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6 Fresh regime raids pound Douma after talks falter



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16 Stunning United fightback makes City wait for title



# Palestinians bury dead, including journalist, killed by Israeli fire

Thousands march for Gaza • US rejects Kuwaiti statement on violence



LONDON: Ultraorthodox Jewish anti-Zionism protesters join a demonstration on Whitehall opposite Downing Street in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip yesterday. — AFP



GAZA: Demonstrators assist Palestinian journalist Yasser Murtaja during clashes with Israeli security forces following a protest near the border with Israel east of Khan Younis on Friday. — AFP

GAZA CITY: Palestinian mourners in the Gaza Strip yesterday buried their dead, including a journalist, after Israeli troops killed nine during the latest border clashes in a week of bloodshed. Thousands of protesters approached the border fence around Gaza for a second Friday in a row, burning tyres and hurling stones at Israeli forces, who responded with tear gas and live ammunition. In addition to the nine dead, at least 491 were wounded by Israeli gunfire, the health ministry in the Hamas-run enclave said.

Israel said there were around 20,000 protesters and that they were seeking to breach the border. Numbers were down from the previous Friday, when tens of thousands approached the border in demonstrations that saw Israeli forces kill 19 Palestinians, making it the bloodiest day in Gaza since a 2014 war. The demonstrations largely abated by yesterday, but three Palestinians were wounded by Israeli forces in a small clash east of Gaza City in the afternoon, one of them seriously, according to the Palestinian health ministry. No Israelis were injured on either day and the latest deaths have sparked fresh calls for an investigation.

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News in brief

Six men rape boy

KUWAIT: Six Asian men kidnapped and raped a nine-year-old Egyptian boy who was playing in the yard of the building where he lives in Khaitan. The six men took the boy to an isolated area and took turns raping him. The boy returned home in shock and informed his parents. His father took him to the hospital and then went to the police. Khaitan detectives began an intensive search for the culprits and arrested some of them. — Al-Rai

Youth rapes student

KUWAIT: An Indian youth convinced a 16-year-old student to skip school after telling her he wants to take her on a picnic, but instead took her to his Hawally flat, where he raped her. He then dropped her back to school before disappearing. The girl informed her father, who lodged a complaint at the police station. Detectives arrested the suspect, who will be sent to the public prosecution. — Al-Rai



Fine for drying clothes in balcony

KUWAIT: Municipal inspectors are inspecting buildings in the Capital governorate to fine tenants hanging laundry in balconies to dry in the sun. Such an act is deemed a violation of article four of the cleanliness charter of ministerial resolution number 190/2008, as such actions deface the urban landscape. — Hanan Al-Saadoun

MoCI to strictly enforce law

KUWAIT: The ministry of commerce and industry plans to firmly apply a new law on recruiting household labor, a senior official warned yesterday. The ministry recently set the cost of employing domestic labor through a company at KD 990 (\$3,267) and KD 390 (\$1,287) by individuals. Strict penalties will be imposed on recruitment companies that do not commit to the ceiling imposed by the ministry, which could amount to a shutdown of the office and the confiscation of its license. — KUNA

## Canada shaken as 14 killed in youth hockey bus crash

MONTREAL: Hockey-mad Canada was in mourning yesterday after a bus carrying a junior ice hockey team collided with a semi-trailer truck in Saskatchewan province, killing 14 people. In a country where love of the sport is almost a religion, the crash sparked an outpouring of grief among players and fans on social media, while national political leaders expressed their sympathies. “We can now confirm 14 people have died as a result of this collision,” the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement.

Of the total 29 people on the team bus, including the driver, 15 were taken to hospital with injuries. “Three of

these people have injuries that are critical in nature,” the RCMP said. They gave no information about the status of the truck driver. Darren Opp, president of the Nipawin Hawks, was quoted by the Globe and Mail newspaper as saying the truck had T-boned the players’ bus. “It’s a horrible accident, my God,” he said. “It’s very, very bad. There’s uncles and moms and dads waiting to hear whether their sons and nephews are OK.”

Citing relatives, the Canadian Press reported that the Broncos’ head coach Darcy Haugan and the team’s 20-year-old captain, Logan Schatz, were among those killed. Many social media users posted Haugan’s photograph alongside messages of shock and sympathy, and the hashtags #prayersforhumboldt and #humboldtstrong. “God bless Darcy Haugan for being an incredible mentor and coach to young hockey players and prayers for his family to help cope with their immense loss,” the Western Provinces Hockey Association wrote on Twitter.

The crash took place at around 5:00 pm Friday on

Highway 35 about 28 km north of the town of Tisdale, a trading center in an overwhelmingly agricultural region of the western province. The team was heading north for a Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League playoff game against the Nipawin Hawks. Police gave no indication of the cause, but early yesterday special police investigators were still at the scene, which is roughly 150 km east of Prince Albert City.

The Saskatchewan league is a feeder system for higher levels of hockey, with many graduating to play at US and Canadian colleges and major junior league level, while some go on to the National Hockey League. Similar leagues operate throughout the country, their buses a regular feature of the vast country’s highways. “It is a significant accident; we had a tractor trailer and a bus collide,” RCMP Inspector Ted Monro told a press conference, declining to give details about the victims. The STARS Air Ambulance service said two of its helicopters flew to the scene.

Continued on Page 11

## Fans jubilant as Salman Khan freed on bail

JODHPUR, India: Bollywood superstar Salman Khan left prison yesterday after being granted bail so he can contest a five-year jail sentence for killing rare antelopes. Hundreds of frenzied fans awaited the 52-year-old as his vehicle sped through the gates of Jodhpur Central Jail, where the action star had spent two nights after being sentenced on Thursday. Some tried to cling to the sides of his sports utility vehicle and scores of motorbikes followed Khan as

he was driven at high speed to Jodhpur airport to a waiting chartered jet.

He flew to Mumbai where more crowds - with many men emulating Khan’s distinctive hairstyle and clothes - gathered outside his luxury apartment, dancing to songs from his films. Khan appeared on the terrace of his apartment with his family and waved to his fans. A judge released Khan, one of the world’s highest-paid actors, in return for bail and sureties totaling 100,000 rupees (\$1,500). He cannot leave India without court permission.

Hordes of fans outside the court erupted in celebration on hearing the result, beating drums and chanting Khan’s name. Khan did not attend the bail hearing but prosecutor Mahipal

Continued on Page 11



MUMBAI: Indian Bollywood actor Salman Khan waves to fans after reaching home in Bandra yesterday following his release from Jodhpur central jail. — AFP

## ‘Mentally ill’ man smashes van into German restaurant

MUENSTER, Germany: A man drove a van into a group of people sitting outside a popular restaurant in the old city center of Muenster in western Germany yesterday, killing at least two of them before shooting himself dead, police said. The vehicle ploughed into people sitting at tables outside the Grosser Kiepenkerl restaurant, which is popular with tourists. “At 15:27 (1327 GMT), a vehicle drove into the outside area of the restaurant ... three people were killed, 20 injured, and six of those seriously injured,” police spokesman Andreas Bode said, adding: “The perpetrator killed himself in the vehicle.”

It was not immediately clear whether the perpetrator was among the three killed, or whether his death took the number of dead to four. A police spokeswoman said separately that there were at least three people dead. A security source said the perpetrator was probably German. The Sueddeutsche Zeitung said the man was a German with psychological problems who had no ter-



MUENSTER, Germany: Special police officers and first responders are seen after several people were killed and injured when a car ploughed into diners yesterday. — AFP

rorist background. The Interior Ministry in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, home to Muenster, would neither confirm nor deny the report.

Bode said the identity of the perpetrator was not yet

clear. Investigators were looking at the possibility that other suspects fled the scene, though they had no evidence that this was the case, he added.

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# US Embassy and Kuwait Dive Team organize beach cleanup



KUWAIT: A beach cleanup was organized by the US Embassy in collaboration with the Kuwait Dive Team yesterday at Anjafa Beach. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** A beach cleanup was organized yesterday at Anjafa Beach by the US Embassy in collaboration with the Kuwait Dive Team. The event was held to mark the observance of Earth Day worldwide, which falls on April 22. In his message during the event, US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman said he hopes people around the world can mark and celebrate Earth Day every day. "Every day we should be thinking about preserving the environment and what we can do, even in very small ways, to keep our neighborhood and the places we love to visit clean," he said.

Silverman thanked the members of the Kuwait Dive Team, who sponsored the cleanup. "I have followed the work of the dive team ever since I arrived here 18 months ago. I have admired their commitment to the environment and to the people of Kuwait. We should be thankful for the team's dedicated efforts since it was established in the aftermath of the environmental devastation wrought by the invasion and occupation of Kuwait," he added.

Yesterday's theme was 'End Plastic



Pollution'. Plastic pollution constitutes a growing threat to marine life and ecosystems. Icebergs of coagulated plastics have even threatened coral reefs and other delicate marine habitats. "Knowing the damage that plastic pollution can cause should motivate each of us to think twice about how we handle products packaged in plastic and the plastic bags that we so quickly throw away," Silverman said. He also advised and encouraged everyone to practice recycling and if necessary reduce the use of plastic materials. "Less

plastic deposited into landfills means less plastic that finds its way into fragile marine environments here in Kuwait and around the world."

Dr Dari Al-Huwail of the Kuwait Dive Team thanked the US Embassy for the collaborative work to clean the beachfront in Anjafa in Salwa. "We really need to give something back to our environment and the surrounding we live in. If we do not care about our environment, we are ruining the future and generations of people, and this is a recipe for disaster. Just imagine throwing a



plastic bottle and leaving it in the world for more than 450 years - a plastic bottle will decompose only after 450 years," he said.

"At Kuwait Dive Team, we've been doing this for many years. We've been collaborating with non-governmental organizations to clean up and care for the environment. These types of activities directly reduce

pollution, save wildlife and improve humans' quality of life. We have to start with ourselves on a smaller scale, then later, it will give a lasting impact on all of us and the world," Huwail concluded. Yesterday's beach cleanup team also comprised of staff from the US Embassy and US service personnel from Camp Arifjan and their families.

## Ooredoo sponsors 'Successful Kuwaiti Talent' conference

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait is sponsoring the Successful Kuwaiti Talent Conference, which is organized by the Arab Planning Institute and MILSET (the International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science and Technology). The two-day conference kicks off tomorrow at the headquarters of the Arab Planning Institute, and will be attended by a number of leading educators and representatives from the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs. The activities of the second day will take place in the Australian College of Kuwait on Tuesday.

The conference aims to provide a platform for exchanging ideas in the fields of science, education and technology, in addition to providing illustrious examples on how youth can invest their time in these fields. Commenting on this, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Alalyoub underscored the company's commitment to supporting youth, noting that this stems from the company's deep-rooted values of caring, connecting and challenging. He added, "Ooredoo has always been keen on working with various entities to empower youth and enrich their experiences, especially the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs which is the main supporter of youth and their aspirations."

Commenting on the program of the conference, Alalyoub said: "We are honored to work with such esteemed entities as the Arab Planning Institute and MILSET. This event is in alignment with our vision for youth enrichment, especially in the field of technology and science." For his part, Arab Planning Institute Consultant and the organizer of the conference Dr Fahad Al-Fadala noted that the goals of this conference are aligned with the wishes of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who urged all



Dr Fahad Al-Fadala



Mijbil Alalyoub

entities to support youth and provide them with opportunities in shaping the future. He extended his gratitude to the sponsors of this event for their support.

### Eventful program

The first day of the conference, which takes place in the Arab Planning Institute tomorrow will include two discussion panels: the first will highlight the development of science and technology and its role in the life of youth, and will feature Dr. Abdullah Al Mutawa - Kuwait University's College of Engineering; Idris Al Waradi from MILSET, and Mustafa Akkawi from the International Academy for Building Capacity. The second session will feature Kuwaiti entrepreneur Ghanim Al-Otaibi, Fatami Al Attar, Ali Al-Fadala, who will be showcasing their projects and discussing at length the challenges and obstacles they have faced in overcoming establishing their projects.

The second day of the conference, which takes place in the Australian College of Kuwait, will feature two panels. The first panel focuses on entrepreneurship, and will feature entrepreneurs Mohammad Al-Rifaie, Ali Al-Wazzan, Mohammad Al-Musallam and Raghad Al-Musallam. The second panel will focus on humanitarian and social oriented projects, and will feature talks by Athari Ismaiel, Jassim Al-Jassim and Saad Al-Muhteb. The conference will conclude the second day with an open discussion on the policies that can potentially support entrepreneurship and youth projects. Ooredoo works year-round in collaboration with different entities to support youth and enrich their experience.

## KFH participates in Career Fair at ACK

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the Career Fair held at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) as part of its keenness to support the efforts of qualifying national cadres while offering them suitable job opportunities, especially that KFH is a pioneer in the recruitment efforts and raising bar of Kuwaiti youth. The Bank's participation also comes as part its efforts in the educational field to support and encourage Kuwaiti youths to work at the private sector.

Bandar Al-Rashed, Assistant Secretary General for Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) honored KFH in recognition of its role and keenness to encourage the recruitment of Kuwaiti youth, and to boost the labor market. It is worth noting that the fair includes a wide array of private and public sector companies that offer jobs for new graduates. Such events allow the youth to be aware of the privileges and benefits of working for various companies



that take part in the fair, in order to find a job that suits their qualifications. In addition, the fair allows those graduates to recognize the jobs required in the labor market.

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## Local

# KISR completes fish farming project in line with Kuwait New Vision 2035

## KSE urges more safety precautions on various roads

By Meshaal Al-Enezi, Agencies

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research has successfully completed a fish farming project aimed at fulfilling domestic demand and providing local investors with spaces for produce. The project includes four types of fish and shellfish, and aims to attain food security in the country through decreasing exports of the food commodity in line with Kuwait's New Vision 2035. Currently, enclosures only provide 20 percent of local consumption the rest of which is exported into the country from overseas producers, KISR director general Samira Omar said. According to figures, fish farming around the world provided 77 million tons in 2015, which covered 50 percent of

global demand, she said, making aquaculture one of the most crucial and fastest growing industries.

KISR enclosures now produce Barramundi fish, which bears resemblance to the popularly consumed Seabass, giant tiger prawn, giant river prawn and giant crab. All four species can withstand Kuwait's hot climate and have been successfully raised in waters with similar scorching conditions, including Australia and Southeast Asia, she added. These species were selected due to their rapid-growth characteristics in a short time, the institute's fish farming researcher Amani Al-Yagout said. She added that domestic demand could be met within a period of 6-8 months. The institute plans to later intro-

duce the program to investors, who will reap the benefits of being able to produce 40 kg of fish for every square meter.

### More safety precautions

Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE) stressed the need for more safety precautions on various roads, namely highways with limited capacity, KSE Secretary Fahd Erdaini Al-Otaibi extended the society's condolences to the families of the victims recently killed in a traffic accident along the southern highways, noting that the society had previously warned that those highways are too narrow.

### Environmental concerns

Kuwait Environment Protection Society

(KEPS) conducted a survey on various social media networks with the aim of boosting public awareness of environmental concerns and climate change. The questionnaire included 24 elements and was conducted on 1,000 participants of various age categories. KEPS Secretary General Jenan Bahzad said 6 percent of participants got their information about the environment from newspaper and magazines, 28 percent from TV and radio, 70 percent from social media and 5 percent from public bodies. She added that 18 percent of the participants are in favor of using alternative energy.

### Saad Al-Abdullah City

The Municipality's structural plan

department met the housing authority and a delegation from South Korea at the office of the structural plan manager Saad Al-Muhailbi to discuss developing Southern Saad Al-Abdullah City.

### Free medical camps

Celebrating World Health Day, Al-Rahma Medical Committee announced that thousands of patients have benefited from the services it provides inside and outside Kuwait. CEO Thamer Al-Suhaib said thanks to benevolent donations, Al-Rahma managed to hold 55 medical camps around Kuwait, where thousands of expats received medical treatment. He added the camps are usually held on Fridays and provide all medical tests for free.

### local spotlight

## Taxes on remittances

By Muna Al-Fuzai

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

The announcement of the parliamentary finance committee that it is preparing a draft law to impose taxes on expat remittances created controversy in most Kuwaiti financial circles. I followed most of what has been published and found out that there are more opponents than supporters of this issue. Data from the Central Bank confirms that the average remittances in Kuwait exceed KD 4 billion annually (up to \$15 billion), which makes the expected revenues from the transfers about KD 150 million, equivalent to \$500 million.

If this law is approved, then Kuwait will be the first country in the Gulf region to pass such a law, imposing a direct tax on the remittances of expatriates. The UAE and Saudi Arabia began imposing value added taxes since the beginning of 2018 of 5 percent only on the transfer fees. Kuwait is supposed to impose VAT next year, but I wonder how the government will maintain the balance between the imposition of tax on expatriate money transfers and the 5 percent VAT which is to be applied on the transfer fees. I find this very confusing.

According to the parliamentary financial committee, the remittance tax will range from 1 to 5 percent. The new law suggests penalties against those who don't deal with official banks and exchange companies. I guess they need to add such penalties to warn those who may try to ignore the law if it's approved and applied. It is known that banks and money exchange shops are the primary sources of remittances, but it is not done for free. These entities make financial gains and annual profits, so of course they fear a possible loss due to the possible formation of a black market for remittances abroad. I think their concern is justified.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is conservative on the subject and fears negative effects if the draft law is approved. I think since many experts and financial authorities believe that imposing a tax on expatriate transfers is a bad idea, maybe new and practical suggestions can be presented that can be for the benefit of both sides. For example, if imposing tax on expatriate remittances will not be effective in improving the sources of income or filling the budget deficit, maybe allowing expatriates to own their own homes, especially those who have lived here with their families for a long time in Kuwait, can contribute to improving income sources, as in other countries. I know that most countries in the world impose a tax on individuals and companies and we hardly have a country today that provides totally free services. But if Kuwait couldn't apply VAT this year like UAE and Saudi Arabia due to administrative and operational burdens, how can it apply strict financial control to expatriate transfers? Clearly, this issue needs a revision and reevaluation of its economic feasibility and possible risks.

## Lawmakers aim to boost diplomacy

**TUNIS:** Kuwaiti MP Askaar Al-Enezi has said that parliamentary diplomacy plays a major role for enhancing inter-state ties. Al-Enezi made the statement to KUNA as a Kuwaiti parliamentary friendship delegation arrived in Tunisia yesterday on a five-day visit. The visit is part of the Kuwaiti National Assembly's endeavors to bolster parliamentary diplomacy for consolidating ties with legislative bodies in other countries, he added. Al-Enezi emphasized the deep-rooted relations between the two countries, saying their leaderships have been pushing ahead toward further consultation and cooperation. — Agencies

## Top official visits Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway project



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Fire Services Directorate's Deputy Director General of the Prevention Affairs Sector Major Gen Khalid Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah visited the Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway project, which is among the largest development projects in the country. It is also the longest marine bridge in the world at 37 km and links Kuwait with Subbiya. Khalid Al-Abdullah said the visit was made on the instructions of KFSD Director General to inspect the bridge and make sure it meets fire prevention conditions. He said the causeway was found to meet most requirements. Major Gen Khalid Al-Abdullah was accompanied by Director of the Capital Prevention Department Sulafa Al-Yaseen and other officials.

## Kuwait reaffirms solidarity with UK in poisoning case

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait Representative to the UN said his country stands by the United Kingdom in whatever measures it might take to determine the culprits in the poisoning of Sergei Skripal, a Russian ex-spy, and his daughter Yulia in Salisbury town early last month. Speaking on behalf of Kuwait at a UN Security Council session, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi expressed regret over the incident and welcomed the call to involve the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the investigations.

At a Russian request, the Council opened this session on Thursday under the theme of "UK letter to the Security Council," in reference to a letter dated March 14, 2018, where the UK said it is "highly likely" that Russia is behind nerve-agent attack on Skripal and Yulia. Russia denies any role in the incident. The OPCW is an impartial and specialized UN agency that could contribute in unveiling the truth and determining those responsible for the attack, Ambassador Al-Otaibi said, expressing wish for quick recovery for the two victims.

He also voiced profound concern over the growing challenges facing the UN efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), including the chemical weapons. Kuwait is firmly against proliferation, production and storing of WMDs and denounces any use or threat to use such weapons, whether directly or indirectly whatever the justifications might be, Al-Otaibi stressed.

Kuwait's stance is based on the provisions of the first article of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), he added, noting that Kuwait joined the Convention in 1997. Ahmet Uzumcu, the OPCW Director-General, said the results of tests of samples collected from individuals exposed to a nerve agent in Salisbury are expected to be received by early next week. "Once the results of the analyses of the samples are received, the Secretariat will produce a report on the basis of these results and will transmit a copy of this report to the United Kingdom," he told the OPCW Executive Council. — KUNA



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## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Photo captures two hawks hovering over Al-Jahra Governorate. —KUNA

# Security Council fails to approve Kuwait's draft on Gaza violence

## Kuwaiti appointed first Arab League observer at UN Geneva office

**NEW YORK:** The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) failed late Friday to approve Kuwait's draft press statement on the Israeli use of brute force against innocent Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. This is the second statement of its kind in response to the use of brutal force by Israeli against protestors in the Gaza Strip, which resulted so far in the death of 10 people and the injury of over 1,000 others.

The statements called for launching an independent investigation into the evident violation of human rights carried out by Israel against Palestinians who should be allowed to peacefully protest against those causing them harm. Before submitting the document earlier Friday, the permanent representative of Kuwait to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi hoped that no member country would object the statement anew.

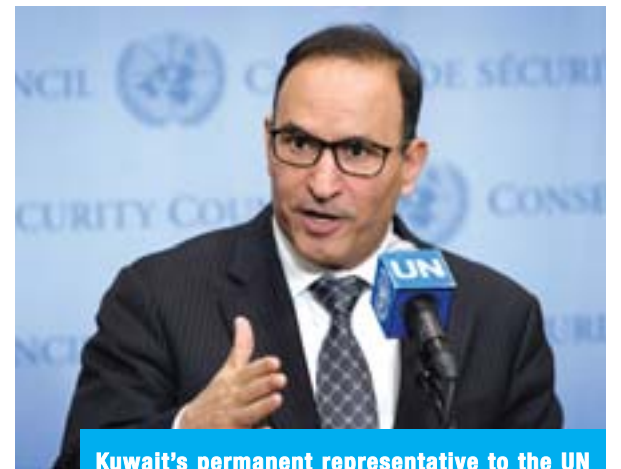
Kuwait, during the session, distributed a draft press statement but the US objected it. "The wording did not represent the position of Kuwait or the Arabs to what is happening in Gaza, but Kuwait wanted it to be balanced

and acceptable by all parties," said Al-Otaibi. Kuwait, he added, has always supported Palestinian legitimate rights and that the Security Council should act to what was happening in Gaza. He urged UN Secretary General to conduct an independent and transparent investigation into killing of Palestinian people, who have been protesting peacefully.

