned for the supporters than the athletes who "are very capable—more so than ordinary people—of bringing their physical fitness to deal with any climate."

Organisers are looking at coating pavements with a substance to reduce the surface temperature and making sure there are trees to provide shade for competitors and

spectators alike, Koike said. There are also worries over contamination in Odaiba Bay, where the triathlon and open-water swimming events will be held.

Samples taken between July and September last year showed levels of e-coli bacteria more than 20 times higher than permitted—apparently brought about by unseasonably heavy rain. Muto said organisers would solve this problem using special "underwater filters" that have proved successful in cleaning water in testing. — AFP

## Tampa Bay Lightning shut out Boston 4-0

**TAMPA:** Andrei Vasilevskiy made 33 saves for his eighth shutout of the season as the Tampa Bay Lightning blanked Boston 4-0 on Tuesday night and pulled into a tie with the Bruins for first place in the Atlantic Division. The Lightning set a franchise single-season points record (110). The Bruins failed to earn at least a point for the first time in 10 games. Vasilevskiy registered his 43rd win of the season. Brayden Point, Victor Hedman, Chris Kunitz and J.T. Miller scored for Tampa Bay, while Ryan Callahan and Braydon Coburn each registered two assists. Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask stopped 32 of 36 shots.

### PANTHERS 2, PREDATORS 1

Jonathan Huberdeau and Colton Sceviour scored, and Roberto Luongo made 45 saves as Florida kept its slim playoff hopes alive with a win over visiting Nashville. Nashville's Filip Forsberg appeared to score with 0.3 seconds left in the third period, but, upon review, the goal was wiped out for interference, giving Florida the win. The Panthers, who have 90 points, are competing for the final wild-card playoff berth in the Eastern Conference. They trail the Philadelphia Flyers, who lost on Monday, by four points. The Flyers have just two games remaining. The Panthers have three to go.

### JETS 5, CANADIENS 4 (OT)

Rookie Kyle Connor's 30th goal was the overtime winner, and goalie Steve Mason was victorious in his first game in nearly a month as Winnipeg earned a win over host Montreal. The Jets recovered after blowing 3-0 and 4-3 leads. Connor, who finished with three points, was in the slot when he took the pass and buried a shot past Canadiens goalie Carey Price exactly three minutes into overtime to the disappointment of the Bell Centre crowd. Price played his 557th game for the Canadiens, which surpassed the legendary Jacques Plante for the most by a goalie in franchise history. He stopped 27 shots in the loss.

## Putting panic past, Spieth poised for Masters challenge

**AUGUSTA:** Jordan Spieth, Masters champion in 2015 and runner-up in 2014 and 2016, knows as well as anyone that Augusta National's greens are not for the faint-hearted. Fortunately, the 24-year-old Texan has shaken off the spectre of a first-round 76 at the Valspar Championship and gained some confidence in his game.

"I made big strides in the last two weeks to get from a kind of a panic place to a very calm, collected and confident place," Spieth



**TAMPA:** Andrei Vasilevskiy #88 of the Tampa Bay Lightning looks out as Brian Gionta #12 of the Boston Bruins attacks during the third period of the game at the Amalie Arena on Tuesday in Tampa, Florida. — AFP

### BLUE JACKETS 5, RED WINGS 4 (OT)

Rookie Pierre-Luc Dubois scored at the 2:55 mark of overtime, and Columbus rallied from a three-goal deficit to defeat visiting Detroit. The Blue Jackets are tied for second place in the Metropolitan Division with the Pittsburgh Penguins, one point ahead of the New Jersey Devils and two points in front of the Philadelphia Flyers. Cam Atkinson scored a pair of power-play goals and Artemi Panarin supplied a goal and two assists for the Blue Jackets. Panarin's three points gave him 80 for the season, a club record. Tyler Bertuzzi had two goals for the Red Wings, who saw their three-game winning streak snapped.

### ISLANDERS 5, FLYERS 4

Mathew Barzal's second goal of the game with 6:28 remaining in the third period sent host New York past Philadelphia after a wild third period. Barzal's tally, his 22nd of the season, halted a stretch of three unanswered goals from the Flyers, who trailed 4-1 entering the third. John Tavares scored twice and Anthony Beauvillier each added a goal for the Islanders, who had dropped 16 of their last 19 games. Nolan Patrick netted a pair of third-period goals and both Wayne Simmonds and Claude Giroux scored for Philadelphia, which would clinch an Eastern Conference playoff berth with three points in its final two games.

said Tuesday. "It's difficult to do in two weeks. Sometimes it takes years. And I feel like I've been able to speed that process up a lot over the last couple weeks." Spieth's disastrous Valspar outing, where he opened with a 76 on the way to a missed cut, was a low point for the three-time major winner, who had thought he was turning the young season around.

Spieth has ranked in the top 20 in putting on the US PGA Tour in three of the last four years, but he's 185th in strokes gained putting so far in 2018, a campaign that got off to a slow start after he battled illness in December. "It has not been the greatest start to the year of any that I've had," said Spieth, who admits impatience to improve worked against him in the early going. But he's feeling better coming into the first major of the year than he did in both 2014 and 2016, when he missed the cut in his last tuneup event, the Houston Open.

### DEVILS 5, RANGERS 2

Taylor Hall scored two goals, including one on a penalty shot, and had two assists, and Will Butcher also scored twice as New Jersey moved a step closer to clinching a Stanley Cup playoff berth with a victory over visiting New York. Trevor Zajac added a goal and assist for New Jersey, which reduced its magic number to two points in the race for an Eastern Conference playoff spot. Keith Kinkaid made 22 saves as the Devils improved to 6-0-1 in their past seven games. Hall has six goals in the past four games. Ryan Spooner and Kevin Hayes scored for the Rangers, who fell to 2-5-2 in their past nine games.

### STARS 4, SHARKS 2

Jamie Benn scored a hat trick, including the game-winner with 3:06 to play and an empty-netter with 24 seconds left, as Dallas came from behind in the final six minutes to win at San Jose. Benn picked the pocket of Tomas Hertl in the San Jose zone and skated into the slot before going to his backhand to beat goaltender Martin Jones with the deciding tally. The Sharks, who clinched a playoff berth while idle on Monday, hold onto the second-place spot in the Pacific Division by two points over the Los Angeles Kings and by three over the Anaheim Ducks. San Jose has lost four games in a row. — Reuters

This year, Spieth fired a final-round 66 in Houston to finish with a share of third, a result he called "a tremendous stepping stone in the right direction." "I pretended like I was tied for the lead, even though I figured I was a stroke or two back," he said. "I wanted that 'you need to make this' feeling. And I started to really roll some putts in under the gun." It was just what he needed before taking on the yawning greens of Augusta, with their lightning-fast surfaces and treacherous break. Spieth, however, said he finds the difficulty of the Masters greens somehow freeing.

"You just have to have a lot of feel," he said. "When I see these greens, my first thought isn't where does this putt go. My first thought is, what's the speed that's needed on this putt. For whatever reason, that has been beneficial to me when I focus just on what speed does this need to get in. I find myself not worrying about the line and therefore not worrying about the mechanics." — AFP

## Woods's comeback bid drives Masters drama

**AUGUSTA:** Tigermania has blossomed along with the azaleas at Augusta National, but 14-time major champion Tiger Woods is just one of the contenders at a Masters that promises to be a classic. "I don't think there's one clear-cut favorite," said Woods, who is vying to pull off a comeback that would rate among the greatest in sport. His quest to better Jack Nicklaus's record of 18 major titles stalled after he grabbed number 14 at the 2008 US Open.

He owns four Masters green jackets, but hasn't even teed it up in the stately confines of Augusta National in two years as back trouble threatened to end his career completely.

Pain free at last after spinal fusion surgery last April, Woods has ignited expectations with one runner-up finish and a tie for fifth in five official PGA Tour starts this year—his best finishes since 2015. Woods himself is at a loss to explain the impressive swing speed and driving distance he never expected to see after having vertebrae in his lower back fused.

"For some reason it has come back," he said. "All of a sudden I have this pop and my body and my speed's back and my timing." He'll need all of that, and his vaunted short game and solid putting, on the course famed for the difficulty of its fast, undulating greens. "This golf course is something else," Woods said. The course, however, isn't the only obstacle standing in Woods's way, and he knows it.

Former Masters champions Phil Mickelson and Bubba Watson signalled their intentions with recent wins, Mickelson ending a near five-year title drought in March and Watson halting a two-year dry-spell

at Riviera before hoisting another trophy at the WGC Match-Play.

"I think there's so many guys playing well at the same time. I think that's what is making this year's Masters so exciting, that there's so many guys," Woods said.

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, vying to complete a career Grand Slam with a first green jacket, boosted his confidence with a victory at Bay Hill in March. "I feel like I found something with my putting over the past few weeks, and in good time, because obviously you need to putt these greens very well," McIlroy said. "I'm looking forward to see what the week holds."

### JOHNSON'S NO. 1 UNDER THREAT

World number one Dustin Johnson comes in on a mission, having missed the Masters last year thanks to a freak fall on the stairs that halted the hottest streak of his career in its tracks.

Johnson opened the year with a USPGA Tour Tournament of Champions win, but three players have a shot at toppling him from number one with a victory this week. Justin Thomas, 24, heads that list, and arrives at the Masters buoyed by a win at the Honda Classic, a runner-up finish at the WGC-Mexico Championship and a fourth-placed finish at the WGC-Match Play.

Should Thomas falter, Spain's third-ranked Jon Rahm or world number four Jordan Spieth—Masters champion in 2015—could conceivably overtake Johnson this week. "I think there's a lot of players, a lot of the top quality players, young and old, are playing some of their best golf, and I think that's going to lead to one of the most exciting Masters in years," Mickelson said. Spain's Sergio Garcia faces a tall order in seeking to join Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Nick Faldo as the only players to successfully defend the Masters title.

England's Justin Rose insists his runner-up finish to Garcia last year left him not demoralized but determined. — AFP



**AUGUSTA:** Tiger Woods of the United States hits a shot as caddie Joe LaCava looks on during a practice round prior to the start of the 2018 Masters Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club on Tuesday. — AFP



Sports

# Didgeridoo, heavy downpour at Commonwealth Games opening ceremony

## Not cricket: Australia hit reset at Commonwealth Games

**GOLD COAST:** A blast from a didgeridoo, a sprinkling of royal stardust and a strong message of unity lit up the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games on Australia's Gold Coast yesterday.

A heavy downpour lashed the 35,000 crowd at Carrara Stadium as the ceremony began, ensuring a wet start to the proceedings for many in the half-covered arena. Britain's Prince Charles and wife Camilla were among the guests and the heir to the throne was due to officially open the Games later in the painstakingly planned gala.

As the ceremony sprang to life in the rain, the camera panned in on an Aboriginal family planted in the crowd and a girl with a smartphone. The message on the screen read: "Welcome to the oldest living culture on Earth." A scene from a group of friends surfing off the beach gave way to a virtual journey through space and time as the stadium was engulfed in a galaxy of stars and blue light.



### Prince Charles and wife Camilla among the guests

In contrast, just outside the stadium, about 100 Aboriginal activists protested against what they have labelled the "Stolenwealth Games". The sporting action in the Games, which feature 71 nations and territories, gets underway today. Australia will try to forget all about cheating cricketers and restore their sporting image when the Commonwealth Games open at a gala ceremony in Gold Coast yesterday.

Australia's reputation for tough but fair competition took a hit when Test cricketers admitted ball-tampering, a scandal which prompted much debate and soul-searching. But the hosts have an opportunity to repair the damage at beach city Gold Coast, where they will attempt to top the medals table, led by their resurgent swimmers and cyclists.

Dancing lifesavers and a floating white whale took the centre stage at the 35,000-seat Carrara Stadium for the opening ceremony, where Britain's Prince Charles were guest of honour. It heralds 11 days of competition and should soothe the trauma of the cricket row, after a player was caught doctoring the ball with sandpaper.

"Sand and sport have not been a happy combination for this country of late as we endure our national shame over the ugly fusion of cricket and sandpaper," The Australian newspaper said in an editorial.

"Starting tonight on the Gold Coast we can flick the switch to optimism and celebration." Attempts at secrecy took a knock when Australia's Channel 9 broadcast excerpts from the ceremony dress rehearsal-and had its accreditation suspended as punishment. Thousands of performers, volunteers and security will be involved in the event, which has been years in the planning and required about 400 truckloads of equipment.

"It's bloody big," said organising committee chairman Peter Beattie, who was keeping his fingers crossed for dry weather for the ceremony.

"We're a little nervous about the weather. We understand there may be showers... we hope that you will be wowed by tonight because I think it's going to be special." Enthusiasm is not universal, however, and Aboriginal protesters held up the final stages of the Games' baton relay with a sit-in along its route in Gold Coast.

Indigenous activists are planning more demonstrations and have dubbed the event the "Stolenwealth Games", a reference to Britain's colonisation of their ancestral lands.

Australia will hope for a fast start when competition gets under way, with Olympic champions Mack Horton and Kyle Chalmers expected to star in the outdoor Southport pool.

Cate Campbell looks back in form after her 2016 Olympics flop, and South Africa's Chad le Clos could become the most successful athlete in Games history when he takes on a Michael Phelps-style seven swimming events.

English breaststroke star Adam Peaty, who has his eye on an unprecedented sub-57 seconds in the 100 metres, is another who will try to crash the Australian pool party.

Australia will also go head-to-head with England in track cycling, where they will field a revamped line-up under the tutelage of British coach Simon Jones.

In athletics, Gold Coast's world champion hurdler Sally Pearson is battling an Achilles' problem but Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake should provide fireworks in the absence of the retired Usain Bolt. Elaine Thompson also looks set to blaze to sprint gold for Jamaica, while South Africa flag-carrier Caster Semenya is said to be targeting the long-standing 800m record.— AFP



**GOLD COAST:** Performers take part in the opening ceremony of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games at the Carrara Stadium on the Gold Coast yesterday. — AFP



**GOLD COAST:** Australian singer Delta Goodrem performs in the opening ceremony of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games at the Carrara Stadium on the Gold Coast yesterday. — AFP

## Indian squash queen looks to hit cricket for six

**GOLD COAST:** Indian sporting celebrity Dipika Pallikal is hoping to put cricket in the shade back home by successfully defending her Commonwealth Games squash title—even if it upsets her cricketer husband.

The 26-year-old star, who is married to Indian cricket star Dinesh Karthik, made history in Glasgow four years ago when she won doubles gold with partner Joshna Chinappa-India's first medal in the sport.

Her wedding in 2015 was splashed across national media and made Pallikal a household name, although she made headlines by declaring she hated cricket. "I said that because I feel that every other sport is getting overshadowed by cricket," said Pallikal after arriving in Gold Coast to defend her title.

"It's kind of hard to try and concentrate on my career, as well as my husband's. We're all athletes and all have to be treated equally." The hope of squash overshadowing her husband's sport is likely to be a forlorn one in cricket-mad India.



Dipika Pallikal

But Pallikal, whose jet-setting lifestyle is followed by 255,000 users on Instagram, insists she doesn't follow cricket. "There's a lot more media, a lot more attention that comes with cricket and I now get it because I'm married to (a cricketer)," she said.

"For both of us, we're just trying to enjoy what we're doing right now. But to be honest I never watch him play." Pallikal will receive a

first-round bye in the Commonwealth Games singles competition before opening her campaign against Charlotte Knaggs of Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday.

In the doubles, she and Chinappa are seeded third and grouped alongside Wales, Pakistan and Malta as they chase back-to-back titles. Pallikal will also compete in the mixed doubles with Saurav Ghosal. — AFP

## English swimmers brace for Aussie assault at Games

**GOLD COAST:** England's swimmers are ready to fight fire with fire at the Commonwealth Games when they clash with a fearsome Australia team revved up by their home crowd. The English, spearheaded by Olympic breaststroke champion Adam Peaty, expect a rude reception from the Australians when the competition begins Friday, but their swimming boss promised they will rise to the occasion.

"Australia are a powerhouse, they're the team to beat," team leader Grant Robins told AFP in an interview. "They're strong across pretty much all the events and have a production line of swimming quality."

"It's going to be a hostile crowd," added the former Commonwealth Games competitor. "We've said 'You're going to walk out

here and it's going to be a hostile crowd'. We've said to the swimmers 'Stick to your game plan, soak up the atmosphere-but don't be afraid of it! It will be fun and enjoyable, but tough."

Australian athletes can be every bit as spiky as their crowds and the aggressive antics of their cricketers have sparked a public outcry following a recent ball-tampering scandal. Aussie swimmers are no shrinking violets either, but Robins insisted there would be "mutual respect" between the home team and their English rivals on the pool deck.

"It's a hard sport," he said. "But once you get to the cool room (before the race) there's no limits, it's every man for themselves." "But the Australian crowd are very well informed, they appreciate good quality racing and hopefully we can deliver and get a round of applause for appreciation if nothing else."

### 'JEWEL IN THE CROWN'

Robins predicted a strong showing from England's 32 swimmers, even if Britain's relay teams have had to be broken up under the Games format where the British home nations compete separately. "We've got to be careful

not to put everything on Adam Peaty-but he's our jewel in the crown," said Robins.

"He's an awesome athlete, a great role model. He's a hell of an athlete. He doesn't need to get out of bed and do this but he loves racing."

"But we've got some world-ranked people," added Robins. "Ben Proud obviously had a great world championships last year (50m butterfly gold) and James Guy had a good Olympics and world championships."

"Siobhan O'Connor, in the 200 individual medley, she's an Olympic silver medalist. We think she's going to be competitive so we've got some big-hitters. "Obviously some of our combined British relay teams have gone off to their home nations. There will be an opportunity for some people to step up and get their name in lights with Tokyo 2020 in mind."

But given the enormity of the task facing the English, Robins refused to say what their medal target was. "What I would like is for some of our newbies to step up," he said. "That would be the icing on our cake. We have got a medal target but that is stuck on my bedroom wall and we'll see." — AFP

## Alvarez cancels Golovkin rematch over drugs

**LOS ANGELES:** Saul "Canelo" Alvarez on Tuesday withdrew from his rematch against middleweight rival Gennady Golovkin over his failed drugs test but is optimistic the fight can be rescheduled later this year.

At a press conference in Los Angeles, Alvarez's promoters Golden Boy said the likely suspension for the failed tests made it impossible to stage the May 5 bout in Las Vegas. "We're going to have to cancel the May 5 rematch," Golden Boy Promotions president Eric Gomez said. "We've been advised that given the regulations in Nevada it's unlikely that Canelo will be cleared to fight in May."

"We're hoping that Canelo will be cleared to fight in the summer, allowing us to reschedule the fight in August or September." Mexican star Alvarez, who was already under suspension from the Nevada State Athletic Commission, insisted he was a "clean fighter".

"I am truly shocked about what has happened, and for those who have doubts and suspicions about my integrity I have always been and always will be a clean fighter," Alvarez said through an interpreter.

"I want to apologize to... everyone who is involved in the promotion of this event and especially to the fans. I respect this sport. I will always be a clean fighter." Alvarez and Golovkin fought to a controversial draw in their first meeting in Las Vegas last September, a fight most neutrals believed unified champion Golovkin had won.

Their rematch at the T-Mobile Arena next month was expected to be one of the biggest fights of 2018 but was thrown into uncertainty after it emerged Alvarez had tested positive for Clenbuterol on February 17 and 20.

### TAINTED MEAT?

Alvarez and Golden Boy had steadfastly denied any wrongdoing, saying the drug had entered the fighter's system inadvertently through contaminated meat in his native Mexico. The fight was initially expected to go ahead but was placed in jeopardy when the Nevada commission temporarily suspended Alvarez on March 23 and set a hearing date for April 10.

Nevada commission executive director Bob Bennett subsequently filed a formal complaint against Alvarez requesting that authorities consider a formal suspension against the Mexican fighter at a regularly scheduled meeting on April 18.

The T-Mobile Arena had already started offering refunds for tickets to the fight, venue owner MGM Resorts International said. Golovkin-who accused Alvarez of deliberately taking performance-enhancing drugs but was nevertheless ready to fight-said in a statement he planned to press ahead with a bout on May 5 against an as-yet unknown opponent.

"I am looking forward to returning to Las Vegas for my 20th title defense and headlining my first Cinco De Mayo event on May 5," Golovkin said in comments emailed to AFP.

"It is time for less drama and more fighting." Alvarez could in theory face up to a year's suspension for his failed drugs test. However, given it is a first offence, and provided he cooperates with Nevada investigators, he could see that sentence reduced to six months.

With drug sanctions in boxing backdated to the date of the failed test, a six-month ban would mean he would be free to reschedule his meeting with Golovkin on the Mexican Independence Day holiday weekend in early September—a popular slot for fights in Las Vegas.

Alvarez said he was ready to submit to extra drug-testing to prove he was clean. "I am sad and I feel powerless that I can't make this fight happen at this point," he said. "I'm willing to do whatever they request to prove that I'm a clean fighter. I have nothing to hide, I want to be transparent and open in this process." — AFP



## Sports

# LeBron James milestone as Cavaliers wobble Raptors

## Rockets go into the playoffs with the NBA's best record

LOS ANGELES: LeBron James recorded 27 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, and Cleveland knocked off Toronto for its ninth win in the past 10 games. Jose Calderon scored 19 points, and Kevin Love added 18 points and 15 rebounds for Cleveland, which has won four consecutive games. The Cavaliers maintained possession of third place in the Eastern Conference by a half-game over the Philadelphia 76ers. DeMar DeRozan had 19 points and seven assists for the Raptors, who have lost back-to-back games and five of their past eight. Toronto's Jonas Valanciunas registered 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Serge Ibaka added 16 points and 12 boards.

### MIAMI 101, HAWKS 98

Josh Richardson blocked two shots in the final two seconds to cap a Miami rally as the Heat earned a playoff berth with a 101-98 win over the visiting Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday. Trailing by eight with 2:50 left, Miami went on a 9-0 run and took a 99-98 lead on center Hassan Whiteside's layup with 58 seconds left. Goran Dragic scored 22 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Miami, and Whiteside had 18 points and 12 boards. John Collins led Atlanta with 19 points.



### Philadelphia cruise past Brooklyn for 11th straight win

### BUCKS 106, CELTICS 102

Giannis Antetokounmpo totaled 29 points, 11 rebounds and six assists as Milwaukee moved within one win of clinching the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot with a victory against visiting Boston. Chris Middleton had 20 points, nine assists and eight boards for Milwaukee, which holds a 4 1/2-game lead on the Detroit Pistons for the No. 8 seed. With four games to play, the Bucks could finish as high as the No. 6 seed. Jaylen Brown scored 24 points and Jayson Tatum added

20 for the Celtics, whose six-game winning streak ended. Boston remains two games behind East-leading Toronto ahead of a Wednesday matchup with the Raptors.

### 76ERS 121, NETS 95

JJ Redick scored 19 points, Marco Belinelli added 17 and Philadelphia cruised past visiting Brooklyn for its 11th straight win. Ben Simmons contributed 15 points, 12 rebounds and six assists, and Robert Covington had 12 points for the surging Sixers. Philadelphia last won 11 straight games in 1989-90. Spencer Dinwiddie led the Nets with 16 points while Jahliil Okafor added 15 and Joe Harris had 13. Nik Stauskas scored 13 points and DeMarre Carroll had 10 before leaving with an apparent injury in the third quarter.

### NUGGETS 107, PACERS 104

Nikola Jokic scored 30 points on 11-for-17 shooting to power Denver over visiting Indiana. The Nuggets, a half-game behind New Orleans for the final Western Conference playoff spot, have won three in a row. The Pacers, who saw a five-game winning streak end, are fifth in Eastern Conference and 1 1/2 games behind Philadelphia. Jokic chipped in with six rebounds and seven assists. Will Barton added 24 points and 10 rebounds for Denver. Victor Oladipo led the Pacers with 25 points.

### MAVERICKS 115, TRAIL BLAZERS 109

Dennis Smith Jr. led a balanced Dallas scoring attack with 18 points in a victory over visiting Portland. Six players scored in double figures—including Harrison Barnes, JJ. Barea and Yogi Ferrell with 15 points apiece—for the



CLEVELAND: LeBron James #23 of the Cleveland Cavaliers shoots the ball during the game against the Toronto Raptors at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP

Mavericks, who had lost eight of their previous nine games. Damian Lillard scored 29 points and was 15 of 15 from the free-throw line for the Trail Blazers, who had won in 17 of their previous 20 outings.

### JAZZ 117, LAKERS 110

Ricky Rubio scored 31 points on 10-of-16 shooting, dished out eight assists and collected six rebounds to lead Utah past Los Angeles in Salt Lake City. Donovan Mitchell added 26 points while Rudy Gobert chipped in 12 points, 16 rebounds and five assists. Six players scored in double figures to lead the Jazz to their third straight win. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 28 points and Kyle Kuzma had 26 for the Lakers.