Al-Otaibi also said Israeli authorities, the occupying power, should exercise self-restraint, respect international human rights and humanitarian law, as well as respect right of people to peaceful demonstration. Kuwait will always call upon the international community to hold Israeli authorities accountable legally, politically and morally for "the massacres committed against the Palestinian protesters," which killed more people including children. Last week, Kuwait called for an urgent UN Security Council session last week to discuss developments in Gaza when Israeli forces shot dead 15 Palestinians and injured over 1,400 others.

### Arab League observer

In another development, Kuwaiti Ambassador Ali Al-Sammak submitted his credentials to Director-General of UN Office in Geneva Michael Moller as the Arab League's permanent observer there. Al-Sammak, the first Kuwaiti ambassador to hold the post, was named observer by the 149th Session of the Arab League Council (Foreign Ministers) in Cairo in March. Meanwhile, Al-Sammak and Moller agreed to work harder for further cooperation to facilitate the task of the League's mission to the UN Geneva Office. Al-Sammak was Kuwait's ambassador to Canada (2010-2016). He was Director of the Americas Department at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry (2008-2010). In 2003, he was Ambassador of State to Argentina, and earlier envoy to the Netherlands (1991). From 1985 to 1991 he was councilor at the Kuwaiti embassy in Brussels and deputy chief of the Kuwaiti mission to the European Economic Community (EEC) - (the European Union). —Agencies



Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi

## Alghanim's 'Make Your Mark' Gender Diversity campaign

**KUWAIT:** Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, concluded its 'Make Your Mark' Gender Diversity social media campaign across Kuwait. The campaign, which was launched on International Women's Day, 8 March 2018, highlighted a video that was created to inspire generations of females while placing Alghanim Industries on the forefront of women empowerment in the workplace. To this day, the video generated nearly 2 million views and 18 million impressions across all targeted social media channels, a high number for a corporate video. The Gender Diversity video is available for viewing on YouTube via the 'Alghanim Industries' page.

Commenting on the campaign, Chief Human Resources Officer, Henning Schlutt, said: "At Alghanim Industries, diversity and inclusion is at the top of our agenda and we strongly believe that a gender diverse environment will help our businesses to be successful in today's evolving world. Alghanim Industries is proud to contribute to the ongoing dialogue and move



towards a more gender-balanced landscape, and we encourage other organizations to follow in suit." Alghanim Industries has actively prioritized gender diversity at the company, and worked on multiple fronts to address issues related to recruiting and retaining female talent.

The company introduced improved maternity and paternity leave policies, which includes extending the paid maternity leave up to 90 days and paid paternity leave up to 12 days.

The company has also introduced miscarriage leave policies where female employees may take up to 12 days off. Alghanim Industries also co-organized a gender diversity conference that hosted local and international guest speakers, along with CEO Omar K Alghanim, who highlighted the company's commitment to female talent during his keynote speech.

## Conflicts, violence and fundamentalism prevent development

**BAKU:** Global conflicts and the spread of violence and fundamentalism have made achieving sustainable development very unlikely, a Kuwaiti official told fellow Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) member countries meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Friday. Through its NAM membership and its Security Council February presidency, Kuwait has worked to highlight the movement's principles, through addressing the concerns and interests of its member countries, he said in a speech to fellow delegates.

Kuwait remains committed to the principles of the 118-member country movement, founded in 1955, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Naser Al-Hayyen said, based on the unbiased respect of the UN Charter and human rights. Al-Hayyen tackled several concerns, including global terrorism, Palestinian affairs, the Syrian and Yemeni conflicts and Iraq's reconstruction efforts following its military defeat of the Islamic State group. He reiterated Kuwait's unwavering condemnation of terrorism, mentioning its contributions to providing logistic support and hosting several meetings for the global anti-Islamic State group coalition.

But, he said, the Palestinian issue remains the single most fundamental factor to Arab countries, condemning the recent US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital city as a unilateral action that has disregarded any likely legal, political and religious implications as a result. The move represents a "new challenge" to the region and the rest of the world and is a breach of inter-



BAKU: Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Naser Al-Hayyen is pictured during the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) member countries meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan. —KUNA

national laws and regulations, he said, warning of long-term repercussions that could turn the matter into a religious war to the benefit of extremists in the region.

At the Security Council, Kuwait as a non-permanent member, arranged a special session on the matter, he recalled. At the recent session, it underlined the need to grant the Palestinian people their full legitimate rights and to recognize Palestine as an independent state with a capital of East Jerusalem according to the 1967 borders, the UN land for peace treaty and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Al-Hayyen also warned of the dangers of the limiting of funds provided to the UN Palestinian refugee agency, UNRWA, saying this would have a negative impact on regional security due to increasing poverty, unemployment and crime in the Palestinian territories. Kuwait remains at the forefront of providing support for the UN agency, granting assistance worth \$150 million in recent years and voluntary annual contributions to the agency's budget, he mentioned.

On the conflict in Syria, he reiterated Kuwait's position on the matter calling for a political solution, not violence, as the only means to resolve the

eight-year conflict. Kuwait along with Sweden co-worded UNSC resolution 2401, which received the majority backing of members and called for a 30-day ceasefire across Syria enabling the facilitation of UN-administered humanitarian and food aid, he added. The Gulf nation, under the directions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, also co-hosted a conference of global donors for reconstruction projects in Iraq after the defeat of Islamic State, resulting in pledges worth \$30 billion, including \$2 billion from Kuwait.

He also reiterated Kuwait's commitment to Yemen's sovereignty, stressing that the solution to its conflict should be based on the three references, including the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative, the national dialogue and UNSC resolution 2216. Kuwait firmly stands by Saudi Arabia and fully supports its actions aimed at protecting its security and stability in light of ballistic missile attacks carried out by Houthi militia, underlined the Kuwaiti diplomat. The Houthi's actions run in contradiction to international law, UNSC resolutions and the international community's efforts to attain peace in Yemen, he concluded. — KUNA



## Local

# Kuwait living up to UN recognition as ‘International Humanitarian Center’

## Weekly roundup of Kuwait’s humanitarian action

**KUWAIT:** Living up to its UN recognition as ‘International Humanitarian Center’, Kuwait continued assisting needy people in a number of countries in the region throughout the week. In Irbil, head of Barzani Charity Foundation Mousa Ahmad said that Kuwait has provided enormous humanitarian assistance to more than 43,000 displaced and refugee people in Iraq’s Kurdistan region. He said in a statement that it is expected that many of those displaced families living in shelters would return after the liberation of their towns from the so-called Islamic State.

He noted that those who returned to the liberated areas are suffering from severe shortage of basic services. He referred that Kuwait, in collaboration with Barzani foundation, has distributed about 7,000 food packages to the families who returned to the liberated areas. Meanwhile, Kuwait paid for conducting operations on fitting prosthetic limbs to 60 patients in Mosul, within a campaign which has covered so far 322 cases. The cam-



Kuwait distributes food packages to families in Iraq. —KUNA

paign is funded by the Kuwait Society for Relief and Kuwait Red Crescent Society, and supervised by Kuwait’s general consulate in Irbil.

General consul in Irbil Mohammad Al-Kanderi said in a statement to KUNA that Kuwait covered expenses of making prosthetic limbs for those injured in military operations in Mosul. More than 266 cases were treated in a specialized center for prosthetic limbs in Irbil over the last period, he stated. This campaign is in line with the great

initiative by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah calling for standing by the Iraqi people through offering different humanitarian aid, he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Kuwait distributed 30 tons of food for displaced Iraqis in Sulaymaniyah, North Iraq, in Irbil. More than 1,000 food packages were distributed to 500 families under the supervision of Kuwait’s General Consulate, funded by Kuwait Society for Relief and Secretary-General of Awqaf, said head of Barzani foundation Ismael Abdulaziz in remarks to KUNA. He added the displaced families from Tuzhermatu were in dire need of humanitarian supplies due to extreme shortage in social services and lack of income.

### Kurdistan region

Abdulaziz expressed his thanks to Kuwait and its organizations for its various humanitarian assistance to the displaced and the poor as well as people with special needs. “In light of difficult economic conditions experienced by the Kurdistan region, such aid helps to alleviate suffering of the displaced people, and support local government,” he noted. In 2018, Kuwait started a relief plan to help displaced people of Kurdistan region by distributing more than 40,000 food packages to people returning to their homes in Mosul, and people of Irbil, Sulaymaniyah and Halabja.

In Baghdad, the United Iraqi Medical Association for Relief and Development, the liaison of the Kuwaiti Society for Relief, has begun distributing a large number of food baskets to families returning to Kirkuk province, north of Baghdad. Ahmad Al-Heliti, head of the Iraqi association, told KUNA on Saturday that 1,025 food baskets were distributed today to those families, within the framework of the “Kuwait by your side” campaign.

He added that about 5,000 food packages were doled out to the families over some days in a row. Every basket is 30 kgs and included rice, sugar, tea, flour, oil and basic needs, he noted. The campaign offered support to displaced families over the last period that included the distribution of aid and the building of schools and medical

centers. In Geneva, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah said Kuwait is pledging \$250 million to international relief aid efforts in Yemen this year.

In Kuwait’s speech to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ (OCHA) 2018 Yemen High-Level Pledging Event, Al-Jarallah said that this donation would hopefully help the Yemenis survive the upheavals they are facing in their country. The donation came in line with His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and UN humanitarian leader Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah’s directives to aid the fellow Yemenis, said Al-Jarallah who indicated that the pledge came on time especially with the nearing of the month of Ramadan in mid-May.

Al-Jarallah said that his country took all necessary steps to find a resolution to the Yemeni crisis, indicating that several inter-Yemeni meetings were organized by Kuwait to find a political solution to the dilemma. He said that the resolution to the Yemeni crisis must be based on the tenets of the GCC peace initiative, the outcomes of the national Yemeni dialogue, and UNSC resolution 2216 regarding the end of violence in Yemen. Al-Jarallah called on the Houthi militias to abide by international laws and stressed that national unity is the only way to end the situation in Yemen.

He took the chance to condemn the Houthi’s ballistic missile attacks launched from Yemeni territory towards Saudi Arabia, affirming that the State of Kuwait was against such vile acts. Al-Jarallah urged the international community to gather three billion dollars to support relief aid efforts in Yemen this year, saying that its an humanitarian obligation. Al-Jarallah thanked the Saudi-led Arab coalition for Yemen in its efforts to provide assistance to the Yemenis and also expressed gratitude towards the Swiss Confederation, Kingdom of Sweden, and OCHA for organizing the one-day high-level pledging event.

### Loan to Lebanon

In another development, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) will grant Lebanon a loan worth \$500 million over five years. KFAED Director



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah delivers Kuwait’s speech to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ (OCHA) 2018 Yemen High-Level Pledging Event. — KUNA

General Abdulwahab Al-Bader made the announcement in his address to the Cedar conference for supporting Lebanon’s economy in Paris. He reiterated Kuwait’s continued backing to Lebanon till it restores its past economic status. The sharp fall of Lebanon’s economy to an annual growth rate of just 1 percent is a main concern of the Kuwaitis and Lebanese, Al-Bader said. He urged “friendly and sisterly countries” to support Lebanon which “experienced hard conditions over the past years.” The Kuwaiti delegation to the Paris conference includes a host of officials from the fund and the foreign ministry. — Agencies



## Gulf Bank sponsors Entrepreneurship Training Program for the second year

**KUWAIT:** Under the patronage of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, His Excellency Khaled Al-Roudhan, Fikra Program concluded its third edition of the Entrepreneurship Training Program with a closing ceremony at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre on 3 April 2018. Gulf Bank was among the sponsors of this program, which aims to provide entrepreneurs with the tools and support they require to establish their own innovative businesses.

Managed by Cubical Services Business Incubator, Fikra Program is an intensive training program that provides aspiring entrepreneurs with the tools and support they require to establish their own innovative business. The training includes leadership skills, comprehensive business planning, marketing, investment opportunities, navigating legal issues and contracts, and a variety of other issues to help entrepreneurs get their businesses off the ground. The program also provides one-on-one mentoring for the aspiring entrepreneurs.

Esra AlHlabib, External Communications Manager at Gulf Bank said, “We are happy to see the improvement made by the participants in the program, whose ideas have grown so much throughout the training period, from the workshops to the mentorship period, and now, today at the close of this edition. Fikra Program took these great ideas and developed them into full-fledged businesses, ready to enter the market. At Gulf Bank, we are committed to supporting these youthful initiatives and projects and think that such support is integral to the development of our country. We are proud of our participants and look forward to hearing from them and many more entrepreneurs in the future.”

Following the second edition of the program which concluded in May 2017, over 30% of the businesses are fully operational and the rest are close to operating. Combined, the three editions of Fikra Program witnessed over 550 applications, 45 business ideas, 57 training sessions and 76 trained entrepreneurs. In the

third edition, entrepreneurs concluded 20 entrepreneurship training programs over a period of four months, followed by a mentoring stage. That all led up to the final ceremony, which was preceded by a final exhibition of their projects.

Mariam Hisham Al Rayes, Fikra Program Manager at Cubical Services Business Incubator, expressed her sense of pride in the participants and the tremendous work put in by each and every one of them to ensure that their business ideas were developed. Al Rayes said: “When Fikra Program was first established, it was inspired by the idea of embodying a support system for driven aspiring entrepreneurs. We are passionate about empowering aspiring entrepreneurs with creative business ideas and helping them achieve their dreams.”

Today, we are proud of what they have achieved and what the Program was able to offer each participant. I would like to thank all sponsors, mentors and trainers who contributed their time and efforts to ensure that Kuwait’s entrepreneurs are equipped with what they need to secure a bright and prosperous future. Congratulations to all participants. We look forward to the fourth edition of Fikra Program, and are excited to support new and innovative ideas by aspiring entrepreneurs and help them establish their businesses.”

Following the ceremony, a number of Fikra Program entrepreneurs from the second and third editions will take part in the 2018 AIM Start-up Pitch Competition, held at the Dubai World Trade Center under the patronage of H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Gulf Bank is a gold sponsor of the Fikra Program, an intensive entrepreneurship training program that provides aspiring entrepreneurs with the technical skills and business knowledge needed to launch their own businesses such as leadership skills, comprehensive business plan design, mentorship, financial analysis, media exposure, and investment opportunities, for the second consecutive year.

Fikra Program is under the patronage of HE Khaled Al Roudan, Minister of Commerce & Industry and is proudly supported by Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, The National Fund for SME Development, Al Hamra Real Estate Company, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co, Gulf Bank, Markaz Financial Center, Lexus Kuwait as a part of Al Sayer Group, and Grand Cinemas. Fikra Program is managed by Cubical Services Business Incubator. For more information on Gulf Bank, please visit one of Gulf Bank’s 57 branches, call 1805805, log on to [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com), or visit Gulf Bank’s social media channels.

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S Korea's Park  
jailed for 24 years  
for corruption

## Immigration row overshadows Merkel's fourth term

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ATAREB: Syrians, displaced from Ghouta, gather in a make-shift camp built inside a school in the northern Syrian town of Atareb. —AFP

# Fresh raids pound Syria's rebel-held Douma

## Negotiations crumbled this week and air strikes resumed

**BEIRUT:** Deadly bombardments pounded the last opposition holdout in Syria's Eastern Ghouta yesterday, after regime troops resumed a military blitz to pressure rebels to withdraw. Backed up by Russia's firepower, Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad has ousted his armed opponents from nearly all of Ghouta, their last stronghold on the edge of the capital. The regime has used a combination of a fierce military onslaught and two negotiated withdrawals to empty out 95 percent of the enclave, but rebels are still entrenched in its largest town of Douma.

As Moscow pursued talks with Jaish Al-Islam, the Islamist faction that holds Douma, bombing subsided and military operations appeared to be on hold for around ten days. But the negotiations crumbled this week and air strikes resumed on Friday, killing 40 civilians according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Another eight civilians were killed yesterday as more bombing raids slammed into the town, the Britain-based Observatory said. It could not confirm whether the strikes were carried out by Syrian government warplanes or those of its ally, Russia. Firas Al-Doumi, a rescue worker inside the battered town, told AFP military planes and helicopters were circling overhead. "The bombing has not stopped. We can't even count all the wounded," said Mohammed, a young doctor inside Douma. "There are

some wounded who we couldn't operate on in time, and they died," he said.

### 'Douma is the end'

Six civilians were also killed and dozens more wounded as Douma rebels shelled the capital Damascus yesterday, Syrian state media said. State television broadcast live footage from a hospital in Damascus, where pools of blood stained the floor and wounded could be heard wailing in pain. One woman cried over the lifeless body of a young man on a stretcher. Another said she had been riding in a taxi when the shelling started, and the car crashed head-on into a wall.

Assad is keen to recapture Ghouta to eliminate the opposition from the outskirts of Damascus and end years of rocket fire on the capital. Abbas, a retired 57-year-old Syrian man, said his neighborhood in the capital's west was being hit hard yesterday. "It looks like Douma is the end of the story, and endings are

always hard," he said. "I'm waiting for the end of the fighters in Douma so people can live in peace. We've been waiting for this for years, whether in Ghouta or in Damascus," said Abbas.

The regime's offensive on Ghouta since February 18 has killed more than 1,600 civilians. It sliced the area into three isolated pockets each held by different rebel factions.

The first two were evacuated under Russian-brokered deals last month that saw more than 46,000 rebels and civilians bussed to opposition-held Idlib province in the northwest. Tens of thousands also fled into government-controlled territory through safe passages opened by Russia and Syrian troops.

### Talks falter

Moscow stepped in to negotiate a deal for Douma, the third and final pocket where Jaish Al-Islam had been angling for a reconciliation agreement that would allow them to stay as a police force. Following a preliminary accord announced by Russia on

Sunday, nearly 3,000 fighters and civilians were evacuated from Douma to northern Syria.

But as talks dragged on, Syria and its Russian ally threatened Jaish Al-Islam with a renewed military assault if they did not agree to withdraw.

It remains unclear exactly why the talks fell apart this week. SANA said they faltered when Jaish Al-Islam refused to release detainees they were holding in Douma, adding that the military assault would only stop if hostages are released. Others have pointed to internal rebel divisions over the withdrawal process. Top Jaish Al-Islam political figure Mohammad Alouh on Friday blamed power struggles between the regime's allies.

"The talks were going well... Their only shared interests is the blood of civilians," he said. Syrian troops were matching their renewed bombing with a ground operation in the orchards surrounding Douma. Yesterday, fresh artillery fire hit those fields, said the Observatory. "The regime is trying to tighten the noose around Douma from the west, east, and south," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman. Nawar Oliver, an analyst at the Omran Institute, told AFP Jaish Al-Islam was facing "massive" military pressure. "The negotiations failed and the regime wants its conditions-the air strikes are a taste of what could happen if its conditions are not implemented," he said. —AFP

## 15 years after Saddam's fall, Iraqi hopes fade

**BAGHDAD:** Fifteen years ago, Abu Ali was thrilled to see American soldiers enter Baghdad. "The tyrant is finished," he remembers saying, imagining a bright future for Iraq without Saddam Hussein. But the years that followed have brought only misery, he said, looking at photos of three of his sons killed in attacks in the ensuing chaos.

After the US-led invasion of 2003, Iraq, freed from nearly a quarter century of dictatorship, descended into violence. Sectarian clashes and jihadist attacks divided families and killed tens of thousands of people, leaving behind wounds that have yet to heal and a lagging economy. In July 2007, Abu Ali's eldest son, 18 at the time, was killed when a car bomb hit a busy street in Baghdad's Karrada neighborhood.

He had been seeing watermelons to passers-by trying to escape the summer heat. Six years later almost to the day, the taxi driver's two younger sons, Alaa, 23, and Abbas, 17, were also killed in an attack. The losses are written in deep lines along his face, aged well beyond his 61 years. Abu Ali used to dream of

lives for his children that would be better than his own, but now he only visits them at the cemetery. "I go to their graves every week, I feel like they're sitting near me," he said, wearing a white scarf and a traditional beige robe.

### 'Baghdad fell when statue fell'

Abu Ali's hopes for a brighter future have faded. "The situation does not bode well... no one thinks of the people," he said. "The parties only seek to win seats." Things were different before, said Qais al-Sharea, a hairdresser in the capital. "Saddam Hussein was the strong man, the one who controlled everything and scared the entire world with his chemical weapons," he said.

Each morning, when he opened his salon in Al-Ferdous Square in the heart of Baghdad, the dictator's colossal statue stood guard outside. On April 9, 2003, Sharea, who had stayed at home that day, watched on television as US soldiers with an armoured vehicle helped a crowd armed with a sledgehammer pull down the bronze statue in front of his shop.

"Baghdad fell when the statue fell," he told AFP at the foot of the giant platform, now covered with rubble poorly hidden by crumpled sheet metal-the site of a construction project that has so far failed to take shape. Sharea, 27 at the time, thought "like all young people" that Baghdad would soon be filled with night-clubs and restaurants.

"We (thought) we would travel the world," he said. But instead of progress and opening

to the world, life in Iraq has turned into a case of "one step forward and five back", said Sharea. Mahmoud Othman, a 65-year-old Kurdish politician who served as a member of Iraq's transitional leadership after Saddam's fall, dreamed of a better tomorrow. But if "the Americans had a plan to overthrow Saddam Hussein, they had no agenda for post-Saddam", said Othman, who had been a Kurdish peshmerga fighter since the age of 18.

State institutions and Saddam's all-powerful Baath Party were dismantled as opposition figures returned from exile. But corruption and sectarian tensions-fuelled by militias born in the security vacuum created by the dismantling of the security forces-flourished. "We thought we'd have a federal and democratic system, but we've had sectarianism and chauvinism," said Rauf Maaruf, leader of the Kurdish opposition party Goran.

Members of Iraq's religious and ethnic minorities say they have paid the highest price for the past decade-and-a-half of chaos. "Our country has been going through catastrophe after catastrophe," said the Chaldean Catholic patriarch, Louis Raphael Sako, who has watched his community shrink. Every institution has been affected, according to Abdel Salam Al-Samer, a 58-year-old university teacher for the past three decades. "The situation in Iraq has deteriorated and so have our universities," said Samer, who has seen political factions interfere in education and colleagues killed by militias. —AFP



BAGHDAD: A file combo shows (L) Iraqis ringing a rope around a giant bronze statue of toppled Iraqi president Saddam Hussein in Baghdad's Al-Fardous (paradise) square on April 9, 2003 and (R) Iraqi women sitting under the newly erected "Statue of Hope" at the square that has taken the place of the former statue of Saddam. —AFP



## International

# As the Castro era wanes, Cuba's youth have doubts, and dreams

## ‘Many generations have passed since the revolution’

**HAVANA:** They are the children of the new millennium. Like their parents, they have known no leader but the Castro brothers. Now, on the eve of a historic generational change, Cuba's young people hold conflicting opinions about a future they will help to forge. The island's youth tend to see the announced departure of President Raul Castro, who will pass the mantle of leadership to a new generation on April 19, as natural and necessary.

“Many generations have passed since the revolution (of 1959) triumphed,” said communications major Hayla Torres, evoking 86-year-old Raul Castro and other members of the revolutionary old guard. “But they are people of another time, and society is demanding change,” added the 19-year-old from western Matanzas province, who wore a Real Madrid team shirt tied around her waist.

For the first time in more than 40 years, the Cuban president will not be named Castro and will not come from the generation that spearheaded the revolution. For now, the government's current number two, 57-year-old Miguel Diaz-Canel, is expected to assume the top role. “Time has passed,” said Yoendris Alarcon, a 22-year-old student at the aptly named University of the Isla de la Juventud (Isle of Youth) in southwest Cuba, adding that it was time to give a new generation a chance to “take Cuba forward.” “I have confidence in our future,” Torres added. “I believe that despite everything that has been happening, one can see the results of things.” She praised the first reforms undertaken by Raul Castro to “update” the Cuban economic model.

### ‘Everything will stay the same’

Others, however, were quick to express their reservations about Raul Castro's legacy and the changes that can be expected ahead. “At the rate things are going, I do not think we'll see improvement,” said Marlon Borrero, 19, who is doing his compulsory military service. “I think everything

will stay the same.” “Life is complicated for my family,” he said, adding that there was little work available and “if you don't work, you don't live.” Just to keep up one's weight, Borrero said, “almost requires magic.”

The son of a public official, Borrero plans to pursue a career in tourism, probably working “more abroad than in Cuba.” He hopes that will take him to the United States, “because whatever you say, there is a better way of life there. You work a little more, but in the end the sacrifice is worth it,” said Borrero, a hip-hop fan who sports tattoos and wears earrings and who had decided to grant himself a day off.

Yoel, a 24-year-old unemployed youth in Havana, said he, too, is skeptical of promised change, and he rejects Cuba's indirect voting system to elect a new president, saying it was designed to keep power in the hands of those who already have it. “The people play no part in that vote, so we continue on the same path,” he said. “We will never see change.”

### ‘Nothing is impossible’

Yet while many young Cubans are not optimistic, they realize that the island's future rests partly on their shoulders, and they say they are ready to take up the burden. “The young people of Cuba can contribute,” said Luis Orlando, a physical education student, as he walked the streets of the south-central city of Cienfuegos. “We need to take this revolution forward.”

“I understand that we have to open ourselves more to other countries, market ourselves better... and leave the old thoughts behind if we are to make Cuba better,” said Orlando, a soccer fan. Hayla agreed. “The Cuban economy has declined, but nothing will lower the spirit” of the island's youth, who are ready to “play their part,” she said. “Nothing is impossible,” added Yoendris. “We are going to keep fighting. Everything depends on us putting our heads down and staying in the fight.” —AFP



**CIENTUEGOS:** Cubans play domino in a street of Cienfuegos, in Cuba, on March 22, 2018. Cubans in their twenties, raised within the revolution, face times of change being aware of the role they will play in the future of the country. —AFP

## US congressman pulls loaded gun

**WASHINGTON:** A US congressman said he pulled out a loaded Smith & Wesson pistol during a meeting with gun control activists Friday in a bid to prove that firearms are not responsible for violence. House Republican Ralph Norman of South Carolina told The Post and Courier newspaper that he drew the handgun and placed it on a table while at a “Coffee With Your Congressman” event at a diner, in an attempt to convey that guns are only dangerous if in the wrong hands.

“I'm not going to be a Gabby Giffords,” said Norman, 64, referring to the former congresswoman from Arizona who was shot in the head during a meet-and-greet outside a grocery

store in 2011. Giffords was gravely wounded in that attack. She survived and became a prominent gun safety advocate. Both Giffords and her husband, retired NASA astronaut Mark Kelly, are longtime gun owners.

“Americans are increasingly faced with a stark choice: leaders like Gabby, who work hard together to find solutions to problems, or extremists like the NRA and Congressman Norman, who rely on intimidation tactics and perpetuating fear,” Kelly said in a statement. “If we want to protect our kids and communities, Congress must get serious about passing safer gun laws. For our kids' sake, let's show our leaders we expect them to behave more like Gabby and less like Congressman Norman.”

The paper said Norman also claimed: “I don't mind dying... But whoever shoots me better shoot well or I'm shooting back.” Norman's indelicate reference to Giffords appeared to suggest that her debilitating injury was in some way due to her not being adequately armed. The congressman later issued a statement saying he is a concealed carry permit holder and regularly brings his gun with him when in public. —AFP

## Brazil's Lula leaves building ahead of expected arrest

**SÃO BERNARDO DO CAMPO:** Brazil's election frontrunner and controversial leftist icon Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva yesterday finally walked out of the building where he had been holed up for two days and attended a Catholic Mass ahead of his expected arrest for corruption. Lula, 72, got a rock star's welcome from thousands of leftist supporters surrounding the metalworkers' union building in Sao Bernardo do Campo, where he has defied the authorities.

He had been ordered to surrender on Friday and begin a 12-year sentence. But to the delight of his fervent followers, Lula skipped the deadline, remaining shut up in the building. The unfolding drama mixes Lula's charismatic political style, the country's epic struggle against graft, and the fate of October's presidential elections — where, despite his legal problems, Lula remains by far the most popular contender. Finally emerging yesterday, wearing a dark blue T-shirt and looking confident, Lula waved to the crowd and made the sign of the cross on a platform where he stood next to several priests.

“Free Lula, free Lula!” the crowd chanted. The impromptu Mass in the street was to commemorate Lula's late wife Marisa Leticia, who died last year and would now be turning 68. But it was also a reminder to supporters of Lula's long and often emotional backstory, rising as he did from humble beginnings as an uneducated, desperately poor shoeshine boy to a two-term president (2003-2010), and at his peak, one of the world's most popular politicians. For his followers, the Mass appeared likely to become an elaborate farewell before Lula was taken to Curitiba, headquarters of Brazil's giant “Car Wash” anti-graft probe, which has claimed him as its biggest scalp.

### Prayers, then negotiations

Lula was convicted last year of taking a luxury apart-

ment as a kickback from a big construction company. He lost a lower court appeal in January and saw his sentence increased from nine to 12 years. Since Wednesday, Lula and his supporters have been fighting the prison sentence in the Supreme Court, Brazil's top appeals court, and in the streets, in a feverish political drama that has gripped Latin America's biggest nation.

On Friday, the founder of the once dominant Workers' Party refused to comply with an order to surrender voluntarily to the authorities. This raised fears of confrontation between police and the seething crowd of Lula backers, many of them in Workers' Party red shirts. However, authorities quickly defused tension by declaring that Lula was not yet considered a fugitive.

The endgame now appears to have started. Brazilian media widely reported that Lula was due to turn himself in after the Mass. Lula's lawyers were in negotiations with police over the place and timing of the arrest, allies of the disgraced leader said. But Lula's faithful were still in defiant mood. “We can't let them lock up Lula!” one member of the human shield surrounding the union building yelled. “Don't let him surrender!” another cried.

Meanwhile, Lula's lawyers appealed for an injunction against his arrest late Friday in the Supreme Court. But a similar appeal at another court failed earlier in the day and the latest effort was unlikely to gain traction.

### Polarizing figure

To his Workers' Party faithful, Lula is a victim of an out-of-control judiciary preventing him from returning to power. They remember him for a presidency that saw tens of millions lifted from poverty and Brazil rise on the world stage. However, Lula's imminent arrest is being celebrated by many Brazilians. The “Car Wash” probe, which has revealed systemic, high-level embezzlement and bribery throughout business and politics over the last four years, is wildly popular.

Detractors say that Lula epitomizes Brazil's corruption-riddled elite. Operation “Car Wash” was named after the service station where agents initially investigated a minor money laundering scheme in 2014, before realizing that they had stumbled on a gargantuan web of embezzlement and bribery at state oil company Petrobras, reaching right through the political classes. —AFP



**CURITIBA:** People demonstrate against former Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva outside the Federal Police headquarters where he is awaited to start his 12-year prison sentence. —AFP

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# S Korea’s Park jailed for 24 years for corruption

## Guilty on multiple criminal charges, including bribery

SEOUL: South Korea's disgraced former president Park Geun-hye was jailed for 24 years Friday for corruption, completing a dramatic fall from grace for the country's first woman leader who became a figure of public fury and ridicule. A trial which lasted more than 10 months and highlighted shady links between big business and politics in South Korea ended with Park being found guilty on multiple criminal charges, including bribery and abuse of power.

Park's successor described the sentencing as a "heartbreaking event" for both the nation and the ex-leader herself. "The accused abused the power bestowed by the people-the true ruler of this country-to cause chaos in national administration," said Judge Kim Se-yoon, delivering the ruling. Park, 66, was convicted of receiving or demanding more than \$20 million from conglomerates, sharing secret state documents, "blacklisting" artists critical of her policies, and firing officials who resisted her abuses of power.

"Despite all these crimes, the accused denied all the charges against her, displayed no remorse and showed an incomprehensible attitude by blaming Choi and other... officials," Kim said, referring to Park's secret confidante and long-time friend Choi Soon-sil. Park was also ordered to pay a fine of 18 billion won (\$17 million). When the wide-ranging corruption scandal broke last year it prompted massive street protests against Park across the country.

On Friday, the verdict was greeted with public displays of outrage and grief by several hundred Park supporters who had gathered outside the courthouse. Many protesters sat or lay in the road crying, while others formed a protest rally calling for her release. "The rule of law in this country is dead today," said Han Geun-hyung, a 27-year-old Park supporter.

Park herself was not in court for Friday's judgment which, in a rare move, was broadcast live on television. She had boycotted most sessions of the trial in protest

at being held in custody. Instead she was informed of her fate at a Seoul detention centre, where she sat in a reception hall with her lawyer awaiting the outcome, Yonhap news agency reported. She now has seven days in which to file an appeal.

Park becomes the third former South Korean leader to be convicted on criminal charges after leaving office, joining Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo, who were both found guilty of treason and corruption in the 1990s. Judge Kim said he had passed a tough sentence to "prevent such an unfortunate event from happening again".

The presidential Blue House said in a statement after the verdict: "Each person must have different feelings about former President Park Geun-hye. But a bleak wind blew through the hearts of all of us today. "It is a heartbreaking event for the nation as well as for the person's life. A history that is not remembered is bound to be repeated. We will not forget today."

### A Korean 'Rasputin'?

Park, the daughter of dictator Park Chung-hee, lost both her parents to assassins. She took office in 2013 as a conservative

icon who cast herself in the role of daughter of the nation-incorruptible and beholden to none. Less than four years later, she was impeached, stripped of all her powers and ousted from office on the back of months-long mass protests that brought millions on to the streets of Seoul and other cities.

Much of the public anger was focused on Park's relationship with Choi and accusations that she let her friend-who held no formal position or security clearance-meddle in state affairs, including high-level appointments and editing official speeches. Choi is the daughter of a shadowy religious figure who had served as a mentor to Park for decades until his death in 1994. She was tried separately and sentenced in February to 20 years in prison.

Condemned in the media for her "Rasputin-like" influence over Park, Choi was convicted of using her



SEOUL: A supporter of South Korea's former President Park Geun-hye reacts after a court sentenced Park Geun-hye to 24 years in prison, during a rally outside the Seoul Central District Court. —AFP

presidential ties to squeeze tens of millions of dollars out of major South Korean businesses, including Samsung-the world's top smartphone maker-and retail giant Lotte.

### 'No remorse'

Former leaders Chun and Roh received presidential pardons after each spent around two years in jail-a privilege that may elude Park for many years, said Jeong Han-wool, an analyst at think tank Hankook Research. "Given her attitude and public anger over her scandal that remains raw, it will be difficult to create a political environment in favour of her release any time soon," Jeong told AFP.

Park's left-leaning successor Moon Jae-in came to power largely because of the public backlash against Park and her conservative party, dimming hopes for a

pardon under the current administration, he added. Chun Sang-chin, sociology professor at Seoul's Sogang University, said the verdict could also spell bad news for Park's immediate predecessor Lee Myung-bak, who is in custody as prosecutors investigate multiple corruption charges involving him and his relatives.

"This is a good news for people who took to the street with candles but a nightmare for Lee Myung-bak," Chun said. Park's core supporters have always seen her as a heroically tragic figure who devoted her life to the service of her country despite childhood tragedy. But for the vast majority of Koreans, she has now been permanently disowned, and will go down in history not as the country's first woman president but the first democratically elected leader to be forced from office. —AFP

## Women push for rights in Bangladesh's fashion factories

DHAKA: When Ayesha Akhter walks into the factory where she works, the supervisor greets her with a smile and wishes her a pleasant day - a major change after years of physical and verbal abuse from managers in Bangladesh's \$28 billion garment industry. The seamstress said it is her biggest victory since being elected president in October of the workers' union at Jeans Factory Limited in Dhaka, amid a push to improve conditions across the global fashion supply chain.

"In all these years, I have heard supervisors yell, verbally abuse, call us prostitutes and slap us behind our heads to work faster," Akhter, who spends eight hours a day stitching pockets on jeans and shorts, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Then I became the union president and everything changed. Overnight, I became important."

Akhter, 28, is among scores of women in Bangladesh standing up to head unions and negotiate with male-dominated management for more pay, safer workplaces and respect on the job. Bangladesh is the world's second-largest garment exporter with some 4 million people working in its 4,000-plus factories, nearly 80 percent of them women, campaigners say. Poor working conditions and low wages have long been a concern in the sector, which suffered one of the worst industrial accidents in 2013, when more than 1,100 people were killed in the collapse of the Rana Plaza complex. Garment factory workers attempting to set up unions have encountered resistance across the region, with many losing their jobs or being suspended by management that fear the power of unions, leaders said. "Freedom of association and collective bargaining are the biggest challenges the industry faces today," said Nazma Akter, a former child worker and founder of Awaj Foundation, which campaigns for labour rights. "Without that power, workers are just surviving, not leading normal lives, and it's almost a crime."

### Young, dynamic women

Five years after Rana Plaza, one of the region's strongest movements to organize workers and help them exercise collective bargaining has emerged - led by Bengali women. The number of registered unions in Bangladesh has increased about fivefold to almost 500 since 2013, according to Jennifer Kuhlman of US-based workers' rights charity Solidarity Center. "Many of them are being headed by young, dynamic women who are choosing to lead from the front to bring about change," said Kuhlman, who heads its Bangladesh programs. Campaigners estimate that women make up about half of the new factory union leaders. Although women said their newfound union power had opened their eyes to their rights - from social security benefits to overtime - they fear losing their jobs.

Akhter remembers the "big fight" she had with her husband when she said she was considering standing for president. "He was mad and upset and clearly told me not to," said the mother of two. "He was scared and worried about my safety. He relented but we always worry because of what we see and hear." It was easy to unionize immediately after the Rana Plaza disaster but activists are now being harassed, workers fired and union meetings disrupted, said Babul Akhter, president of the Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers Federation. —AFP

## Mother of murdered Irish woman wants to face killer in India

OLD GOA: The mother of an Irish woman raped and murdered in an Indian tourist resort said yesterday she wants to confront the alleged killer face-to-face at his trial which has just started. On the opening day Friday of the trial of tourist guide Vikat Bhagat, a witness told the court the face of Danielle McLaughlin had been mutilated with a bottle to impede identification.

Andrea Brannigan, mother of the 28-year-old who had been on holiday in Goa, was not present but told AFP she would travel to India for future hearings. "I am very nervous for the trial and hope justice is swiftly served for Danielle's sake," Brannigan, 47, said from Ireland in a telephone interview. "I am hopeful the verdict will be out soon because the investigation officials have collected evidence and fast-tracked the entire process, which is amazing."

The family is represented by an Indian lawyer at the trial. But in a rare gesture, Brannigan has been given permission to intervene at the hearing. That means she will be able to confront Bhagat and she said she wants to take the chance. "I want to ask him why he did this," she said. "The way Danielle's case has been handled in Goa has been amazing and I couldn't thank them enough. "I have the right to representation, which is very unusual, but we can ensure the proceedings are (moving) in the right direction."

Brannigan said she still felt "shocked and devastated" at the murder. "I've never had any bad experience in Goa and believe there are good and bad people. Now I just want swift justice for my daughter." The naked and battered body of McLaughlin, who came from Buncrana in Ireland, was discovered in a field near a Goa beach in March last year. Bhagat, 24, was detained the next day



GOA: In this file photo taken on March 17, 2017 shows artifacts placed by mourners at the location where the body of Irish tourist Danielle McLaughlin was found in Canacona, some 60km south of Panjim, in the western Indian state of Goa. —AFP

and has been charged with raping and murdering her and destroying evidence.

He has not yet entered a plea. Police said Bhagat initially confessed but he has since written an open letter denying responsibility. McLaughlin was celebrating the Indian spring festival of Holi at Goa's popular Palolem beach. Local farmer Prashant Komarpant told the opening hearing how he found the body, with the face mutilated

and bloody, on March 13 last year. The hearing will resume on April 13. Several foreigners have been murdered in Goa over the past decade, including 15-year-old British schoolgirl Scarlett Keeling. Her semi-naked body was found in shallow water on a beach in 2008. The deaths have blighted the resort state's reputation as a tourist haven. In 2016 two Indian men were cleared of the rape and murder of Keeling. —AFP

## In Kenya, British soldiers train in huge war games

LOLLDAIGA HILLS: High on Kenya's Laikipia plateau hundreds of British soldiers spent a recent half-moon night fording a river, marching across wadis and over escarpments before attacking a mocked-up army training camp. This is where-and how-British soldiers learn to fight, in regular six-week training sessions culminating in a simulated assault, this time involving 1,000 troops.

"This is among the most demanding training that we do," said Brigadier Nick Perry, commander of Britain's 16 Air Assault Brigade, who was in Kenya with three companies of Gurkhas, a storied regiment made up predominately of Nepalese recruits, with their signature curved kukri knives. The size and scale of the British war games in Kenya is unusual: only Suffield in Canada and England's Salisbury Plain allow something similar.

In recent years, infantry units were sent to

Kenya for their final training before being deployed to Afghanistan and, for the "rapid reaction force" 16 Air Assault, being always battle-ready is a point of pride. "I need soldiers to be ready to go on operations at very short notice," said Perry. "Kenya allows large-scale exercises so the whole battle group-the infantry, the artillery, the engineers, the intelligence and surveillance assets-can be tested alongside each other."

They also work alongside the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF), of which a 150-strong company swept across a hillside dotted with acacia and euphorbia trees in one of the final moments of the recent training exercise. "Increasingly, operations around the world are multinational. It's pretty rare now to find a single nation at conflict, and as Britain we're not in that game," Britain hasn't gone to war alone since 1982 when it fought a two-month battle with Argentina over the Falkland Islands. British troops are currently deployed as part of multinational forces in Afghanistan and Iraq and as peacekeepers in South Sudan and Somalia.

### A history of (simulated) violence

Battle groups come to Kenya several times a year, training with live fire at Archer's Post in the centre of the country and on private land in Laikipia. British Army Training Unit Kenya



(BATUK) commander Colonel Nick Wood said the British military presence in Kenya is worth around \$57 million (46 million euros) to the local economy.

But it also underpins Britain's diplomatic relations with Kenya, a former colonial property where a bitter independence war was fought in the 1950s, yet where British military training has continued with few breaks for over 70 years. "We're very much part of life here," Wood said.

The aim of the training isn't to inflate soldiers' confidence with easy wins, but to push them, sometimes to the point of defeat. "It's a challenging war-fighting mission against an impressive and well-equipped enemy," said Perry, of the assault exercise. It began in a clearing of croton and poison arrow trees where two six by six-meter (20 x 20-foot) tarpaulins were laid on the ground and marked with map grid references, contour lines, rivers, tracks and buildings. —AFP



International

# Immigration row overshadows start of Merkel’s fourth term

## Refugees are yet to join the labor market

**BERLIN:** A scuffle over immigration has marred the first weeks in office of Chancellor Angela Merkel’s fourth coalition, promising anything but smooth sailing in the years ahead for the loveless left-right alliance. Conservatives among Merkel’s Christian Democrats are keen to restrict as heavily as possible so-called “family reunifications” that would allow some of the million-plus migrants and refugees who have arrived since 2015 to bring in relatives.

That has stirred the ire of Social Democrats (SPD), the reluctant junior partners who helped Merkel into office to end the longest period of post-election limbo in post-World War II German history. In their painstakingly-negotiated coalition deal, the parties agreed that up to 1,000 people per month could enter Germany under family reunification, with only immediate relatives eligible.

New Interior Minister Horst Seehofer is eager to tighten the screws further, with a draft law that would prevent people dependent on social benefits from bringing in family members and further restrict which relations are eligible, including ruling out siblings. Many people who arrived in Germany as refugees are yet to join the labor market, undergoing job training or language classes, and would therefore not qualify.

Seehofer is a former leader of the ultra-conservative CSU, the smaller Bavarian sister party of Merkel’s more centrist CDU. He is keen to burnish his outfit’s anti-immigration credentials ahead of a state election later this year, when they will face a stiff challenge from anti-Islam, anti-immigration party Alternative for Germany (AfD).