### SUNS 97, KINGS 94

Josh Jackson scored a game-high 28 points as host Phoenix snapped a franchise-record 15-game losing streak by beating Sacramento. The Suns won for just the second time in the past 27 games. Bogdan Bogdanovic had 22 points and Justin Jackson added 19 points and eight rebounds for the Kings, who lost for the fifth time in six games. The Suns survived a furious late rally by Sacramento, which trimmed an 11-point lead with 3:19 left in the game to three points with 13.4 seconds to go. Justin Jackson missed a potential game-tying 3-pointer with 0.4 seconds left.

### BULLS 120, HORNETS 114

Sean Kilpatrick made a pair of 3-point baskets in the final four minutes as Chicago knocked off visiting Charlotte, an outcome that gave the Bulls their first three-game winning streak since mid-January. Chicago's Lauri Markkanen, who made five 3-pointers, scored 24 points, and Kilpatrick finished with 21 off the bench. Justin Holiday added 19 points for the Bulls. Dwight Howard's 23 points and 17 rebounds paced the Hornets, who lost their fourth game in a row. Malik Monk added 21 points off the Charlotte bench.

### MAGIC 97, KNICKS 73

Mario Hezonja had 19 points and Jamel Artis added 16 off the bench to lead Orlando over host New York, whose offensive output tied for its worst of the season. Tim Hardaway Jr. had 16 points and Trey Burke added 15 points to lead the Knicks, who lost their fourth straight game and fell for the sixth time in seven games. Orlando entered the game having lost 11 of its previous 13 games. The Magic, up by one at halftime took control in the third quarter, holding the Knicks to just 16 points, and then outscored New York 29-12 in a furious fourth-quarter rally. Orlando was spurred on in the fourth by Khem Birch, who had nine of his 11 points in the final quarter. Birch also finished with 10 rebounds. — Reuters

### ROCKETS 120, WIZARDS 104

James Harden scored 24 of his game-high 38 points in the first half as Houston put up 71 in the first two quarters and went on a lopsided victory over visiting Washington. The Rockets will go into the playoffs with the NBA's best record—they are now 63-15 — for the first time in team history. Houston saw its 11-game winning streak end on Sunday with a loss to the San Antonio Spurs, but the Rockets came out firing on Tuesday. Clint Capela added a double-double for the Rockets with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Bradley Beal paced the Wizards with 27 points.

### WARRIORS 111, THUNDER 107

Kevin Durant poured in 34 points and grabbed 10

## Pakistan invites England team back after 13 years

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's interior minister has invited the England cricket team to tour the country for the first time since 2005, after a successful visit by the West Indies amid improved security boosted hopes of an international revival.

A visit by a major Test-playing nation such as England would be hugely significant, in terms of both cricket as well as Pakistan's wider security and the message it hopes to send about its crackdown on extremism and militancy. Interior minister Ahsan Iqbal extended the invitation to UK High Commissioner Thomas Drew on Tuesday, urging the international community to recognise the strides Pakistan has made. "The successful staging of international matches in Pakistan is a clear proof that we have defeated terrorism and extremism," he said, according to an official statement. Drew said he was already looking forward to "this summer's big cricketing event", Pakistan's upcoming England tour.

"But I also hope that it will not be long before I can welcome an England team to Pakistan," he told AFP yesterday. "That really is something to look forward to." For years foreign teams refused to tour Pakistan, wracked by Islamist attacks. In 2009 an attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore drove international cricket from the country entirely, and their fixtures have been played in the United Arab Emirates.

But security has improved dramatically in recent years, and since 2015 Pakistan has hosted Zimbabwe, a World XI, Sri Lanka, the finals of its domestic T20 league for two years running and, most recently, the West Indies, for a short T20 series which finished on Tuesday.

The matches have been staged in both Lahore and Karachi, the cricket-obsessed country's two largest cities, both of which have been hit repeatedly by militant violence over the last decade. Head-of-state level security has been provided for visiting players, most of whom have come away praising the arrangements. Various military operations across the country have led to the increased security, particularly in the northwestern tribal region, where militants once operated with impunity.

But the US maintains that Pakistan is hosting militant safe havens in the northwest, accusations Islamabad denies; while critics warn that the country has not gone far enough in rooting out the long-term causes of extremism. — AFP

## Smith, Bancroft won't be challenging bans

SYDNEY: Former captain Steve Smith said yesterday he desperately wants to play for Australia again but will not be challenging a 12-month ban for a ball-tampering scandal that rocked cricket. Opening batsman Cameron Bancroft echoed similar sentiments, saying he was determined to earn back the trust of the Australian public. Cricket Australia last week suspended Smith and David Warner from all international and domestic cricket for a year, while Bancroft was suspended for nine months over the incident during the third Test in South Africa. All three players have admitted what they did was wrong and a wave of sympathy has been growing for Smith since his public apology, during which he broke down in tears.

The trio had until today to tell Cricket Australia whether they accepted their punishment or would opt for a hearing, as is their right. Warner has yet to comment but Smith, a golden boy who is compared to Donald Bradman for his batting exploits, took to social media to make clear he

would do his time.

"I would give anything to have this behind me and be back representing my country," he tweeted, in his first comments since the emotional press conference on his return to Australia last Thursday. "But I meant what I said about taking full responsibility as captain of the team. I won't be challenging the sanctions. They've been imposed by CA to send a strong message and I have accepted them." Smith—the world's number one Test batsman—was charged with knowledge of the potential ball-altering plan, while Warner was charged with developing the plot and instructing Bancroft to carry it out.

Since the scandal erupted, Smith has lost a lucrative Indian Premier League contract and has been dumped by sponsors. Bancroft, who used sandpaper to scratch the surface of the ball, said he had informed Cricket Australia he would serve his ban. "Today I lodged the paperwork with Cricket Australia and will be accepting the sanction handed down," he said on Twitter.

"I would love to put this behind me and will do whatever it takes to earn back the trust of the Australian public." The Australian Cricketers' Association on Tuesday called for the bans to be reduced, arguing the punishment was disproportionate to previous ball-tampering cases.

ACA president Greg Dyer pointed to

for the last two Tests. "Australia need new people who are passionate about the game in charge, but understand the game.

"Australia can be a force again, but need the right people involved. There is a huge opportunity now for players and people to be leaders. All positions are in jeopardy and need to be looked at, heads must roll." Warner put the heat on Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland and team manager of performance Pat Howard while analysing the series defeat, Fox Sports reported.

"Every single position on the field, off the field, starting from James Sutherland at the top, Pat Howard who is in charge of cricket excellence, all these people," Warner was quoted as saying.

"The coaches. Batting coaches—when are we going to produce a good batsman? "All these people need to be (held accountable), saying 'right - are they good enough for that position? Who else have we got to take their position?'" The Australian Cricketers' Association on Tuesday said the culture of Australian cricket must be addressed by an independent inquiry examining the game from top to bottom, reporting to both the players' union and Cricket Australia.

"Organisational culture comes from its leadership



JOHANNESBURG: South African fans hold banners as they mock Australia cricket players during day one of the fourth cricket Test match between South Africa and Australia at Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on March 30, 2018. Former captain Steve Smith broke down in tears and accepted complete responsibility for the ball-tampering scandal. — AFP

the separate International Cricket Council sanction, which suspended Smith for one Test and docked him his match fee. He also said the contrition expressed by players had been "extraordinary" and should be taken into account, urging a relaxation to

allow the men to return to domestic action sooner. With the World Cup and an Ashes series in 2019, supporters of the players believe they need to be playing state cricket to be in the type of form that could warrant selection. — AFP



Shane Warne

and it comes from the top. It cannot be grafted onto the bottom," president Greg Dyer said, as pressure grows for the role of cricket's top executives to also come under the spotlight. "Let us identify all the causes of the tipping point that occurred in Cape Town." — AFP



Sports

# Icardi denied as Inter Milan, AC Milan settle for derby draw

## Inter remains fourth in Champions League qualifying spot

**MILAN:** Captain Mauro Icardi missed a sitter and had a goal disallowed by the video assistant referee as Inter Milan and AC Milan drew 0-0 in the rain yesterday.

Inter remain fourth in the final Champions League qualifying spot, one point behind Roma, with AC Milan's hopes of elite European football next season taking a knock as they remain sixth.

The Milan derby had been rescheduled after last month's game was postponed following the death of Fiorentina captain Davide Astori, a former AC Milan player.

And before the game the fans joined in the minute's applause to honour another former Milan player and ex-England captain Ray Wilkins, who died earlier in the day aged 61.

Inter's Marcelo Brozovic and Antonio Candreva had early shots on goal but AC Milan went close on 21 minutes when Leonardo Bonucci's header from a free-kick was diverted away by the outstretched hand of Samir Handanovic.

Inter then thought they had taken the lead on 38 minutes when Icardi latched on to a Candreva through ball and tucked away under Bonucci's leg, but VAR ruled the Argentine to be offside.

After the break Inter threatened again when midfielder Ivan Perisic's cross bounced off the bar. Icardi, who has scored 24 times in Serie A this season, proved wasteful missing two chances midway through the second half, the first with the goal at his mercy and the second as he tried to set up Perisic, only for Gianluigi Donnarumma to intervene. Milan's Patrick Cutrone thought he had scored an acrobatic goal after 68 minutes but he too was deemed to be offside.

Inter next travel to Torino, who beat Crotone 4-1 yesterday, while Milan host Sassuolo who were held 1-1 by Chievo.

Earlier, in a clash between the bottom teams Mali forward Cheick Diabate scored a brace as Benevento beat Verona 3-0 for just their fourth win of the season.

Gaetano Letizia curled in the opener after 25 minutes. Diabate had a couple of chances to double Benevento's advantage before heading in the second after 66 minutes, picking up an Enrico Brignola cross for his second six minutes from time.

Benevento remain bottom with 13 points from 30 games with the loss a blow for Verona's hopes of staying in the top flight. —AFP



**MILAN:** AC Milan's Captain Italian defender Leonardo Bonucci (2nd R) heads the ball during the Italian Serie A football match AC Milan vs Inter Milan at the San Siro stadium in Milan yesterday. — AFP

### Sassuolo held to 1-1 draw by Chievo



## Former England captain Wilkins dies aged 61

**LONDON:** Ray Wilkins, who has died aged 61, achieved every English youngster's dream of captaining his country. He did that and more in a playing career which saw him grace the colours of boyhood club Chelsea, who he skippered at just 18, and Manchester United, where the midfielder displayed skills that few of his English peers could match. Wilkins also stopped off in Italy with AC Milan, in France with Paris Saint-Germain and Scotland at Rangers. With the game in his blood, Wilkins also even managed a brief spell as coach of Jordan. Affectionately nicknamed "Butch", Wilkins struggled when his playing career, which stretched the best part of 25 years, ended.

He fought a battle with alcohol, twice picking up drink-driving convictions. "Footballers who think they are something special are making a terrible mistake," said Wilkins who revealed he was an alcoholic in 2016.

"I always told my kids (he has two sons, Ross and Jade) I'm nobody but their dad. But I just don't cope well with rejection. "I was lucky enough to play until I was 40, 41. But when time decided I could no longer continue, I struggled in a way I'm sure a lot of sportsmen do.

"It's hard to replace what sport gives you. After QPR, I suffered badly with depression and it had an impact on the whole family." For Wilkins, who admitted to being hooked on Valium even during his Chelsea days in the 1970s, his losing battle with alcohol did not at least cost him his marriage. Jackie, who he met when she was a secretary at Chelsea, stood by him through thick and thin. Wilkins had appeared the least likely person to suffer from self-doubt as his days on the pitch saw him play with a swagger. Softly-spoken, he was a far more creative player than another of his nicknames, "The Crab", suggested. However, he sacrificed that both at club and international level to allow Bryan Robson the freedom to roam and get forward. Wilkins, who came from a footballing family, won 84 caps-skippering England 10 times.

But his international career was never to be rewarded with silverware. Indeed, for many, his most noteworthy moment in an England shirt was becoming the first England player to be sent off in a World Cup final—a rare moment of petulance seeing him throw the ball at the referee in a torrid 0-0 draw group phase match with



**MELBOURNE:** File photo shows Jordan's football coach Ray Wilkins (C) looks over his players as they train ahead of their next match at the AFC Asian Cup in Melbourne. — AFP

Morocco in 1986.

#### CHELSEA IN HIS VEINS

Inadvertently, his suspension allowed coach Bobby Robson to change his formation. Wilkins's replacement Peter Reid proved more than capable of standing in and transformed the team's fortunes to such an extent he was unable to regain his place for the Diego Maradona 'Hand of God' quarter-final against Argentina.

For such a storied career, the return of just one FA Cup medal in a 1983 replay romp over Brighton—he scored a sublime goal in the drawn match—and two trophies in

Scotland with Rangers seem little by way of reward.

But if that nagged at him, it was nothing compared to the upset and hurt that came when Chelsea sacked him as assistant coach early in the 2010/11 season just months after he and Carlo Ancelotti had guided the club to their first ever domestic double. "I slipped into a deep hole. That was my darkest time," he told the Daily Mail in 2014.

Ancelotti never forgot Wilkins's contribution. "Ray is one of those select few, always present, noble in spirit, a real blue-blood. Chelsea flows in his veins... without him we wouldn't have won a thing," Ancelotti wrote in his autobiography. —AFP

## Saudi sports chief backs North America 2026 World Cup bid

**RIYADH:** Saudi sports authority chief Turki al-Sheikh on Tuesday extended his support for a joint US-Canada-Mexico bid to host the 2026 World Cup, calling it a "strong" contender. The comment from Sheikh, an advisor to powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, came as he hosted United States Soccer Federation chief Carlos Cordeiro, who sought Saudi support for the joint bid in competition with Morocco.

"I was pleased to meet with the president of the American Football Association and chairman of the joint bid for US, Canada, Mexico, a strong bid for hosting World Cup 2026," Sheikh tweeted along with a picture of himself with Cordeiro, smiling and shaking hands. The comment comes as Prince Mohammed is on an elaborate tour of the United States, a key strategic ally and arms supplier of the kingdom. The US-Canada-Mexico bid has long been viewed as the favourite to stage the most prestigious tournament in football, which will expand to 48 teams for the 2026 finals. Morocco is in the running to stage the tournament, which will be awarded during a FIFA vote in Moscow shortly before this year's World Cup kicks off in June. Sheikh has tacitly implied before that Morocco made a mistake when they chose not to side with Saudi Arabia in its feud with Qatar.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt cut diplomatic and trade ties with Qatar last June, accusing Doha of bankrolling Islamist extremists and fostering ties with arch-rival Iran. Doha denies the charge. — AFP

## Monaco stumble at Rennes

**RENNES:** Rony Lopes scored for the sixth Ligue 1 game in a row yesterday but Monaco were held to a 1-1 draw by a Rennes side with European ambitions of their own. Joris Gnagnon put Rennes ahead on 20 minutes at Roazhon Park before Portugal international Lopes levelled on the half-hour with his seventh goal in his past six appearances.

Monaco extended their unbeaten league run to 16 matches, although the draw means Paris Saint-Germain could wrap up a fifth title in six seasons this weekend if results go their way. The trip to Rennes gave Monaco an opportunity to swiftly move on from Saturday's 3-0 defeat by PSG in the League Cup final, but the visitors made a poor start in Brittany. Sabri Lamouchi's men are locked in a five-way battle for a Europa League berth next season and forged ahead when defender Gnagnon turned in Sanjin Prcic's cross on the half-volley. —AFP

## Ulsan storm into AFC last 16 on good night for Korea, China

**HONG KONG:** South Korea's Ulsan Hyundai FC powered into the knockout stages of the AFC Champions League yesterday with a 6-2 demolition of Melbourne Victory, who crashed out. Ulsan will finish second in Group F behind Shanghai SIPG, who drew 1-1 at home to Kawasaki Frontale.

And on a great night for South Korean football, the 2016 winners Jeonbuk also clinched their berth with a 2-0 Group E win at Kashiwa Reysol in Japan. China's Tianjin Quanjian left it late to join them in the last 16 from Group E with the only goal against Kitchee in Hong Kong coming in the 89th minute from 30 million euro French import Anthony Modeste.

Ulsan were gifted a comical opening goal before the floodgates opened against the A-League side. Just 12 minutes had elapsed when striker Junior Negrao threw out a hopeful boot to block a clearance from Melbourne goalkeeper Lawrence Thomas, who was mortified to see the ball ricochet back over his head from the Brazilian and into the empty net. Lim Jong-eun got the second with a cool left-foot volleyed finish and Mislav Orsic thumped home a third before half-time to put the home side in complete control. Kim Seung-jun made it 4-0 for Ulsan 10 minutes after the break and Junior bagged his second before a

brief fightback from Melbourne.

The visitors scored twice in two minutes through Kenny Athiu and Kosta Barbarouses. But any fleeting hopes of an against-the-odds fightback were snuffed out when the Croatian Orsic thumped in his second to make it 6-2. Jeonbuk were grateful to another Brazilian striker, Ricardo Lopes, who got them up and running in front of a vociferous Kashiwa home support with a scrambled finish in the 16th minute.

Hugely popular veteran Korean striker Lee Dong-gook sealed qualification with a cool finish in the 77th minute.

The 38-year-old had been on the pitch for just 10 minutes when he sweetly struck a left-foot shot past Kazushige Kirihata to leave Kashiwa's qualification hopes at that stage dangling by a thread.

Kashiwa needed Kitchee to defeat the big-spending Tianjin in the later match but the Chinese Super League side broke Japanese hearts in the 89th minute when Modeste nodded in from close range to knock out both Kitchee and Kashiwa.

Tianjin are two points behind the Korean side and will play Kashiwa next week while Jeonbuk face Kitchee with those results determining who will finish top of the group.

In Shanghai, burly striker Hulk blazed a first-half penalty over the bar and fellow Brazilian Oscar was largely anonymous as the already-qualified SIPG laboured to a 1-1 against Group F stragglers Kawasaki Frontale.

SIPG eventually opened the scoring through Brazilian Elkeson's 68th-minute strike but it was cancelled out six minutes later by a Kei Chinen close-range header.

The draw was still enough to assure SIPG of finishing top of the group with Ulsan guaranteed second place with one round of matches remaining next week. —AFP



**SHANGHAI:** Kawasaki's Frontale forward Shuhei Akasaki (L) and Shanghai's SIPG defender Guan He vie for the ball during their AFC Asian Champions League group football match in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

Live		
Matches on TV		
(Local Timings)		
<b>UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE</b>		
Leipzig v Olympique Marseille	beIN SPORTS HD 4	22:05
Arsenal v CSKA Moscow	beIN SPORTS HD 2	22:05
Atletico de Madrid v Sporting	beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:05
Lazio v Red Bull Salzburg	beIN SPORTS HD 5	22:05



**12** Tokyo 2020 Olympics 'back on track' after rocky start

**13** Didgeridoo, heavy downpour at Commonwealth Games opening ceremony

**15** Former England captain Wilkins dies aged 61



## Liverpool stun City with 3-0 win

Prolific Salah, Oxlade-Chamberlain and Mane on target



LIVERPOOL: Manchester City's English midfielder Raheem Sterling (2R) vies with Liverpool's English midfielder Jordan Henderson (R) during the UEFA Champions League first leg quarter-final football match between Liverpool and Manchester City, at Anfield stadium in Liverpool, yesterday. — AFP

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool swept Manchester City aside with a three-goal blitz in 19 first-half minutes to take a commanding 3-0 first leg lead in their Champions League quarter-final. Champions-elect City lead Liverpool by 18 points in the Premier League, but their only league defeat this season came in a 4-3 thriller at Anfield in January, and they suffered an even worse fate yesterday to leave their hopes of winning the European Cup for a first time hanging by a thread. Just as in the January meeting between the sides, the prolific Mohamed Salah, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Sadio Mane were on target for the hosts. However, a perfect night for Liverpool was marred when Salah limped off with an injury early in the second half.

City could already be crowned English champions by the time the sides meet again for the second leg in six days' time should they beat local rivals Manchester

United on Saturday. However, it will take an extraordinary Etihad turnaround if they are to make just their second ever Champions League semi-final. City were well aware of the cauldron they were facing from the off as their team bus was battered by bottles and cans on their arrival at Anfield.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp was quick to apologise as were the club in a strongly-worded statement condemning the actions of their own supporters. The atmosphere was equally electric inside the stadium for Liverpool's first Champions League quarter-final for nine years. However, it didn't immediately appear to shake City out of their rhythm as the hosts controlled possession for the opening 10 minutes. City, though, remained susceptible to the speed of Liverpool's forwards and the visitors were caught out on the counter-attack on 12 minutes when Salah sprang Roberto

Firmino in behind the City defence and, after his initial effort was parried by Ederson, Firmino teed up Salah to smash home his 38th goal of the season.

### OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN ROCKET

City should have struck back straight away when Leroy Sane pulled his shot wide from the edge of the box as City outnumbered the Liverpool defence on a quick break of their own. However, they were soon swept away in the euphoria engulfing Anfield as Oxlade-Chamberlain pounced on a loose ball on the edge of the area and rendered Ederson helpless with a stunning strike from 20 yards. The composure that has characterised City's record-breaking Premier League season ebbed away as misplaced passes were gobbled up by wave upon wave of Liverpool attack.

A third duly arrived as Salah stood up a cross to

the far post for Mane to head in and take Liverpool's prolific front three's tally for the season to 77. Liverpool's night was soured when Salah limped towards the touchline eight minutes after the restart with a muscle injury that will make him a serious doubt for the second leg.

Guardiola turned to his bench moments later to introduce former Liverpool winger Raheem Sterling, who had been surprisingly left out from the start, to add even more spice to the atmosphere. The Liverpool faithful had to try and carry their tiring side over the line in the second half as City pressed relentlessly for an away goal that would get them back in the tie.

However, the precise passing that is often the trademark of Guardiola sides deserted the Catalan's charges as their final ball was consistently inches off target and Liverpool held out for a priceless clean sheet. — AFP

## Two own-goals help Barca take charge of q-final against Roma

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona can start planning for the Champions League semi-finals but their 4-1 win over Roma yesterday will not necessarily have rivals quivering in their boots. Two own-goals, from Daniele De Rossi and Kostas Manolas, and a close-range finish from Gerard Pique, presented the Catalans with a flattering 3-0 advantage at the Camp Nou before Edin Dzeko snatched Roma a late away goal.

But, just as the Italians looked to have grabbed a lifeline, Luis Suarez restored the three-goal cushion, by scoring a fourth in the 87th minute. It means Barca will head to Italy next week with a place in the last four firmly in their grasp but this was not a virtuoso attacking display. Instead, they benefited from two fortuitous own goals and some careless Roma finishing. Ernesto Valverde's side are unlikely to meet as generous an opponent in the semis. After Cristiano Ronaldo's spectacular bicycle kick for Real Madrid on Tuesday, even Lionel Messi, back from injury here, endured a slightly frustrating night, his shots and dribbles for once meeting opponents rather than the net.

Messi returned to the starting line-up after recovering from his hamstring complaint, as did Sergio Busquets, back after breaking

his toe against Chelsea three weeks ago. Roma's own midfielder enforcer Radja Nainggolan was missing with a hamstring strain.

Barca struggled for fluency in the first half, with Roma's nine-man defensive action largely successful in channelling their opponents' attacks down the centre, where the visitors were able to tackle, block and contain the space.

The only real early threat from Barca came through Ivan Rakitic's cross-shot, which curved without a touch all the way through to the far post, which it struck and bounced out. By then, Roma were unfortunate not to have had a penalty as Dzeko nipped in front of Nelson Semedo, who pushed the attacker in the back. Referee Danny Makkelie, however, was unmoved.

Instead, it was Barca who enjoyed the rub of the green when De Rossi attempted to cut out Andres Iniesta's pass to Messi. Facing goal, his leaping slide connected too well with the ball, which he stabbed past Alisson Becker and into his own net. Stodgy in the first half, Barca were sloppy at the start of the second as Semedo allowed Diego Perotti a free header at the back post and then Samuel Umtiti could have been punished for a moment of indecision in his own six-yard box.

But Roma were blunt in attack and they paid the price. In the 55th minute, a skimming cross from Rakitic was met by Umtiti five yards out and while his finish came back off the post, the ball deflected off Manolas and in. Four minutes later, it was 3-0. Messi's bending pass allowed Suarez a shot at goal and Alisson's parry fell at the feet of Pique, who side-footed home. — AFP

Roma looked to have found a way back into the contest when Dzeko nipped in to convert Perotti's cross but Suarez secured the victory and perhaps the tie. His namesake Denis Suarez supplied the cross and as the ball spilled loose, the Uruguayan needed no second invitation to find the net. — AFP



BARCELONA: Barcelona's French defender Samuel Umtiti (2L) heads the ball beside Roma's Bosnian striker Edin Dzeko during the UEFA Champions League quarter-final first leg football match between FC Barcelona and AS Roma at the Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona yesterday. — AFP



## Business

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018

**19** France hit by second day of rail chaos as strike bites**20** Boeing, Apple lead slide as China-US spat intensifies**21** Agility wins prestigious Sheikh Khalifa excellence award

KUWAIT: KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive) Faisal Al-Ayyar addresses annual Shafafiyah Investors' Forum.