“We don’t want an influx into the social system. That’s also how we’ve discussed this within the coalition,” he told Der Spiegel magazine’s Saturday edition. Two years ago, Seehofer blasted Merkel’s 2015 decision to open

Germany’s borders to refugees arriving in Europe via the so-called “Balkan route” from the Middle East, saying it had produced a “rule of injustice” in Europe’s most populous nation. Arriving in his Berlin ministry after being ejected from the state premiership in prosperous Bavaria, he lost no time before stirring up controversy with a declaration that “Islam does not belong to Germany”, which is home to around four million Muslims.

### ‘Coalition would be over’

Social democrats, already smarting from the concessions made on immigration in the coalition agreement, have bristled at Seehofer’s sallies in the media and at the draft law. Justice Minister Heiko Maas declared that “we will not agree to any draft which we consider to be mainly aimed at reducing numbers” allowed to enter Germany. For his part, Seehofer insisted Friday that he was “sticking very, very

closely to the coalition agreement,” suggesting cabinet colleagues from the SPD should “relax” about his law.

Meanwhile, his CSU party colleagues have backed him to the hilt. “If the Social Democrats don’t cooperate, the ‘grand coalition’ would be over” less than a month after Merkel was sworn in, deputy leader of the conservative parliamentary group Georg Nuesslein told the Augsburg Allgemeine newspaper. The family reunification row is just one front in a broader battle over immigration, integration and Islam in German society that has pitted the SPD against the CDU/CSU.

Seehofer is also keen to speed up expulsions of people whose asylum applications are refused, many of whom spend months or years contesting the decisions in the courts or acquire a “tolerated” residence status. After weeks of mud-slinging, some among the conservatives are uncomfortable with the relentless focus on such themes.

“The question is: do we really win elections by naming



the topics that stir people up without changing anything?” asked Armin Laschet, CDU state premier of North Rhine-Westphalia. Merkel will be counting on the support of moderates like Laschet to contain bubbling discontent on the right of her party.

Health Minister Jens Spahn, a rising star of the CDU’s right wing seen as a potential future candidate for the chancellorship, has spent his first weeks in

office giving interviews urging more “law and order” in troubled city districts.

He has also chided feminist pro-abortion campaigners, saying they cared more about animal rights than unborn children, and declared that long-term unemployed people were not poor. A government spokesman said Spahn’s statements were his “personal” views, not government policy. —AFP

## Hungary’s divisive Orban tipped for re-election

**BUDAPEST:** Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, one of Europe’s most controversial leaders, looks set to win a third consecutive term in an election today, despite uncertainty over tactical voting and turnout that could trigger an upset. At a final campaign event on Saturday in the city of Szekesfeharvar, southwest of Budapest, Orban urged his supporters to turn out to vote. “It’s not enough to be ahead in the polls, we have to come first on voting day too,” he said, recalling his party’s loss in a 2002 election despite having been considered the favourites beforehand.

The strongman nationalist’s Fidesz party enjoys opinion poll leads of between 20 and 30 percentage points over its closest rival Jobbik, a far-right party led by Gabor Vona that has been moving towards the centre, and the leftist Socialists with their candidate Gergely Karacsony. The first results are expected to emerge one or two hours after polls close at 1700 GMT today, with broader trends only emerging slowly over the course of the evening. “Rational logic suggests Fidesz will win, but there is something in the air that points toward a surprise,” analyst Gabor Torok said Friday.

### Immigration fears

A mainly first-past-the-post election system designed by Fidesz after it came to power gives it an advantage over the fragmented opposition parties. But a recent mayoral by-election saw Fidesz suffer a shock defeat after the opposition united behind a single independent candidate, sparking a surge in turnout. Analysts say nationwide turnout of over 70 percent would put Fidesz’s majority in danger.

Since the by-election, civil society groups have urged nationwide tactical voting today to foil Fidesz in electoral districts, although the opposition parties have failed to present a united front. Despite being on course for overall victory, analysts say Fidesz is likely to fall short of a third consecutive two-thirds “supermajority” in the 199-seat assembly that has allowed it to railroad through controversial bills.

Although the economy has picked up in recent years and wages are steadily rising, Orban’s campaign has focused on warnings about mass immigration by Muslims and Africans. Fears over immigration are entrenched in Hungary after some 400,000 refugees and migrants traversed the EU member in 2015, prompting Orban to erect



a border fence that is popular with voters. Casting himself as a defender of national sovereignty and “Christian Europe” against the “globalist elite”, Orban has spearheaded divisions between the European Union’s western and eastern members like Hungary and Poland. On a visit to Budapest Friday, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, leader of Poland’s governing PiS party, endorsed Orban for today’s vote.

“Today the freedom, sovereignty and dignity of nations, for you and for us Poles, is tied to Viktor Orban,” he said. The 54-year-old Orban’s anti-immigration stance and verbal onslaughts against “meddling Brussels bureaucrats” have gained him admirers not just in nearby Poland but also among ultra-nationalists in western Europe and beyond. But Brussels has sued Budapest over its resistance to the bloc’s refugee resettlement plan, as well as laws targeting civil society groups and a university linked to the liberal US billionaire George Soros.

### ‘Hungary is first!’

The so-called “nuclear” step of launching “Article 7” sanctions over Hungary’s alleged breaches of EU values,

a penalty so far only applied to Poland, has been raised and could lead to the suspension of Hungary’s European Parliament voting rights. But a strong majority on Sunday would cement Orban’s plan, declared in 2014, to mould ex-communist Hungary (population 9.8 million) into an “illiberal” state modelled on countries like Russia and Turkey.

During a bruising election campaign Orban has stepped up his long-running attacks on the Hungarian-born Soros which have included media blitzes called xenophobic and anti-Semitic by critics. Fidesz posters show the slogan “For us, Hungary is first!” and the 87-year-old Jewish financier standing with opposition leaders, brandishing wire-cutters to take down the border fences. Orban himself has shunned debate with rivals and questions from the independent media, and appeared in public only at carefully choreographed events. His aura of invincibility has however been shaken by a wave of corruption scandals involving close allies and family members that have intensified in recent weeks and heightened unpredictability about today’s result. —AFP

## Turkey: 108 Kurd militants ‘neutralized’

**ANKARA:** Some 108 Kurdish militants have been “neutralized” in operations targeting southeast Turkey and northern Iraq over the past week, Turkey’s armed forces said yesterday. The military uses the term “neutralized” to refer to operations in which opposition forces have been killed, wounded or captured. In a weekly roundup, it said it had neutralized 31 militants from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the southeastern provinces of Tunceli, Mardin, Diyarbakir and Sirnak. It said 77 other militants had been neutralized in cross-border operations. Earlier yesterday, the military said it had neutralized six militants in an air strike

targeting northern Iraq’s Hakurk region. Turkey regularly carries out air strikes against PKK targets in northern Iraq, where the group is based in the Qandil Mountains, but has also recently threatened to push its operations to Sinjar. Ankara has long complained that PKK fighters are being given free rein to operate out of Sinjar against Turkish targets.

President Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would do “what is necessary” if an Iraqi operation against the militants failed, raising the prospect of a possible direct Turkish military operation. Turkish forces are currently waging a full-scale military operation in the Afrin region of northern Syria against the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, which Ankara sees as an extension of the PKK.

The PKK, considered a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, has waged a three-decade insurgency in Turkey’s largely Kurdish southeast that has killed some 40,000 people. — Reuters

## Top IS commander killed in airstrike

**MAZAR-I-SHARIF:** A high-ranking Islamic State commander in Afghanistan has been killed in an airstrike, officials said yesterday, as Afghan and US forces dial up attacks on the militant group. Qari Hekmat was the top commander of IS’s Afghan franchise in the northern province of Jowzjan, where the group established a stronghold after coming under intense pressure in the eastern province of Nangarhar.

Hekmat was killed Friday in an Afghan airstrike in Darzab district, the defense ministry said in a statement, describing him as “one of the key figures” for IS in northern Afghanistan. He was involved in or responsible for “deadly terrorist attacks” and has

been replaced by Mawlawi Habib-ul-Rahman, the ministry added.

Provincial governor Lutfullah Azizi confirmed Hekmat had been killed but said US Forces carried out the airstrike. US Forces did not immediately respond to AFP’s request for comment. “Our intelligence sources have identified his body. His death will affect the recruitment of Daesh and disperse IS fighters in Afghanistan’s north,” Azizi said, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

Afghan and US forces have ramped up airstrikes and ground offensives against IS fighters in Jowzjan in recent months as the group seeks to expand its foothold in the country. Afghan security forces last month detained a French woman fighting for IS in the same district of Jowzjan. AFP has reported that French and Algerian fighters, some arriving from Syria, have joined IS in the restive province. In January, Afghan forces caught the group’s “head facilitator of foreign forces”. Two months later, his two successors were killed in a US airstrike. NATO’s Resolute Support mission said previously. —AFP

### News in brief

#### Father who caged son arrested

**TOKYO:** A father who allegedly confined his mentally ill son in a small cage for more than two decades was arrested yesterday in western Japan, police and news reports said. Police arrested 73-year-old Yoshitane Yamasaki on suspicion of imprisoning his son, now aged 42, at their house in the city of Sanda in Hyogo prefecture, a local police spokesman told AFP. Further details of the case were not available as the investigation is still underway, the spokesman said. According to local media reports, the son was forced to live inside a wooden cage-one meter high and 1.8 meter wide-built in a prefabricated hut next to the main house. —AFP

#### India defense website ‘hacked’

**NEW DELHI:** India’s defense minister said the department website was hacked on Friday, with the web portals of at least three other government departments including the interior, law and labor ministries also appearing to be down. Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman confirmed the attack, but India’s cyber security czar denied hacking had taken place, saying a “hardware problem” was to blame. “Action is initiated after the hacking of the MoD (ministry of defense) website. The website shall be restored shortly,” Sitharaman said on Twitter. “Needless to say, every possible step required to prevent any such eventuality in the future will be taken,” she added. The defense ministry website was the first to be affected, with its homepage replaced by a screen showing a Chinese character that means “zen”. Soon, other major departments’ websites were either “unreachable” or “not found”. The Ministry of Home Affairs website’s main page said that the site was offline “due to technical problems”. —AFP

#### Michigan says water crisis over


**FLINT:** The state of Michigan will no longer supply free bottled water to Flint, the city that was plagued with lead-tainted drinking water in a crisis that drew national attention, officials said on Friday. For nearly two years, tests have shown that Flint’s water is the same or better than similar cities across the state, a statement from Michigan Governor Rick Snyder’s office said. When the current supply of state-funded bottled water is depleted, the four remaining distribution centers will close and deliveries will end. “The scientific data now proves the water system is stable and the need for bottled water has ended,” the Republican governor said in the statement. “Since Flint’s water is now well within the standards set by the federal government, we will now focus even more of our efforts on continuing with the health, education and economic development assistance needed to help move Flint forward.” Officials from the city of Flint did not immediately respond to requests for comment. —Reuters

#### Jihadists killed in Mali

**BAMAKO:** Fourteen suspected jihadists were killed on Friday during an “alleged escape attempt”, a day after they were taken in for questioning, the Malian army said in a statement. However, two local officials told AFP that 20 civilians had been killed or arrested in Dioura, central Mali, and cast doubt on the prison escape story. On Tuesday Amnesty International called on authorities in Mali to investigate extrajudicial killings following the discovery last week of a mass grave containing six bodies. Once a beacon of democracy and stability in Africa, Mali has been undermined by a coup, civil war and Islamist terrorism. Extremists linked to Al-Qaeda took control of Mali’s desert north in early 2012, but were largely driven out in a French-led military operation launched in January 2013. In June 2015, Mali’s government signed a peace agreement with some armed groups, but the jihadists remain active, and large tracts of the country remain lawless. —AFP



Analysis



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WASHINGTON WATCH

The MLK Jr we should remember

By Dr James J Zogby

On April 4th, we commemorated the anniversary of the assassination of Reverend Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Although it's been 50 years since that terrible day, like many in my generation I will never forget the horror we felt, the profound sense of loss we experienced, and the feeling that we were standing at the edge of an abyss. What followed in the days and months ahead, tragically validated our deepest fears. Rioting broke out in over 100 American cities, as traumatized African Americans rose up in shock and anger at the slaying of their beloved leader.

A few months later, Senator Robert F Kennedy was also assassinated. And a few months after that, with Democrats meeting in Chicago at their presidential nominating convention, Chicago police and national guard units violently confronted a massive anti-Vietnam War protest that had gathered at the convention. As delegates inside the convention hall expressed their solidarity with the protesters, they were also met with violence. It was a troubled time as issues of an unjust war, racism, and deep economic disparities that saw millions of Americans, black and white, locked in poverty, all came to the forefront. King stood at the center of the national debate on all these issues and precisely for that reason, he was reviled and hated by those whose interests he threatened.

There were some, especially northern liberals, who accepted King's challenge to the "Jim Crow" laws in the south that had for generations enforced a system of racial segregation. But when he turned his attention to the no less odious segregation that defined black life northern cities, these same liberals balked in protest. And when King spoke out against the war in Vietnam, organized the Poor Peoples' Campaign, and began to organize support for workers on strike for a living wage, they decidedly turned against him. They had loved his "I have a dream" speech because it didn't threaten them. But when he expanded his dream to challenge poverty, war, and social injustice and began to translate it into action, he was rejected and scorned. What is so disturbing is how the King we have come to remember today is not the King who lived and worked among us, but a hollowed out, white-washed, acceptable shadow of the man who challenges no one. As my friend and mentor, Jesse Jackson, wrote recently, "we owe it to King - and to our children and grandchildren - to commemorate the man in full: a radical, ecumenical, antiwar, pro-immigrant, and scholarly champion of the poor who spent much more time marching and going to jail for liberation and justice than he ever spent dreaming about it". With Jackson's words in mind, I want to honor the memory of this remarkable visionary by letting King's own prophetic words define his legacy.

On our shared humanity and interdependence

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to embrace the broader concerns of all humanity". "All men are interdependent. Every nation is an heir of a vast treasury of ideas and labor to which both the living and dead of all nations have contributed. Whether we realize it or not...we are everlasting debtors to known and unknown men and women. When we rise in the morning, we go to the bathroom where we reach for a sponge which is provided by a Pacific Islander. We reach for a soap that is created for us by a European. Then at the table we drink coffee which is provided for us by a South American, or tea by a Chinese, or cocoa by a West African. Before we leave for our jobs we are already beholden to more than half the world."

On the moral challenges that we face

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige, and even his life for the welfare of others." "I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits."

On the fight against racism

"White America must see that no other ethnic group has been a slave on American soil. That is one thing that other immigrant groups hadn't had to face...America freed the slaves in 1863...but gave the slaves no land or nothing in reality to get started on. At the same time, America gave away millions of acres of land in the Midwest and the West. Which meant that there was a willingness to give the white peasants of Europe an economic base. And yet it refused to give an economic to its black peasants from Africa who came here involuntarily, in chains, and who had worked for free for 244 years...And so emancipation for the Negro was really freedom to hunger...it was freedom without food to eat or land to cultivate." "To develop a sense of black consciousness and peoplehood does not require that we scorn the white race...it is not the race per se that we fight but the policies and ideologies that leaders of that race have formulated to perpetuate oppression."

On the struggle for justice

"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

On his opposition to war

"As I have walked among the desperate, rejected, and angry young men, I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles will not solve their problems. I have tried to offer them my deepest compassion while maintaining my conviction that social change comes most meaningfully through nonviolent action. But they asked, and rightly so, 'What about Vietnam?' They asked if our own nation wasn't using massive doses of violence to solve its problems to bring about the changes it wanted. Their questions hit home and I knew I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without first having spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today: my own government. For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake of the hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent."



Thinking behind Trump approach to China

When Liu He, Chinese President Xi Jinping's top economic adviser, came to Washington in late February, he was expected to make arrangements for restarting trade talks that President Donald Trump had put on ice. But just as Liu arrived, the Trump administration announced global steel and aluminum tariffs aimed at punishing China for what Washington says is its overproduction of steel that hurts US steel makers. The announcement came a day ahead of a meeting planned with Trump's economic point men, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and then White House adviser Gary Cohn.

Pessimistic Trump officials had said the Liu meeting would probably go nowhere. "People expect that whatever the Chinese offer it will be insufficient," a White House official told Reuters just hours ahead of the meeting. The timing of the announcement, whether deliberately aimed at embarrassing Liu or not, was emblematic of the Trump administration's more confrontational approach to what the United States has long viewed as China's unfair trade practices.

It was the opening salvo in a pattern of escalation that continued last week as Trump slapped first \$50 billion in tariffs on China and then said he would seek \$100 billion more after Beijing struck back. The rapid tit-for-tat escalation, which has brought the world's two biggest economies to the edge of a trade war, is being driven by anti-China economist Peter Navarro and U.S trade negotiator Robert Lighthizer, who cut his teeth in trade deals with Japan in the 1980s.

Navarro has moved from the sidelines to center stage following the departure of Trump's economic adviser Cohn, who quit in protest over the punitive steel tariffs on China. While Cohn shared Navarro's view that China's unfair trade practices must end, he had instead advocated enlisting help from Europe and Japan to pressure Beijing, sources said. Cohn failed to persuade Trump to that point of view. One White House official said that Navarro is now the dominant voice in the room on China trade. "Once they (Navarro and Lighthizer) get his (Trump's) ear, it's hard to walk him back to a more reasonable place," said one person close to the White House.

Trump does not need much convincing. He has long criticized China's trade practices and it was a recurrent

theme in his 2016 election campaign. With Cohn and other moderating voices now gone from his administration, White House officials say he now feels more able to keep his campaign promises. Trump's negotiating style, honed in his years as a real estate developer, is to take extreme positions to force concessions from his opponents. So far that approach has had mixed results at home and abroad.

'We can't just trust'

While the Trump administration has signaled it is open to negotiating with China to avoid a trade war, it is no mood for talks that produce vague promises but no verifiable results. "We can't just trust. We need to verify and we need to make sure that if we do get into a negotiation situation where China is making commitments, they have to be commitments that we know that they're going to



United States holds the whip hand in talks

follow through on," an administration official told Reuters on Thursday. "We can't simply just take, 'Don't worry we'll stop,' as an acceptable outcome anymore," said the official, who could not be named due to the sensitivity of the issue.

US trade officials now largely echo Trump's view that as the importer, the United States holds the whip hand in any talks, citing Chinese exports to the US of \$500 billion a year versus American exports to China of just \$130 billion. With tempers running hot on both sides, there is little imminent prospect of getting Washington and Beijing to the negotiating table.

China's Commerce Ministry spokesman, Gao Feng, on

Friday called the punitive steps by the United States as "extremely mistaken," threatened a "fierce counter strike" and said no negotiations were likely in the current circumstances. While Beijing claims that Washington is the aggressor and is spurring global protectionism, China's trading partners have complained for years that it abuses World Trade Organization rules and propagates unfair policies at home that lock foreign firms out of some sectors as domestic champions are being nurtured.

'Spiraling downwards'

Along with Navarro, Lighthizer, the US Trade Representative, is also pushing for a more combative approach to toward China. A veteran trade lawyer who built dozens of steel industry anti-dumping cases against Chinese producers, he has been plotting a trade confrontation with China for years. In 2010, he argued in testimony before a congressional commission that some WTO rules may need to be ignored to "force change" in China's practices. "Wringing our hands and hoping for the best is not the answer. We need strong leaders who are prepared to make tough decisions, and who will not be satisfied until this crisis has been resolved," he said at the time.

Lighthizer has adopted a similarly tough stance in talks to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, one of the world's biggest trade pacts that spans the United States, Canada and Mexico. He has relentlessly pushed for tough concessions. But in six months of talks, little or no progress has been made. Mexico and Canada have blamed Lighthizer's hardline negotiating stance for the lack of progress. They say he has repeatedly told them to swallow tough concessions on autos, investor protection and other issues. Lighthizer has said he is determined to "rebalance" NAFTA trade to restore lost US manufacturing jobs.

The worry is that these negotiating tactics may not work with China, now the world's second largest economy and one that is not as easy for Washington to sway as its neighbors and longstanding NAFTA allies. "The relationship is spiraling downwards, and the risk of a miscalculation or accident is only increasing," the Council on Foreign Relations Asia studies director Elizabeth Economy wrote. —Reuters

Southeast Asia's idyllic islands buckle under tourism strain

The six-month closure of the Philippine tourism island of Boracay for a revamp after the country's president branded it a "cesspool" reflects the growing pressures on beach resorts across Southeast Asia as visitor numbers surge. Tourism experts say the region's infrastructure is buckling under record visitor numbers, especially as more Chinese holiday abroad, and expect more drastic measures to come. Airports have become chaotic, hotels are being thrown up hastily with little regard for safety and sanitation, tropical beaches are strewn with garbage and coral reefs are dying.

Thailand already has plans to shut its famous Maya Bay in the Phi Phi islands for four months this summer, while an environmental group is calling for urgent government action to tackle a "crisis" on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali. "Many out-of-control destinations across Asia will need clean-ups," said Brian King, associate dean of the School of Hotel and Tourism Management at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. "These may come from government, or industry or from NGO-driven community action. The danger is that little happens until the crisis point is reached." He added: "Boracay is not the first and won't be the last closure."

Airlines have already started to cut back flights to Boracay, which had 2 million visitors last year, with the largest foreign contingents coming from China and South Korea, ahead of its closure on April 26. The Philippines, which had record visitor numbers last year after three years of double-digit growth, estimates the

Boracay closure could reduce full-year GDP by 0.1 percent. It is also planning to inspect the beach resort of Puerto Galera, on the island of Mindoro, and is already looking at the resorts of El Nido and Coron, in Palawan province, where an influx of tourism and rapid development has put infrastructure under strain.

But rival tourist hotspots around the region are not all rubbing their hands at the prospect of the extra revenue from the redirected tourist traffic. Kanokkittika Kritwutikon, the head of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Phuket office, said the island was at "stretching point", particularly its airport, which has undergone a number of upgrades in recent years to try to cope with overcapacity. "Our policy is to try to spread tourism around" from Phuket to "secondary destinations that are less well-known," said Kanokkittika. "Apart from guests arriving by plane to Phuket we also have boats coming in, including cruises, so you can imagine how many tourists come through Phuket."

The shutdown of Maya Bay in an attempt to salvage the area's coral reefs - which have been damaged by crowds of tourists and warmer temperatures - follows the closure of 10 popular Thai diving sites in 2016 after a National Parks survey found bleaching on up to 80 percent of some reefs. Pattaya, south of Bangkok, serves as another cautionary tale. An influx of western tourists from as far back as the 1960s, when American soldiers came on leave from the Vietnam war, and a construction boom in the 1990s transformed it from a picturesque fishing village to a town known for its seedy nightlife and high crime rate. Thailand's tourism ministry expects 37.55 million tourists this year, up from a record 35 million in 2017, of which 9.8 million were from China.

Shutdowns 'too late'

Benjamin Cassim, a tourism lecturer at Temasek Polytechnic School of Business in Singapore, said the closures of Boracay and Maya Beach could become

"test cases" and will be closely monitored by other countries with popular beach resorts. A non-profit group in Indonesia has been calling on the government to tackle what it calls an "environmental crisis" in Bali, the country's most popular tourist island, which saw more than 5.5 million visitors last year.

Indonesian authorities have long faced criticism for allowing unplanned developments that have swallowed up rice fields with golf courses and villas on Bali. Its beaches are regularly strewn with plastic washed up from the ocean during certain months of the year. Nonetheless, President Joko Widodo has been trying to promote creation of 10 "new Balis" in other parts of the scenic Indonesian archipelago. "Environmental conditions in Bali are now increasingly degraded," said I Made Juli Untung Pratama of WALHI, the Indonesian Forum for Environment. "The culprit is the construction of massive tourism accommodation, without a proper regard to Bali's environment. The massive development of tourism accommodation has caused the environmental crisis in Bali."

Shutdowns such as the one on Boracay are not a new phenomenon. Back in 2004, Malaysian authorities shut all hotels on the island of Sipadan, known for having some of the best scuba diving in the world, to help protect its eco-system and subsequently restricted tourist numbers to the island. But some say these extreme actions often come too late, and a more sustainable solution is needed across the region. "Proactive environmental protection is a far more effective approach than reactive environmental protection," said Matt Gebbie, an analyst from Horwath HTL Indonesia, a tourism consultancy. "You can't revive coral reefs and eroded beaches and degraded forests in six months," Gebbie said. "Proactive protection is essential for the long term sustainability of resort destinations." —Reuters



## News

### Canada shaken as 14 killed in youth...

Continued from Page 1

There were a “high volume of incoming trauma cases” at Royal University Hospital and St Paul’s Hospital, the Saskatchewan Health Authority said on Twitter. Both hospitals are located in Saskatoon city, about 250 km from the crash site. Victims’ families were directed to Nipawin Apostolic Church for information and support. The Saskatoon Star Phoenix newspaper published on its website a photo of one player who survived, Derek Patter, lying side by side with two other injured players on hospital beds, clasping each other’s hands in support. One of the young men appeared to be wearing a neck brace.

“I cannot imagine what these parents are going through, and my heart goes out to everyone affected by this terrible tragedy, in the Humboldt community and beyond,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted. US President Donald Trump said he called Trudeau “to pay my highest respect and condolences to the families of the terrible Humboldt Team tragedy”.

“Our Broncos family is in shock as we try to come to grips with our incredible loss,” Broncos team president Kevin Garinger said in a statement. The team comprises 24 players, all from Canada, with the youngest aged 16 and the oldest 21. In a statement, Hockey Canada said it was “devastated” by the news. “Our hockey community is a tight-knit family. We will come together in support of each other in the days ahead, as we mourn those lives lost, remember the injured and support those whose lives are forever changed by this tragedy,” it added.

Fans and players alike shared messages of condolences using the hashtag #PrayforHumboldt. “My entire career I’ve looked forward to every bus trip,” tweeted Anaheim Ducks National Hockey League defenseman Steven Oleksy. “It’s a place where players can forget what happens on the ice. 2night my heart is in Humboldt.” An online fundraising page set up by a woman listed on social media as a Humboldt resident raised nearly CAN\$748,000 (US\$584,000), fast approaching its \$800,000 goal by early yesterday afternoon. The collision brought back memories of a single vehicle bus crash in Dec 1986, also in Saskatchewan, that killed four members of the Western Hockey League Swift Current Broncos. The Swift Current Broncos also shared their condolences. “Humboldt Broncos weighing heavy in our hearts and minds tonight,” the team said on Twitter. — Agencies

### Palestinians bury dead, including...

Continued from Page 1

Among those killed on Friday was Yasser Murtaja, 30, a photographer with the Gaza-based Ain Media agency, who died from his wounds after being shot, the health ministry said. Murtaja’s company confirmed his death, with witnesses saying he was close to the front of the protests in southern Gaza when he was hit. An AFP picture taken after he was wounded showed Murtaja wearing a press vest as he received treatment. His brother Mutasim, also a journalist, said he was next to him when he was shot. “The target was very clearly journalists,” he said. “Yasser went forward to take the true pictures to show the world,” he told AFP. “Then the bullet hit him in his stomach.”

Israel’s army said it “does not intentionally target journalists”. “The circumstances in which journalists were allegedly hit by Israeli Defense Force (IDF) fire are not familiar to the IDF, and are being looked into,” it said in a statement. Murtaja’s body was taken from the hospital to his home in Gaza City yesterday morning, with dozens of journalists following, many fighting back tears. It was wrapped in a Palestinian flag, with a press flak jacket placed on his stomach. Ismail Haniya, the head of Gaza’s Islamist rulers Hamas, attended the funeral and said that journalists were attacked by Israel while trying to show a “true picture of a blockaded, downtrodden people”.

In the West Bank political capital of Ramallah, around 50 Palestinian journalists held a vigil for Murtaja. Christophe Deloire, secretary general of watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF), said Murtaja was “obviously the victim of an intentional shot” and that his organization “condemns with indignation the deliberate shootings of the Israeli army against journalists”. Deloire urged an independent investigation of the incident.

The Foreign Press Association operating in Israel and the Palestinian territories urged the Israeli army “to show restraint in areas where journalists are operating and to conduct a fast and open investigation into this incident”. The Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate said five other reporters were also shot and wounded by the Israeli army during Friday’s protests, despite wearing clothes clearly identifying them as journalists. A group of over 70 international NGOs operating in the occupied Palestinian territories meanwhile condemned Friday’s “unlawful killing of civilians in Gaza”, calling for “an independent and transparent investigation”.

Murtaja recently worked on a documentary about the 2014 war between Israel and Hamas, which was shown on Al-Jazeera Arabic. But he also focused on other topics, where frequently used drones, which seem

to have been something of an escape from life in Gaza. “My name is Yasser Murtaja, I am 30 years old, live in Gaza City and have never travelled,” the journalist said in a March post on Facebook accompanying one of his drone photos from high above Gaza. “Today I take a shot and I am up in the air, not on the ground.” Hind Khoudary, a friend and fellow journalist, said he was “a beautiful person both inside and out”. “His reputation with everyone was as someone very kind,” she added, tears welling in her eyes.

Weeks of border protests have been called to demand the return of Palestinians to land they were forced from or fled after the founding of Israel 70 years ago. They come with tensions high as the United States gears up to shift its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem after recognizing the disputed city as the capital of the Jewish state. Protesters on Friday said economic woes were also fuelling frustration in Gaza, which has been under an Israeli blockade for a decade. Egypt has mostly closed its border with the territory in past years, leaving the cramped area of two million people largely sealed off.

Late Friday, Kuwait called on the UN Security Council to investigate the deaths, but the US is likely to veto such a probe. The Security Council also failed to approve Kuwait’s draft press statement on the Israeli use of brutal force against innocent Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the second statement of its kind. Before submitting the document, the permanent representative of Kuwait to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi hoped that no member country would object to the new statement, but the US did.

Thousands of Arabs rallied in northern Israel yesterday in solidarity with the people of Gaza, some of them holding pictures of Murtaja. And in London, hundreds gathered in support of the Palestinians in Gaza, condemning the firing of “live ammunition into crowds of unarmed civilians” by Israeli forces as “illegal and inhumane”.

Israel rebuffed international calls for investigation into last Friday’s killings, with the army saying troops opened fire “in accordance with the rules of engagement”. Late Friday, Israeli army spokesman Brigadier General Ronen Manelis classified the operation along the border as a success. “None of our troops were wounded, the fence was not crossed,” he said, noting that what happened last week had “deterred Hamas, which prevented the masses from approaching the fence”.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman yesterday accused Hamas of “sending terrorists under the guise of civilians to harm our sovereignty”. Israel accuses Hamas, with whom it has fought three wars since 2008, of using the protests as a cover to carry out violence. It alleges more than half of those killed on March 30 were members of militant groups, including Hamas’s armed wing. Hamas claimed only five of the dead and said they were participating “in popular events side-by-side with their people.” — Agencies



Indian pedestrians are reflected in a puddle after rainfall in the northern hill town of Shimla yesterday. — AFP

### ‘Mentally ill’ man smashes van into...

Continued from Page 1

“It is far too early to speak of an attack,” Bode said. “We have cordoned off the area widely. The crime scene investigators are checking out the crime scene, trying to identify, investigate and secure traces. That is our current task.” The police spokeswoman said: “The danger is over.” Images on social media showed smashed and upturned tables and chairs strewn across the pavement outside the eatery in the center of the picturesque medieval city.

### Fans jubilant as Salman Khan...

Continued from Page 1

Bishnoi said the actor must appear in court again on May 7. Khan’s army of fans and the Bollywood elite were stunned by the court sentence in the 20-year-old case. Khan had denied shooting dead two rare antelopes known as black bucks on a hunting trip while filming a movie in 1998. The court found him guilty while acquitting four other actors. The actor enjoys a cult-like status and is affectionately known by the Hindi name “bhai”, or “brother”.

“Prayers of millions worked,” said television actor Arjun Bijlani in a tweet. But while his fans and producers of costly upcoming films may be relieved, Khan still faces a major courtroom drama. Throughout the multiple cases, eyewitnesses have stated they saw Khan firing a gun in October 1998. Animal rights group PETA said it was disappointed with Khan’s bail. “While Salman Khan gets to go back home to his movie star life for now, black bucks were made to pay the highest price, with their lives,” Manilal Valliyate, chief executive

The incident came one year to the day after a truck attack in Stockholm that killed five people. It also evoked memories of a Dec 2016 truck attack in Berlin that killed 12 people. In that attack, Anis Amri, a failed Tunisian asylum seeker with Islamist links, hijacked a truck, killed the driver and then ploughed into a crowded marketplace, killing 11 more people and injuring dozens of others.

“I am shocked by the news from Muenster,” said Andrea Nahles, parliamentary leader of the Social Democrats, junior partner in Chancellor Angela Merkel’s ruling coalition. “My thoughts are with the victims and their relatives,” she added. “I hope that our authorities can quickly clarify the background to this incident and wish the local forces much strength for their work.” Government spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer tweeted: “Awful news from Muenster. Our thoughts are with the victims and their relatives.” — Agencies

of PETA India, said in a statement.

Khan has accused Rajasthan’s forest department of trying to frame him. His lawyers claim the black bucks died of natural causes such as overeating, insisting there was no evidence they were shot. Four other Bollywood stars – Saif Ali Khan, Sonali Bendre, Tabu and Neelam Kothari – who were also accused in the case were acquitted due to lack of evidence.

Khan remains one of Bollywood’s biggest draws despite the off-screen drama, starring in more than 100 films and television shows. He finished second behind Shah Rukh Khan in the 2017 Bollywood earnings rankings. Both the Khans are among the world’s top 10 best-paid actors. The Bollywood heartthrob’s latest blockbuster “Tiger Zinda Hai” (Tiger is Alive) collected some \$85 million worldwide.

Khan has nearly \$90 million riding on his projects in coming months with at least three films in the pipeline, analysts say. A director of one of Khan’s upcoming films “Race 3” expressed relief at his release. “I am happy that he has got bail. After working with him so closely I have become a huge fan of him, not only as an actor but also as a human being,” Remo D’Souza told the Press Trust of India. “Almost 90 percent of the shoot for (the film) is over and the remaining portions will mostly be shot in India.” — AFP

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# Brumbies beat Queensland Reds after Chiefs snatch victory

## NSW Waratahs picks bonus point by thrashing winless Sunwolves

**PERTH:** The ACT Brumbies got their season back on track with a 45-21 win over the Queensland Reds, while the Waikato Chiefs snatched victory from the Auckland Blues and the NSW Waratahs crushed the Sunwolves in Super Rugby yesterday.

The Reds looked headed for an easy victory against the misfiring Brumbies when they dominated possession in the first 30 minutes in Canberra and shot to a 15-0 lead. However, the Brumbies notched their third win from six outings this year by running in the last six tries of the match to secure a bonus point as the Reds imploded.

The Reds, who beat the Brumbies in week three, dominated the game until Folau Fainga'a scored the home side's opening try after a driving maul against the run of play in the 27th minute.

That was the turning point. Isireli Naisarani added their second try in the 34th, and the Brumbies remarkably could have been in front at the break, with a second Fainga'a try denied by the video referee when he was ruled to have touched the side line with his foot as he dived over in the corner.

That meant the Reds led 18-12 at half-time but they did not fire a shot thereafter. Chance Peni, Rory Arnold, Naisarani, Sam Carter and David Pocock added further tries for the Brumbies in the second half as Australia's only finalist in 2017 took total control.

Brumbies co-captain Christian Lealiifano said they reaped the rewards of sticking to their game plan after the

tardy start. "We made it tough early but proud of the boys to really stick it out," he said. "It was real sloppy from us at the start." In Hamilton, New Zealand, a late penalty try saw the Chiefs sneak home over the Blues 21-19 after trailing for much of the match. In Tokyo, the NSW Waratahs ran in seven tries and picked up a bonus point by thrashing the winless Sunwolves 50-29.

The Chiefs lost playmaker Damian McKenzie after half an hour and the Blues rallied to hit the front 19-14 by half-

time, a lead they held for 35 minutes until a costly yellow card saw their scrum falter seven minutes from the final whistle. The result lifted the Chiefs to five wins from six games while the Blues sank to one win from six.

The Blues defended heroically for most of the second half to protect a five-point lead until lock Jack Goodhue was yellow-carded and an under-powered Blues scrum

conceded the match-winning seven-point penalty try for the Chiefs. The Blues have not won away against the Chiefs since 2011 and captain James Parsons lamented a lost chance.

"Ill-discipline has cost us the game, the yellow card... we were down a man and they took it to us and got the penalty try," Parsons said. The Waratahs, meanwhile improved their record to four wins and a draw from six games and are second in the Australian conference behind the Melbourne Rebels. Scrum-half Jake Gordon bagged two tries as the Waratahs ran in seven tries to four. — AFP



TOKYO: Harry Johnson-Holmes of the Sunwolves (2nd L) carries the ball past Edward Quirk of the Sunwolves (L) during the Super Rugby union match between the Sunwolves of Japan and Waratahs of Australia at Prince Chichibu Memorial stadium in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP



Al Rashidi, Alain, Al-Mudhaf.

## Kuwait shooting team wins five medals in Rabat

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait shooting team participated in the Arab shotgun championship in Rabat, Morocco and won five medals in the trap shooting as 116 shooters representing 10 countries took part. The trap men team gold medal went to Kuwait's team Khalid Al-Mudhaf, Talal Al-Rashidi

and Abdelrahman Al-Faihan, while UAE won second place and Morocco third. As for the men's individuals Talal Al-Rashidi won silver, while Khalid Al-Mudhaf took bronze while gold went to Mousa Alain.

Kuwait women shooter Shahad Al-Hawal won the individuals bronze, while the team of Shahad Al-Hawal, Sarah Al-Hawal and Asmaa Al-Qatami won the team bronze.

The Arab Shotgun Championship was opened in the presence of President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations, Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi and President of Morocco's Shooting Sport Federation Dr Abdelazeem Al-Hafi on Wednesday April 4. Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi said such competitions are important to prepare Arab shooters for International and Olympic competitions.

Al-Otaibi said Arab shooting witnessed an important development especially at the administrative and technical

levels, and emphasized the importance of cooperation between Arab Federations and its role in enhancing the game. Al-Otaibi, in his opening speech said, as a result of efforts exerted by Arab Federations to develop the skills of shooters and develop their technical levels, many Arab shooters excelled in the continental and international arenas. Al-Otaibi dedicated the achievement to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, government and people.

He also thanked the Public Authority for Sports, and its director general Dr Humoud Fulaiteh and his deputies for their support of shooting and shooters.

Eng Al-Otaibi thanked the head of delegation Assistant Treasurer Adnan Al-Ibrahim, and coaches who are with the national team.

## Star-studded pack chases Masters leader Patrick Reed

**AUGUSTA:** Patrick Reed, who tamed Augusta National's par-5 holes to seize the Masters lead going into yesterday's third round, has a raft of major champions behind him as he vies for his first Grand Slam crown. Reed, who has made a name for himself as a US Ryder Cup stalwart, was scheduled to tee off at 2:30 (1830 GMT) alongside Australian Marc Leishman, who was two strokes back and also in pursuit of a first major title.

Until this week, Reed had never broken 70 in 12 career rounds at the Masters. However, his confidence was soaring after rounds of 69 and 66 left him at 9-under 135. "I feel like I've done all the work," Reed said. "I feel like I know where I need to leave the golf ball ... and it's now just going out here and executing the game plan and staying disciplined enough to actually stick to that game plan."

"I've been doing that the first two days, and it's allowing me to kind of attack this golf course and not make a lot of mistakes." If he does make a misstep, there are plenty of big-name players poised to pounce. Eight reigning and former major champions are within seven shots of the lead, starting with 2016 British Open champion Henrik Stenson, who was alone in third on 139. Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, who can complete a rare career Grand Slam by slipping on his first green jacket on Sunday, was five strokes back, tied for fourth with reigning British Open champion Jordan Spieth, whose 2015 Masters triumph was sandwiched between two runner-up finishes.

This is the fourth time the 28-year-old McIlroy has arrived at Augusta National with a chance to complete his collection of major trophies. McIlroy has come close before in the Masters, taking a four-shot lead into the final round in 2011 but carding an agonizing final-round 80.—AFP



## Kuwait excels in Kyokushin Karate championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The Second All-Asia Weigh Category Championship, Kyokushin Karate, proved highly successful, as it was held at Kuwait Sports Club hall, and organized by the Kyokushin Karate Committee of Kuwait Olympic Committee under the patronage of Public Authority for Sports and in cooperation with the Karate Federation.

The Iranian team dominated the tournament followed by Kuwait, Mongolia and Bahrain. The results were as follows in the under 70kg category Omid Nafar (Iran) was first followed by Behzad Ojaghi (Iran), and Ahmad Haider (Kuwait) was third. In the under 90 category: Mendbayar Altangerei (Mongolia) first, Mustafa Marhoon (Bahrain) second, and Mohsin Tavakkoli (Iran) third. In the open weight category: Mohammad Afsali (Iran) was first, Mojtaba Fathollahi (Iran) second, and Abdullah Al-Owmi (Kuwait) third.



Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee Khalid Abdullatif Al-Munayyeh lauded the success of the tournament and the sports spirit that was evident among all players during competitions. He thanked all those who contributed to the success of this Asian festival which is held of the first time in an Arab country, adding that a delegation from the

Kyokushin Karate Committee will go to PAS to thank Dr. Humoud Fulaiteh for his patronage and support.

Al-Munayyeh thanked Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Sports Club Khalid Al-Ghanim for having the tournament at the club's hall, as well as Director of PAS sports for all department Hamid Al-Hazeem,



and Khalifa Al-Tarawah for their attendance. He said the tournament achieved its goal of increasing players experience and their qualification for the world championship to be held in Tokyo next year.

He said, our attention will be focused on juniors to form as nucleus for age category teams, and this call for support from the state as a large number of

those seeks to practice this game. Meanwhile president of the Asian Kyokushin Karate Federation Shihan Peter Chong lauded the organization of the tournament, as all facilities were provided to participating delegations. Chong expected a good future for the game in Kuwait following the excellent performance of its players.



# Record-setter Nadal roars back, Italy hold France

## US runs up a 2-0 lead against Belgium

**VALENCIA:** Spain's Rafael Nadal returned to action with a 6-2 6-2 6-3 Davis Cup win over Germany's Philip Kohlschreiber on Friday to set a record for the longest winning streak in the competition's history.

World number one Nadal had not played since he retired from his Australian Open quarter-final against Marin Cilic in January with a leg injury, but made light work of Kohlschreiber to draw five-time winners Spain level at 1-1 in the tie.

Victory meant Nadal set the record for the longest Davis Cup winning streak in combined singles and doubles rubbers with 23 matches in a row. Holders France were tied 1-1 with Italy in Genoa and 2005 winners Croatia were also deadlocked against visitors Kazakhstan after a day of thrilling action on indoor red clay in Varazdin. The heavily-favored US team took a 2-0 lead against a depleted Belgium side on the indoor hard courts in Nashville to come within a point of their first Davis Cup semi-finals in six years. Nadal was swiftly back in the swing of things in Valencia, dismantling Kohlschreiber after Alexander Zverev blew away David Ferrer 6-4 6-2 6-2 to put Germany in front.

The 31-year-old Nadal hardly put a foot wrong on his return, having produced 14 of his 30 winners in the opening set of a lopsided contest. Kohlschreiber also went down tamely in the second before putting up more of a fight at the start of the third, but 16-time grand slam winner Nadal was relentless and wrapped up the match.

"It's positive of course, winning in straight sets, it was a solid match. I feel comfortable back on the clay," Nadal said on the Davis Cup website. "It's a great feel-



ing to be back, coming back from injuries is always difficult, but it's great to be in front of my crowd on a very memorable day. I'm very happy with the match."

**FRANCE'S POUILLE DOWNS SEPPI**

Lucas Pouille fired the French ahead with a laboured 6-3 6-2 4-6 3-6 6-1 win over Andreas Seppi before home favourite Fabio Fognini redressed the balance with a 6-7(6) 6-2 6-2 6-3 defeat of Jeremy Chardy.