# KIPCO will continue to diversify investments

## AGM approves a cash dividend of 10 fils per share, a 5% stock dividend

**KUWAIT:** At its Annual Shafafiyah 'Transparency' Investors' Forum, KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - said that the challenging operating environment was expected to continue to impact the performance of the Group companies in 2018, but that 2019 should mark the beginning of recovery. At the company's investors' forum, KIPCO presented a review of 2017 and its outlook for 2018 to an audience of shareholders, financial analysts and institutional investors.

The forum followed the company's General Assembly meeting where KIPCO's shareholders approved a cash dividend of 10 per cent (10 fils per share) and a 5 per cent stock dividend.

KIPCO announced that despite the challenges, 2017 was the company's twenty-sixth year of consecutive profitability and sixteenth year of dividend payment. KIPCO said that it was facing cost increases due to competition, especially in the media sector, in an environment of weakened consumer purchasing power and a slowdown in the GCC and across the MENA region that has had an impact on growth.

As part of its review of 2017, KIPCO spoke of the performance of its main operating companies. Burgan Bank was ranked number two among conventional banks in terms of loans and revenue. It recorded an operating profit growth of 8 percent, while the bank's non-performing loan ratio came to

2.7 percent and its capital adequacy ratio was at 16.2 percent.

For Gulf Insurance Group, gross written premiums (GWP) came to \$1.1 billion including Takaful businesses, for which it earned a rank among the top 10 insurers in the MENA region in terms of GWP. Its Standard & Poor's rating was also upgraded A-/Stable.

United Gulf Bank, following its corporate realignment to comply with Basel 3, recorded its twenty-seventh year of operational profitability. The newly-formed holding company - United Gulf Holding - raised bilateral loans amounting to \$190 million from regional banks.

As for OSN, the pay-tv company maintained its content from all major Hollywood studios. It launched the online distribution platform, WAVO, and forged seven partnerships with telecommunication companies and distributors.

KIPCO's real estate arm, United Real Estate, and investors from the Group acquired 38 percent of the land plots in Hessa Al Mubarak District, the comprehensive, mixed-use neighborhood being constructed over an area of 227,000 square meters. Its subsidiary, United Building Company, won contracts worth KD 35 mil-

lion, and URC also acquired Insha'a Holding which invests in the manufacture and supply of construction materials.

KIPCO underlined the continued validation of the company's strategies by the international market, as demonstrated by the successful issuance of a ten-year \$500 million

KIPCO also highlighted its continued commitment to its social responsibilities. This includes the ProfEgEs mentoring program, the KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs and the partnership with INJAZ-Kuwait to volunteer in schools and universities. The company has also completed the construction of The Late Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Al Sabah Stem Cell and Umbilical Cord Center, a KD 7 million donation to the Ministry of Health by the KIPCO Group through Masharee Al-Khair Charity Organization.

In its outlook, KIPCO said that it expected conditions in 2018 to be similar to those of the previous year, and that recovery should begin in 2019.

KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive), Faisal Al-Ayyar said: "The performance of our Group companies highlights the fact that the challenges that we faced are not structural, but rather the result of external elements such as competition in some cases, coupled with a weakened operating environment as the regional economies continue to suffer. We will continue to draw from the strengths embedded in our strategy - including prudent internal practices and diversified investments - as we continue to weather through 2018."



### Shafafiyah Forum reviews challenging external environment



## China retaliates, slaps duties on US soybeans, planes

**BEIJING/WASHINGTON:** China hit back quickly yesterday against US plans to impose tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods, retaliating with a list of similar duties on key American imports including soybeans, planes, cars, beef and chemicals in a move that sent global markets reeling.

Beijing moved with exceptional speed after US President Donald Trump's administration unveiled tariff plans targeting China, acting less than 11 hours later as the trade dispute between the world's two economic superpowers sharply escalated. US President Donald Trump, who has long charged that his predecessors served the United States badly in trade matters, rejected the notion that the tit-for-tat moves amounted to a trade war.

"We are not in a trade war with China, that war was lost many years ago by the foolish, or incompetent, people who represented the US," Trump wrote in a post on Twitter early yesterday. The latest developments sent shivers through global stock markets and commodities. Shares in US exporters of everything from food to planes were hammered with a list of

duties on key US imports including soybeans, planes, cars, beef and chemicals.

By mid-morning in New York, shares in US aerospace giant Boeing Co were down 3.3 percent while agricultural machinery maker Deere & Co had slipped 3.9 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.91 percent while the S&P 500 fell 0.59 percent. The US dollar also fell.

While Washington targeted products that benefit from Chinese industrial policy, including its "Made in China 2025" initiative to replace advanced technology imports with domestic products in strategic industries such as advanced IT and robotics, Beijing's appeared aimed at inflicting political damage. For example, the US farm belt strongly backed Trump in the 2016 US election.

Because the actions will not be carried out immediately, there may be room for maneuver. Publication of Washington's list starts a period of public comment and consultation expected to last around two months. The effective date of China's moves depends on when the US action takes effect.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in an interview with CNBC that it would not be surprising if the US and China trade actions led to negotiations, although he would not speculate on when this might happen. Investors were wondering, nonetheless, how far one of the worst trade disputes in many years could escalate.

"The assumption was China would not respond too aggressively and avoid escalating tensions. China's response is a surprise for some people," said Julian Evans-Pritchard, senior China economist at Capital Economics, noting that neither side had yet called for enforcement of the tariffs.

"It's more of a game of brinkmanship, making it clear what the cost would be, in the

hopes that both sides can come to agreement and none of these tariffs will come into force," said Evans-Pritchard.

US-made goods that appear to face added tariffs in China based, on an analysis of Beijing's list, include Tesla Inc electric cars, Ford Motor Co's Lincoln auto models, Gulfstream jets made by General Dynamics Corp and Brown-Forman Corp's Jack Daniel's whiskey. Unlike

Washington's list, which was filled with many obscure industrial items, China's list strikes at signature US exports, including soybeans, frozen beef, cotton and other key agricultural commodities produced in states from Iowa to Texas that voted for Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

Information technology products, from cell-phones to personal computers, largely escaped the latest salvo of US-China trade measures despite accounting for a significant portion of bilateral trade. China ran a \$375 billion goods trade surplus with the United States in 2017. Trump has demanded that the China cut the trade gap by \$100 billion.

### 'Weaken our will'

Beijing's action extended to tobacco and whiskey, both produced in states including Kentucky, home of US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, like Trump a Republican. "China is also trying to weaken our will by targeting certain segments of our economy," White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said in an interview with National Public Radio.

"But let's remember: we buy five times more goods than they buy from us. They have a lot more to lose in any escalation in this matter." Beijing's list of 25 percent additional tariffs on US goods covers 106 items with a trade value matching the \$50 billion targeted on Washington's list. China's commerce and finance ministries said. —Reuters



NANTONG: Workers walk past imported soybeans at a port in Nantong in China's eastern Jiangsu province yesterday. — AFP



Business

# Eurozone unemployment falls, economic recovery gains pace

## Jobless rate drops to 8.5% in February

**BRUSSELS:** Europe's economic recovery is gaining pace, with eurozone unemployment at its lowest level since December 2008 and inflation on the rise, official figures showed yesterday.

The EU's official statistics agency said the jobless rate in the single currency area fell to 8.5 percent in February, down from 8.6 percent in January. Eurostat said inflation in the eurozone jumped to 1.4 percent in March, a leap from February's 1.1 percent. That edges inflation closer to the European Central Bank's (ECB) target although it is still a way off the desired 2.0 percent. The data are in line with other recent statistics that suggest the European economy is growing at a solid pace after years of weak recovery following the debt crisis. The steady decline in joblessness comes on the back of three years of massive support from the ECB to help the 19-country single currency zone survive the eurozone debt crisis.

The ECB has bought more than two trillion euros (\$2.46 trillion) worth of bonds during that time, helping trigger growth but struggling to push inflation towards its 2.0 percent goal. In a sign of growing confidence in the eurozone recovery, the ECB last month dropped a long-standing pledge that it stood ready to ratchet up bond-buying again if needed-taking a small step towards the stimulus exit door.

But inflation remains well below the central bank's 2.0 percent target, which may give ECB head Mario Draghi second thoughts about turning the stimulus off completely this year. "The ECB will tread very cautiously in raising interest rates," said economist Jessica Hinds of Capital Economics. "We have pencilled in the first hike for September 2019, which is later than investors seem to expect." There were

also regional differences in unemployment, which remained high in Greece at 20.8 percent in December, the last month for which figures were available, Spain at 16.1 percent, and Italy at 10.9 percent. German unemployment remained super-low at 3.5 percent in February, with the Netherlands dropping to 4.1 percent. The youth unemployment rate was also trending downward. In February, youth unemployment was 17.7 percent in the euro area, down from 19.4 percent the same month in 2017.

**'Unacceptably high'**

But rates for people under 25 years old remained high in Spain at 35.5 percent in February, down from 40.8 percent a year earlier, and in Italy at 32.8 percent, down from 35.2 percent in February 2017. Greece's rate was a whopping 45 percent in December 2017, the last month for which youth figures were available, down slightly from 46.7 percent in February 2017. "The level of youth unemployment in a number of countries is unacceptably high," European Commission deputy spokesman Alexander Winterstein told reporters. "It will not induce young people to be enthusiastic about Europe," he said when asked if it could hurt during national elections and in European Parliament elections in 2019. During the worst of the debt crisis in 2013, eurozone unemployment reached a record 12.1 percent. Since then, the economic situation has slowly improved, but unemployment remains much higher than the average rate before the crisis, when it was 7.5 percent. Economic growth in the 19-country eurozone hit 2.3 percent in 2017, the highest level in a decade. —AFP



**AMSTERDAM:** Netherlands politician Roger van Boxtel (second right) and Eurostar Chief Executive Mike Cooper (second left) shake hands after the arrival of a Eurostar train at Amsterdam central station in Amsterdam yesterday, the first direct train from Britain to The Netherlands. —AFP

## Nigeria CB holds key rate after months of limbo

**ABUJA:** Nigeria's central bank held its repo rate at 14 per cent in its first meeting this year yesterday after a political standoff between the executive and the senate prevented a quorum for months.

"The committee decided unanimously" to retain the rate, said central bank governor Godwin Emefiele. Inflation has been steadily coming down in West Africa's largest economy, opening the door for easing monetary policy, though there are still concerns about foreign-exchange pressures. "We think that rates will be cut later this year but they'll wait for inflation to ease a little bit before moving," said John Ashbourne, Africa economist at London-based Capital Economics. Emefiele said in January that he would look at cutting interest rates if inflation-currently well outside the target band of 9 per cent at 14 per cent-is hovering closer to single digits. "I want to think that between the end of the first and second quarter, we should begin to see easing," Emefiele said in an interview. "I don't think they'll wait until (the interest rate) is back within target," said Ashbourne, "he's been making statements that are quite dovish so I think he's chomping at the bit to make a cut."

Since its last meeting in November, several new members have joined the committee, and they were finally approved by the senate at the end of March.

In a spat typifying political dysfunction in Nigeria, the senate refused to confirm the committee members in protest of President Muhammadu Buhari's earlier appointment of anti-graft head Ibrahim Magu. After being deadlocked for months, the senate finally "decided to do the right thing", according to a senate source, and confirmed the new members. Nigeria is recovering from its worst recession in 25 years after the crash in global oil prices in 2014. As a result of increased oil revenue, Nigeria's economy expanded 0.8 per cent in 2017, but growth in non-oil sectors remains tepid. —AFP

## Centrepnt partners with Anghami to launch new talent sessions



**KUWAIT:** The region's largest fashion retailer, Centrepnt, has joined forces with Anghami - the leading music streaming platform in the Middle East (exclusively represented by DMS) for a new season of Anghami Sessions. The collaboration will see the retailer supporting the popular concept, with the aim of nurturing musical talent from the region.

Centrepnt's recently launched brand campaign, Show Yourself, is centred on the belief that fashion can build confidence and reduce self-doubt. The partnership, facilitated by leading media planning agency, Wavemaker Global, is now set to bring this to life - with a series of eight Anghami Sessions beginning in April 2018 for the next 18 months.

In support of up-and-coming artists, the Anghami Sessions powered by Centrepnt will provide musicians with a recording space where they can record live sets whilst also streaming their music for the public to hear. In addition to the sessions, the campaign will incorporate online advertising, social media campaigns and PR. Planned bespoke activity includes a dedicated Show Yourself page on the Anghami website and app with content from the Sessions.

Simon Cooper, Head of Centrepnt, said: "Fostering

aspiring talent and helping people achieve their ambitions is a commitment that we feel very strongly about. Our partnership with Anghami, reflects the message behind our Show Yourself campaign, and we are pleased to be able to support them in championing great artistic talents here in the region. We are very much looking forward to a great year of music through Anghami Sessions and hope that our customers will all enjoy it along with us." Anghami is known for providing unlimited and personalised Arabic and International music seamlessly on-the-go via mobile as well as web. Through Anghami Sessions, which are produced in the UAE and Lebanon, the streaming service also provides a musical podium for aspiring artists to showcase their talent and reach their 50+ million users across the Middle East and North African region. Anghami Co-Founder, Eddy Maroun adds: "We are always looking to work with brands with whom we have shared values and have music as a core part of their strategy. With Centrepnt, and especially considering its new Show Yourself brand positioning, we feel we have a perfect fit for Anghami Sessions to reach a new audience of music fans. We are excited to be presenting great music from, local artists and we thank Centrepnt for partnering with us."

## In Africa, scant data protection leaves Internet users exposed

**NAIROBI/LAGOS:** In Kenya, which has a large and fast growing population of Internet users, there are no specific laws or regulations to protect the privacy of those individuals. Kenya is not alone in Africa, which as a region has clocked the world's fastest growth in Internet use over the past decade. Unlike in Europe and the United States, where data-privacy laws provide a level of protection to consumers, many Africans have little or no recourse if a data breach occurs because often legal and regulatory safeguards don't exist. Recent revelations about British analytics firm Cambridge Analytica, which Facebook says improperly accessed personal data of about 50 million of the social networks users in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, have also touched the African continent.

Cambridge Analytica or its parent company SCL Group worked on the 2013 and 2017 campaigns of Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta. The company was also hired to support the failed re-election bid of then-president Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria in 2015, according to Britain's Guardian newspaper. A spokesman for the Nigerian president said on Monday that the country's government will investigate allegations of improper involvement by Cambridge Analytica in the 2007 and 2015 elections. Kenya's ruling Jubilee party told Reuters that it had hired SCL for "branding" in the 2017 presidential election but did not elaborate on the precise nature of the work.

Cambridge Analytica didn't respond to a request for comment. The company has suspended its chief executive pending what it said would be a full, independent investigation. Growth of Internet use in Africa, a continent of 1 billion people, has been fuelled by rapidly expanding mobile broadband networks and ever more affordable phones. That presents a major growth opportunity for Internet companies such as Facebook, which currently sees some 123 million people across sub-Saharan Africa accessing its social network platform monthly.

While some governments on the continent have responded to these rapid changes - rights campaigners welcomed a data-protection law passed by South Africa 2013 - many have not. —Reuters

### EXCHANGE RATES

**Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.**

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
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

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.133
Qatari Riyal	82.534
Omani Riyal	780.405
Bahraini Dinar	797.930
UAE Dirham	81.837

ARAB COUNTRIES	
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

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
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

GOLD	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

**Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd**

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
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

**BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL**

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.417370	0.424870
Czech Korune	0.006542	0.015842
Danish Krone	0.045418	0.050418
Euro	0.363220	0.371720
Georgian Lari	0.125104	0.125104
Hungarian 0.001090	0.001280	
Norwegian Krone	0.034278	0.039478
Romanian Leu	0.062183	0.079033
Russian ruble	0.005212	0.005212
Slovakia	0.008928	0.018928
Swedish Krona	0.031753	0.036753
Swiss Franc	0.307103	0.318103
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.222940	0.234940
New Zealand Dollar	0.212430	0.221930
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.229577	0.238577
US Dollars	0.296600	0.301020
US Dollars Mint	0.297100	0.301020

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003190
Chinese Yuan	0.046271
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036223
Indian Rupee	0.004099
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017
Japanese Yen	0.002735
Korean Won	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.073720
Nepalese Rupee	0.003000
Pakistani Rupee	0.002500
Philippine Peso	0.005673
Singapore Dollar	0.223519
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001605
Taiwan	0.010180
Thai Baht	0.009290
<b>Arab</b>	
Bahraini Dinar	0.790982
Egyptian Pound	0.014082
Iranian Riyal	0.000083
Iraqi Dinar	0.000202
Jordanian Dinar	0.419500
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000148
Moroccan Dirhams	0.023294
Omani Riyal	0.774721
Qatar Riyal	0.078305
Saudi Riyal	0.079100
Syrian Pound	0.001274
Tunisian Dinar	0.122119
Turkish Lira	0.070439
UAE Dirhams	0.080444
Yemeni Riyal	0.000977



Business

# France hit by second day of rail chaos as strike bites

## Unions reject government plans for SNCF reforms

**PARIS:** Millions of French commuters suffered a second consecutive day of travel chaos yesterday as striking rail workers locked horns with President Emmanuel Macron's government in a dispute over reforming the state-owned SNCF railways.

Commuters in and around Paris pushed their way onto the few trains running during the rush-hour while many platforms in the French capital's busiest stations lay empty.

SNCF data at midday showed the number of drivers on strike fell slightly yesterday, though more signalmen and conductors had walked out than a day earlier. Across the company, including administrative and sales staff, the participation rate dipped.



### Macron move to reform ailing rail company in jeopardy

Macron wants to transform the heavily indebted rail company, which loses 3 billion euros (\$3.7 billion) each year, into a profit-making public service able to withstand foreign competition when its monopoly ends in 2020 in line with European Union rules.

Unions reject plans to end rail workers' special privileges, including job-for-life guarantees and early retirement, and complain the government is paving the way for privatizing the SNCF.

Macron, a former investment banker, has set a summer deadline for the overhaul to be completed.

"I don't understand the strike. Some say we want to break up public services and it's simply wrong," Julien Denormandie, a junior minister in Macron's government, told BFM TV. In taking on the rail unions, Macron is treading where past presidents have either failed or steered clear, determined to cement his image as a fear-

less and indefatigable moderniser of the French economy. The battle's outcome could define Macron's presidency with trade unions, already badly bruised by his success in liberalizing labor regulations last autumn, also needing to score a win.

#### Time to talk debt

Other protest movements are also simmering, with university students, public workers, garbage collectors and pensioners all angry at Macron's social and economic reform agenda. So far, though, they have shown no sign of coalescing into a single, more potent movement, just as France prepares to mark the 50th anniversary of the May 1968 anti-establishment revolt that transformed the nation.

Yesterday, only one in seven high-speed TGV trains were running - slightly more than on Tuesday - and one in five trains on overground commuter lines into Paris, similar to Tuesday's levels. The unions plan to strike two days in every five over the next three months.

"It's not our aim to frustrate rail passengers. Our goal is to find a way out of this row, to sit down and negotiate and find real solutions," said Roger Dillenseger of the UNSA-Railways union.

The SNCF said the participation rate fell to 30 percent of staff from 34 percent on Tuesday. However, the number of striking conductors and signal-box workers - considered essential for running services - climbed by 8 and 7 percentage points respectively.

Before the strike, the government offered small con-



**PARIS:** Commuters stand on a crowded platform of the Gare de Lyon railway station yesterday in Paris, on the first day of a two days strike. — AFP

cessions, including delaying the opening of SNCF networks to foreign companies as long as legally possible and dropping plans to push some aspects of the reform through by decree.

It has, however, said it will not discuss how much of the SNCF's 46 billion euro debt pile the Treasury will assume until a deal is reached on employment benefits, prompting union accusations that it negotiating "with a

gun to their heads".

Transport Minister Elisabeth Borne faced calls yesterday from within Macron's ruling Republic on the Move (LREM) party to address the issue earlier. "It is important that the government says how, when and under what conditions the SNCF's debt will be taken over," Jean-Baptiste Djebbari, parliamentary rapporteur on SNCF reform, told Europe 1 radio. — Reuters

## Morocco's new Tanger-Med port running at full speed

**TANGIERS, Morocco:** Home only to grazing sheep just a decade or so ago, a stretch of Moroccan coastline near Tangiers is now abuzz as its new port presses full speed ahead towards expansion.

Inaugurated in 2007, the Tanger-Med port complex, not far from the Strait of Gibraltar, handled 51.3 million tons of cargo-on a par with the Port of London.

Its industrial park, connected to a free-trade zone, is creating jobs at a rate that "exceeds expectations", according to port chief Jaafar Mrhardy.

With 750 companies and thousands of employees, it generated 5.5 billion euros (\$6.8 billion) of revenue in 2017. The port's strategic location, growing industrial zone and cheaper local labor have attracted shippers, truckers and businessmen alike, but its ambitions do not stop there.

Tanger-Med, which expects its Tanger Med II extension to triple container capacity by 2019, is aiming to become the Mediterranean's top port. "We are positioning ourselves as a 'best cost' country," said Mrhardy, "with proximity to European markets and very competitive costs."

#### 2.8 million travellers

Bulldozers are working on embankments, and three gigantic gantry cranes have already been delivered. Even in bad weather, the Spanish port of Algeciras is clearly visible on the other side of the strait. On one of the Tanger-Med I docks, a massive wind turbine produced by a local branch of Spanish renewable energy giant Siemens Gamesa was awaiting delivery. Nearby, security guards with a sniffer dog scanned cars as they boarded a ferry bound for Italy.

The port's passenger terminal handled 2.8 million passengers last year. During peak sea-



**TANGIERS:** A ferry docked at the Renault port in Ksar Sghir, near the northeastern Moroccan port city of Tangiers. — AFP

son, it receives up to 33,000 passengers and 9,000 vehicles per day, said Hassan Abkari, director of the port's passenger division. He said the new port has helped to reduce waiting times and to unclog Tangiers' city centre. Trucks now use a motorway junction that bypasses Tangiers city, 50 kilometres (30 miles) away. About 290,000 semi-trailers passed through Tanger-Med just last year.

Day and night, teams of trucks loop between the docks of the port complex, the storage warehouses and the companies in the industrial zone. The workshops of "Still Nua Fashion", in an alley of the free-trade industrial zone, receive containers of fabric from China and Turkey. Designs made in Ireland are cut and sewn, ready for shipment to the United States and Britain.

"We are in the 'fast-fashion' (business)," said Naoual el-Mlih, Still Nua's energetic director. "With very short delivery times, the proximity of the port is crucial."

#### 'Time is money'

For Mohammed Ali Enneffer, a Tunisian who leads a branch of the French cable production company Acome, the port's strategic

placement is key. "Time is money. It used to take three weeks to reach Hamburg, now it's 10 to 12 days," he said of the link with the German port city.

"The connections are direct. We can receive or remove a container in less than 24 hours." French car manufacturer Renault, which opened a plant in Tanger-Med in 2012, exported more than 300,000 cars last year to the 74 countries served by the port. Its site employs 8,600 people and "100 percent of the staff is Moroccan", boasted factory director Jean-Francois Gal.

Next year, the port expects to also export cars built in a new Peugeot factory in Kenitra, 200 kilometres to the south, said Rachid Houari, another Tanger-Med director.

Beyond the logistics and customs facilities offered by the port's free-trade zone, the cost of Moroccan labour is another major draw. "Our parent company in Ireland employs 75 people, at a total cost equal to that of our branch, which has 400 employees," said Mlih of Nua Fashion. The company plans to move its design services from Dublin to Tangiers, joining a growing crowd of outfits making the same jump. — AFP

Vieira da Silva said that although most of the Portuguese crews' contracts were signed under Irish jurisdiction, the EU Treaty of Rome still guarantees worker rights under local legislation have to be respected. "If any of the rights, not just the right to strike, have been compromised, an investigation has to be carried out on a case by case basis to apply this article of the Treaty of Rome ... And this is what the Authority for Labor Conditions will assure with all the means at its disposal."

The inspectors were also looking into union allegations that Ryanair had illegally replaced striking crews with staff brought in from other countries. The minister said some such replacements are perfectly legal while others are not, so the issue required examination. SNPAC said representatives of cabin crew unions from Spain, Italy and Germany were in Portugal to give support and called for talks to discuss a joint strike at Ryanair. — Reuters

## Ryanair cancels flights in Portugal after cabin crew strike

**LISBON:** Ryanair cabin crew held a third one-day strike in Portugal over worker rights yesterday, prompting 11 flight cancellations and a government promise to investigate alleged violations.

Inspectors from the state Authority for Labor Conditions were monitoring the strike in the country's main airports in Lisbon, Porto and Faro. Labor Minister Jose Vieira da Silva told a parliamentary committee. The SNPAC

## Oracle names Draghmeh as country leader

**KUWAIT:** Oracle yesterday announced the appointment of Omar Draghmeh as the new Regional Country Leader for Kuwait and Bahrain. Omar will be responsible for accelerating the adoption of Oracle Cloud solutions, identify new growth opportunities and enhance engagement with key stakeholders in the country.