Pouille looked in cruise control after he swept aside Seppi in the opening two sets but the slugfest went the distance after the Italian fought back in front of a passionate home crowd. The hosts were in danger of falling 2-0 behind as Chardy snatched the opening set tiebreak against Fognini before the 30-year-old Italian raced through the rest of the match to keep the tie in the balance. Croatia's Cilic breezed past Dmitry Popko 6-2 6-1 6-2 to give the hosts the lead against Kazakhstan but the visitors hit back after Mikhail Kukushkin overpowered Borna Coric 3-6 7-6(5) 6-4 6-2.

**CROATIA TIED WITH KAZAKHSTAN**

**US OVERPOWERS BELGIUM**

Miami Open champion John Isner smashed 43 aces to overcome a surprisingly stiff challenge from world number 319 Joris de Loore to win the United States's first point with a 6-3 6-7(4) 7-6(8) 6-4 victory in a match that lasted over three hours. It appeared like an upset was in the works when the speedy and hard-serving de Loore broke world number nine Isner to open the third set.

But the towering American battled back, wearing the



VALENCIA: Spain's Rafa Nadal celebrates a point during the Davis Cup quarter-final tennis match between Spain and Germany at the bullring of Valencia. — AFP

24-year-old Belgian down with his punishing serve over the course of their marathon match in front of a partisan crowd at Belmont University in Nashville.

Isner's countryman Sam Querrey faced less resistance from Ruben Bemelmans in the second match, winning 85 percent of his first service points to dispatch the Belgian 6-1 7-6(5) 7-5 to win the U.S.'s second point. "It felt good. It's always nice to play second after your teammate gets a win. So John took

a little pressure off of me, which was nice of him, so thanks John," Querrey said during an on-court interview. The shorthanded Belgian team were playing without David Goffin and Steve Darcis, who are both sidelined with injuries. The US will have a chance to advance to the Davis Cup semi-finals for the first time in six years with a doubles win on Saturday, when Querrey and Ryan Harrison and take on Bemelmans and de Loore. — Reuters

## Kuwait advances in Davis Cup

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait national tennis team made yet another achievement in the Davis Cup qualifiers, being held in Hanoi, Vietnam as they defeated Saudi Arabia 3-0, Jordan 3-0 and Qatar 2-1. With Qatar Mohammad Al-Ghareeb won his match, while Abdullah Maqdis lost his match. A tie breaker match was played in the doubles and was won by the team of Ghareeb and Maqdis.

Kuwait, with this win, remains in third group and very close to move the second group in which it remained from 2012 until 2017. Kuwait's Mohammad Al-Ghareeb won his first singles match with Syria, and Abdallah Maqdis lost his match, so a doubles match was played and won by Kuwait's team making it their fourth win, which guarantees their move to the second group of Davis Cup.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Syria, Malaysia, Cambodia, and the host country participated in the Hanoi qualifiers.

With the three wins, Mohammad Al-Ghareeb enters the 100 club as he broke through the 100 matches barrier he played in this championship for over 22 years, and he will be honored by the International Tennis



Kuwait national tennis team.

Federation in appreciation of his achievement, which only few players have reached around the world.

Kuwait was represented in addition to Al-Ghareeb and Maqdis, Abdelhameed Jumaa, Bader Antar, Essa

Qabazard and captain Adel Al-Shatti. The team was headed by Faleh Al-Otaibi, and matches were attended by Vice-president of Kuwait Tennis Federation Abdelsamad Al-Aryan.

## Berglund scores hat trick as Blues beat Blackhawks

**CHICAGO:** Patrik Berglund's hat trick Friday night lifted the St. Louis Blues to a 4-1 win over the Chicago Blackhawks at United Center in Chicago, earning them a one-point lead over Colorado for the final Western Conference playoff spot. St. Louis snapped a four-game losing streak with its 44th win of the season, giving it 94 points. The Blues close the season Saturday night in Colorado, where a win or an overtime/shootout loss will enable them to make their seventh straight playoff appearance. A regulation loss would eliminate St. Louis.

Berglund's tie-breaking goal came 16 seconds after Chicago's Erik Gustafsson had tied the score with his fifth goal of the season on a wrister from the left circle that beat Carter Hutton to the short side at 8:08 of the third period. Berglund capped the second hat trick of his career with an empty-netter, his 17th marker of the season, at 18:49. He won a puck battle with Duncan Keith along the right boards and chipped a backhand from just inside the blue line that rolled just inside the right post.

**LIGHTNING 7, SABRES 5**

Anthony Cirelli scored twice as host Tampa Bay rallied to defeat Buffalo as the Lightning played without star center Steven Stamkos (lower-body injury). But Tampa Bay still had enough offense to move two points ahead of the idle Boston Bruins in the battle for the Atlantic Division title and the Eastern Conference's top seed. The Bruins (110 points) have two games remaining. Tampa Bay has one. Cirelli's second goal tied the score 5-5 with 13:45 left in the third period. Brayden Point earned the game-winning goal less than a minute later with 12:58 left, and Victor Hedman added an insurance empty-netter with 1:26 remaining.— Reuters

## Pakistan firmly on road to cricket revival

**KARACHI:** Pakistan's cricket chiefs hope the country can host a full series by 2020, after a successful tour by the West Indies sparked hopes of an international revival. The three-match series against the World Twenty20 champions, staged in the once militancy-wracked port city of Karachi, was accompanied by a wave of optimism, with enthusiastic fans braving heavy security checks to express their gratitude to the West Indies for the visit which ended Tuesday.

Last month Karachi also hosted the final of the popular Pakistan Super League, the biggest cricket event in the city since a 2009 attack on the visiting Sri Lankan team in Lahore drove international cricket from the country. Pakistan was forced to host its international fixtures in the United Arab Emirates. But with security dramatically improving in the last three years, the Pakistan Cricket Board has been taking "gradual steps" to bring them back, PCB chairman Najam Sethi said.

"They are bearing positive results," he told AFP. "We will host more PSL matches next year and by that time almost all the top international players from top cricketing nations will have played in Pakistan," he predicted.

"Then we can convince their boards to send national teams for a full series to Pakistan in 2020." His confidence is striking, coming after so many false starts. Sri Lanka had agreed to return in 2011, but an attack on a Karachi naval base derailed that hope. The PCB then convinced Ireland to tour in 2014, only to have the trip cancelled after militants attacked the Karachi airport.

Bangladesh also declined tours not once but twice out of unspecified security concerns, after initially agreeing in 2012. But in 2015 the sound of the Pakistani national anthem rang out at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium once more as minnows Zimbabwe became the first international team to return.

Unprecedented security was put in place with some 30,000 policemen and military personnel on guard as spectators braved heat and security checkpoints to attend the first international match in the country in six years.

Not everyone touted it as a success. "What kind of message of peace will we send abroad by arranging the match after closing down shops and roads?" grumbled former Pakistan captain-turned-politician Imran Khan at the time. But security has continued to improve under a military crackdown, and confidence has been steadily growing, despite continued sporadic attacks and strong warnings from critics that Pakistan has not done enough to get to the root causes of extremism.

In 2017 Pakistan hosted the PSL final in Lahore. Some top foreign players — like Kevin Pietersen of England, Shane Watson of Australia and Rilee Rossouw of South Africa-stayed away. But those who came, like double World Twenty20 winning West Indian captain Darren Sammy, were won over. That led to a visit by a World XI side, then the emotional return by the Sri Lankan team in October last year, a hugely symbolic event that also saw Pakistanis turn out in their thousands to welcome the visitors with open arms.

Sammy—a Pakistani crowd favourite—returned for two PSL play-offs in Lahore and the final in Karachi this year, and his presence influenced former teammates Andre Fletcher, Samuel Badree and Chadwick Walton to be part of the West Indies team.

Security remained an enormous issue, however, with massive, head-of-state level arrangements made for each visit. A security company appointed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) under its Pakistan Task Team had greenlit the matches.

"We realised that matches caused inconvenience for Lahorites and Karachiites, but they were a big gain for Pakistan," Sethi said. Now the PCB is setting its sights on bigger teams, with hopes that sides such as South Africa could tour by next year. Pakistan's Interior Minister has also invited the England team to come.

Former Pakistan captain-turned-commentator Ramiz Raja praised the efforts in a newspaper column recently. Pakistan, he wrote, "will fight tooth and nail to bring international cricket back home".—AFP

## IPL is back

By Antonio Coelho  
Sports Editor

The wait is finally over as the Indian Premier League (IPL), the world's most prestigious and cash rich Twenty20 tournament, is back again with its 11th edition. Big names from around the world will come together for almost two months, from April 7 to May 27, and matches will be played at nine venues across India. A total of 578 players were up for auction. Right from its inception, the league has been a destination where talent meets opportunity and it was once again evident as out of 113 Indian cricketers that were bought, 71 are uncapped and will get a chance to unleash their potential in the upcoming edition.

This edition will see the return of the Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals after serving two-year suspensions in an IPL betting case. Rajasthan Royals replaced Australia's Steve Smith as captain over his role in a ball-tampering controversy. Ajinkya Rahane will take over as skipper for the IPL season and South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen will replace Steve Smith. England's Alex Hales will replace David Warner in the Sunrisers Hyderabad squad.

England's star all-rounder Ben Stokes topped the Indian Premier League auction, selling for \$1.96 million despite a looming court case for assault. Eight IPL teams spent over \$50m on talent. Stokes's deal with Rajasthan Royals came ahead of Indian batsmen Lokesh Rahul, Manish Pandey and Jayadev Unadkat and Australians Chris Lynn and Glenn Maxwell in the top prices paid. Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc will also miss the IPL's eleventh edition due to an injury to his right leg. The injury comes as big blow to KKR as Starc would have added some serious teeth to their bowling attack.

Delhi Daredevils, Kings XI Punjab and Rajasthan Royals have fantastic squads. Kings XI Punjab have a strong batting lineup with star players. Then you have the powerhouses of IPL, defending champions Mumbai Indians, who have perfect combination of batsmen and bowlers, and the most popular team of IPL - the Chennai Super Kings. Chennai Super Kings have the largest fan base in India compared to all the other teams and both these teams know how to win the IPL 2018 trophy.

Sunrisers Hyderabad will be jolted with a big blow with the ban on Warner. Delhi Daredevils are also in the run-up for the title and may come out as champions, as captain Gautam Gambir's comeback will be a big boost to the team. They have an excellent batting line-up and good fast bowlers.

As the IPL season steps into its 11th chapter, it's probably stronger than ever. IPL also gets a new home this season after Star India Pvt Ltd successfully pipped Sony Pictures Network to bag both TV and digital rights from 2018 to 2022 for a whopping global bid. We look forward to see eight strong franchise teams with eight leaders with exciting finishes as the tournament enters a new decade.





# Phelps-like le Clos, Peaty light up Commonwealths

## India extend their weightlifting haul to six medals

**GOLD COAST:** Chad le Clos made history and Adam Peaty completed a four-year unbeaten cycle as two of the Commonwealth Games' top swimmers lit up the Gold Coast yesterday. Le Clos's 200 metres butterfly victory made him the first man to win the same event three times at the Games, while Peaty extended his remarkable 100m breaststroke winning streak.

It came on a day when Australia won two more swimming golds and another two in track cycling to reach 20 at the top of the medals table, ahead of England on 14. Le Clos grabbed his second gold of these Games and sixth overall with victory in the 200m fly, his pet event, in which he famously stunned Michael Phelps at the 2012 Olympics.

Although two women, Australia's Leisel Jones and Petria Thomas, have won the three golds in the same event, le Clos becomes the first male swimmer to complete a hat-trick. "I wanted to get the three — 2014, 2016, 2018. No one has done the triple before so I feel like the Michael Phelps of the Commonwealth (Games) — I'm happy."

World record-holder Peaty, however, was less satisfied with his 100m breaststroke, despite extending an unbeaten run which dates back to his Commonwealth victory in 2014. "I think I was on world-record pace at 50m but I was cramping up with 50 to go and that never happens," said Peaty, 23.

"It's been a big learning curve here. My stroke feels nowhere near where it should be. I think we've got to go back to the drawing board." Australia's Cate

Campbell won the women's 50m freestyle for her second gold of the Games, and Ariarne Titmus anchored the hosts to victory in the 4x200m freestyle.

### HEAVY CRASH

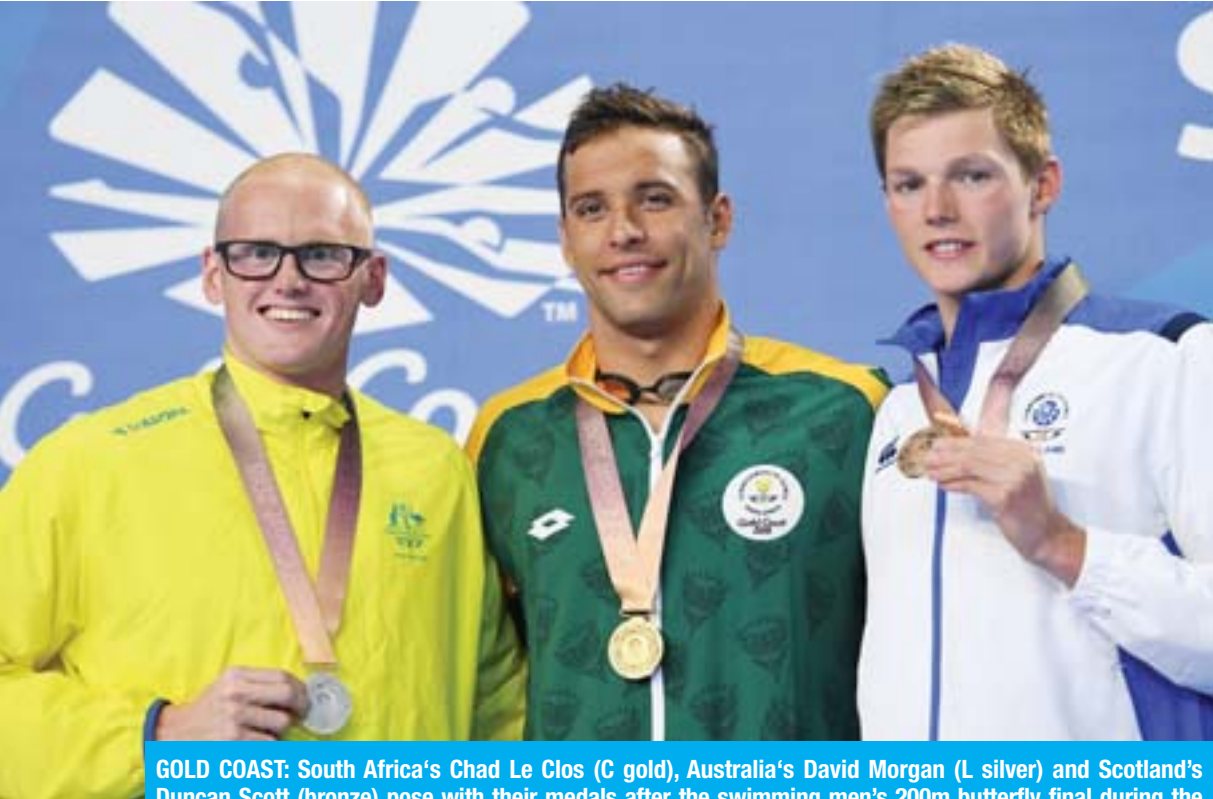
At Anna Meares Velodrome, Australian cyclist Sam Welsford won the men's 15km scratch race and Kaarle McCulloch triumphed in the women's 500m time trial — but world champion Matthew Glaetzer was stunned in the sprint. England's Nile Wilson gritted his teeth through a wrist injury to win the all-around gymnastics, pipping team-mate James Hall on the final apparatus, the high bar.

"It went down to the last piece, you can't write it," said Wilson. "To finish like we did, and get gold and silver, with one of the best high-bar routines I've put together—it's the best feeling." Canada's Ellie Black took the women's all-around title to add to her team gold won a day earlier.

But India extended their weightlifting haul to six medals as Sathish Kumar Sivalingam won the men's 77kg and Venkat Rahul Ragala triumphed in the 85kg category. At the beach volleyball, there was a minute's silence and Rwanda's players wore black armbands to commemorate victims of the 1994 Tutsi genocide.

In hockey, Pakistan used a late video referral to earn a 2-2 draw with arch-rivals India, with Ali Mubashar slamming home a penalty corner at the end of a bad-tempered game.

Australia edged Jonny Brownlee's England to win the



**GOLD COAST:** South Africa's Chad Le Clos (C gold), Australia's David Morgan (L silver) and Scotland's Duncan Scott (bronze) pose with their medals after the swimming men's 200m butterfly final during the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games at the Optus Aquatic Centre in the Gold Coast yesterday. — AFP

triathlon mixed team relay and in the Games' inaugural para triathlon, Australia's Bill Chaffey took bronze after a heavy crash on his hand bike.

Malaysian squash legend Nicol David, an eight-time world champion, beat England's Alison Waters 3-2 to

reach the semi-finals as she bids for her third straight title. But there was a major shock in the men's competition as Malaysia's 12th seed Nafizwan Adnan beat England's two-time defending champion Nick Matthew 3-2.— AFP

## Sixers overcome James to vault into third place

**PHILADELPHIA:** Ben Simmons recorded his 12th triple-double of the season with 27 points, 15 rebounds and 13 assists to lead Philadelphia past visiting Cleveland even as LeBron James posted his 18th triple-double of the season. JJ Redick scored 28 points, Marco Belinelli contributed 23 and Ersan Ilyasova had 17 for the surging Sixers (49-30), who won their 13th straight game for the first time since the 1984-85 season. The Sixers also moved past the Cavaliers and into the No. 3 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff standings with one game at hand. Cleveland has two games remaining, while Philadelphia has three. Robert Covington added 11 points and Markelle Fultz had 10 for Philadelphia. James ended with 44 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists, though he committed eight turnovers. Jeff Green scored 33 points and Kevin Love added 17 for Cleveland.

### LA LAKERS 96, MINNESOTA 113

Jeff Teague recorded 25 points and eight assists and Jimmy Butler added 18 points in his return from a knee injury to help the Minnesota Timberwolves record a crucial 113-96 victory over the host Los Angeles Lakers on Friday night at Staples Center. Butler missed 17 games with the knee injury he suffered on Feb. 23 against the Houston Rockets. He played 23 minutes and was 7-of-10 shooting and notched four of Minnesota's 14 steals. Taj Gibson contributed 18 points, 10 rebounds and three blocked shots as the Timberwolves ended a two-game slide. Minnesota (45-35) moved into sole possession of the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot by a half-game over the idle Denver Nuggets. Josh Hart had 20 points and 11 rebounds and Julius Randle added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who lost for the fourth time in the past five games. Brook Lopez scored 18 points, and Ivica Zubac had 14 points and nine rebounds.

### CELTICS 111, BULLS 104

One day after learning Kyrie Irving would need a second left knee procedure and miss the rest of the year, Boston claimed its seventh victory in nine games, beating visiting Chicago. Jaylen Brown scored a career-high 32 points, including a career-best seven 3-pointers, and Greg Monroe had a triple-double with 19 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to pace Boston. It was Monroe's second career triple-double and his first since Nov. 7, 2012, with the Detroit Pistons. "I believe in the guys in our locker room," Celtics coach Brad Stevens told reporters when asked about his team's chances in the playoffs without Irving. "I think they believe in themselves, and I think that's the most important thing."

### RAPTORS 92, PACERS 73

Serge Ibaka scored 25 points on 10-of-13 shooting as Toronto clinched the No. 1 seed in the East with a rout of visiting Indiana as the Raptors held the Pacers to season lows in points and shooting (29.9 percent). DeMar DeRozan added 12 points for the Raptors, who shot 42.9 percent. Jonas Valanciunas contributed eight points and a team-high 12 rebounds. The Raptors, who won the season series 3-1, set a franchise record with their 57th victory, passing the 2015-16 team. The Pacers appear likely to finish in the No. 5 spot, as they sit two games back of No. 4 Cleveland and four games clear of No. 6 Miami.—Reuters

## Aussie cyclist back from brink for emotional Games glory

**BRISBANE:** Four years ago Australian cyclist Kaarle McCulloch missed the Commonwealth Games with a chronic injury that reduced her to tears, gobbled up her life savings and brought her to the brink of quitting. Yesterday, she won the 500m time trial in front of an ecstatic home crowd for her third-and most satisfying-medal at the Games on the Gold Coast. The 30-year-old trumped fellow Australian Stephanie Morton, who took silver, with Emma Cumming of New Zealand grabbing bronze. It was a deeply personal triumph for McCulloch, who paraded around the track afterwards taking the acclaim of a capacity 4,000 crowd at the Anna Meares Velodrome, pumping her fists and blowing kisses. McCulloch, for whom this was the biggest victory of her turbulent career, described how the pain she had been feeling in a knee for years suddenly exploded as she was on the track in January 2014. "I did the warm-up and just came back off the track and burst into tears. I was sick of riding in pain, for five years I was getting on the bike and being in pain," she said, after adding gold to the team sprint title and a bronze in the women's sprint.

"I said to my coach at the time, 'This is it, I can't do this anymore.'" She had chronic pain in a knee, but the problem was actually linked to her back and she took three months off, never getting on a bike and ruminating over her future, before her coach convinced her to carry on. "I did rehab and got back on the bike and suddenly I was training without pain," said McCulloch, who had tears welling in her eyes as she stood atop the podium, the Australian national anthem ringing out and her gold



**BRISBANE:** Australia's Kaarle McCulloch celebrates her gold medal win in the women's 500m time trial finals cycling during the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games at the Anna Meares Velodrome in Brisbane yesterday. — AFP

medal hanging around her neck.

She was not only back, she was faster, although being off the bike did mean that she missed the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. "I've just really taken off and feel like the best is still to come," added McCulloch, who is now eyeing the Tokyo 2020 Olympics having watched Rio 2016 on the sidelines.

### 'I WANT TO BE THERE'

McCulloch described how she spent 30,000 Australian dollars (US\$23,000) on her rehabilitation—"I used up all of my life savings"—after losing her scholar-

ship with Cycling Australia. "I just thought to myself, 'You know what? You just need to keep going until you feel like that's it.' "I was sitting in the stands in Rio and even though I didn't get to race, I was sitting there thinking: I should be there, I want to be there. "And it just motivated me and I've stuck with it. "Sitting at home watching the guys at the 2014 Commonwealth Games hurt a lot, but tonight has made up for all of it."