"Digital transformation in Kuwait is on the rise as businesses and public sector organizations now realize that Cloud solutions offer them unmatched speed, value and return on investment (ROI). IDC in fact estimates that IT spending in Kuwait will reach \$1.7 billion in 2018," said Abdul Rahman Al-Thehaiban, Senior Vice President - Technology, Middle East and Africa, Oracle. "Omar joins Oracle at a pivotal time, when we are witnessing rapid

adoption of Oracle Cloud in Kuwait and our customers are looking to initiate transformative projects using our latest Cloud innovations. We are confident that under Omar's leadership, Oracle will emerge as the preferred Cloud vendor in the country."

With more than 25 years of experience across key leadership roles in the region, Omar joins Oracle from Hewlett Packard where he held the role of Managing Director and Enterprise Group GM - Kuwait and Bahrain. Previously, Omar was the Director for Government Sector at Microsoft Saudi Arabia.

The Oracle Cloud offers complete SaaS application suites for ERP, HCM and CX, plus best-in-class database Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) from data centers throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia.



Omar Draghmeh

## US services sector activity slows; private payrolls rise

**WASHINGTON:** US services sector activity slowed in March, held down by a drop in new orders, while private employers maintained a brisk pace of hiring. The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said yesterday its non-manufacturing activity index fell 0.7 point to a reading of 58.8 last month. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in the sector, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity. March's moderation in services industry activity reflected a 5.3 points decline the new orders subindex. The ISM's employment measure increased 1.6 points. There were also increases in the backlog of orders and import measures last month.

Separately, the ADP National Employment Report showed private payrolls increased by 241,000 jobs in March after rising 246,000 in February. Last month's increase beat economists' expectations for a 205,000 gain. The ADP report, which is jointly developed with Moody's Analytics, was published ahead of the government's more comprehensive employment report for

March due on Friday.

According to a Reuters survey of economists, nonfarm payrolls likely increased by 195,000 in March after surging 313,000 in February. The unemployment rate is forecast falling one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.0 percent in March. US financial markets were little moved by the data as investors fretted over escalating trade tensions between the United States and China. The dollar was trading lower against a basket of currencies. Stocks on Wall Street fell while prices for long-dated US Treasuries rose. In a third report the Commerce Department said factory goods orders increased 1.2 percent in February amid strong demand for transportation equipment and a range of other products, nearly unwinding January's revised 1.3 percent decline. Orders surged 7.9 percent on a year-on-year basis in February.

Manufacturing, which accounts for about 12 percent of US economic activity is being supported by strong domestic and global demand, but a shortage of skilled workers and capacity constraints could hurt factory output. A survey on Monday showed a slight ebb in sentiment among manufacturers amid rising concerns over labor shortages and the supply chain. Manufacturers also reported that tariffs on steel and aluminum imports imposed by President Donald Trump in early March were raising prices, "causing panic buying" and "leading to inventory shortages for non-contract customers." — Reuters



Business

# Boeing, Apple lead slide as China-US spat intensifies

## Dollar slides, oil slips and gold jumps

**NEW YORK:** Boeing and Apple led a slide in big U.S. manufacturers and technology companies yesterday, bearing the brunt of a deepening trade conflict between China and the United States. China and the United States announced tariffs on \$50 billion of each others' imports. But, while Washington's list covers many obscure industrial items, Beijing's covers 106 key US imports including soybeans, planes, cars, and chemicals. The speed with which the trade struggle between the two countries is ratcheting up - China took less than 11 hours to respond with its own measures - led to a sharp selloff in global stock markets and commodities.

At 9:44 am ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 399.81 points, or 1.66 percent, at 23,633.55. The S&P 500 fell 28.57 points, or 1.1 percent, at 2,585.88 and the Nasdaq Composite was down 75.51 points, or 1.09 percent, at 6,865.77.

The S&P opened and stayed below its 200-day moving average, a key support level watched by traders technical analysts, while the Dow held just above that mark. The Nasdaq dipped into negative territory for the year. "Tariffs by themselves and an escalating trade war would certainly have deleterious effects on just about everything," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Cresset Wealth in Chicago.

The declines were broad based. All 30 Dow components were lower. About 469 of the S&P 500 components were lower. The industrials index's 1.8 percent slide was the most among the 11 major S&P sectors, as has been the case since the trade war fears surfaced.

Shares of Boeing, the single largest U.S. exporter to China, tumbled 4 percent. Caterpillar fell 3 percent.

Ford, General Motors, Fiat Chrysler and Tesla fell between 0.8 percent and 1.88 percent. While manufacturers were the bigger losers as a group, the technology sector's 1.74 percent drop weighed the most on the market.

Major tech names Apple and the FANG group - Facebook, Amazon, Netflix and Alphabet were down between 1.4 percent and 2.6 percent.

Chipmakers, many of which have the highest revenue exposure to China among S&P 500 companies, also fell. All components of the Philadelphia chipmakers index were lower, led by AMD's 5 percent drop. "As a sector, technology has the most to lose from a world in which global trade is restricted and of course, some of the subjects of the tariffs, will also be hit," said Rick Meckler, president of investment firm LibertyView Capital Management in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Among the few bright spots was Lennar, whose shares jumped 6.2 percent after the homebuilder's quarterly revenue beat estimates as it sold more homes at higher prices.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by a 9.42-to-1 ratio on the NYSE and a 5.74-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq. In Europe, London's FTSE, Paris's CAC40 and the export-heavy German DAX fell between 0.6 percent and 1.2 percent. "The market should be focused on it because it's (U.S. protectionist measures are) bad news," fund manager Ashmore's head of research, Jan Dehn, said.

Trump denied yesterday that the United States was in a trade war with China. The Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development's head

Angel Gurria said the US exports \$150 billion of goods a year to China whereas China exports \$500 billion to the US, meaning China's tariffs were therefore not proportional.

The swing in risk sentiment put the pep back into bonds, with yields on US 10-year Treasury debt down three basis points at 2.75 percent. Borrowing costs also nudged lower in Europe even as the first March reading on euro zone inflation, important data for markets as the European Central Bank looks to wind down its massive monetary stimulus, came in firm at 1.4 percent.

Benchmark Bund yields slipped back under 0.50 percent, just off 2-1/2 month lows hit last week.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan had spent most of its session dithering either side of flat before ending 0.3 percent lower. China's retaliation came after trading hours for Japan's Nikkei, which added 0.2 percent in thin volumes and Chinese blue chips ended down 0.2 percent. South Korea saw the big move, dropping 1.4 percent.

Emerging market stocks, which have proved resilient to trade tensions, tumbled 1.6 percent and turned negative on the year. EMini futures for the S&P 500 were also pointing to New York opening between 1.5 percent and 1.8 percent down. Boeing shares fell 7.2 percent in pre-market trading. China's duties on major U.S. imports included aircraft.

### Factories fade

The dollar dropped to 106.14 yen, after edging up from a low of 105.70 on Tuesday. The euro hovered at \$1.2287, after easing from a high of \$1.2335 overnight,

while the dollar index was 0.2 percent lower at 90.

"It is not our view to expect risk aversion to sustainably rise, even though nervousness is indeed high," Credit Agricole currency strategist Manuel Oliveri said in the Reuters Global Markets Forum. The Mexican peso and Canadian dollar both held firm after hitting a nearly five-month and five-week highs respectively in recent days on growing optimism about the prospect of a NAFTA trade deal.

Investors also seemed to be keeping their nerve on the global economic outlook after a host of manufacturing surveys (PMIs) showed some slowing, but from lofty levels in many regions. Activity in Japan's service sector also grew at its slowest pace in 17 months last month. British shop prices dropped at the fastest pace for more than a year while Australian February building approvals fell 6.2 percent.

"If global PMIs slow and avoid overheating concerns, that is good for risk appetite. If they slow for 'the wrong reasons' like trade protectionism, that is much more worrying," Deutsche Bank global strategist Alan Ruskin said. "The March data is at the most a very early warning shot for policymakers not to get too complacent on global growth resilience," he said.

Trade wars were a particular concern for developing Asia, where South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, China, Indonesia, and India reported a slowing in factory activity.

In commodity markets, gold jumped 0.85 percent to \$1,343 an ounce, recovering some of Tuesday's losses. Oil prices slipped with Brent crude futures off 97 cents to \$67.14 a barrel, while U.S. crude fell 98 cents to \$62.51 a barrel. —Reuters

## Lebanon hopes to raise billions to keep economy afloat

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon is hoping to raise billions of dollars at a France-led donor meeting on Friday to stave off an economic crisis in the world's third most indebted country.

Growth in the small Mediterranean country has plummeted in the wake of repeated political crises, compounded by the 2011 breakout of civil war in neighboring Syria.

The Syrian war has sent one million Syrian refugees in flight to Lebanon, a country of only four million before the conflict. The Paris conference comes as Lebanon gears up for its first general elections in almost a decade in May, after parliament renewed its own mandate three times since 2009.

The Middle Eastern country hopes donor countries and financial institutions at the CEDRE conference will help stimulate the economy through investment.

Lebanon hopes to raise "between \$6 billion and \$7 billion in the shape of credit facilities and funds," Nadim Munla, an adviser to Prime Minister Saad Hariri, has said.

Parliament last week adopted a 2018 government budget, projecting a deficit of \$4.8 billion—more than double the deficit in 2011, when

Syria's war started. Economist Paul Doueiby says this growing budget shortfall means "the probability of a systemic crisis is now higher than ever". To avoid bankruptcy, the state should "urgently" reduce its spending, he and others say.

### 'State keeps' spending

"But the state keeps increasing its expenses," Doueiby says.

In July, parliament approved an increase in public salaries, estimated to cost more than \$1 billion per year. Nassib Ghobril, head researcher at Byblos Bank, says the state has also given jobs to 26,000 new employees over the past three years.

In February, the International Monetary Fund warned that Lebanese authorities needed to address "rapidly rising" public debt.

It stood at 150 percent of GDP in 2017 — the third highest worldwide after Japan and Greece, the international body said. With a budget deficit last year equivalent to more than 10 percent of GDP, the IMF signalled a "critical need for a fiscal consolidation plan" and cuts in spending.

On top of budget trouble, fears remain over the devaluation of the national currency.

The central bank in November drew more than \$800 million from its foreign reserves to maintain the fixed exchange rate of around 1,500 Lebanese pounds to the dollar, in place since 1997.

But structural factors behind the currency's fragility persist, experts say.

With Lebanon importing more goods and services than it exports, the pound is artificially

overvalued, they say. This is likely to continue with the current account deficit "expected to remain above 20 percent". The pound would be worth much less under a floating exchange rate.

### 'Political will'

And monetary stability has been achieved at the cost of increased interest rates for deposits and loans in pounds. This will likely affect investment and increase the cost of public borrowing.

On top of this, banks also cannot lend as much money to the state as before because deposit growth has been down. Deposit growth stood at four percent last year, against 12 percent in 2010 on the eve of the Syrian conflict.

As for increasing revenues, the state in October adopted fiscal measures including increasing VAT to 11 percent to fund its new spending on public salaries.

"But in a context of weak growth and the erosion of purchasing power, it's difficult to increase taxes further," economist Marwan Barakat says. The state could however fight tax evasion, which stands at an estimated \$4.2 billion per year. "If there is serious political will, Lebanon can get back up to half of what is missing—i.e. more than \$2 billion per year," says Barakat, head of research at Bank Audi.

But corruption remains an obstacle to reforms. In 2016, more than 92 percent of Lebanon's population saw worsening corruption, graft watchdog Transparency International said.

In its last report, the watchdog ranked Lebanon 143rd out of 180 countries it surveyed for its perceived corruption index. —AFP

## With trade war, US and China stumble into the Thucydides Trap

**LONDON:** The United States and China have fired the opening shots in a trade war that may be hard to stop. Washington has published a target list of 1,300 items imported from China worth an estimated \$50 billion that would be hit with an extra tariff of 25 percent ("Notice of determination", USTR, April 3).

Beijing has responded with a target list of 106 items imported from the United States worth a similar amount that would be hit by the same ad valorem tariff. The United States has appeared eager to impose tariffs to create leverage and force China into concessions on the bilateral trade deficit, intellectual property protection and forced technology transfer.

President Donald Trump has insisted trade wars are winnable and pushed his officials to increase the scope of the target list. For its part, China has appeared anxious to avert a trade conflict but threatened a proportionate response to any unilateral US action.

Both sides have been careful to leave time for further negotiations in an effort to prevent the tariffs from taking effect. Most investors still seem convinced a last-minute deal can be reached without damaging the world's two largest economies.

The Trump administration has a track record of announcing aggressive and headline-grabbing trade policies and then diluting or abandoning them in the face of stiff opposition and in exchange for comparatively minor concessions.

Trade wars, however, are like real wars in that they are easy to start, but, once underway, the course is unpredictable and they can be difficult to halt. As a result, trade war between the United States and China must be seen as one of the biggest risks to the global economy and commodity prices in 2018 and 2019.

### Domestic politics

Neither Trump nor Chinese President Xi Jinping can afford to be seen to lose a trade conflict or make many concessions without securing something in return. Trump made trade a central plank of his presidential campaign in 2016 and faces tough mid-term congressional elections in just seven months. Fair trade and dealing with China's perceived abuses is an important issue for the US president's core supporters and has qualified backing from some elements of the US business community.

In China, Xi has just been re-elected as Communist Party chief and had the constitution changed to allow him to extend his tenure as president based largely on his promise of strong leadership.

Like a real war, the trade measures announced by both sides are largely for domestic political consumption and designed to play to a nationalist audience. Behind the scenes, both sides are trying to negotiate a settlement, and have been leaking some details to the media in an effort to calm concerns about the economic impact. There are plenty of possible options to settle the dispute. The problem is that any compromise must allow both sides to save face. And that will be much harder now that tariffs have been announced.

Both sides are likely to come under business and economic pressure to de-escalate, avoiding a major disruption of global trade and with it the increased likelihood of a recession.

But with the domestic political credibility of the leaders of both countries now on the line, just as in a real war, the scope for a mutually face-saving climb-down has narrowed.

### The Thucydides trap

The trade conflict is really just one aspect of the increasing strategic competition between the United States and China. The United States wants to maintain its military, diplomatic and economic superiority over all other countries while China is determined not to accept second place and to achieve parity. The problem has been termed the Thucydides Trap, after the conflict in ancient Greece between Sparta (the incumbent superpower) and Athens (the rising superpower) that led to the Peloponnesian War. The problem of how to manage the rising power of China and its challenge to the superiority of the United States has been evident for two decades (I remember discussing it frequently with colleagues in the late 1990s).

China has appeared anxious to avoid the problem, and the government-run Xinhua news agency has published numerous articles on averting the Thucydides Trap in recent years.

The issue has been extensively discussed by officials, including the president and foreign minister, as well as in opinion commentaries. Even with this level of awareness, however, the two countries have already blundered into the Thucydides Trap on trade.

The list of areas where the two powers are in increasingly pointed strategic competition now covers trade, overseas investment, advanced technology, naval and military armaments.

Intensifying diplomatic competition also covers multiple regions including the South China Sea, Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, Central Asia, the Korean peninsula, Africa and Latin America.

There are compelling economic reasons for the United States and China to avoid imposing extensive tariffs on bilateral trade, but both sides face tricky domestic political constraints. —Reuters

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report								
At 02:00 PM Previous Day								
Global Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Dow Jones	23,644.19	24,033.36	389.17	▲	1.65	-2.77		
NASDAQ	6,870.12	6,941.28	71.16	▲	1.04	0.55		
S&P 500	2,581.88	2,614.45	32.57	▲	1.26	-2.21		
Financial Times	7,030.46	6,982.20	-48.26	▼	-0.69	-9.18		
DAX	12,002.45	11,820.86	-181.59	▼	-1.51	-8.49		
CAC 40	5,152.12	5,104.19	-47.93	▼	-0.93	-3.92		
Swiss	8,630.93	8,536.94	-93.99	▼	-1.09	-9.01		
Nikkei 225	21,292.29	21,319.55	27.26	▲	0.13	-6.35		
Topix	1,703.80	1,706.13	2.33	▲	0.14	-6.13		
Hang Seng	30,180.10	29,518.69	-661.41	▼	-2.19	-1.34		
Shanghai	3,412.15	3,339.70	-72.45	▼	-2.12	-1.86		
MENA Stock Indices								
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	7,799.77	7,864.70	64.93	▲	0.83	7.94		
India	3,100.39	3,091.15	-9.24	▼	-0.30	-8.00		
Oil	4,585.21	4,608.97	23.76	▲	0.52	4.29		
Bahrain	1,290.58	1,282.68	-7.90	▼	-0.61	-3.05		
Qatar	8,721.75	8,707.67	-14.08	▼	-0.16	2.33		
Oman	4,775.27	4,794.61	19.34	▲	0.41	-6.35		
Lebanon	1,185.88	1,185.88	0.00	-	0.00	3.25		
Jordan	2,209.19	2,217.57	8.38	▲	0.38	3.87		
Egypt	17,492.71	17,652.09	159.38	▲	0.91	16.47		
Hong Kong	12,849.44	12,868.54	19.10	▲	0.15	3.87		
Turkey	7,181.99	7,126.54	-55.45	▼	-0.77	14.33		
Global Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar	
Kuwaiti Dinar	12.3898	3.3179	2.7012	2.3633	3.1792	352.12	4.3207	
Saudi Riyal	0.08071	0.2678	0.2180	0.1907	0.2566	28.42	0.3487	
US Dollar	0.30140	3.7343	0.8141	0.7123	0.9582	106.13	1.3023	
Euro	0.37021	4.5868	1.2283	0.8750	1.1771	130.39	1.6002	
Sterling Pound	0.42314	5.2426	1.4039	1.1429	1.3455	149.03	1.8294	
Swiss Franc	0.31455	3.8972	1.0436	0.8495	0.7432	110.79	1.3991	
Japanese Yen	0.00284	0.0352	0.0094	0.0077	0.0067	0.0090	0.0123	
Australian Dollar	0.23145	2.8676	0.7679	0.6249	0.5466	0.7358	81.50	
MENA Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirati Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar	0.30140	3.7343	0.3741	3.6265	0.3831	3.6571	17.6200	
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3179	12.3898	1.2411	12.0322	1.2712	12.1337	58.4605	
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08071	0.1002	0.9711	0.1026	0.9792	4.7184	
Bahraini Dinar	2.6732	0.80571	9.9826	9.6945	1.0242	9.7763	47.1022	
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08311	1.0297	0.1032	0.1057	1.0084	4.8587	
Omani Riyal	2.6100	0.78666	9.7466	0.9764	9.4652	9.5451	45.9884	
Emirati Dirham	0.2734	0.08242	1.0211	0.1023	0.9916	0.1048	4.8180	
Egyptian Pound	0.0548	0.01711	0.3119	0.0212	0.2058	0.0217	0.2076	
Global Interest Rates								
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	1.89	2.32	2.46	2.68			
Euro	-0.42	-0.40	-0.36	-0.32	-0.24			
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.51	0.74	0.86	1.02			
Swiss Franc	-0.80	-0.79	-0.73	-0.64	-0.52			
Australian Dollar	1.84	1.84	1.80	1.79	1.84			
Japanese Yen	-0.03	-0.05	-0.04	0.02	0.11			
Global Bond Yields								
Country	2 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year				
United States	2.26	2.57	2.75	3.00				
Europe	-0.60	-0.11	0.48	1.13				
United Kingdom	0.81	1.10	1.34	1.72				
Commodities								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait Oil	64.05	63.27	-0.78	▼	-1.22	0.91		
Brent	66.30	64.47	-1.83	▼	-2.76	-1.18		
West Texas	63.42	63.40	-0.02	▼	-0.03	-6.67		
Gold	1332.45	1342.66	10.21	▲	0.77	2.24		
Silver	16.37	16.43	0.06	▲	0.35	-3.52		



Business

# Agility wins prestigious Sheikh Khalifa Silver Award for business excellence

## Award recognizes business excellence and best practices in UAE

**ABU DHABI:** Agility, a leading global logistics provider, received the Silver Award for business excellence at the Sheikh Khalifa Excellence Award (SKEA), held under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

The award was presented to Agility at a ceremony held at the Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi. Agility Abu Dhabi was recognized for its excellence in quality and innovative offerings to its logistics customers. Agility has adapted world-class practices based on the European Foundation of Quality Management (EFQM) model that promotes business excellence and facilitates continuous improvement. Present at the ceremony were His Highness Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court and member of the Executive Council, and other senior officials.

Bassel El-Dabbagh, CEO, Agility Abu Dhabi, said, "Being recognized for the Sheikh

Khalifa Excellence Award is testament to our unflinching commitment to quality of services and furthering best practices in the sector. The award recognizes the innovation offered by Agility, which promotes business excellence and facilitates continuous improvement. It also underscores our contribution to the logistics industry, to supply chain infrastructure in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and to the economy of the UAE."

Established in 1999, the SKEA recognizes companies across a range of categories and is fully aligned with international best practices. It has been designed with the goal of providing support to the large business community in the country and is awarded to both government and private-sector enterprises. The prestigious award, an initiative of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, aims to actively promoting a culture of continuous improvement and enhancement of competitiveness within the business sector in the UAE. Companies are measured by results, customer focus, leadership, talent

development, continuous learning, innovation, partnership development and public responsibility. In Abu Dhabi, Agility provides logistics and freight forwarding services including air, ocean and land, warehousing and distribution, cross-border trucking, customs clearance, project logistics, chemical logistics, and fairs and events logistics. It caters to the oil and gas industry, and the agricultural, chemical, defense and healthcare sectors.

Agility brings efficiency to supply chains in some of the globe's most challenging environments, offering unmatched personal service, a global footprint and customized capabilities in developed and developing economies alike.

Agility is one of the world's leading providers of integrated logistics. It is a publicly traded company with more than \$4.6 billion in revenue and more than 22,000 employees in over 500 offices across 100 countries. Agility's core commercial business, Global Integrated Logistics (GIL), provides supply chain solutions to meet traditional and com-



plex customer needs. GIL offers air, ocean and road freight forwarding, warehousing, distribution, and specialized services in project logistics, fairs and events, and chemicals. Agility's Infrastructure group of companies manages industrial real estate and offers

logistics-related services, including e-government customs optimization and consulting, waste management and recycling, aviation and ground-handling services, support to governments and ministries of defense, remote infrastructure and life support.

## Earn travel rewards with NBK Miles World Mastercard

**KUWAIT:** If you're a jetsetter who can't get enough of the skies, you can enjoy your trips even more, with the NBK Miles World Mastercard. Travel with ease of mind and enjoy your holiday while earning points and accessing the best airport lounges around the globe.



Hanadi Khazal Summer

The NBK Miles World Mastercard gives you supreme flexibility. You can redeem your NBK Miles Points to book flights with more than 800 airlines, 150,000 hotels, and renowned car rental agencies around the world. When encashing Miles, Cardholders can fly to any destination on any airline, from any point of origin, and at any time of the year. New cardholders receive 10,000 free bonus points upon using their new NBK Miles World Mastercard for the first time.

"NBK's Miles World Mastercard program is very convenient, as it allows customers to redeem points and plan their entire trip from: booking tickets to hotel accommodation, and even car rentals. It also gives them access to the best lounges across the globe, among many other benefits. The program is really

rewarding and promising" said Hanadi Khazal, Assistant General Manager- Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait. NBK Miles World Mastercard credit card holders earn 3 NBK Miles Points for each KD 1 spent in Kuwait and 5 NBK Miles Points for each KD 1 spent while traveling abroad. You earn points while redeeming miles and the redeemed miles can be used to book travel anywhere and anytime. Even ticket taxes can be paid using your miles points.

There are no blackout dates, and no limit on the number of seats. Cardholders will also be eligible for the NBK Rewards Program, the largest loyalty program in the region with more than 700 partner outlets in fashion, dining, lifestyle and entertainment.

The Miles World travel program is also open to NBK Visa Signature, NBK World Elite Mastercard and NBK Visa Infinite credit card holders. Numerous other benefits include travel insurance, free valet parking, concierge service, travel offers, discounts and much more.

## Al-Sayer Medical sponsors 2nd Kuwait International Physiotherapy Conference

**KUWAIT:** Al-Sayer Medical Company, a subsidiary of Al-Sayer Holding has sponsored the 2nd Kuwait International Physiotherapy Conference "Physiotherapy towards 2020" under the patronage of Minister of Health Dr Basil Homoud Al-Sabah.

The conference was an opportunity to learn about the latest medical devices and equipment in physiotherapy field, in addition to provide training services and development for doctors by learning about the latest technologies and updates in physiotherapy field. Lectures were given by a large number of specialists from Kuwait, Arab countries, Europe, US, Canada and UK.

On this occasion, Dr Hossam Afifi, General Manager of Al-Sayer Medical said: "Our congratulations to HE Minister of Health, Dr. Basil

Homoud Al-Sabah and Dr. Abdullah Zaman, Head of Conference and Director of Physiotherapy Services Management at Ministry of Health, for the success of this conference which contribute to the development of physiotherapy services in Kuwait and provide the opportunity for the specialists to exchange the expertise and learn more about the latest in this field."