McCulloch's was a sixth Games cycling gold for the hosts, resurgent after a disastrous Olympics, and Sam Welsford quickly won number seven in the 15km scratch race. — AFP

## Unfancied Malaysian stuns cycling world champion

**BRISBANE:** Cycling sprint world champion Matt Glaetzer said he felt embarrassed after he was dumped out in the early stages at the Commonwealth Games in front of a shocked Australian crowd yesterday.

Glaetzer was the hero on Friday when he romped to gold in the men's keirin, but less than 24 hours later he was stunned by Malaysia's Muhammad Shah Firdaus Sahrom, who came a lowly 34th at the recent world championships. Glaetzer, 25, a hot favourite for sprint gold on Australia's Gold Coast, had qualified fastest and set a Commonwealth Games record of 9.583 seconds in the process. But he tumbled out at the 1/8 finals stage, pipped by 0.024sec to the line by Sahrom, who went on to finish a whisker outside the medals in fourth. Sprint gold went to the New Zealander Sam Webster, who celebrated by lifting his black bike over his head and high into the air. Glaetzer was well gone by then, however. "That was exactly what I didn't want to happen. I tried to get through with minimum effort," said the beaten Australian."I just needed to get my speed going, but the speed just wasn't there. He got the jump on me, so I'm pretty gutted.

"It's devastating, it'll take a little while to get over



**Muhammad Shah Firdaus Sahrom**

this one. To lose like that is embarrassing." He blamed a tactical error: "I was just coming into the bell too slow, I needed to be accelerating not just controlling."

"It's just hard, it's a nightmare unfolding," added Glaetzer, whose keirin victory on Friday was Australia's fifth track cycling gold at these Games. The 22-year-old Sahrom, who had taken the last spot in qualifying at

the sold-out, 4,000-capacity Anna Meares Velodrome, was in shock. "It's unbelievable because I'm fighting with a world champion and (Commonwealth) Games record-holder. I just did what I can and it went to plan and I did it," he said. "Matthew Glaetzer is a world champion and he's absolutely fast."It's hard to beat him and I'm very honoured by what I did today." — AFP



# Liverpool splutter without Salah in Everton stalemate

## Third placed Liverpool settle for a point

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool were rendered impotent without Mohamed Salah as they were held to a 0-0 draw by Everton in yesterday's Merseyside derby at Goodison Park. Egypt winger Salah, the key figure in Liverpool's impressive campaign, was left out due to a minor groin injury as Jurgen Klopp tried to give his main man a chance to be fit for their decisive Champions League clash against Manchester City on Tuesday.

Danny Ings and Dominic Solanke looked rusty as they were given rare starts, with the latter failing to take either of two early chances. Roberto Firmino appeared as a late substitute in an attempt to find a winner, but third placed Liverpool had to settle for a point.

They did, though, extend their unbeaten run in Merseyside derbies to 17 matches, as Seamus Coleman and Dominic Calvert-Lewin both failed to take late Everton chances. Klopp had a big decision to make regarding his team selection, with Liverpool three days away from the second leg of their quarter-final against City following Wednesday's 3-0 victory.

The fact that he made five changes showed where his priorities lie at the moment. Ings was starting a league match for the first time since Klopp took charge two-and-a-half years ago, having fought back from two cruciate knee ligament injuries, while Solanke was making only his fourth league start for the club.

In addition, Nathaniel Clyne began a match for the first time in 11 months after recovering from a serious back problem, while central defender Ragnar Klavan was pressed into service at left-back, having played

just 11 minutes since New Year's Day.

Inevitably, given those changes, Liverpool did not click as they usually do. Solanke lacked the kind of sharpness that Salah and Firmino have made second nature.

**LACK OF SPARK**

Presented with two good chances in the first 16 minutes, he took neither. First he glanced wide from James Milner's angled delivery, and then, when Coleman made a mess of clearing Clyne's cross on the run, the striker could only steer his first-time shot straight at Jordan Pickford.

Pickford looks increasingly likely to be England's goalkeeper at the World Cup later this year, having grown in confidence as the season has gone on.

His shot-stopping has rarely been in question, and he produced a fine flying save late in the half to turn away a shot from Milner, who had cut in from the left. Liverpool enjoyed the bulk of possession despite their disjointed look, which was partly down to Everton's lack of adventure.

Sam Allardyce had written in his programme notes about derbies being occasions to be inspired by, but his team lacked spark until the final 10 minutes and gave away the ball too often. Even though Everton did enjoy bursts of pressure, Cenk Tosun was a frustrated figure up front for the most part.

Yet Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius still needed to be alert, making perhaps the save of the first half

when he tipped away Yannick Bolasie's 25-yard curler, bound for the top corner. The home side might even have won the match at the end, as the Turkey forward headed Theo Walcott's cross towards the far post, where Coleman just failed to turn the ball in. Calvert-Lewin then steered over with only Karius to beat.



**LIVERPOOL:** Everton's English striker Wayne Rooney (L) slides in to tackle Liverpool's English midfielder James Milner (R) during the English Premier League football match between Everton and Liverpool at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

## Dybala hat-trick stretches Juventus lead in Serie A

**MILAN:** Paulo Dybala scored a hat-trick, including two from the penalty spot, to extend Juventus' lead at the top of Serie A with a 4-2 win at battling bottom club Benevento yesterday. The Turin giants moved a step closer to a seventh straight Italian title, four days before they travel to Real Madrid needing to overturn a 3-0 deficit to reach the Champions League semi-finals.

Juventus now lead second-placed Napoli, who travel to Chievo today, by seven points. Malian forward Cheick Diabate scored a brace to pull Benevento back into the game twice but the rock-bottom side fell to their 26th defeat in 31 games. "Congratulations to the lads because today was important to win after the defeat against Real Madrid," said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri. "There are seven games left and today it was too important. The feeling was that we were at risk, the same feeling I had against AC Milan (last week) when we conceded many shots for the first time in months." "We've got to take every last drop of energy we've got left to go for the Scudetto, Italian Cup and of course the second leg in Madrid. It's not easy to keep winning at that pace," added Allegri.

Dybala-who will miss to trip to Madrid after being red-carded in the first leg-opened the scoring after quarter of an hour and got the second just before the break when he slotted in a penalty awarded after consultation with the video assistant referee.

The 24-year-old completed his treble with a penalty awarded after 74 minutes when Gonzalo Higuain was brought down in the box, before Douglas Costa added the fourth eight minutes from time with a magnificent curling effort. Argentine Dybala who now has 25 goals in all competitions this season.

**'NOTHING TO LOSE'**

"It's difficult against these sides who have nothing to lose," said Dybala as Juventus allowed their rivals who were 65 points below them before kick-off back into the game. Mario Mandzukic threatened, getting his head to a Mario Pjanic chipped ball after five minutes but it flew wide. But Dybala broke through on 16 minutes when Juan Cuadrado knocked down the ball for the Argentine inter-



**MILAN:** Juventus' Argentinian striker Paulo Dybala (R) fights for the ball with Benevento's Brazilian midfielder Sandro Guimaraes during the Italian Serie A football match Benevento Calcio vs FC Juventus yesterday at the Ciro Vigorito Stadium. — AFP

national to finish with a left-footed shot from the edge of the box. But six minutes later Benevento were level after Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny saved a Filip Djuricic effort only for Diabate to tap in the rebound.

Mandzukic put the ball in the back of the Benevento net again after 36 minutes, finishing off a Cuadrado cross, but the goal was disallowed because of the Croatian forward's handball in the build-up.

The champions went into half-time ahead through Dybala's first penalty after Berat Djimsiti's foul on Pjanic. Five minutes after the break Benevento were back level as Diabate rose higher than defender Medhi Benatia to head home a corner. It was the 29-year-old's fifth goal in five games for the club since February.

points available from their final five matches.

Abraham's goal was vital for Swansea as it kept them four points above the bottom three. Second from bottom Stoke could be set to join West Brom in the second tier after losing at the bet365 Stadium.

Tottenham striker Harry Kane made his first start since suffering ankle ligament damage last month, but it was team-mate Christian Eriksen who stole the show. Eriksen made the breakthrough in the 52nd minute, the Dane taking Dele Alli's pass and driving a powerful strike into the bottom corner.

Stoke equalised in the 57th minute when Hugo Lloris slammed his clearance into the stomach of Mame Biram Diouf, who blasted into the empty net. Tottenham were back in front six minutes later when Eriksen's free-kick flew straight in despite Kane's claim he had the final touch.

Stoke are four points from safety with five games left, while Tottenham consolidated their grip on fourth place in the race to qualify for the Champions League via a top four finish. Mauricio Pochettino's side are 11 points clear of fifth placed Chelsea, who host West Ham today. Crystal Palace's bid to beat the drop was hit by a late Josh King equaliser in a 2-2 draw at Bournemouth.

Luka Milivojevic struck for Palace in the 47th minute, the Serbian midfielder curling in a superb free-kick.

But Dybala put Juventus back in front again, before Costa sealed the three points with a searing left-footed shot high into the top corner. "It was a tough game, they put a lot of balls into the box for their tall players and that proved a problem," said Dybala. "Every game is important and worth three points and we know that Napoli will battle to the end, so we cannot afford to lose a single point." Napoli will need a win at 14th-placed Chievo on Sunday after being held 1-1 at Sassuolo last weekend to keep their push for their first title since 1990 alive. Roma, in third, host Fiorentina later before next Tuesday's visit of Barcelona to the Stadio Olimpico, looking to stay ahead of Inter Milan, who are just a point behind in fourth. — AFP

Bournemouth responded with a 66th minute leveller as Lys Mousset produced a fine finish just seconds after coming off the bench. Wilfried Zaha restored Palace's advantage with a brilliant turn and 20-yard strike in the 75th minute. But King netted in the 89th minute to leave Palace three points above the relegation zone. Huddersfield are four points clear of the bottom three after a 1-1 draw at 10-man Brighton. Chris Hughton's side took the lead in the 29th minute when Jonas Lossil tipped Solly March's shot onto a post, only for the ball to rebound off the Huddersfield goalkeeper into the net for a cruel own goal.

Steve Mounie levelled four minutes later, intercepting Shane Duffy's back-pass and slotting home. Brighton had midfielder Davy Propper sent off for a studs-up lunge on Jonathan Hogg in the 74th minute.

Newcastle dented Leicester's bid to qualify for the Europa League with a 2-1 win at the King Power Stadium. Jonjo Shelvey put Newcastle ahead in the 18th minute with his first Premier League goal since November 2015.

Newcastle doubled their lead through Ayoze Perez's 75th minute rocket before Jamie Vardy got one back for Leicester in the 84th minute. Burnley sit seventh, six points ahead of Leicester in the battle for Europa League berths, as Sean Dyche's side came from behind to win 2-1 at Watford.—AFP

## Vettel takes pole as Ferrari lock-out Bahrain front row

**SAKHIR:** Championship leader Sebastian Vettel will start his 200th F1 race from pole position after he and Ferrari team-mate Kimi Raikkonen locked out the front row for today's Bahrain Grand Prix. The German secured his 51st career pole with a supreme lap in the dying seconds of a tense floodlit qualifying session in which Ferrari were dominant. "Yes, P1! Pole position," said Vettel. "That was a lion lap. That was quite intense... I was happy with my first run until I tossed it away in the last corner so I stayed away from that kerb in the second run. The car has been excellent here all weekend."

Valtteri Bottas was third fastest for Mercedes behind the two Ferraris, but ahead of his team-mate Lewis Hamilton who has a five-place grid penalty after an overnight gearbox change and starts from ninth. That promotes Australian Daniel Ricciardo from fifth to fourth for Red Bull ahead of Frenchman Pierre Gasly of Toro Rosso and Dane Kevin Magnussen of Haas.

Nico Hulkenberg was eighth for Renault ahead of Esteban Ocon for Force India and Carlos Sainz in the second Renault. "Not ideal - far from ideal in the last run with the traffic," said Raikkonen, the 2007 champion.— AFP

Live		Matches on TV
		(Local Timings)
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Arsenal v Southampton	beIN SPORTS HD 2	16:15
Chelsea v West Ham United	beIN SPORTS HD 2	18:30
SPANISH LEAGUE		
Levante v Las Palmas	beIN SPORTS HD 3	13:00
Real Madrid v Atletico de Madrid	beIN SPORTS HD 3	17:15
Real Sociedad v Girona	beIN SPORTS HD 4	19:30
Valencia v Espanyol	beIN SPORTS HD 3	21:45
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
Torino v Internazionale Milano	beIN SPORTS HD 2 FR	13:30
SSC Napoli v Chievo Verona	beIN SPORTS HD 4	16:00
Hellas Verona v Cagliari Calcio	beIN SPORTS	16:00
Crotone v Bologna	beIN SPORTS HD 7	16:00
Udinese Calcio v SS Lazio	beIN SPORTS HD 6	19:00
Milan v Sassuolo Calcio	beIN SPORTS HD 4	21:45
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA		
Borussia Dortmund v Stuttgart	beIN SPORTS HD 5	16:30
Eintracht Frankfurt v Hoffenheim	beIN SPORTS HD 5	19:00
FRENCH LEAGUE		
OGC Nice v Stade Rennais	beIN SPORTS HD 6	16:00
Metz v Olympique Lyonnais	beIN SPORTS HD 6	18:00
Olympique Marseille v Montpellier	beIN SPORTS	22:00



## 13 Record-setter Nadal roars back, Italy hold France



## 14 Aussie cyclist back from brink for emotional Games glory



## 15 Liverpool splutter without Salah in Everton stalemate



AUGSBURG: The team of FC Bayern Munich celebrate after the German first division Bundesliga football match FC Augsburg vs FC Bayern Munich in Augsburg, southern Germany, yesterday. — AFP

# Bayern Munich win sixth straight title

## Bavarian giants are German league champions for 28th time in their history

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich were crowned Bundesliga champions for the sixth consecutive season yesterday as James Rodriguez helped turn the game in their 4-1 comeback victory at Augsburg. The result mean Bayern are German league champions for the 28th time in their history, and it was the sixth year in a row they have won the Bundesliga since their treble-winning season in 2013. Augsburg took a shock lead through an own goal by Niklas Suele, but the Bavarians roared back as Corentin Tolisso, James—who then assisted Arjen Robben—and Sandro Wagner all scored.

The result leaves Bayern 20 points clear with five league games left and underlined their absolute dominance of the Bundesliga.

With one eye on Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final second leg against Sevilla, in which Munich hold a slender 2-1 lead, coach Jupp Heynckes gambled by resting his stars. Top scorer Robert

Lewandowski, plus Thomas Mueller, Thiago Alcantara, Mats Hummels and Javi Martinez all started on the bench. Sevilla would have encouraged by the comedy of errors in Bayern's defence that led to Augsburg's goal. Jerome Boateng lingered over a back pass and Colombian forward Sergio Cordova robbed him of possession, sending Boateng tumbling to the turf, clutching his hamstring.

Cordova's shot was blocked by Bayern goalkeeper Sven Ulreich, but the ball ricocheted into Suele's face and into Bayern's goal to stun the visitors on 18 minutes. However, Munich were 2-1 up by the time half-time came when Joshua Kimmich's cross picked out Tolisso unmarked in the area to header Bayern level on 32 minutes. Bayern then laid on a top-class goal to take the lead at Augsburg's WWK Arena.

Kimmich was again involved, firing a pass across goal after combining with Robben for Juan Bernat, who

backheeled the ball which James FIRED HOME SEVEN MINUTES BEFORE THE BREAK.

### CAMEO for Ribery

The Colombian then ensured the title was heading to Munich for their third. He hooked the ball back into play at the far post for Robben to drill his shot inside the near post on 62 minutes.

Ribery celebrated his 35th birthday with a cameo appearance for the final eight minutes before Wagner headed home Bayern's late fourth. The Bavarian giants will formally lift the Bundesliga shield after the final day on May 12.

Elsewhere, second-from-bottom Cologne suffered a blow to their survival hopes as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Mainz. An early goal by Cologne's Germany defender Jonas Hector was cancelled out as Pablo De Blasis headed an equaliser for Mainz five minutes into

the second half.

With five games left, Cologne are six points behind Mainz, who are 16th, which carries a relegation play-off berth against the third-best team in the second tier at the end of the season.

Wolfsburg, who are just above the bottom three, won 2-0 at Freiburg in a match featuring two sides just above the bottom three and fighting to stay up. With just two minutes gone at the Schwarzwald Stadion, Wolves striker Daniel Didavi held off his marker and fired past despairing Freiburg goalkeeper Alexander Schwolow. He added a second with seven minutes remaining.

Thorgan Hazard came off the bench to score twice as Borussia Moenchengladbach climbed to eighth with a 2-1 win at home to Hertha Berlin. Salomon Kalou gave Hertha an early lead, but Hazard come off the bench to score on 75 minutes, then net a late penalty. — AFP

## Pogba leads thrilling Man Utd comeback

**MANCHESTER:** Paul Pogba spoiled Manchester City's anticipated Premier League title party by scoring twice in two minutes as Manchester United came from 2-0 down to win a thrilling derby 3-2 yesterday.

Chris Smalling completed the comeback that looked so improbable when City were well on course to round off a resounding march towards the title by racing into a 2-0 first-half lead. Goals from captain Vincent Kompany and Ilkay Gundogan put the hosts in a commanding position, who were left to rue huge missed chances from Raheem Sterling to extend their lead.

City manager Pep Guardiola added more spice to an already hotly-anticipated clash when he claimed on Friday he had been offered the chance to buy Pogba two months ago by the player's agent Mino Raiola.

Pogba has endured a desperately disappointing season having often been dropped by Jose Mourinho for United's biggest games. But after

so much criticism, Pogba showed why he was the world's most expensive player when United splashed out £89 million to bring him back to the club from Juventus in 2016 by hauling United back into a game that looked lost at half-time.

Guardiola kept his pre-match promise to prioritise Tuesday's Champions League quarter-final second leg against Liverpool with City needing to overturn a 3-0 first leg deficit.

Kevin de Bruyne, a leading candidate for player of the year awards, was left on the bench alongside Gabriel Jesus and City's all-time top goalscorer Sergio Aguero. Guardiola and Mourinho have a long-running rivalry dating back to their time in charge of Barcelona and Real Madrid respectively.

And the game quickly settled into the usual pattern when the two face off with City dominating possession and United happy to get plenty of men behind the ball. Yet, for all City's possession, just like when City won 2-1 at Old Trafford in December, it was from a set-piece that United were undone.

City's Abu Dhabi owners have splashed an estimated 878 million euros over the past decade to assemble a squad that has tilted the balance of power in Manchester from red to blue. Kompany was one the Emiratis' first purchases, and he was a fitting scorer on what seemed destined to be a historic day.

The Belgian outmuscled Smalling to power home Leroy Sane's corner on 25 minutes. Five minutes later City doubled their lead in a style that has characterised their season as Gundogan brilliantly turned onto Sterling's pass before slotting into the far corner.

City should have been out of sight by half-time as Guardiola screamed in frustration after Sterling fired two glorious chances well over the bar. Unlike in many big games this season, Mourinho played Pogba in his favoured role on the left of a midfield three.

Like the rest of his teammates, Pogba was overrun in the first 45 minutes, but came alive to slot home from Ander Herrera's cushioned pass with his chest to get United back into the game eight minutes after the break.

That goal was the first Mourinho's men had scored away from home against top-five opposition in the Premier League all season. And they soon had two in two minutes when Alexis Sanchez picked out Pogba's late run into the box and his header beat Ederson low to his right-hand side. City's Champions League hopes were likely ended by conceding three times in 19 minutes at Anfield in midweek. And United took just 16 minutes to complete an incredible turnaround when Smalling capitalised on some slack City marking to turn home Sanchez's free-kick. — AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku (R) faces off against Manchester City's Belgian defender Vincent Kompany (C) and Manchester City's Brazilian midfielder Fernandinho (L) during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, yesterday. — AFP



SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018

**18** No progress at NAFTA talks, US timeline could be in doubt



**19** US job creation falls in March; unemployment steady at 4.1%



**21** Ford scoops up two wins at Middle East Car of Year Awards ceremony



KUWAIT: Chairman of the board of Al-Safat Investment Company Abdullah Hamad Al-Terkait addresses the annual general meeting of the company.

# Al-Safat posts profit for 3rd year in a row

## Al-Terkait: Company being restructured to achieve set goals

KUWAIT: Chairman of the board of Al-Safat Investment Company Abdullah Hamad Al-Terkait said the company is interested in following the approved plan that concentrates on restructuring the company's investments and assets as well as its subsidiaries in the coming period.

Al-Terkait, who spoke on the sidelines of the general assembly that was held recently with 66.1 percent attendance, said the company is looking for opportunities that agree with its strategy according to low-risk rates while at the same time concentrating on strong opportunities, particularly in operational sectors of real estate.

### Exits and liquidity

Al-Terkait said Al-Safat made several exits during the past period that contributed to having liquidity that was directed towards various investments to achieve regular cash flows for the entity in general, which had a major effect on the company's stability. He said the company became profitable and maintained its positive performance for the third consecutive year after suffering for many years, as the board of directors and the executive administration cooperated with courageous decisions and steps to safeguard shareholder rights and develop company resources despite facing challenges.

### Re-enrollment

Al-Terkait added the company is now on the threshold of a new stage that is expected to see many developments that will have positive returns. He said the board of directors intends to discuss relisting the company on Bursa Kuwait after doing away with all the problems that burdened Al-Safat before the current administration took over, pointing out the company went through years of weakness that needed extreme joint efforts to overcome.

### Comprehensive restructuring

Al-Terkait said, "Al-Safat Investment Company underwent comprehensive restructuring and instilled the institutional aspect in all its business with clear goals." He said that with the efforts and work of the company's board of directors and the executive as well as the work team, the company's direction and performance improved. He added the Al-Safat Company administration implemented an ambitious work plan and a new strategy through concentrating on integral strategic sectors to achieve sustainable growth for its business and hasten the

company expenditure within the framework of the strategic plan that was prepared by the board of directors.

He said Al-Safat Investment Company continued to instill transparency, governance and internal supervision systems, that in turn led to enhancing the institutional work for the implementation of the Capital Markets Authority's and supervisory bodies' requirements.