Al-Sayer medical Company as the main sponsor displayed the largest booth at the exhibition in the conference and attracted large number of visitors with display of its wide range of the latest and most advanced physiotherapy products from globally renowned medical companies.

"Our participation in such important conferences is part of our commitment to provide



integrated medical solution, through our partnership with leading global companies. Such commitment was apparent at our booth where we allocated an area for workshops for our doctor visitors to try and experiment the latest devices and products displayed under the supervision of a specialized global team by our clients" added Dr Afifi.

## Renault launches 'Koleos Karaoke': A Middle East-wide singing competition



**KUWAIT:** Renault Middle East has launched a singing competition across its showrooms to celebrate its Proud Sponsorship of the region's biggest TV show: The Voice Arabia.

The 'Koleos Karaoke' competition will visit showrooms across the GCC for one weekend only, where customers who test drive any Renault model will automatically qualify to take part in the singing competition for a chance to win one of three brand-new Renault Koleos SUVs. On 14th, 15th, 16th April, the competition will be at Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain showroom in Al-Rai, 4th ring road. A custom-made recording studio has been installed inside Renault's most popular SUV allowing participants to read and sing song lyrics from Renault's soundtrack on its Voice Arabia TV advert on a screen integrated into the dashboard, as well as film their performance on cameras mounted inside the car.

Each performance of the unique track, composed especially for Renault by music producer, Wael Kodeih, will appear on a dedicated website where members of the public can vote for their favorite video performance. Each week, the five most popular videos will be short-listed and entered into a grand finale when, in the final week of the competition, three winning videos will be randomly selected in a prize draw and the singers will be awarded a brand-new Renault Koleos.

Renault's cleverly composed TV advert music track journeys through several genres of Arabic music from a traditional baladi rhythm to Lebanese hip hop and was inspired by Renault's Multi-Sense(r) system which adapts the car to

suit the driver's mood by subtly changing aspects of the car's handling from throttle pedal response, engine notes and steering weight, to the colours on the instrument display and interior lighting ambience in the cabin.

Commenting on the partnership, Marwan Haidamous, Managing Director of Renault Middle East said, "The Voice is the region's most popular TV show and attracts the world's biggest brands as sponsors, so of course it was the natural choice for us to reach the show's wide-ranging family audience in the Middle East. Now we're inviting those families to come along to one of our showrooms, experience one of our cars for themselves and have some fun with the Koleos Karaoke whilst they're with us. We are encouraging customers to embrace their 'passion for life' with us, and, you never know, if they record a memorable karaoke performance they could be driving away in a Koleos of their own!"

The Renault Koleos Karaoke competition will be in showrooms for one week only during the following weekends:  
Dubai (Arabian Automobiles Co) & Rivadh (Gulf Advantage Automobiles): 5th, 6th & 7th April  
Oman (Suhail Bahwan Automobiles LLC): 7th, 8th & 9th April  
Beirut (Bassoul & Heneine) & Damam (Gulf Advantage Automobiles): 12th, 13th & 14th April  
Kuwait (Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain): 14th, 15th & 16th April  
Abu Dhabi (Al Masaood Automobiles), Bahrain (Y.K. Almoayyed & Sons) & Jeddah (Gulf Advantage Automobiles): 19th, 20th & 21st April.



## A wide-range of investment plans for KFH customers

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) rolls out a wide range of long-term investment plans specifically designed to fulfil all customers' needs and meet their aspirations, yet reinforce the culture of planning for the future and reiterate the Bank's pioneering position in offering innovative sharia-complaint financial solutions.

The investment plans are flexible, long-term and yield high investment rates. They are "Shifaa" for healthcare, "Jameati" for education, "Rafaa" for marriage, "Enjaz" for youths' projects, and "Thimar" for

retirement. "Shifaa" offers customers a plan based on monthly saving, while earning higher investment returns on their savings along with "Takaful" cover. If and when facing critical health circumstances, savings and "Takaful" cover will assist to meet the required medical expenses. Customers should be between 21 to 60 years, and the saving period ranges between 5 years to 15 years.

The plan is covered by "Takaful" insurance policy. The policy will cover the unpaid savings due to death, total disability including sickness or accident and critical illness. Critical illness can have a massive impact on a person's health and at the same time effect the person's finance situation. The significant benefit of the Shifaa investment plan is the availability of saved funds for emergency. If the person has been diagnosed with one of 11 major and critical illnesses as per the policy conditions, the plan target amount will be paid to the person.

Customers can deposit any amounts in

addition to the withheld monthly saving amounts without affecting the schedule of the plan. "Shifaa" investment plan can be closed at any time. All saving and declared profits in "Shifaa" account will be refunded.

"Jameati" investment plan is tailored to meet parents' aspiration in paying their children's university education fees when they are 18 years old, while "Rafaa" is designed to cover marriage expenses and it assists in the early family planning and parents' planning for their children. Moreover, "Enjaz" is a multipurpose investment plan that caters for the youth's aspirations and ambitions by allowing them to plan for their future and achieve their goals by running their own businesses and projects or purchasing a house etc. Furthermore, "Thimar" contributes in offering restful and comfortable retirement life for clients, who can receive the targeted amount with all investment profits accrued by the end of the investment plan period identified by them.



## Technology

# Huawei's net profits jump 28% to \$7.3 billion; revenue \$92.5 billion

## Huawei Consumer Business Group announces 2017 business results

**KUWAIT:** Huawei released its audited financial results for 2017, reporting solid business growth. The company's total annual revenue was CNY603.6 billion (\$92.5 billion based on year-end exchange rates), an increase of 15.7 percent over 2016. Net profits were CNY47.5 billion (\$7.3 billion), an increase of 28.1 percent year-on-year.

In Huawei's consumer business, the Huawei and Honor brands ran full speed ahead, leading to rapid growth in their respective markets. Huawei shipped a total of 153 million smartphones (including Honor) in 2017, and reported CNY237.2 billion (\$36.4 billion) in annual revenue, up 31.9 percent year-on-year. Creating synergy between the Huawei and Honor brands in 2017, our dual Huawei and Honor brand strategy took the market by storm. Together, the two brands provide a full portfolio of flagship products. Focusing on innovative features and superior experience, the Huawei brand made many breakthroughs in the high-end market, served a wider audience, and worked hard to deliver the best possible end-to-end experience to consumers. Honor delivered stylish new tech, striving to become an online-only mobile brand that stakes a solid claim in the hearts of younger generations. We made the following achievements in 2017:

- Huawei's flagship products, the HUAWEI P and Mate series, were hits among consumers around the world, boosting Huawei's influence in the global high-end market. Overall shipments of the HUAWEI P10 and HUAWEI Mate 9 series exceeded 20 million units.

- The HUAWEI nova series and Honor's dual flagship series (the V and digital flagship series) further enhanced their presence, with a striking combination of technology and aesthetics. They became trendsetters among young, fashion-savvy consumers, and were generally well received.

- This was a year of market breakthroughs for the G and Y series, and multiple mid-range Honor models. A solid combination of performance and price competitiveness led to rapid, large-scale growth.

- Brand awareness, recognition, and reputation are growing among global consumers, and our market share has risen rapidly. Some of the major breakthroughs achieved in 2017 include:

- Huawei and Honor smartphones together secured more than 10 percent of the global market share. We are now firmly positioned among the top three phone makers in the world.

- Overall global brand awareness increased from 81 percent in 2016 to 86 percent in 2017. Outside of China, brand awareness rose from 64 percent to 74 percent.

- The number of consumers considering a Huawei device in non-Chinese markets saw a year-on-year increase of 100 percent, which put Huawei among the top three global vendors in this category for the first time.

- Our flagship products remained bestsellers after their launch, which raised the market share of our high-end models priced over US\$500 to over 10 percent.

Huawei's smart devices have also been well received in regional markets. 2017 highlights include:



Richard Yu

- Huawei (including Honor) held onto the largest share of the smartphone market in China. We became the most recommended brand in China's mobile phone industry - a first for a Chinese brand. This award was issued to us by leading brand rating agency, Chnbrand, based on the China Net Promoter Score Index (C-NPS).

- In Europe, Huawei smartphones won high acclaim from consumers in countries such as Germany, Finland, Denmark, Spain, and Italy, improving both our market share and reputation. Huawei ranked as the second most considered brand in a portion of these countries.

- In Asia Pacific, Huawei made new breakthroughs in Japan, Malaysia, and Thailand, where market shares continue to grow. In key countries like Japan, brand consideration doubled.

- In Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa, Huawei's smartphone business grew steadily, with a market share of over 15 percent. In key countries including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Mexico, and Colombia, Huawei ranked in the top three for brand consideration, and the gap between Huawei and the top two brands continues to shrink.

### Improving experience across the consumer journey

Our Consumer BG focused on improving user experience in 2017 as market share and brand awareness steadily increased. We centered our efforts on product innovation, mobile services, channel transformation, and customer service to continually enhance user experience and reinforce our foundations as a premium global brand.

In product innovation, we focus on the practical needs of consumers and common usage scenarios, using artificial intelligence (AI) to improve product performance and design intelligent phones that truly understand us. In October 2017, we launched the HUAWEI Mate 10 series, a true milestone in the industry. This device is the first major step in our evolution from smartphones to intelligent phones:

- The HUAWEI Mate 10 series comes complete with AI cameras, AI-powered smart battery management, intelligent assistants, and intuitive HiTouch functionality. These func-



PARIS: Richard Yu, CEO, Huawei Consumer Business Group at recent HUAWEI P20 and P20 Pro launch in Paris.

tions deliver an experience that is both positive and personal, pushing the boundaries of what traditional smartphones can offer.

- EMUI 8.0 leverages AI technology to reduce Android lag, powering phones that are born fast and stay fast.

With superior mobile services, our user base continues to expand. As of Q4 2017, Huawei's mobile service users surpassed 340 million, with over 30 million in markets outside of China. In retail and channel development, as of December 2017, Huawei had more than 45,000 retail stores around the world, a year-on-year increase of about 10 percent. We continue to focus on a simple, compelling, and inspired high-end experience, doubling down on quality over quantity.

### Specific developments include:

- Establishing high-end experience stores in Italy, the UAE, Malaysia, Thailand, and many other countries, bringing the total number of experience stores to over 3,000 worldwide, a year-on-year increase of over 200 percent. In customer service, we are constantly expanding service coverage to more regions and exploring new forms of service to provide users with a more convenient and personal experience.

- Offline services: As of Q4 2017, the Consumer BG had over 1,400 offline service centers in 105 countries and regions, including nearly 800 Huawei-branded service stores. Our stores provide a range of basic repair services. Consumers can visit stores for repair. They can also book appointments, receive home service, or mail in their devices. Value-added services like screen insurance, extended warranties, and trade-ins are also available at our stores.

- Online services: Online customer service is now available in 111 countries and regions in 65 languages. Services are available via hotline, the Internet, social media, email, and various selfservice modules, giving consumers access to more convenient, timely, and efficient support.

- In mobile services, the Huawei AppGallery is committed to building a secure and reliable app platform for users, providing a four-layer security check mechanism that helps users defend against app security risks. In 2017, there were 61 billion downloads from the Huawei AppGallery, which also offered more than 600 paid apps across 18 categories. In 2017, progress in Huawei's proprietary apps and software services.

- In 2017, Huawei accepted 329 consumer requests for local optimization of products and services.

### Embracing the future with an open ecosystem

In Huawei's Consumer BG, intelligent products and ecosystem innovation are managed in accordance with this vision.

- In 2017, we released the Kirin 970, an AI chipset with a dedicated Neural Network Processing Unit (NPU). This chip powers the HUAWEI Mate 10 series of smartphones, helping break bottlenecks in computing performance and laying the foundation for new potential in human-machine interaction.

- To deliver a smart experience in every scenario, Huawei is expanding its presence across PCs, tablets, wearables, smart homes, and connected vehicles. Such efforts include the following:

- Shipments of Huawei tablets saw a year-on-year increase of 40 percent despite an otherwise sluggish market, making Huawei one of the world's top three tablet manufacturers in terms of market share. Huawei's Consumer BG believes that competitiveness begins and ends with consumers. With this in mind, in 2018 we will continue to innovate in core technologies - including AI, AR, and VR - to guide evolution from smart devices to intelligent devices. With end-to-end capabilities that optimize synergy between chips, devices, and the cloud, our ultimate goal is to provide an experience that our consumers have never seen before, and lead the transformation of the smart device industry.

## Canon appoints new President & CEO for Europe, MEA



Rokus van Iperen

Yuichi Ishizuka

**LONDON:** Canon EMEA, a global provider of imaging technologies and services, yesterday announced Yuichi Ishizuka as the new President & CEO for Canon Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA), succeeding Rokus van Iperen who is retiring after six years in the role.

Rokus van Iperen, outgoing EMEA CEO & Senior Managing Executive Officer, Canon Inc., was appointed President & CEO of Canon Europe in 2012 following a distinguished career at Océ NV. Initially tasked with ensuring a smooth integration of Océ into the Canon business, he successfully presided over several other significant acquisitions to enable the company's digitization strategy. He is also credited with building a solutions focused portfolio and establishing the foundation of new businesses in high growth areas such as network visual solutions (NVS).

Yuichi Ishizuka, previously President & COO for Canon USA, assumed his new responsibilities as President & CEO of Canon EMEA effective from April 1st. He takes over an organization that has opera-

tions in 120 countries, employs approximately 18,000 people and contributes about a quarter of Canon's global revenues annually. Ishizuka, who is also a Managing Executive Officer of Canon Inc., is tasked with bolstering and growing existing core businesses whilst capitalizing on the brand's imaging expertise in new areas such as NVS, industrial equipment and commercial printing. He brings a wealth of expertise and international experience from other regions having held senior positions across Canon's portfolio of businesses in North, Central and South America, as well as Japan. His new role will be his first appointment in Europe.

"Canon is a clear leader in consumer and business imaging with millions of customers throughout EMEA, a region where we celebrated our 60th anniversary of operations last year," says Ishizuka.

"I am honored to be leading this team through the next phase of innovation and growth at what is a very exciting and dynamic time for the company."

## Zuckerberg to testify before US House commerce panel on April 11

**WASHINGTON:** Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg will testify before the US House Energy and Commerce Committee on April 11, the panel said yesterday.

Facebook has come under fire in recent weeks after it was revealed that political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica, which worked for US President Donald Trump's campaign, gained access to the personal data of 50 million Facebook users.

"This hearing will be an important opportunity to shed light on critical consumer data privacy issues and help all Americans better understand what happens to their personal information online," the panel's Republican chairman Greg Walden and top Democrat Frank Pallone said in a statement.

Facebook said last month that it hired forensic auditors to probe whether Cambridge Analytica still had the data. The technology company has also faced pressure to do more to stop "information warfare" on its platform.

In February, 13 Russian nationals were indicted for using the website, along with other social media sites, to interfere in the US presidential election. American spy agencies have warned Russia would again try to interfere in the 2018 midterm elections by using social media to spread propaganda.

Zuckerberg said on Tuesday that he agreed "in spirit" with a strict new European Union law on data privacy but stopped short of committing to it as the standard for the social network across the world.

As Facebook reels from a scandal over the mishandling of personal information belonging to millions of users, the company is facing demands to improve privacy and learn lessons from the landmark EU law scheduled to take effect next month. Zuckerberg told Reuters in a phone interview that Facebook was working on a version of the law that would work globally, bringing some European privacy guarantees worldwide, but the 33-year-old billionaire demurred when asked what parts of the law he would not extend worldwide.

"We're still nailing down details on this, but it should directionally be, in spirit, the whole thing," Zuckerberg said. He did not elaborate.

His comments signal that US Facebook users,

many of them still angry over the company's admission that political consultancy Cambridge Analytica got hold of Facebook data on 50 million members, could find themselves in a worse position than Europeans.

The European law, called the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), is the biggest overhaul of online privacy since the birth of the internet, giving Europeans the right to know what data is stored on them and the right to have it deleted. Apple Inc and some other tech firms have said they do plan to give people in the United States and elsewhere the same protections and rights that Europeans will gain.

Shares of Facebook closed up 0.5 percent on Tuesday at \$156.11. They are down more than 15 percent since March 16, when the scandal broke over Cambridge Analytica.

### Push for data privacy

Privacy advocacy groups have been urging Facebook and its Silicon Valley competitors such as Alphabet Inc's Google to apply EU data laws worldwide, largely without success.

"We want Facebook and Google and all the other companies to immediately adopt in the United States and worldwide any new protections that they implement in Europe," said Jeff Chester, executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy, in Washington.

Zuckerberg said many of the tools that are part of the law, such as the ability of users to delete all their data, are already available for people on Facebook. "We think that this is a good opportunity to take that moment across the rest of the world," he said. "The vast majori-

ty of what is required here are things that we've already had for years across the world for everyone." Google and Facebook are the global leaders in internet ad revenue. Both based in California, they possess enormous amounts of data on billions of people.

Google has declined to comment on its plans. When GDPR takes effect on May 25, people in EU countries will gain the right to transfer their data to other social networks, for example. Facebook and its competitors will also need to be much more specific about how they plan to use people's data, and they will need to get explicit consent.

GDPR is likely to hurt profit at Facebook because it could reduce the value of ads if the company cannot use personal information as freely and the added expense of hiring lawyers to ensure compliance with the new law.

Data is central to Facebook's advertising business, and it has not yet sketched out a satisfying plan for how it plans to comply, said Pivotal Research analyst Brian Wieser.

"I haven't heard any solutions from Facebook to get ahead of the problem yet," Wieser said.

Failure to comply with the law carries a maximum penalty of up to 4 percent of annual revenue. It should not be difficult for companies to extend EU practices and policies elsewhere because they already have systems in place, said Nicole Ozer, director of technology and civil liberties at the American Civil Liberties Union of California. Companies' promises are less reassuring than laws, she said. "If user privacy is going to be properly protected, the law has to require it." —Reuters

## Telecom Italia urges probe into Mediaset-Sky deal

**MILAN:** Telecom Italia (TIM) called yesterday for regulators to look into a tie-up between Silvio Berlusconi's Mediaset TV group and Rupert Murdoch's Sky Italia in order to prevent further concentration in the Italian media. The deal could complicate efforts for Telecom Italia's main shareholder, Vivendi, to revive the fortunes of the Italy's former monopoly telecoms provider as broadcasters scramble to acquire content to keep subscribers from defecting to services such as Netflix. Under the deal

announced over the holiday weekend by the Italian TV heavyweights nine of Mediaset's Premium pay-TV channels will be made available to Sky Italia subscribers.

"I believe that the authorities will have to examine the alliance carefully so that it does not give rise to a (media) concentration even greater than that existing today," Telecom Italia's chief executive Amos Genish said in the interview with Italian daily La Stampa.

The surprise deal with Sky Italia has given a boost to Mediaset's shares, which have risen by over six percent since the announcement. For the Berlusconi family group, the accord is a lifeline that should help the struggling Premium unit increase its audience and advertising revenues, after a series of setbacks for the platform.—AFP



In this file photo Social Network applications including Facebook, Instagram, Slack, Snapchat, Twitter, Skype, Viber, Teamsnap and Messenger, are on display on a smartphone in Washington DC. —AFP



Health

# New treatment for obesity now available in Kuwait

## 32.1% of adults in Kuwait obese, 72.7% overweight

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Novo Nordisk held a press conference yesterday attended by the Danish Ambassador to Kuwait Oleemil Moesby to launch Saxenda (liraglutide 3 mg), the first once-daily glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist for chronic weight management in Kuwait. Treated alongside a healthy diet and continued exercise, the new entrant has proven greater improvements in weight loss, including certain cardio metabolic risk factors, and severity of sleep apnoea.

According to World Health Organization, around 72.7 percent of adults in Kuwait are currently overweight and 32.1 percent are living with obesity. Many of these people suffer from weight-related comorbidities such as type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure, along with emotional distress and anxiety often associated with this disease.

"It is an extremely interesting day to be present at the conference and it is a reflection of excellent relations between Denmark and Kuwait," Moesby said, adding there have been many discussions since he arrived around two months ago about joint opportunities between Kuwait and Denmark. There are several Danish companies active in Kuwait - some for decades - yet there are more opportunities and additional ways of cooperation between the two nations.

Dr Maryam Al-Dwairji, MD, PhD, Specialist in Clinical Nutrition at the Ministry of Health, commented on the new breakthrough in obesity management in Kuwait: "In the light of the economic, social and behavioral shifts that are taking place in our communities and which has been overshadowed by the negative effects on their health that have contributed in spreading various chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. These diseases can be prevented through proper nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. Our aim is to provide the best possible healthcare to the general public across the country and to emphasize the important of medical and surgical interventions in obesity management in the line with healthy lifestyle."

Dr Khalil Alshowaiekr, MRCP, obesity and weight disorders specialist at Adan Hospital, said: "Identified by leading international health organizations like WHO, AACE & AMA as a chronic disease requiring long-term management, obesity represents a serious public health issue in Kuwait. Unfortunately very few people with obesity receive weight counseling. Current options available to obese or overweight patients with co-morbidity are limited or include invasive alternatives. Simultaneously, obesity poses a significant burden on the country's finances, whereby WHO estimates that 0.7 percent - 2.8 percent of a country's total healthcare expenditure is spent on obesity-related illness. Saxenda, coupled with a stringent



Dr Akin Aksekili

diet and physical activities, is possibly the start to help patients achieve clinically meaningful weight loss."

Dr Amna Shaghoul, MD, FRCPC, Consultant Endocrinologist at Adan Hospital and Glycemia Clinic in Kuwait, said: "Owing to the need for efficient weight loss solutions in the region, Saxenda provides a simple and effective treatment that is administered once daily via a subcutaneous injection to increase the feeling of satiety and reduce hunger, thereby decreasing food intake. The clinical trial programs were overwhelmingly positive as Saxenda achieved superior weight loss results wherein one out of four patients treated with Saxenda lost more than 10 percent of their body weight and sustained it! Additionally, tests provided significant reductions in blood pressure, lipids, delay in the onset of type 2 diabetes and improvement in sleep apnoea."

Saxenda was evaluated in the SCALE (Satiety and Clinical Adiposity Liraglutide Evidence) in Nondiabetic and Diabetic individuals phase 3 clinical program, which involved more than 5,000 people who have obesity or who are overweight with weight-related comorbidities. Trial data showed that Saxenda, in combination with a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity, resulted in significantly greater weight loss in some patients than a reduced-calorie diet and physical activity alone.

"Following the earlier launches of Saxenda in the region, Novo Nordisk is pleased to offer a new treatment option in Kuwait that can help many anxious people achieve clinically meaningful weight loss and avoid obesity-related comorbidities. We have established a 10 year long-term ambition to pursue leadership in the anti-obesity medication market which includes improvement and raising awareness of the unmet needs in obesity care as well as build a pipeline of other, innovative therapeutic options. There are several clinical barriers to proper treatment such as broken communication with health care providers, lack of knowledge among practitioners, limited success of medical options and insufficient reimbursements. With the right mix of experience, expertise and delivery of intelligent treatment options, we are determined to collaborate with Kuwait's obesity community, government and other relevant entities in tackling a nationwide epidemic," said Dr Akin Aksekili, General Manager Novo Nordisk Gulf Emerging Markets.



(From left) Photo shows panel speakers Dr Maryam Al-Dwairji, the Denmark Ambassador to Kuwait Oleemil Moesby, Dr Khalil Al-Showakir, Dr Amna Al-Shaghoul and Dr Akin Aksekili during the press conference.



A group photo after the seminar.

It is important that people living with obesity work closely with their physicians to develop sustainable strategies for chronic weight management. When assessing treatment

options, a person's readiness to lose weight should be considered along with their cardiovascular disease profile, dietary habits and concomitant diseases.

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PAGE

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## Global Medical Center Welcomes Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader Consultant vascular and general surgery

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## What's On

## CBK concludes 'Ya Zin Turathna' campaign



Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the conclusion of the "Ya Zin Turathna" campaign, which the bank organizes out of its keenness on reviving popular heritage, and out of its belief that Kuwait heritage is rich with many examples that must remain engraved in memory, and to remind the new generation about simple life, in addition to handicrafts that were practiced by our forefathers.

Meanwhile Assistant General Manager for Advertising and Public Relations Amani Al-Waraa said, "We are happy with the positive impact the

campaign leaves on clients and non-clients of Al-Tijari year after year, as well as the success the campaign made this year." She said that the activities this year included visits to a number of schools by the advertisement and PR team to inform students on the aspects of old popular heritage.

The campaign was concluded at the Avenues in the presence of Head of Advertising and Public Relations Sheikha Nouf Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, where a large number of interested people in old heritage visited CBK booth, as they enjoyed a performance by the "popular heritage band".



## Bacolod chicken restaurant from Philippines now in Marina Mall

By Ben Garcia

A restaurant from the Philippines can now be found at one of Kuwait's leading malls. Bacolod Chicken BBQ House serves authentic Filipino food dishes - from mouth-watering appetizers to main courses and deserts - at the food court in Marina Mall. Beef and chicken BBQ are two of the most demanded items, not to mention the famous 'inasal' chicken parts such as liver, gizzard, wings, drumsticks and skin.

"The good thing about this restaurant is our tradition - to serve only the best and delicious food. The beef and chicken BBQ are known to be the best of everything in Bacolod, along with chicken inasal, which is cooked to perfection," said Operations Manager Willie Roberto. Chicken and beef BBQ dishes are usually served with pickled green papaya (sweetened) and topped with a choice of either white rice or fried or garlic rice. It is accompanied by a magic dip (sawsawan), lemon and soy sauce plus fresh red chili.

"We are a famous restaurant in the Philippines serving the best inasal and chicken BBQ in town. The restaurant was founded in the 1970s because the owner had his own farm in Bacolod. He believed that by setting up a restaurant, it could help him sell his chicken and open a new source of revenue. We now have a presence all over the Middle East. Arab and Filipino customers love our dishes because they are served hot and are cooked by the best chefs at Bacolod Chicken. Our staff is from the Philippines and some of them come from the same province where the dishes originate," he said.

Bacolod Chicken takes pride in its clear hot soup (derived from beef bone marrow, known to Filipinos as bulalo), which is served free to all customers. Other Visayan favorites on top of the list at Bacolod Chicken include 'Pancit Molo' and 'La Paz Batchoy', famous regional soups preferred by Mindanaoans or people from Luzon. Pancit Molo is a wonton soup dish comprising of chicken or shrimp fillings usually topped with spring onion, sesame oil, toasted garlic and seasonings. La Paz



Batchoy's main ingredient is 'miki' noodles, which is topped by either chicken or beef and served with fried garlic and raw eggs.

Wrap up your Bacolod Chicken visit with the best halo-halo desert. Halo-halo is always the bestselling dessert for Pinoys, and they take this dish as the barometer of every Filipino restaurant. Halo-halo is served on the dining tables of every Filipino family, especially during summer. It is served with finely crushed ice along with a selection of tropical fruits such as palm fruit (kaong). In fact, a restaurant without halo-halo is not an authentic Filipino restaurant. "Yes, we also have halo-halo - this is the most demanded dessert wherever we Filipinos go. Other nationalities also like our halo-halo because they have almost similar recipes. The twist for us is the crushed ice -

they sometimes put cream or honey or anything sweet on top," Roberto said.

Bacolod Chicken will open another branch this year in Farwaniya, and given the chance, according to Roberto, they will "invade" The Avenues if space is available. "We are growing and we believe in the Kuwaiti market. We have 200,000 plus Filipinos here, and besides, Kuwaitis like our dishes too, so expect more to come in the coming years," Roberto concluded.

The first outlet of Bacolod Chicken BBQ House was inaugurated in Kuwait by Ambassador of the Philippines to Kuwait Renato Villa on January 10, 2017 in Fahaaheel. But since the area is a bit far, it shifted to Marina Mall in Salmiya, which is now considered as its second outlet in Kuwait.

## KCST participates in educational exhibition



Dr. Khalid Al-Begain



Ibrahim Bader Al-Mutawa

Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST) participated in the educational exhibition held at Murshid Saad Al-Bathal High school for boys, Farwaniya Governorate, on Monday and Tuesday. The exhibition targeted the educational and career opportunities within the activities of the first vocational education gathering, under the name of, "Courage in the impossible ... ambition is not satisfied with less". Kuwait College of Science and Technology participated in the presence of several schools from Farwaniya Governorate educational area supervised by the Counselors of the Social and Psychological Services at the secondary school sector.

President of Kuwait College of Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Al-Begain expresses that the University's Administration department, its Representatives of the Public Relations and the Student Recruitment department, to keenly participate in educational exhibitions in order to meet students whom are expected to graduate in the academic year of 2017/2018.

Introducing our Science and technology majors as follows:

Bachelor's in Computer Science,

Bachelor's in Computer Engineering, and for the First Time in Kuwait, Bachelor's in Electronics and Communications Engineering.

Our participation also includes a step by step awareness into the procedures and regulations of being admitted, as well as explaining the procedures required for the students interested in registering into the local scholarship program.

Dr. Khalid Begain greatly encourages events and exhibitions such as the one being carried by Murshid Saad Al-Bathal High school. He truly believes these opportunities bring universities and organizations together under one roof; encouraging and enriching the minds of young adults and the future of Kuwait. The Director of Public Relations and Marketing, Ibrahim Bader Al-Mutawa has stated that he Kuwait College of Science and Technology is the only private university which offers a bachelor degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering other than other bachelor degrees offered by the university.



## Safir Hotel - Fintas organizes training course in Food Safety and Hygiene



Safir Hotel and Residence Kuwait - Fintas organized a ceremony with distribution of certificates for the colleagues of different departments who have recently completed three days of special training course in food safety and hygiene with the collaboration of food experts who exposed them to the most advanced methods of food safety assess-

ment. In this regard, Mr Saif Eddin Mohammed thanked the colleagues and the experts for their mutual cooperation in order to make this session a success. He also pointed out the importance of maintaining the International specifications of food quality and hygiene level provided to the customers at all times.

The conducted training course is part of other scheduled courses that Safir Hotel and Residences Kuwait - Fintas is keen on providing to the colleagues within the scope of keeping abreast of what is new in the food industry and to constantly raise the highest standards of service for our customers and business partners as such as part of the hospitality industry.



TV



01:05 Avengers Grimm
02:40 Street
04:10 Kingsglave: Final Fantasy XV
06:05 Crossfire
07:40 Street
09:10 Kingsglave: Final Fantasy XV
11:10 The Phantom
12:55 Bad Company
14:55 Kung Fu Yoga
16:45 Shanghai Noon
18:40 The Viral Factor
20:45 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
23:00 Sniper: Ultimate Kill



00:45 The Animals' Guide To Survival
01:40 Preposterous Pets
02:35 Swamp Brothers
03:40 Swamp Brothers
04:25 Tanked
04:15 The Pool Master
05:02 Wildest Latin America
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Swamp Brothers
07:50 Swamp Brothers
08:15 The Animals' Guide To Survival
09:10 Preposterous Pets
10:05 Wildest Latin America
11:00 Swamp Brothers
11:28 Swamp Brothers
11:55 Tanked
12:50 The Pool Master
13:45 Preposterous Pets
14:40 Wildest Latin America
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 The Animals' Guide To Survival
17:25 Whale Wars
18:20 North Woods Law
19:15 Preposterous Pets
20:10 Swamp Brothers
20:38 Swamp Brothers
21:05 Whale Wars
22:00 North Woods Law
22:55 Wildest Latin America
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:15 Programme To Be Confirmed
01:05 An Inspector Calls
02:35 Death In Paradise
03:30 EastEnders
03:55 EastEnders
04:30 Doctors
05:00 Doctors
05:30 Doctors
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 The Coroner
07:50 Doctors
08:20 Doctors
08:50 Doctors
09:20 EastEnders
09:50 EastEnders
10:20 Death In Paradise
11:20 The Coroner
12:05 Stella
12:55 Doctors
13:25 Doctors
13:55 Doctors
14:25 EastEnders
14:55 EastEnders
15:25 Death In Paradise
16:25 The Coroner
17:10 Stella
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:00 Death In Paradise
20:00 Hold The Sunset
20:30 Mum
21:00 Holly City
22:00 Death In Paradise
23:00 Doctors
23:30 EastEnders



00:00 Psychic Kids
01:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
01:55 Jo Frost On Britain's Killer Kids
02:50 Homicide Hunter
03:45 Psychic Kids
04:30 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
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 My Crazy Ex
18:00 My Crazy Ex
19:00 My Crazy Ex
20:00 Live PD: Police Patrol
20:30 Live PD: Police Patrol
21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
22:00 Homicide Hunter
23:00 The First 48



00:05 Nathan For You
00:30 Another Period
00:55 Why? With Hannibal Buress
01:20 Nightcap
01:45 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
02:10 South Park
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Tosh.0
03:50 South Park
04:15 Nathan For You
04:40 Key And Peele
05:05 Catch A Contractor
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Balwazef
06:50 Bondi Ink
07:40 Lip Sync Battle
08:05 Key And Peele
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Nathan For You
09:45 Lip Sync Battle
10:10 Catch A Contractor
10:35 Friends
11:00 Key And Peele
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Friendszone
12:40 Key And Peele
13:05 Friends
13:55 Nathan For You
14:20 Workaholics

14:45 Disaster Date
15:10 Friends
15:35 Key And Peele
16:00 Nathan For You
16:30 Friendszone
16:55 Friends
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 Bondi Ink
19:00 Friends
19:25 Friendszone
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
20:12 Friends
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper
22:00 Nightcap
22:25 Kurt Metzger: White Precious
23:15 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:20 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
01:45 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
02:10 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
02:35 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
03:00 Nextworld
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
04:40 Tanked
05:40 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 Space Dealers
12:00 Secret Space Escapes
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
15:20 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
15:50 Nextworld
17:00 Space Dealers
17:50 Secret Space Escapes
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Tanked
21:10 Space Dealers
22:00 Secret Space Escapes
22:50 How The Earth Works
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor



00:45 A Crime To Remember
01:40 Death On A Submarine
02:35 Death On A Submarine
03:30 Evil Lives Here
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 Betrayed
08:15 Blood Relatives
09:10 Evil Stepmothers
10:05 I'd Kill For You
11:00 Chandra Levy: A Mistress Murdered
11:55 Betrayed
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 Evil Stepmothers
14:40 I'd Kill For You
15:35 Forbidden: Dying For Love
16:30 Betrayed
17:25 Blood Relatives
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 American Monster
20:10 The Perfect Murder
22:00 The Perfect Murder
22:55 Murder Book
23:50 Death On A Submarine



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:50 Evmerov 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
13:05 Jessie
13:30 Radio Rebel
13:50 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
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
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



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 The Lion Guard
12:00 Sofia The First
12:30 Sofia The First
13:00 PJ Masks
13:30 PJ Masks
14:00 P-King Duckling
14:30 Vampirina
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 P-King Duckling
22:30 Puppy Dog Pals
23:00 Mission Force One
23:30 PJ Masks



00:15 Ice Cold Gold
01:05 Gold Rush
01:50 Gold Rush: White Water
02:35 Gold Divers
03:20 Impossible Engineering
04:05 Flying Wild Alaska
04:30 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 Gold Rush
10:45 Gold Rush: White Water
11:30 Gold Divers
12:20 Factory Line
12:43 Dallas Car Sharks
13:05 Storage Hunters
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Dirty Jobs
14:40 Ice Cold Gold
15:30 Gold Rush
16:15 Gold Rush: White Water
17:05 Gold Divers
17:50 Flying Wild Alaska
18:40 Dirty Jobs
19:25 Ice Cold Gold
20:15 Impossible Engineering
21:00 Impossible Engineering
21:50 Fire In The Hole
22:40 What On Earth?
23:30 Flying Wild Alaska



06:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
06:25 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
06:50 Skyrunners
08:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
08:25 Milo Murphy's Law
08:35 Mech-X4
08:50 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
21:10 Kid vs. Kat
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:30 Phineas & Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



00:05 Botched
00:55 Botched
01:50 El News
02:50 WAGs
03:40 WAGs
04:35 WAGs
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Second Wives Club
06:55 El News Middle East
07:10 Second Wives Club
08:10 El News: Daily Pop
09:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
10:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

11:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
12:00 El News Middle East
12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 El News Middle East
15:15 El News: Daily Pop
16:15 WAGs Miami
17:10 WAGs Miami
18:05 WAGs Miami
19:00 El News
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
23:00 El News Middle East
23:15 WAGs Atlanta



00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Victoria
04:20 Broadchurch
05:15 Royal Recipes
06:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:10 The Chase
08:05 Victoria
09:00 Broadchurch
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?
16:00 The Chase
16:55 The Jonathan Ross Show
17:50 Royal Recipes
18:50 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Cannonball
21:55 The Jonathan Ross Show
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Ancient Top 10
01:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
02:00 The Universe
02:50 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
03:40 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
04:30 The Lost Evidence
05:20 How 2 Win
06:10 How 2 Win
07:00 Ancient Top 10
08:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
09:00 The Universe
10:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
11:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
12:00 The Lost Evidence
13:00 Ancient Top 10
14:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
15:00 The Universe
16:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
17:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
18:00 Ancient Top 10
19:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
20:00 The Universe
21:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
22:00 Ancient Impossible
23:00 The Lost Evidence



00:20 Forged: Iron & Fire
00:45 Pawn Stars
01:10 Swamp People
02:00 American Pickers
02:50 Counting Cars
03:15 Car Hunters
03:40 Project Impossible
04:30 Swamp People
05:15 Swamp People
06:00 Ice Road Truckers
06:50 Forged In Fire
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Car Hunters
08:30 Project Impossible
09:20 Ice Road Truckers
10:10 Alone
11:00 Forged In Fire
11:50 Counting Cars
12:15 Car Hunters
12:40 Project Impossible
13:30 Ice Road Truckers
14:20 American Pickers
15:10 Alone
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 Counting Cars
17:15 Car Hunters
17:40 Project Impossible
18:30 Ice Road Truckers
19:20 Forged: Iron & Fire
19:45 Pawn Stars
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
21:50 Hoard Hunters
22:40 Forged: Iron & Fire
23:05 Pawn Stars
23:30 Ice Road Truckers



00:15 Poh & Co.
00:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
01:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
01:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
02:05 Maximum Foodie
02:35 Maximum Foodie
03:00 Sinful Sweets
03:25 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
04:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
04:50 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
05:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
06:15 Places We Go
06:40 Places We Go
07:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
07:35 Maximum Foodie
08:05 Maximum Foodie
08:30 Sinful Sweets
09:00 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
09:55 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
10:20 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
10:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
11:45 Places We Go
12:10 Places We Go
12:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
13:05 Poh & Co.
13:35 Maximum Foodie
14:00 Sinful Sweets
14:30 Gok's Chinese Takeaway

15:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
15:50 The Food Files
16:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
17:15 Exploring Macau With Julian Davison
18:10 Street Food Around The World
18:35 Poh & Co.
19:05 Maximum Foodie
19:30 Sinful Sweets
20:00 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
21:00 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
21:30 The Food Files
22:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
22:55 Exploring Macau With Julian Davison
23:50 Street Food Around The World



00:10 Miracle Hospital
01:00 For The Love Of Fashion
02:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
03:00 Showdown Of The Unbeatables
04:00 Miracle Hospital
05:00 Engineering Connections
06:00 Ultimate Survival Alaska
07:00 One Strange Rock
08:00 Fish Tank Kings
09:00 Engineering Connections
10:00 America's Great War 1917-1918
11:00 Apocalypse: The Second World War
12:00 Taste Of The Tropics: Taiwan
13:00 Ultimate Survival Alaska
14:00 Inside: America's Money Vault
15:00 One Strange Rock
16:00 Nazi Scrapbooks From Hell
17:00 Apocalypse: The Second World War
18:00 Chain Of Command
19:00 One Strange Rock
20:00 Nazi Scrapbooks From Hell
20:50 Apocalypse: The Second World War
21:40 Chain Of Command
22:30 One Strange Rock
23:20 Inside: America's Money Vault



00:20 Bite, Sting, Kill
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Incredible Fangs
02:50 Caught In The Act GPU Reversions
03:45 World's Weirdest (2015)
04:40 World's Weirdest (2015)
05:35 Incredible Fangs
06:30 Caught In The Act GPU Reversions
07:25 World's Weirdest (2015)
08:20 World's Weirdest (2015)
09:15 America The Beautiful
10:10 Wild Case Files
11:05 World's Weirdest (2015)
12:00 Shark Swarm
12:55 Big Cat Odyssey
13:50 World's Deadliest Compilations

14:45 World's Weirdest
15:40 Baby Animals In The Wild
16:35 America The Beautiful
17:30 My Life Is A Zoo
18:25 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
19:20 World's Weirdest
20:10 Baby Animals In The Wild
21:00 America The Beautiful
21:50 My Life Is A Zoo
22:40 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
23:30 Shark Swarm

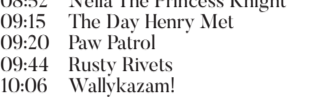


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 Rabbids Invasion
04:12 Rabbids Invasion
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 The Loud House
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 Prank
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 The Loud House
23:24 Regal Academy
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:07 Max & Ruby
00:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:39 Kiva Can Do!
00:50 The Day Henry Met
00:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:17 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:39 Paw Patrol
01:51 Kid-E-Cats
01:55 Kid-E-Cats
02:01 Shimmer And Shine
02:24 Nella The Princess Knight
02:36 Paw Patrol
02:59 Max & Ruby

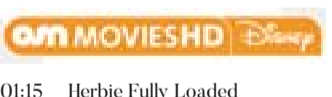
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:45 Sunny Day
04:07 Nella The Princess Knight
04:31 Shimmer And Shine
04:54 Wallykazam!
05:17 Zack & Quack
05:27 The Day Henry Met
05:32 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Nella The Princess Knight
07:22 Kiva Can Do!
07:33 Kiva Can Do!
07:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:06 Paw Patrol
08:29 Shimmer And Shine
08:52 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:20 Paw Patrol
09:44 Rusty Rivets
10:06 Wallykazam!
10:30 Bubble Guppies
10:53 Team Umizoomi
11:16 Kid-E-Cats
11:22 Shimmer And Shine
11:45 Sunny Day
12:07 Max & Ruby
12:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:40 Kiva Can Do!
12:51 The Day Henry Met
12:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:29 Paw Patrol
13:51 Kid-E-Cats
13:56 Kid-E-Cats
14:02 Shimmer And Shine
14:24 Nella The Princess Knight
14:36 Paw Patrol
15:00 Max & Ruby
15:23 Dora The Explorer
15:46 Sunny Day
16:08 Nella The Princess Knight
16:31 Shimmer And Shine
16:53 Wallykazam!
17:17 Zack & Quack
17:27 The Day Henry Met
17:32 The Day Henry Met
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:13 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
19:22 Kiva Can Do!
19:33 Kiva Can Do!
19:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:06 Paw Patrol
20:29 Shimmer And Shine
20:52 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:20 Paw Patrol
21:44 Rusty Rivets
22:06 Wallykazam!
22:30 Bubble Guppies
22:53 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Kid-E-Cats
23:21 Shimmer And Shine
23:45 Sunny Day



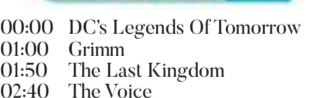
00:15 How I Met Your Mother
01:05 Seinfeld
01:55 According To Jim
03:15 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
05:40 Marry Me
06:05 The Bernie Mac Show
06:30 People Of Earth
06:55 Mom
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 Modern Family
10:45 Will And Grace 2017
11:40 Marry Me
11:05 The Bernie Mac Show
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 People Of Earth
12:45 Mom
13:10 How I Met Your Mother
14:00 Seinfeld
14:50 Marry Me
15:15 Modern Family
15:40 Will And Grace 2017
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Fresh Off The Boat
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 The Simpsons
20:30 The Last Man On Earth
21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Crashing
22:30 Crashing
23:00 Difficult People
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



01:15 Herbie Fully Loaded
03:15 The Princess Diaries
05:15 Finding Dory
07:15 Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs
09:00 Herbie Fully Loaded
11:00 The Princess Diaries
13:00 Zootropolis
15:00 The Muppets
17:00 Alice Through The Looking Glass
19:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
21:00 Zootropolis
23:00 The Muppets



00:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
01:00 Grimm
01:50 The Last Kingdom
02:40 The Voice
03:30 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
04:20 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
05:20 Empire
06:10 The Night Shift
07:00 Good Morning America
08:00 The View
10:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
11:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
11:45 Grimm
12:30 The Night Shift
13:15 Chicago Fire
14:00 The Flash
15:00 The View
16:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 The Night Shift
19:00 Chicago Med
20:00 Chicago Fire
21:00 Supergirl
22:00 Lethal Weapon
23:00 S.W.A.T.



01:25 Fright Night (2011)
03:15 Aquamarine
05:00 Breaking The Bank
06:50 Barbershop: The Next Cut

08:45 Hearts Of Spring
10:15 Aquamarine
12:00 Breaking The Bank
13:50 Barbershop: The Next Cut
15:45 Hearts Of Spring
17:15 Little Loopers
18:55 Nacho Libre
20:30 Baby, Baby, Baby
22:00 Postpar: Never Stop Never Stopping
23:30 Middle Men



01:20 Stop-Loss
03:20 Little Man Tate
05:10 Roman Holiday
07:15 Dare To Be Wild
09:05 Convicts
10:50 Little Man Tate
12:40 The Great Gatsby
15:10 The Shamer's Daughter
16:55 Far From Men
18:45 The Hollars
20:25 Memoria
21:45 Chattahoochee
23:30 The Conversation



00:10 The Happy Cricket And The Giant Bugs
01:50 The Emperor's Secret
03:25 The Happy Cricket
04:55 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest
06:40 Nur And The Dragon's Temple
08:00 Swan Princess: Royally Undercover
09:30 Felix The Toy Rabbit And The Time Machine
11:05 The Secret Of Kells
12:35 Ivan The Incredible
14:05 The Happy Cricket
15:35 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest
17:20 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
18:45 The Secret Of Kells
20:15 Help And Freedom
21:55 The Adventures Of Scooter The Penguin
23:25 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow



00:05 Pushing Tin
02:15 Creed
04:35 Chloe And Theo
06:10 Hoosiers
08:20 The Cable Guy
10:05 Creed
12:25 Man In The Moon
14:15 Bottle Rocket
15:55 Dan In Real Life
17:35 Tombstone
19:50 Donnie Brasco
22:00 Tropic Thunder



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory USA
01:20 Secrets Of The Underground
02:10 The Big Brain Theory
03:00 Prototype This
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory USA
05:24 Secrets Of The Underground
06:12 The Big Brain Theory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Prototype This
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 The Big Brain Theory
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory USA
10:38 Secrets Of The Underground
11:26 Prototype This
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory USA
13:50 The Big Brain Theory
14:38 Prototype This
15:26 Secrets Of The Underground
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 The Big Brain Theory
17:50 Prototype This
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Street Science
19:55 Street Science
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory USA
21:10 The Big Brain Theory
22:00 Street Science
22:25 Street Science
22:50 Prototype This
23:40 Mythbusters



00:05 Chaloo Movie
02:25 Risk
03:00 Risk
04:35 The Front Row
05:00 Kris Aur Krishna
06:45 Naseeb
09:20 Dil Hai Tumhaara
12:35 Saazish
15:00 Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya
17:45 Singham Returns
20:00 Arjun Pandit
22:20 Anu Sarkar



00:15 When Love Came To Town
02:00 Monkey Kingdom
03:00 Monkey Kingdom
03:30 The Conspirator
05:30 Nurse Betty
07:30 A Walk To Remember
09:15 London
10:45 Two For The Money
13:00 Foxcatcher
15:15 Monkey Kingdom
16:45 Meet Bill
18:15 When Love Came To Town
20:00 Proof
21:45 Her
23:45 Monster



00:00 Cedar Cove
01:00 Cedar Cove
02:00 Grey's Anatomy
03:00 Married At First Sight
04:00 Project Accessory
05:00 Devious Maids
06:00 Cedar Cove
07:00 Cedar Cove
08:00 Grey's Anatomy
09:00 Married At First Sight
10:



CROSSWORD 1876



ACROSS

1. A bachelor's degree in naval science.
4. A title used to address any peeress except a duchess.
12. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
16. A unit of current equal to 10 amperes.
17. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
18. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
19. (Old Testament) A youth who was taken into the court of Nebuchadnezzar and given divine protection when thrown into a den of lions (6th century BC).
20. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
21. A small cake leavened with yeast.
23. Ark shells.
26. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
27. Brick that is laid sideways at the top of a wall.
30. A roll of tobacco for smoking.
32. A large order of insects having a single pair of wings and sucking or piercing mouths.
38. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
39. A Mid-Atlantic state.
41. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
42. Cause aversion in.
44. A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.
45. An administrator in charge of a division of a university or college.
47. A doughnut-shaped chamber used in fusion research.
49. In bed.
53. Inquire about.
54. Narrow and long and pointed.
55. Someone who leaves one country to settle in another.
57. A small constellation in the northern hemisphere near Cygnus and Draco.
58. Lower in esteem.
61. A diacritical mark (-) placed over the letter n in Spanish to indicate a palatal nasal sound or over a vowel in Portuguese to indicate nasalization.
62. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
64. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
68. The month following February and preceding April.
70. The income arising from land or other property.
74. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
76. The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
77. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
78. The fourth compartment of the stomach of a ruminant.
82. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
83. A doctor's degree in theology.
84. A noblewoman who holds the rank of baron or who is the wife or widow of a baron.
85. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.

DOWN

1. Divulge information or secrets.
2. Kamarupan languages spoken in north-eastern India and western Burma.
3. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
4. A boy or man.
5. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
6. Fairly small terrestrial ferns of tropical America.
7. (Norse mythology) The primeval giant slain by Odin and his brothers and from whose body they created the world.
8. A detailed description of design criteria for a piece of work.
9. In the shape of a coil.
10. A heavy brittle metallic element of the platinum group.
11. Relating to or occurring or living in or frequenting the open ocean.
12. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
13. Type genus of the Ranidae.
14. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
22. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
24. African tree with edible yellow fruit resembling mangos.
25. (of pain or sorrow) Made easier to bear.
28. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
29. Occurring or existing before birth.
31. A blood group antigen possessed by Rh-positive people.
33. Extreme mental retardation.
34. A workman employed to pack things into containers.
35. A Hindu prince or king in India.
36. Hired for the exclusive temporary use of a group of travelers.
37. Used by southerners for an inhabitant of a northern state in the United States (especially a Union soldier).
40. A silver-white metallic element of the platinum group that resembles platinum.
43. Singing popular songs accompanied by a recording of an orchestra (usually in bars or nightclubs).
46. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
48. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
50. Any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species.
51. The square of a body of any size of type.
52. Evergreen tree of eastern Asia and Philippines having large leathery leaves and small green-white flowers in compact cymes.
56. The distance around a person's body.
59. Before noon.
60. Of or relating to Samoa or its people or language or culture.
63. Type genus of the Aridae.
65. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
66. A small ball with a hole through the middle.
67. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
69. A domed or vaulted recess or projection on a building especially the east end of a church.
71. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
72. Strike sharply.
73. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
75. Group insurance that entitles members to services of participating hospitals and clinics and physicians.
79. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
80. A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
81. A chronic progressive nervous disorder involving loss of myelin sheath around certain nerve fibers.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Now is the time to go in new directions regarding love and friendship if you find you are unhappy; if you ignore this the situation will only worsen. Impetuous action regarding finances is not suggested at this time; watch and learn. Even so, you will come across opportunities to increase your finances; be careful. A situation will conclude or enter a sensitive phase of expansion. You will have the desire to work with electronic or some type of innovative theories combined with facts. Your energies run effectively toward making yourself felt in the material, perceptible outer world. You are not in the most patient of moods and you could cut someone off that perhaps you shouldn't. Let your mind rest tonight.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You notice changes taking place everywhere you look; this could cause you to take another direction in achieving your objectives; the actual objectives could even change! Now is the time to let go, not accumulate. Research and wisdom from a trusted mentor will ease anxiety and create confidence. Listen carefully for without appropriate advice you could step into a very negative situation; something you may have created. You may face opposition on the home front until you explain what is happening. You could feel unbalanced and trapped with the arrival of some new developments. Use your common sense, think carefully and proceed accordingly. Rest and relax this evening with a good movie or books you always land on your feet.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your social life is prominent now and you may have to reconsider changing your some of the people you call friends. Many of your co-workers look up to you and try to find the secret to your positive frame of mind. Hearing new methods and approaches are at the top of your list. Using research to get the correct details and reaching people clearly with your findings will be prominent; mistakes could cause serious setbacks. In many cases it could also mean the way you present yourself will help represent the company in a positive way; higher-ups are watching. You will feel better about yourself and your efforts; this is rare but much needed! You are high-minded and technologically superior. Accept compliments and smile.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could be disappointed with someone you thought to be reliable; take time to figure out what happened and make plans to go another direction. You could think things will work themselves out if you're patient and let them be; this is a dangerous chance to take! Things will flow smoothly today toward finishing an important project. Intuition will lead you to look into new medical care; this could possibly mean new exercise regimen or changes in the food you eat. You could find yourself on center stage as superiors or the boss realize the quality of work you do. Unpleasant disagreements could come about when someone tries to control what you do or think. Enjoy your evening doing exactly what you feel drawn to do.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This new cycle brings with it the opportunity to let go of denial on you have clung to for a long time. Looking at the truth will enable you to make sensible decisions that will clear the way for growth. If a method is not working discard it and find another way. You could feel like freeing yourself of the conventional thought that you need more things to be happy and fulfilled; you could unload many old items that are holding you back. Shedding old ways eliminates old, cumbersome energy that interferes with evolving of the mind and spirit. Open up for clear thinking. Keep your feet planted firmly upon the ground even if you feel like running away; you will see just how much you are needed by someone you care for tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

It seems that today will bring with it an energy of making impressive changes to your home by using simple, yet inventive methods. People will compliment you on your clever designs and the perfect application of them. You could be rewarded for very good business activity. You could come to the side of a friend to help defend something they believe in; this could involve children with chronic diseases or perhaps the homeless, but this will be a most helpful effort on your part. Many others will come forward with approval and assistance. Someone who drops by to show you the results of their new diet could amaze you. Good friends often give us silent encouragement just by being next to us in a quiet moment.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may receive some information you have sought for a long time; savor the moment. It could seem that the facts of your life change in the twinkling of an eye; hold on for a rocky ride. It is better to halt in the middle of the stream than drown trying to reach the other side, be patient no matter how hard it seems. You find great enjoyment in your new studies and habits that bring positive outcomes. Hearing from a brother or sister will bring warmth and merriment to your day or this could indicate someone similar to a sibling. You will let someone know your true feelings and this could be a beautiful moment. Your outer beauty will be obvious today and someone will say so. A lazy evening with thoughts of fantasy induced possibilities for your tonight.



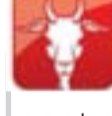
Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A new, exciting tool could appear that will support stronger communications. Decisions regarding work are clear-cut and everyone could agree; enjoy strong team unity throughout the day. A new idea could be polished and delivered to an appreciative client or customer. You could feel some resistance on a personal level that might puzzle you; be open to listening and learning. You may uncover an unfortunate mistake someone made and did not realize until now. You may need to ask for help later with an issue regarding a vehicle; could be flat tire or dead battery but nothing serious. Think of something restful to do later with someone you care for. Tonight, focus on the present and let go of all other concerns for now.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your vision is completely opposed to those you are involved with on certain levels; you may feel your way is the best way for you and not anyone else. Studying new concepts and methods is very important but remember that just because you read something doesn't mean you buy into it; it is merely something to learn about. Education is what separates many cultures and people because our experiences are so varied; have faith in making your way to a good, sound finish. You will be able to help lots of people and the sharing of answers will be available soon. The desire to travel will continue through the new year and you will have these opportunities crop up often. Tonight your home is your sanctuary from the masses.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Trading email addresses and phone numbers will mark the beginning of an important time in your life. Seeing more of family and friends could provide support you need now. Interesting, cutting edge ideas and products hold your attention; you are completely bored with the mundane routines in life. You want answers to the social state of the world and the causes for it! Take care with your search for you will hear many different approaches from across the globe. Keep your wits about you and take your time with important thoughts; you could be in a position to let yourself believe something just to have an answer; beware of this! Enjoy your evening with art, reading, writing, movies, dance or theater.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Someone seeks you out for your wisdom and guidance in a difficult situation that could involve someone you love. You eagerly continue your spiritual search; remember not all leaders matters of religion, politics or theories can be trusted as they are human and imperfect. There are no simple answers; be patient, pray, meditate and listen to your own heart. In business and personal realms be certain you have documentation before you present your case. You may cancel plans for a small trip that could be problematic. You may not want to be around anyone tonight and this may offend someone. You may want to put shopping for furnishing, clothes or vehicles on hold for now. Surround yourself with beauty this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You notice the tiny steps you have taken toward a certain goal will make a big showing this year. As a result, home, work and intimate relationships are front and center at this time; one small step at a time is perfect for you! You feel prepared and eager to clear away and solve blockages; your decisions could have to be remade tomorrow. You may feel upset over the way you have handled something but remember love conquers all. Societal issues could be your focus. If you feel people are siding against you or talking behind your back, relax because everyone who knows you loves you! Plenty of good times ahead as you continue your path toward learning and exploring ways to make life better for you and those you love.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Stephen King Movies

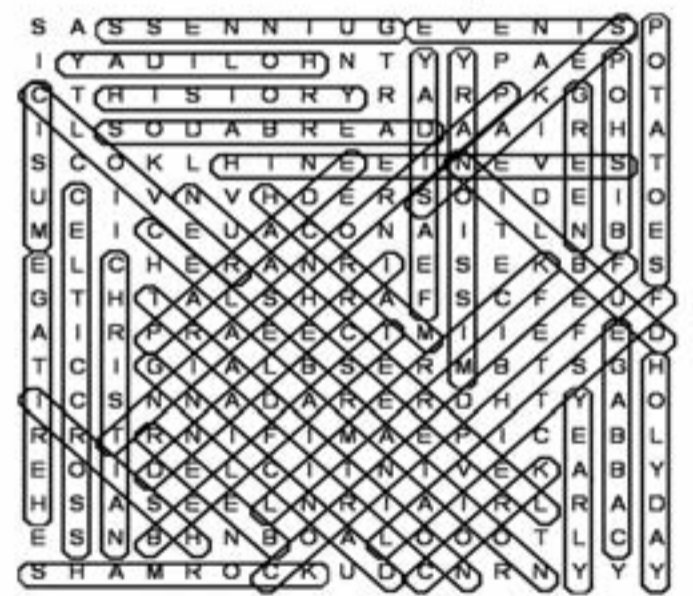
Find and circle all of the Stephen King Movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- |                      |                    |                     |                       |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| APT PUPIL            | DEAD ZONE          | MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE   | SHARKSHANK REDEMPTION |
| CARRIE               | DOLORES CLABONE    | MISERY              | SHINING               |
| CAT'S EYE            | DREAMCATCHER       | NEEDFUL THINGS      | SILVER BULLET         |
| CHILDREN OF THE CORN | FORESTARTER        | NIGHT FLIER         | SLEEPWALKERS          |
| CHRISTINE            | GRAVEYARD SHIFT    | PET SEMITARY        | STAND BY ME           |
| CREEPSHOW I          | GREEN MILE         | QUICKSILVER HIGHWAY | THE STAND             |
| CREEPSHOW II         | HEARTS IN ATLANTIS | ROSE RED            | THINNER               |
| CUJO                 | LANGOLIERS         | RUNNING MAN         | TOMMYKNOCKERS         |
| DARK HALF            | MANGLER            | SALEN'S LOT         | TRUCKS                |

Yesterday's Solution

St. Patrick's Day



- |              |           |              |             |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| BEER         | DANCING   | HOLY DAY     | POTATOES    |
| BELFAST      | DUBLIN    | IRELAND      | SEVENTEENTH |
| BISHOP       | EVENTS    | IRISH        | SHAMROCK    |
| CABBAGE      | FEAST DAY | LEPRECHAUN   | SHAKES      |
| CELEBRATION  | FESTIVAL  | LIMERICK     | SODA BREAD  |
| CELTIC CROSS | GREEN     | MARCH        | TRADITION   |
| CHRISTIAN    | GUINNESS  | MISSIONARY   | YEARLY      |
| CLOVER       | HERITAGE  | MUSIC        |             |
| CORK         | HISTORY   | PARADE       |             |
| CORNNED BEEF | HOLIDAY   | PATRON SAINT |             |

The hidden message is: SAINT PATRICK LIVED IN THE FIFTH CENTURY

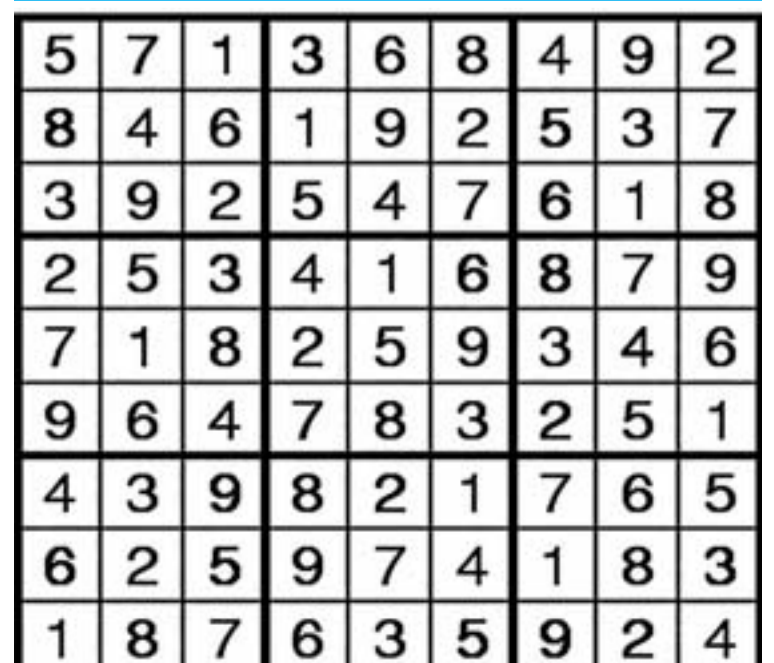
Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





# Classifieds

Thursday, April 5, 2018

**Kuwait Times**  
Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
[www.met.gov.kw](http://www.met.gov.kw)



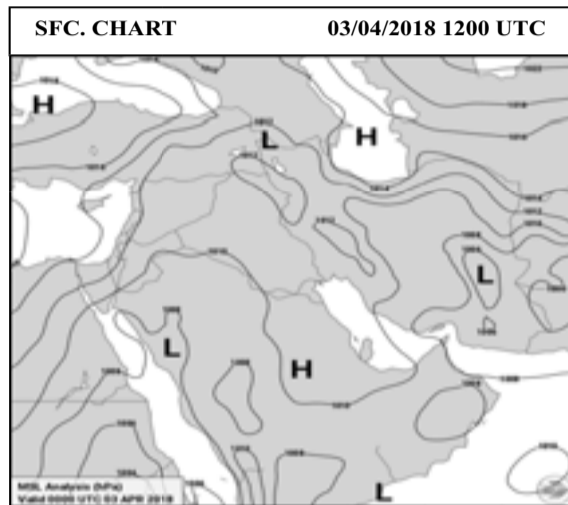
## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southerly wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

**BY NIGHT:** Cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind to southerly wind, with speed of 12 - 45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times with a chance for rising dust over

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
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STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	30 °C	23 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	30 °C	22 °C
ABDALY	33 °C	18 °C
BUBYAN	00 °C	19 °C
JAHRA	33 °C	21 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	28 °C	19 °C
SALMIYAH	26 °C	22 °C
AHMADI	00 °C	22 °C
NUWAISSIB	29 °C	20 °C
WAFRA	33 °C	18 °C
SALMY	32 °C	18 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	04/05	Cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain	29 °C	21 °C	NE-SE	12 - 35 km/h
Friday	04/06	Cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	29 °C	19 °C	SE	15 - 40 km/h
Saturday	04/07	Clouds will decrease gradually	32 °C	18 °C	SE-VRB	08 - 30 km/h
Sunday	04/08	Mostly Sunny	34 °C	19 °C	VRB	06 - 22 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:13
Sunrise	05:34
Zuhr	11:51
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:08
Isha	19:26

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	32 °C
MIN. Temp.	18 °C
MAX. RH	40 %
MIN. RH	14 %
MAX. Wind	SE 25 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
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

## SITUATION WANTED

MEP Engineer (HVAC, plumbing, FF), 14 years experience, Indian (M) searching job. Ph - 99054703, email: shibin@live.in (C5390) 1-4-2018

## ACCOMODATION

Two rooms available for Family/couple/working ladies/one bachelor, on Airport Road, Khaitan, Rent KD 85 only. Contact: 51614467. (C5391) 3-4-2018

## Airlines

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

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 5/4/2018				Departure Flights on Thursday 5/4/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC405	320	Sohag	00:05	FDB	072	Dubai	23:35
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	JZR	241	Amman	23:40
SAI	441	Lahore	00:15	WAN	136	Doha	23:50
TRQ	230	KRT	00:30	Airlines			
DLH	625	Bahrain	00:50	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	FDB	073	Dubai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	MSC	406	Sohag	01:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	WAN	541	KTM	01:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	SAI	442	Lahore	01:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	TRQ	231	KRT	01:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	417	Manila	01:45
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC	677	Dubai	02:00
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:50	WAN	351	Luxor	02:30
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:45
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
MSC	403	Asyut	03:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	RBG	216	Sohag	03:45
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	JZR	142	Doha	03:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSC	404	Asyut	04:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
KAC	544	Cairo	04:25	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:05
PAL	668	Manila	05:00	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	786	Riyadh	06:05
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	167	Paris	07:20
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:30
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	PAL	669	Manila	07:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	JZR	238	Amman	07:50
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	QTR	8512	Doha	08:05
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	BAW	156	London	08:20
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	KAC	117	New York	09:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	WAN	133	Doha	09:30
WAN	352	Luxor	08:30	IRA	672	Ahwaz	09:35
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	JZR	773	Riyadh	09:45
AZQ	4565	Baku	09:00	KAC	534	Cairo	09:45
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	101	London	10:00
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	KAC	797	Taif	10:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:05
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	617	Doha	10:10
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	WAN	873	Istanbul	10:15
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:10	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	SYR	342	Damascus	11:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	SGL	4101	QA	11:00
WAN	542	KTM	12:50	AZQ	4566	Baku	11:00
MSR	101	Cairo	13:00	JZR	788	Riyadh	11:20
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
WAN	134	Doha	13:20	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05



Lifestyle | Music &amp; Movies

# Hollywood French film fest showcases women's triumphs

The world's largest festival of French film hits Hollywood this month embracing the #MeToo moment with a line-up dedicated to the country's best female filmmaking talent. The 22nd COLCOA is offering a record 86 films, television shows, digital series and virtual reality experiences, many never seen before in the United States, as well as a handful of international and US premieres. It is the first edition of the annual event since the Harvey Weinstein sex abuse scandal that sparked the #MeToo and Time's Up campaigns, and the program reflects the push to celebrate the work of women.

"Through its different competitions, we are proud to dedicate this year's programming of COLCOA to women, both in their role in the making of the films and series, and their central roles in the majority of the stories selected this year," said executive producer Francois Truffart. Originally styled "City of Lights, City of Angels," COLCOA boasts some 75 entrants for a slew of honors, including the audience award, best documentary, best TV movie, critics award and critics special prize.

With the film industry still reeling from the shock of the sexual harassment and assault firestorm that ended the careers of Weinstein and numerous other powerful Hollywood figures, the female aspect of many COLCOA entrants should resonate on both sides of the Atlantic. These include Oscar-nominated Xavier Legrand's feature debut "Custody," a social realist thriller about a violent abuser

who forces his way back into his ex's life that won best director and debut at the Venice film festival.

## 'Their problem too'

"The Party is Over," another feature directorial debut, this time from Marie Garel-Weiss, is about two women who bond as they battle drug addiction, becoming inseparable. More than half of the selection of short films are by women, while panels will address the role of women in the French film industry and first films directed by women. Over at the festival's "virtual reality corner," an experience called "Uturn" examines the gender gap from both sides with interwoven stories that allow the viewer to embody either a female or male character.

The experience was created by Nathalie Mathe, a NASA scientist turned filmmaker and VR specialist whose credits include "Persepolis," "The Dark Knight Rises," "Skyfall," "Captain Phillips" and "Fast and Furious 6." "For 50 years women have been told how they should adapt and learn to survive in order to succeed in male-dominated industries like tech and media," she said in a statement about the project. Mathe said that while a few women had risen to the top of their field, the vast majority were still under-represented and under-valued, an assertion borne out in numerous studies of employment patterns in showbusiness.

"Now is the time for changing strategy. Men need to see gender issues as their problem too,



(From left) COLCOA Executive Producer and Programmer Francois Truffart, Screenwriter Howard A Rodman, MPPA representative Joan E. Graves, director Jeremy P Kagan, Variety Chief Film Critic Peter Debruge and COLCOA Deputy Director Anouchka Van Riel attend the announcement of the 22nd Edition Program of COLCOA French Film Festival. — AFP

an overall outdated cultural framework that needs to be reframed," Mathes added. COLCOA also boasts a focus on filmmaker and actress Melanie Laurent ("Inglorious Basterds"), screening her first movie "The Adopted" before a discussion about her career, followed by a US premiere screening of her latest film, "Diving." The festival opens on April 23

with the North American premiere of writer-director Eric Barbier's "Promise at Dawn," a celebration of motherhood starring Pierre Niney and Charlotte Gainsbourg.

## 'Stronger than death'

It closes a week later with the North American premiere of Cedric Kahn's study of a

religious sanctuary for recovering addicts, "The Prayer," which won newcomer Anthony Bajon best actor at Berlin's film festival. COLCOA is nothing if not glamorous and other big international names sprinkling stardust on the festival include Vanessa Paradis ("Dog"), Gerard Depardieu ("Get Out Your Handkerchief," "The Other Woman"), Charlotte Rampling ("Flesh of the Orchid") and Jean Dujardin ("Return of the Hero"). In the documentary section, highlights include "Nothingwood," which follows the work of Salim Shaheen, a chubby Afghan actor who is his country's one-man film industry.

A gonzo director who has made 111 movies on a shoestring in a country where just watching one can get you killed, he and his endearingly eccentric band of actors are the stars of the documentary, Shaheen regularly dodges minefields and the Taliban, and survived a rocket attack on his studio in 1995 in which nine of his actors and crew died "I am stronger than death," he told AFP at the Cannes film festival. "We Afghans don't worry about death. It will come, we just don't know when."

Alongside the movies, the television competition features 12 series and TV movies, including the international premiere of "Proud," a three-part miniseries dealing with gay rights spanning 30 years in France. COLCOA's growing repertoire of movies and burgeoning popularity—about 25,000 people now attend each year—has seen it become the world's largest festival dedicated to French film, according to its organizers. — AFP

## S Korea musicians return after rare Pyongyang joint concert



Actress Lynda Carter poses on her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at the star unveiling ceremony, April 3, 2018, in Hollywood, California. — AFP

## 'Wonder Woman' Lynda Carter feted with Hollywood star

With her arms crossed and poised for action, "Wonder Woman" television actress Lynda Carter was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Tuesday as her most famous superhero character enjoys a big-screen revival. Carter, 66, was introduced by long-time friend and CBS Corp Chief Executive Leslie Moonves and Patty Jenkins, the director of last year's blockbuster film "Wonder Woman." "It seems impossible but I have been in entertainment for more than 50 years—do the math," Carter told the audience along Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles before the unveiling of the emblematic terrazzo and brass star.

"I have loved it all!" the former Miss World USA exclaimed. Carter's "Wonder Woman" character, which first appeared on the pages of DC Comics in 1941 and debuted as a TV series starring the actress in 1976, is seen as a forerunner to the empowered heroines that are taking center stage in Hollywood. Jenkins, 46, said Carter

inspired her as a girl and showed her that she did not have to choose between being rebellious or feminine, or attractive or strong. "Her Wonder Woman made me believe I could have whatever I wanted, and even more importantly, it made me unashamed to want it," Jenkins said.

"Wonder Woman" was only on US television for three seasons, first on ABC and later on CBS where it finished in 1979. But the series, along with Carter's performance, have given "Wonder Woman" a long legacy as a feminist symbol. At times choking with emotion, Carter thanked her friends and family for their support as well as a nod to the men who helped stand behind women's stories. "From all of the wonder women out there, we love our men who stand with us and champion our causes and our voices," Carter said. "This is a day that I shall never forget," she concluded. The Hollywood Walk of Fame is administered by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and is major tourist attraction. — Reuters

## Benicio Del Toro to preside over Cannes sidebar jury



In this file photo Puerto Rican born US-Spanish actor Benicio Del Toro poses during a photocall for the film "Sicario" at the 68th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes. — AFP

Hollywood star Benicio Del Toro is to preside over the Certain Regard section of the Cannes film festival, the organizers said yesterday. The Puerto Rican-Spanish actor won best actor at Cannes in 2008 for playing Che Guevara in Steven Soderbergh's two "Che" films. The Certain Regard section is a parallel section of the festival in which 20 "original and different" films compete for the Camera d'Or, or Golden Camera award. Del Toro, 51, who won an Oscar for "Traffic" in 2001, sat on the jury for the main competition of the festival in 2010. Australian actress Cate Blanchett will preside over the main jury this year.

Meanwhile, French producers have lent their

support to Cannes director Thierry Fremaux over his controversial shake-up of the world's top film festival. He had incurred the wrath of hundreds of French and international critics for changing the timings of press screenings which they said would play havoc with the festival. They argued that critics would now have to wait until the day after gala red carpet premieres to see many of the films in the competition. But the French producers union said it backed Fremaux's changes which did away with the tradition of having press previews before the gala premieres. It said they supported the idea of showing "their films in real world premieres before the public and film professionals at the same time". — AFP

This picture taken on April 3, 2018 and released from North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) yesterday shows the joint performance "We Are One" given by artists from the north and the south of Korea at the Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Indoor Stadium in Pyongyang. — AFP photos



Musicians from North and South Korea held hands, sang and cried together at a rare concert held in Pyongyang that ended with an emotional standing ovation by thousands of spectators. The South Korean pop stars returned home yesterday after two concerts in the North's capital this week, the first of which was attended by leader Kim Jong Un who said he was "deeply moved" by their performance. Their visit, part of a cultural charm offensive by Seoul, comes as a diplomatic thaw gathers pace on the peninsula ahead of a landmark inter-Korean summit this month.

The second concert, held Tuesday evening at a packed 12,000-capacity Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Gymnasium in Pyongyang, saw the North's Samjiyon Orchestra join South Korean K-pop stars on stage, to rapturous applause. "The performers sang of the ardent desire of the fellow countrymen for national reunification hands in hands," reported the North's official KCNA agency. The joint concert stirred the audience as those present "overflowed with compatriotic and warm feelings", KCNA said. Kim, who made a surprise appearance with his wife at the first concert, did not attend Tuesday's performance.

His high-profile appearance at the earlier concert was unusual as his authoritarian regime typically struggles to prevent any infiltration of the South's pop culture. Kim even met and joked with Red Velvet, a K-pop girl band, about the high levels of interest in the South about his attendance.

The girl group's performance of hit song "Red Flavour" Tuesday appeared too much for the North Korean audience, however, which was

subdued throughout a provocative display, according to South Korean pool reports.

But the crowd responded with louder applause for 61-year-old musician Choi Jin-hee, who sang her 80s hit song "The Maze of Love"—reportedly former North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's favorite song. The stadium also reacted enthusiastically when female singers from the two countries jointly performed "Paektu and Halla are My Fatherland", a patriotic North Korean song about reunification. The show culminated with all the musicians joining together to sing the North's "See You Again" and the common Korean children's song "Our Wish is

Reunification", prompting a standing ovation that lasted more than 10 minutes.

"I think the performance was a success," said Hyon Song Wol, head of the North's art troupe, after the show. "The South Korean singers did really well without any mistake even though they had only half a day to practice," Hyon said. The rapprochement on the peninsula began with the South's Winter Olympics, to which the North's Kim sent athletes, cheerleaders and his sister as an envoy. An inter-Korean summit will be held on April 27. No date has been set for a planned US-North Korean summit although it is expected before the end of May. — AFP



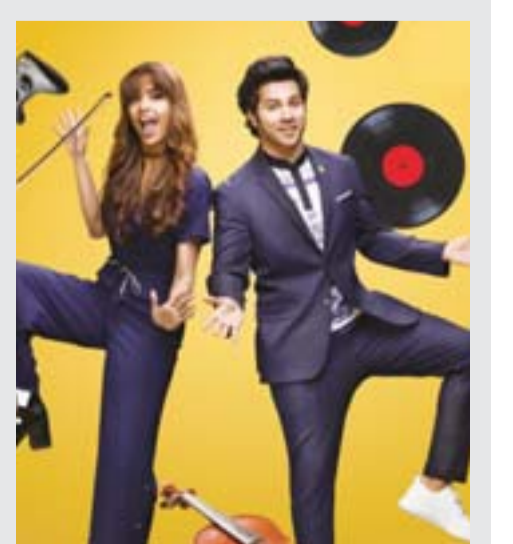
This picture shows the joint performance "We Are One" given by artists from the north and the south of Korea at the Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Indoor Stadium in Pyongyang. — AFP

## ICONIC launches Summer'18 campaign

ICONIC, the youngest fashion destination from the stable of retail conglomerate Landmark Group has just launched its Summer'18 campaign with brand ambassador Varun Dhawan. Adding oomph to the campaign alongside Varun is Bollywood star Esha Gupta. The fresh and youthful campaign will showcase the best of the summer trends in true ICONIC style.

With the new collection, you can define your seasonal style with an array of trends ranging from the casual safari look that highlights comfort and relaxed attitude to a more

feminine and whimsical ladylike dress code. Casual resort wear is key for women while Men lean towards a minimal line with a contemporary look playing with prints. Men can take their pick from collections that feature a ton of Pink for those who embrace more washed out tones. The new campaign and the uber cool TVC is out in the GCC and across varied communication channels including Outdoor, Radio, TV & Online. Head over to ICONIC and shop the latest Summer collection available at Salam Mall in Salmiya and at Sama Mall in Fintas.





Lifestyle | Features



This picture shows a pig-tailed macaque (left) holding trainer Wan Ibrahim Wan Mat's hand outside his house in the village of Melor in the northern state of Kelantan. — AFP photos

A pig-tailed macaque learning to pick coconuts outside trainer Wan Ibrahim Wan Mat's house.

# SERIOUS MONKEY BUSINESS AT MALAYSIA SCHOOL FOR MACAQUES

A pig-tailed macaque yanked at a coconut on a piece of string until it fell to the floor, a small victory for the simian student at a Malaysian school that trains monkeys to harvest fruit for farmers. Thousands of monkeys have been taught the trade over the past four decades by a man known as Grandfather Wan in a small village in the north of the country. For a small fee people across the country send their macaques to the famed school, where they are put on thin chains like leashes, and trained to clamber up palm trees and pick coconuts.

Teaching monkeys to pick fruit has in the past sparked protests from animal rights groups who have denounced it as cruel, but Grandfather Wan—real name Wan Ibrahim Wan Mat—insists he only ever treats his charges kindly. “They are like our children,” said the 63-year-old, as macaques swung about and screeched in a training area consisting of a cluster of palm trees and some dilapidated wooden platforms for the macaques to climb on. “When they drop the fruits, we show them love. We stroke them.”

He trains southern pig-tailed macaques, a medium-sized monkey found across much of Malaysia, as well as parts of Indonesia and southern Thailand. They are mostly found in the region's rainforests but as their natural habitat has been destroyed by logging and human encroachment, the monkeys have increasingly strayed into villages and cities.

### Top-notch coconut pickers

Wan Ibrahim first became interested in macaque training in his early 20s when he spotted the creatures climb up coconut palms to pick the fruit. It was just a hobby to begin with but as he improved, word of his skills spread and people from far and wide started sending their macaques to him in the small village of Padang Halban in northern Kelantan state. Coconuts are big business in tropical Malaysia which produces some 700 million every year and the country is home to countless smallholders some of whom use monkeys to carry out the labor-intensive work of harvesting.

Getting a monkey up to speed as a top-

“When they drop the fruits, we show them love. We stroke them”

notch coconut picker can take anything from a few days to a month, depending on the animal, Wan Ibrahim said. But once fully trained they can pick up to 800 coconuts a day, which he said makes his fee of 150 ringgit (\$38) for a full course well worth it. The course has several stages. The first is training a monkey to yank a coconut free that is attached by a piece of

string to a wooden fence—aping the action of pulling one of the fruits from a coconut tree.

The creatures are then trained to pull coconuts from a plank of wood raised a few feet above the ground, and the final stage sees them clambering up palm trees to collect the fruit. Mat Ali Zakaria, a coconut picker and customer from the town of Padang Rengas, more than 300 kilometers (180 miles) away from Padang Halban, praised Wan Ibrahim for his gentle training methods. “I’ve seen other people training macaques—sometimes if they don’t want to take coconuts, the monkeys are dunked into a river,” he said. Wan Ibrahim’s business won’t be around forever—he has slowed down since a stroke two years ago and now gets around with a walking stick. None of his five children are interested in taking over the training center but he said there are other monkey trainers in Malaysia who will continue the work once he retires. Malaysian Animal Welfare Society president Shenaaz Khan said she was not against training macaques as long as it was not cruel, but raised concerns there was insufficient mon-

itoring of the monkeys once they were returned to their owners. “When you use them as a labor force, they don’t have protection. Who’s going to look out for them?” she said. — AFP



A pig-tailed macaque picking macaque-trainer Wan Ibrahim Wan Mat's hair outside his house in the village of Melor in the northern state of Kelantan.



A Malaysian man watching a pig-tailed macaque outside trainer Wan Ibrahim Wan Mat's house.



A pig-tailed macaque tied with a chain outside trainer Wan Ibrahim Wan Mat's house.



A pig-tailed macaque learning to pick coconuts as trainer Wan Ibrahim Wan Mat looks on, outside his house.



This picture shows Japanese macaques, commonly referred to as “snow” monkeys, taking an open-air hot spring bath, or “onsen”, at the Jigokudani (Hell's Valley) Monkey Park in the town of Yamanouchi, Nagano prefecture. — AFP

## EVEN MONKEYS NEED A SPA DAY, JAPAN STUDY FINDS

A relaxing soak in a hot tub is a time-honored stress reliever but the advantages are not confined to humans—with monkeys also benefiting from spa time, researchers in Japan say. Japan's “snow monkeys” are known for their love of hot springs in the country's northern Nagano region, with tourists flocking to photograph the mediating macaques soaking in steaming baths. It was long assumed that the blissed-out bathers were simply trying to warm up during the chilly winter months, when snow blankets the region.

But experts at the Primate Research Institute at Kyoto University who observed 12 female Japanese macaques in 2014 at the Jigokudani Yaen-Koen monkey park in Nagano found there was more to it. They

examined the bathing behavior of the monkeys and collected their excrement to measure glucocorticoid, a hormone whose concentration increases when stress levels are high. They found that stress levels in the monkeys, aged between five and 24, were about 20 percent lower on average after bathing.

The results of their study were published this week. “The study showed that bathing in hot springs is beneficial not only for people but for Japanese macaques too,” researcher Rafaela Sayuri Takeshita told AFP. Takeshita believes the spa treatment may have additional benefits for the macaques, perhaps increasing both fertility and longevity. “We also want to study the relationship between bathing and their reproduction and longevity in the future,” she said. — AFP

## Replica of bedroom in '2001: A Space Odyssey' on display in Washington



“The Barmecide Feast,” a reproduction of the famous bedroom from Kubrick's “2001: A Space Odyssey,” is on display at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC, on April 3, 2018. — AFP photos

Film buffs can now visit a replica of the bedroom depicted in the penultimate scene of “2001: A Space Odyssey” on the 50th anniversary of its release. It has been set up in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington. In the neo-classical bedroom, the spaceman Dr David Bowman sees and then becomes older versions of himself, ending up as an old man in bed and then, as he reaches for a black monolith, a fetus. The exhibit will be open to the public April 8-May 28 and serve as the centerpiece of the museum's celebration of the film's 50th anniversary. The installation is called “The Barmecide Feast.”

One thing that stands out is the bright lighting, just like in the film. That way viewers can “appreciate the physical environment around the arti-

facts” in the exhibit such as the bed, chairs, paintings and sculptures, said Martin Collins, a curator at the museum. “For Kubrick it was important not to have extra set lighting but to have lighting built into the scene itself,” said Collins. It is the work of British artist Simon Birch and is the museum's way of honoring a film considered one of the best in the history of cinema.

Long before movies like “Star Wars” or “Blade Runner”, Kubrick revolutionized science fiction with this film co-written with Arthur C. Clarke. A year before humans set foot on the moon, Collins said, “you also had a deep preoccupation about the future. It was a moment of time in the 60s, both in the United States and the Soviet Union, where the advances in science and technology

were very dramatic.” But this progress came with a lot of questions, mainly about the future of humanity, he said, and in some way “2001” addressed them. One of the features of this film honored by a top US museum is its respect for scientific rigor. Unlike in “Star Wars”, for instance, the reality of silence in space is respected.

For minutes at a time, viewers are treated to scenes with no sound or dialogue, giving the film a slow, gripping feel. “The space scenes are grounded into the scientific knowledge of the early 60s,” said Collins. “There was a high degree of interest on Kubrick's part, and Clarke's, to be accurate in that sense”, Collins said. He added: “For the future of humanity, it gets more speculative.” — AFP





# Exploring truly off the beaten paths in Europe

Sponsored by Turkish Airlines, journalists from Kuwait toured Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo. Tourism is a top government priority for these countries, that are taking the lead and attracting more tourists to enjoy their fascinating nature, friendly peoples and diversity in accommodation choices. The tour would not have succeeded if it were not for Turkish Airlines' sponsorship. It included a number of media figures and social media influencers and was organized by the Albanian Landways company.

Established in 1933 with a fleet of five aircrafts, Star Alliance member Turkish Airlines is a 4-star airline today with a fleet of 330 aircraft flying to 302 destinations worldwide with 253 international and 49 domestic. According to the 2017 Skytrax survey, Turkish Airlines, already having a six consecutive years of "Best Airline in Europe" award between 2011-2016, is now chosen as the "Best Airline in Southern Europe" for the ninth consecutive year.

As a leading airline within the global aviation community, Turkish Airlines is always on the forefront of the latest technological advances and innovations and boasts one of the widest destinations network in the world. Constantly updating its routes to provide the best choices for its loyal customers, the multi-awards winning airline offers passengers exceptional quality of service, in-flight entertainment systems, comfortable seats and gourmet cuisine.

Keeping up with global travel trends and consumer demand for authentic and emerging destinations across Europe, Turkish Airlines flies to the Balkan region with daily flights to Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia.

The Balkan Peninsula is a magical destination bound to capture the hearts of any visitor from around the world. Backed by immense complexity, proud history, natural landscapes intertwined with rich cultural inheritance visible in their cities and villages, tasteful recipes that boast of multi-cultural influences and over-whelming hospitality of the people, it will prove to be the right choice for travel and discovery of new experiences. Here are 3 popular places to visit on your Balkan tour:

## Albania

A country of southeastern Europe is abundant in natural beauty and a rich multi ethnic community of people. Albania is a mix of



unique attractions, archaeological sites, historical mosques, 5th century synagogues, castles, mountainous beauty and pristine beaches such as in Dhermi, Ksamil, Jale. Capital Tirana which holds colorful Ottoman appeal which will be home to the largest mosque in the Balkans, the Grand Mosque 'Namazgja', a gift by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan which will enable 5,000 people to pray at a time on an area of 20,000 square metres.

With a booming tourism sector that generates billions of USD yearly, Albania attracts visitors from every corner of the world - beach enthusiasts, mountain and nature lovers, those who enjoy trendy cafes and an eclectic cuisine, a vibrant nightlife, historic sites or those who are simply seeking relaxation in a welcoming place with a great joie de vivre.

Adventure sports is making its way into

the scene, providing travelers a wide range of activities to indulge in from hiking the Albanian Alps, to trekking in Mount Korab, rafting the Osuni and Vjosa Rivers to rock climbing in Gjipe found in southern Albania and bike all around the coastline with the possibility to visit ancient cities, Theth and Valbona mountain villages, Llogara national park and also World Heritage Sites declared by UNESCO such as the recognition of the Himariot Isopoliphonic Music.

Cuisine is a fusion of old and new tastes to impress the modern palette - a mix of Mediterranean cuisine, hugely influenced by fine Italian dining and Greek and Ottoman dishes - featuring fresh fruits and vegetables, lamb and veal earthy dishes, the famous borek and baklava, reminiscent of the Ottoman times.

Albania is a melting pot of different cultures and religions, with many cultural similarities with the Arab and Muslim world. Indeed, Albania is a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, a NATO member and a candidate member state of the European Union - all at once.

## Memorable trip

Albania lies in the southwestern portion of the Balkan Peninsula. Albania has natural beauty in such abundance that you might wonder why it took 20 years for the country to take off as a tourist destination. A visit to Albania is one of the best options in view of its climate, nature and wonderful beaches. No wonder that Albania is known as the 'Albanian Riviera'. It is rich in musical activities and hosts many international festivities that attract youth from Europe and the world. It offers a remarkable array of unique attractions, not least due to its isolation, ancient mountain codes of behavior, forgotten archaeological sites and villages where time seems to have stood still.

The coastal Himare town is probably the best destination with outstanding



beaches. In addition, Porto Palermo, Limani and Velika are the liveliest touristic attractions on the Albanian Riviera. Tirana is the capital city of Albania and forms the economic and political epicenter of the country. Many important facilities are located in Tirana, like the parliament and the government. The city is also home to many political parties. The city is located by a river some 30 km from the coast. On one side it is surrounded by hills. Until 1920, Tirana was not very important. But today it is full of modern architecture and cultural facilities. The small cafes on the sides of the roads are full of energy most of the times and the city has a really pleasant charm.

The city of Berat is located by the River Osum in the middle of the country. In the past it



Albania - Kruje Castle



# Turkish Airlines helps you discover the Balkans - Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia



Albania - Tirana from the hills near Sauk Village

which ferries sail out to Italy. Cultural events and feasts take place all through the year. An important feature of these events is the amphitheater, which is one of the most important attractions of the city. The impressive ancient building accommodated around 20,000 people in the past and can be visited today. Durres is one of the touristic centers of the country and besides culture and history, it provides beaches and holiday fun.

### Kosovo

Located in the central part of the Western Balkans, Southeastern Europe and borders Albania to the southwest, Macedonia to the southeast, Kosovo is one of Europe's latest additions. A fascinating destination for the talented millennials, Kosovo is the country with the youngest population in the old continent, with more than 70 percent under the age of 35 years. Many budding entrepreneurs as part of the youth development program have raised the profile of this unassuming country with its successful startups.

With a welcoming spirit, the Kosovars are particularly proud of the surrounding mountain towns with their hiking

tries ranging from different breads pies, salads, desserts available in restaurants like Liburnia, El Greco, Soma Book Station, Baba Ghanoush that contain Greek, Mediterranean, European, Lebanese, Albanian and vegetarian dishes.

### Macedonia

A country that has more than 50 lakes and 30 mountains and a seven thousand year old capital that is home to 284 statues, called Skopje, Macedonia is home to ancient cultures and historical tales. Vacationers can pin this on their list of to do's - Ohrid, is the country's only Unesco World Heritage site where in both the city and its lake are counted as both cultural and natural fixations. Kokino is one of the world's oldest observatories that is recognized by NASA.

Situated in South-Eastern Europe, in the central part of Balkan Peninsula, Macedonia is an exquisite blend of the Roman, Bulgarian Empires and the Ottoman Turks, reflecting internationally acclaimed architecture, diversified culture and cuisine options.

Vacationers can visit the Old Bazaar i.e. an iconic heritage site with small intriguing handicraft shops and muse-

the town of Krusevo, to purchase traditional hand made goods and catch a glimpse of the people's lifestyle. Islamic culture is dominant in the region wherein visitors can explore the wondrous architecture in the Yeni mosque in Bitola, Mustafa Pasha mosque that have inscribed calligraphic writing and intricate door details.

Macedonian cuisine reflects Mediterranean and Middle Eastern influences and shares characteristics of other Balkan cuisines. Macedonian meals are known for the diversity and unique quality of dairy products while the national dish is Tavqe-gravche of the Republic of Macedonia. Other must have dishes are Ajvar, roasted red pepper spread; Kebapi, and Polneti piperki that is stuffed with bell peppers and filled with rice or meat.

When it comes to sports, worth noting is the Macedonian women's team, Kometal Skopje, which took the EHF Women's Champions League European Cup in 2002 and in 2008. The European Women's Handball Championship was also held in Macedonia in which their national team finished seventh. In 2018, Macedonia is currently competing at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.



Albania - Berat



Kosovo - Prizren



Macedonia - Ohrid Lake



Kosovo - Pristina

was built as a castle on a hill. On this hill can be found the original castle named Kalaja. The castle contains a quarter with numerous churches and mosques and is worth seeing. Berat is also called the "city of thousand windows" because the traditional houses have large window frontages. These windows dominate the skyline of the city. The white houses are heritage-listed buildings to keep the original appearance of the city. In 1961, Berat was named the "city of museums" and therefore is a great destination for lovers of history and culture.

Shkodra is a city in the north of Albania and the fifth largest city of the country. It is located by Lake Skutari on the border with Montenegro. Shkodra was affected by many battles and conquests, from the Romans to various aristocratic families. After recovering from the battles, the city rose to become an important trading center and has a distinctive culture till today. A traveler through Albania can never ignore the many shelters built during the war, along with the many Mercedes vehicles and stony forts.

The city of Saranda is also one of the most important touristic destinations in Albania. It is located opposite the Greek island of Corfu. It has been remarkably developed over the past 20 years. Saranda's main beach is a horseshoe bay with a mix of sand and pebbles next to calm blue Ionian waters. The beach is public and brings you all the facilities of a European seaside getaway. You can hire paddleboats by the shore, sunbeds are provided, and the beach is skirted by a promenade. This walkway is fringed with lush palm trees that shelter ice-cream carts and pop-up bars selling their wares in the summer. If hunger strikes, you can cross the road behind the promenade for a sit-down lunch at Saranda's choice of front-row cafes and seafood restaurants.

The big city of Durres on the coastline of Albania is the most important and oldest harbor cities in the country. It is located 33 km from the capital. It is the port from

escapades, and ancient monasteries. As a majority Muslim country, Kosovo has some of the most beautiful and oldest mosques in Europe from Al-Aga Mosque, Gazi Ali Beg and Krajikovo mosques to Sinan Pasha Mosque which overlooks the main street of Prizren and is a dominant feature in the town's skyline.

Other sights include Ottoman inspired monuments from the Newborn monument in downtown Pristina which was created in honor of their independence, Kalaja Fortress which is a medieval fortress in the capital Prizren, tomb of Sultan Murad, mausoleum dedicated to the Ottoman Sultan. Hikers can take to Rugova, ranked as the fourth most important center for winter sports by the International Ski Federation (ISF) and also won the "Tourism for Tomorrow" award for the project, "Peaks of the Balkans". Apart from a vibrant sports community that play judo, swimming, boxing, karate, Kosovars most popular sport is football, with many local players part of the European Championship and summer Olympics.

Food culture is influenced by Albanian cuisine and has adopted elements of other Balkan coun-



ums, including the National Gallery of Macedonia, positioned in a 15th-century Turkish bath complex in the capital while down south, Ohrid presents a medieval township and hilltop castle to discover the mysticism of old fables. Many more sites such as the Church of St Jovan (John), Kaneo is a wondrous Macedonian landmark which is a combination of Byzantine and Armenian architectural styles, St. Naum's monastery, located 29 km away from Ohrid.

To witness the authentic Macedonian way of life, travelers can visit



Macedonia - Canyon Matka



# Lifestyle

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018



In this file photo taken on July 21, 2017, Palestinian worshippers run for cover from teargas fired by Israeli forces outside Jerusalem's Old City in front of the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, after Israeli police barred men under 50 from entering the Old City for Friday Muslim prayers as tensions rose and protests erupted over new security measures at the highly sensitive holy site. — AFP

## AFP photographer wins Arab Journalism Award for Jerusalem protests

AFP photographer Ahmad Gharabli yesterday took home first prize at the Arab Journalism Awards in Dubai for his work documenting protests in Jerusalem. Gharabli, who has been with AFP since 2006, won first place in the photojournalism category at the Arab Media Forum for a series of images documenting Palestinian demonstrations in east Jerusalem. Among his work is a photo of four women huddled in fear against a shuttered storefront as an Israeli policeman on horseback dispersed a December 9, 2017 protest.

Gharabli, 37, is himself a Palestinian from annexed east Jerusalem, which was seized by Israel in 1967 in a move never recognized by the international community. The annual Arab Media Forum, held Tuesday and yesterday in Dubai, was dominated this year by the global fight against "fake news". The forum also featured a talk by AFP global editor-in-chief Phil Chetwynd, who addressed the growing impact of visuals on the news in the digital era. — AFP



In this file photo taken on December 9, 2017, women react as an Israeli mounted policeman disperses Palestinian protesters in East Jerusalem.



Agence France-Presse Palestinian photographer Ahmad Gharabli (left) stands with Dubai Ruler Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum (center) and Mana Al-Merey (right) Head of the Arab Media Forum after winning an award for best picture at the end of a two-day Arab Media Forum.



Agence France-Presse Jerusalem-based photographer Ahmad Gharabli, poses with his award for "Best Picture" at the end of a two-day Arab Media Forum in Dubai yesterday.



A 700-year-old standing statue of the Buddha, that was returned to Nepal from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, is pictured in its delivery crate at the Department of Archaeology in Kathmandu.

## New York Met returns stolen idols to Nepal

A pair of rare idols stolen from Nepal three decades ago were returned to the country yesterday by New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. The two statues—one of Buddha and the other of the Hindu god Shiva and his wife Parvati—were stolen in the 1980s when rampant looting saw many important artifacts whisked out of Nepal and into the hands of private collectors. "The government was unaware of the whereabouts of the statues until historian Lain Singh Bangdel mentioned (in a book) that the statues were on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York," Shyam Sundar Rajbanshi of Nepal's Department of Archaeology told AFP.

The 11th-century Shiva statue, known as the Uma Maheshwor idol, was given to the Met in 1983 while the

Buddha—estimated to be around 700 years old—was donated by a private collector in 2015. The two statues were removed from display after the Met learned they were stolen, local media reported. The statues will now be showcased at the National Museum of Nepal in the capital Kathmandu, Rajbanshi confirmed. Nepal's rich cultural heritage was ravaged by decades of theft from the 1960s to 1980s. Natural disasters and unchecked development also encroached on ancient sites. A devastating earthquake in April 2015 caused extensive damage in the Kathmandu Valley, home to hundreds of sacred Buddhist and Hindu sites. The UN's cultural agency UNESCO warned if not properly conserved those sites could lose their coveted world heritage status. — AFP



An 11th-century statue of the deity Shiva, known as the Uma Maheshwor idol, that was returned to Nepal from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, is pictured in its delivery crate at the Department of Archaeology in Kathmandu yesterday. — AFP