### Data accuracy

Concerning the company's compliance with the rules of companies' governance that are related to guaranteeing the accuracy of financial reports, Al-Terkait affirmed the accuracy of the financial data for 2017 and reports related to the company activity, which is handed to external auditors. As for incentives of the board of directors during the year 2017, he said board members did not receive any financial incentives, salaries or allowances for attending committees' meetings.

### Financial performance

Al-Terkait reviewed the company's financial performance during the financial year ending Dec 31, 2017, explaining that Al-Safat investment closed its 2017 financial year by making a profit for the third consecutive year, as it made profits of KD1,028,125 for the year ending Dec 2017, which is 4.01 fils per share compared to a profit of KD 844,357 at 3.29 fils per share for the year ending Dec 2016. He said the total assets of the group as of Dec 31, 2017 is KD 56.9 million, compared to KD 60.2 as of Dec 31, 2016, while shareholders' rights for the mother company reached KD 22.9 million and the book value is 89.5 fils per share. About the group's dues as of Dec 31, 2017, he said they are estimated at KD 25.4 million compared to KD 24 million as of Dec 31, 2016.

### General difficulties

Al-Terkait said, "You realize the size of difficulties the investment sector is suffering from and is still facing including a relative drop in liquidity." He pointed to the market fluctuations in the region as the region's economies are linked with the fluctuations of international markets and the political situations that are still sweeping the region, and out of fear of an economic recession. About the direct investments Al-Safat is involved in and the returns from them, Al-Terkait said the company is looking forward to taking income-generating operational investment opportunities that are well studied and expected to achieve an additional value and synergy with subsidiary companies, bearing in mind the ideal geographical distribution.

He pointed to the continuity of the investment of the company's direct portfolio with influential and strategic shares in several operational companies in the financial, industrial, health, real estate, oil, food and education sectors, as the volume of the direct investment portfolio reached over \$190 million.

He said the local company assets reached 80 percent of the total assets value. The direct investments portfolio contributes with 85 percent of the total annual company revenues, in addition to the company currently developing some service projects directly in the logistics services sector through subsidiary companies.

Al-Terkait said: "The company acquired some foreign strategic investments such as an influential share in one of the largest holding investment companies in Abu Dhabi as far as the capital and asset volume are concerned, a majority share in a brokerage company in Egypt and a tourist hotel in Al-Mahatta area of Bhamdoun in Lebanon.

He said the working team in the company was able to achieve rewarding exits in several sectors in favor of the mother company and

its subsidiaries, the latest of which is negotiating an exit from an industrial asset in the kingdom of Bahrain at a value of \$3 million. He said there were several acquisitions to increase the group's share in the industrial sector through direct ownerships in companies operating in packaging industries, in addition to carpets and chemicals. He said some investments were directed to companies in the oil and real estate companies, with a total investment of \$10 million during 2017.

### Where do opportunities lie?

There are many various investment opportunities outside Kuwait and the decision to explore these opportunities goes back to each company's direction in the mechanism of diversifying and distributing its investments and risk appetite, the expected returns and short or long term profitability.

### Thanks and appreciation

Al-Terkait addressed shareholders by saying: "I, on behalf of board members, thank you for the confidence you put in us, which is the best support for us and has the great effect in keeping us continuing our successful march." He also thanked board members and the executive administration as well as company employees who did not spare any effort in order to enhance the company's performance.

Al-Terkait lauded the role of the Commerce and Industry ministry, Capital Markets Authority and the Central Bank of Kuwait for their keenness on achieving the sought after benefits and protecting the rights of shareholders through the application of the best standards and international practices, which in turn revives the investment and economic sector in Kuwait. The general assembly approved all the items on the agenda including the board of directors, auditors and the sharia supervisory authority reports.

## CMA, listed companies join Bursa Kuwait's roadshow in London

KUWAIT: In line with its ongoing efforts to develop the Kuwaiti market to meet international standards and apply best practices to market its top international listed companies to international investors, Bursa Kuwait announced its first roadshow in London, which will take place on Wednesday, 25 April 2018 in cooperation with multinational financial services firm Goldman Sachs. The Capital Markets Authority and eight prestigious companies, including Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Burgan Bank, Zain, Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO), Mabani, Mizan Holding, and Human Soft will participate in the tour. Roadshow will include meetings between local companies and international investors with the goal of introducing the

international investment community to local Kuwaiti companies, to create a better understanding of their requirements and get their views on the development of the Kuwaiti market.

In accordance with the Kuwait 2035 state vision, spearheaded by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwait National Development Plan, the tour aims to enhance the economic landscape in Kuwait. Bursa Kuwait is committed to developing a liquid, reliable and sound capital market providing issuers with efficient access to capital, and investors with diverse return opportunities, which will help Bursa Kuwait evolve as a leading regional exchange. Goldman Sachs is a US multinational financial and investment services firm and is one of the most recognized banking institutions in the United States and the world. It operates in more than 30 countries and has six regional branches, with more than 100 offices and 35,000 employees and more than \$850 billion of total assets. The organization specializes in global wealth management, institutional financial services, investment management, mergers and acquisitions, insurance, and asset management, as well as acting as financial intermediaries for corporate, government and individual clients.

## US-China trade war fears escalate as threats ramp up

WASHINGTON: The escalating trade confrontation between Washington and Beijing threatened to boil over after President Donald Trump lashed out again and China called on the European Union to join the battle, sending global stocks into the red.

Trump remained defiant and argued the pain of the dispute will pay off in the end, while China said that his administration would only "shoot itself in the foot" if it didn't back down from the "extremely wrong" threats. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin acknowledged there was a risk of a trade war, but said the intention is to defend US interests and the administration remains willing to negotiate.

But top White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow reversed himself, and warned that the tariff threat is not a negotiating tactic. Global stock markets were unhappy with the turn of events, as Wall Street dropped more than two percent, following European and Asian markets lower.

In the wake of the decision to impose steep tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, the United States on Tuesday published a list of \$50 billion in Chinese goods to be hit by tariffs over what Washington says is widespread theft of intellectual property and technology.

China retaliated by unveiling planned levies on \$50 billion worth of major US exports including soybeans, cars and small aircraft.

Trump hit back again late Thursday, instructing trade officials to consider tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in imports. "Rather than remedy its misconduct, China has chosen to harm our farmers and manufacturers," Trump said, calling Beijing's reaction "unfair."

So far, only the tariffs on steel and aluminum have taken effect, but Trump's latest threats take the dispute to a new level: China cannot retaliate in kind since it only imports \$130 billion in US products, meaning it would have to find another way to respond.

Amid widespread concern, and calls for restraint from US businesses and farm states most vulnerable to Chinese retaliation, Trump said Friday the outcome would be worth the short-term risk.

"I'm not saying there's not going to be any pain," he told WABC radio in New York, but "we're going to be much stronger for it."—AFP



Business

# No progress at NAFTA talks, US timeline could be in doubt

## Major issues still remain to be tackled

**WASHINGTON/OTTAWA:** The United States, Mexico and Canada still have to resolve major issues around NAFTA, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said on Friday, casting doubt that the quick deal sought by Washington would materialize.

Freeland met with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo for several hours on Friday but made clear there was a lack of consensus on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). “We had some constructive conversations both yesterday and today ... and that intensive pace of work, which has been happening over the last couple of weeks, will continue in the days to come,” she told reporters outside the Washington building where the talks took place.

“We are going to keep on working until we get a good deal,” she added, saying negotiations would continue at the level of officials. Lighthizer, citing the need to reach a deal an agreement before the Mexican presidential election on July 1, says he wants the outlines of a deal soon to update the regional trade agreement.

A brief statement from Lighthizer’s office said the talks had been positive and added that “we will continue working to achieve an agreement that benefits our three countries.”

Mexico’s economy ministry said the three countries agreed on Friday that their negotiating teams should press on with technical work in coming days and try to find “the balance that enables the process to move forward in its entirety.”

Mexican business lobby CCE said in a statement that it would accompany the country’s negotiating team. “The continuation of the meetings is a positive sign, and there is a window of opportunity to advance substantially towards an agreement,” Juan Pablo

Castanon, president of the business lobby, said in the statement.

US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly threatened to walk away from the \$1.2 trillion pact unless major changes are made, on Thursday said the three nations should have something to announce fairly soon. Unveiling the outlines of a deal-which Canadian and Mexican officials had initially suggested might happen at a regional summit in Peru next week-would allow leaders to claim a political victory while leaving officials to work out the precise details in the months to come.

It would also enable Trump and his trade team to focus on a widening trade dispute with China that could hurt the world’s two biggest economies.

But there are major challenges to overcome, in particular a contentious U.S. demand that the North American content of vehicles made in NAFTA countries be increased to 85 percent from 62.5 percent.

“We continue to work in that area and to make some good progress and advances,” said Freeland, who gave no details. Insiders say the issue of automotive content has to be nailed down before an agreement in principle can be struck.

“We are dealing in black and white. You can’t leave things gray,” said one source with direct knowledge of the talks, citing the huge complexity of the industry.

“The last thing you want to do is to be making something that isn’t compliant and to be told in an audit, ‘You’re not NAFTA compliant and you owe duties,’” said the source, who requested anonymity given the sensitivity of the situation.

Talks to modernize NAFTA started last August but have made little progress, prompting the United States to suggest at the end of the seventh formal round last



MEXICO CITY: Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland speaks during a press conference given with Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray (out of frame) and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (out of frame) in Mexico City. —AFP

month that the three nations aim in the first instance for a deal in principle.

The lack of clarity over the pact’s future has hit the Canadian and Mexican currencies in recent months as well as worried financial markets, which are on edge about possible damage to the highly

integrated North American market.

The chief executive of Royal Bank of Canada, Dave McKay, on Friday said uncertainty over the pact was a concern for customers of the bank, Canada’s biggest lender, but he remained hopeful a deal would be reached. —Reuters

## Zambian economy to grow more than 4% this year: Finmin

**LUSAKA:** Zambia’s economy is expected to grow by more than 4 percent this year helped by the mining, agriculture and construction sectors, Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe said.

Economic growth in Africa’s second-largest copper producer rose to 4.1 percent last year, helped in part by higher commodity prices. Officials had initially targeted at least 5 percent growth this year, but Mwanakatwe’s comments in a statement issued by the finance ministry suggest growth could be closer to last year’s level.

Zambia, which expects copper output to rise to over 1 million tons this year, slapped Canadian miner First Quantum Minerals with a massive \$8 billion tax bill last month. It has held talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over an aid program, but the IMF rejected its debt management plans in February. Mwanakatwe said the government would complete a detailed debt sustainability exercise in the next two weeks before re-opening discussions with the IMF.

Zambia’s foreign debt stood at \$8.7 billion at the end of March, she said, adding that this year the government wanted to achieve a fiscal deficit of not more than 6.1 percent of gross domestic product, the same level as in 2017. —Reuters

## Products hit by US-China trade tensions

**PARIS:** Steel, soybeans, aircraft... The list of products hit by trade tensions between the United States and China increases almost daily. US President Donald Trump, who has vowed repeatedly to reduce the trade deficit, began a series of announcement of tariffs.

The US trade deficit with China rose to \$375 billion in 2017 out of a total of \$566 billion.

Some measures have come into effect while others are in waiting, with both Washington and Beijing having detailed plans to levy charges on goods worth \$50 billion.

On Thursday, US President Donald Trump threatened to impose duties on another \$100 billion of Chinese imports. Here is an overview of the main products targeted in the escalating trade duel between the world’s two top economies.

### Steel and aluminum

On March 8, Trump signed an order to impose tariffs of 25 percent on steel imports and 10 per-

cent on aluminum, citing national security concerns.

The tariffs came into effect on March 23. Some countries were exempted, at least temporarily, but not China. China is the world’s top producer of steel and aluminum, but it accounts for only 2 percent of steel imports into the United States and 10 percent of aluminum.

### Intellectual property

Trump also accuses China of unfair competition and stealing US intellectual property in the form of its inventions and innovation.

On March 23, the United States launched a challenge at the World Trade Organization against China over intellectual property breaches. Foreign companies have long complained about Beijing’s failure to protect know-how and patents, in some cases forcing firms to share information with domestic partners as the price for doing business in the massive Chinese market.

In August 2017 Washington formally started a trade investigation into China’s intellectual property practices and the forced transfer of US technology under Section 301 of US trade law, which addresses intellectual property.

### Industrial products

On April 3, Washington announced a provisional list of Chinese imports that would be subject to

new duties, targeting products from various sectors including aeronautics, information and communication technologies, and robotics and machinery.

A few hours after the publication of the US target list, Beijing announced duties of 25 percent on the US aeronautics and automobile sectors. In the aeronautics sector, the tariffs target planes weighing no more than 45,000 kg-smaller than the long-range commercial jets made by Boeing, but the fate of medium-range 737 jets is left uncertain. Boeing says it is “confident that dialogue continues”.

### Agricultural products

In its response Beijing also targets soybeans with duties of 25 percent, an action aimed the heart of the US economy because China buys 61 percent of total US soybean exports and more than 30 percent of overall US production of this cereal.

The measure constitutes an electoral risk for Trump as he approaches mid-term elections, as soybeans are cultivated in states that voted for him in 2016, including Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

China had already announced duties of 15 to 25 percent on US agricultural products with little strategic importance, such as fresh fruit, pork and Californian wine. —AFP

## Housing speculation risky for British Columbia growth: FM

**VANCOUVER:** British Columbia must diversify its economy away from real estate speculation and the housing market needs to be moderated but the province is not looking at further new measures to cool it, the province’s finance minister said on Friday. “You don’t build a long-term, sustainable economic plan for your province based on speculation in the real estate market,” Carole James told Reuters in an interview.

The West Coast province’s New Democratic gov-

ernment in February moved to crack down on real estate speculators, expanding a foreign buyer tax and introducing a new speculation tax, in an effort to cool sky-rocketing prices in Canada’s most expensive real estate market.

The plan has been criticized by the development industry, which has said tax increases could deter investment in new supply, needed in both the tight rental and real estate markets.

Critics have also said the measures, particularly the speculation tax, unfairly target Canadians from other provinces who have bought vacation homes in British Columbia that they plan to live in when they retire. But James said it would be a “huge risk” for the province to continue with the status quo, with an affordability crisis causing labor shortages that are threatening other sectors of the economy that are

important for long-term growth. When people “don’t have a home in the areas they work in, it causes labor market challenges, because you can’t recruit and retain people,” she said during a visit to several eastern US and Canadian cities, adding the government is hoping for a “moderation” in housing prices. British Columbia, once a forestry and mining powerhouse, has in recent years become dependent on the real estate and construction industries. The province is now eyeing its burgeoning tech sector for future economic growth.

Seattle-based Amazon is investing heavily in Vancouver, despite the high housing prices, and tech hubs have popped up in the Metro Vancouver region, along with Victoria. Beyond tech, British Columbia sees growth opportunities in tourism and agriculture, among other sectors. —Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.		Euro	373.570	Japanese Yen	3.840			Asia	
		Sterling Pound	427.630	Syrian Pound	1.585			0.003191	0.003775
		Canadian dollar	234.790	Nepalese Rupees	2.892			0.046211	0.049711
		Turkish lira	76.120	Malaysian Ringgit	78.580			0.036573	0.039323
Japanese Yen	2.857	Swiss Franc	318.960	Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.185			0.004101	0.004742
Indian Rupees	4.631	Australian Dollar	233.780	Thai Bhat	10.595			0.000017	0.000023
Pakistani Rupees	2.640	US Dollar Buying	299.100	Turkish Lira	75.740			0.002731	0.002911
Srilankan Rupees	1.922							0.000274	0.000289
Nepali Rupees	2.897							0.073646	0.079646
Singapore Dollar	229.850							0.003001	0.003171
Hongkong Dollar	38.265							0.002501	0.002791
Bangladesh Taka	3.591							0.005674	0.005974
Philippine Peso	5.749							0.223282	0.233282
Thai Baht	9.654							0.001606	0.002186
								0.010320	0.010500
								0.009278	0.009828
			</						



# US job creation falls in March; unemployment steady at 4.1%

## US employers add only 103,000 net new positions

**WASHINGTON:** Monthly job creation in the world's largest economy tumbled in March to its lowest level since September, the government reported Friday, a decline attributed in large part to harsh weather. The slowdown in hiring was likely to be unwelcome news at the White House, as President Donald Trump presses ahead on a multi-front confrontation with China and other trading partners that has alarmed much of the business community and Republican Party.

US employers added only 103,000 net new positions last month, the Labor Department said in the closely-watched report. That gain was less than a third of the surge seen in February and far lower than the 175,000 analysts expected.

But the unemployment rate held steady at the 17-year-low of 4.1 percent for the sixth month in a row while wages rose faster than expected, according to the report.

The weak hiring followed more trade turmoil overnight, as Trump sharply raised the ante in a fresh tit-for-tat exchange with Beijing, calling for tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in Chinese imports.

US financial markets dove Friday on the trade brinkmanship and jobs data double-whammy.

But analysts said the March jobs slowdown was at least partly attributable to weather effects, with

February hiring boosted by unusually warm temperatures that were then chilled by wintery conditions last month. And despite a steep downward revision to January, an upward revision made February's results even stronger, putting average job creation for the first quarter of the year at 202,000, well above the 188,000 average recorded in all of 2017.

"The weakness in payrolls likely reflected payback for exaggerated strength rather than weather effects in March alone," Jim O'Sullivan of High Frequency Economics said in a client note.

"The trend remains more than strong enough to keep unemployment trending down over time."

Job creation slowed precipitously or even reversed in industrial sectors across the economy, which gave back some of the gains recorded in February's monster hiring spree.

The construction workforce shed 15,000 positions-a sector more vulnerable to weather-while the retail industry shrank by 4,400 employees. Even sectors that posted gains, such as manufacturing, health care and mining, saw job creation slow while government hiring was negligible.

**Fears of a faster Fed?**  
Meanwhile, worker wages rose faster than econo-



**MOORE:** Scott Teel, a high school history teacher, carries a 'for sale' sign, as part of his second job as a real estate agent, in Moore, Oklahoma. — AFP

mists had predicted, gaining 0.3 percent for the month to an average of \$26.82 an hour. Worker pay is now up a robust 2.7 percent over March 2017, well above the 2.3 percent gain in the Consumer Price Index for the same period-suggesting a tight labor market may at last be driving up compensation and could spur higher inflation.

However Chris Low of FTN Financial said those

fearing higher interest rates from the Federal Reserve this year could relax a little since "the possibility the Fed would abandon gradual in favor of more aggressive tightening has diminished." Markets have been on tenterhooks since February, fearing the central bank could raise rates four times this year instead of the forecast three amid gathering forces that could accelerate price pressures. — AFP

## Gulf Bank's first quarterly salary account draw is tomorrow

**KUWAIT:** Tomorrow, Gulf Bank will hold the first quarterly salary account draw of the year, where a lucky winner will claim a cash prize of KD 25,000. The event will be broadcasted on the Kuwait Pulse (88.8FM) radio program "Diwanyat Al-Yaqout & Al-Ansari" at 1:30 pm.

The salary account offer is tailored for Kuwaiti customers, allowing them to benefit from a number of unique offers when they transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank. The salary account gives new customers the opportunity to either receive a KD 100 cash gift upon transferring their first salary to Gulf Bank or an interest-free loan. Customers must have a minimum salary of KD 500 and are fully eligible for the offer following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank.



Customers can also enjoy a one year free of charge Visa or MasterCard credit card, as well as a chance to apply for loan up to KD 70,000, or a consumer loan up to KD 15,000.

Existing and new customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank are automatically enrolled in the quarterly draws and have the chance to win valuable cash prizes, including three quarterly prizes of KD 25,000, in addi-

tion to Kuwait's largest salary prize of KD 250,000 in the last draw.

The first salary account draw will be followed by the second quarterly draw on 9 July 2018, for a chance to win KD 25,000. On 8 October 2018, the third quarterly salary account draw will give participants a chance to win KD 25,000, while the grand prize of KD 250,000 will be up for grabs in the final quarterly salary account draw on 7 February 2019.

## CBK launches offer with Ali Al-Ghanem & Sons Automobiles

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in its constant efforts to reward its clients, recently launched a new offer for all

its clients in collaboration with Ali Al-Ghanem & Sons Automobiles.

CBK said that all clients could benefit from the special offer and KD 1200-1500 discounts will be made available on buying BMW and Mini Cooper vehicles.

Further, CBK said that the offer would be valid until the end of April 2018 and that clients wishing to benefit from the promotion should visit Ali Al-Ghanem's showroom in Shuwaikh industrial area where CBK staff would be available to respond to all inquiries concerning discounts, financing period and installments details.

## American Airlines orders 47 Boeing 787s, cancels A350 order

**SAN FRANCISCO:** American Airlines has ordered 47 Boeing 787 Dreamliners in a deal valued at \$12 billion at list prices, while cancelling a major order for Airbus A350s.

The order comprises 22 787-8s scheduled to begin arriving in 2020 and 25 787-9s scheduled to begin arriving in 2023. They will gradually replace Boeing 767s and 777s along with European Airbus A330s, American said Friday. The sale brings American Airlines' total number of 787s to 89 aircraft. Though the total value is \$12 billion at list price, the final price paid by airlines is generally lower.

American Airlines said: "As part of the strategy to simplify its fleet, American agreed with Airbus today to terminate its order for 22 A350s, which was originally placed by US Airways," which it bought in 2013.

"This was a difficult decision between the Boeing 787 and the Airbus A350 and A330neo and we thank both manufacturers for their aggressive efforts to earn more of American's business. In the end, our goal to simplify our fleet made the 787 a more compelling choice," said American Airlines presi-



**LAS VEGAS:** American Airlines planes sit at the gate on the tarmac of McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

dent Robert Isom. Chief financial officer Derek Kerr added advantages of carrying common fleet types included "creating less friction in our operation when aircraft swaps are necessary, reducing inventory needs, and creating a more consistent service for customers and team members."

American Airlines also said it had deferred delivery of 40 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft previously scheduled to arrive between 2020 and 2022. The carrier said the revised schedule "will better align with planned retirements of other narrowbody aircraft."

The order for US manufacturer Boeing

comes in the wake of protectionist trade measures by President Donald Trump, who champions buying from US manufacturers. "We are extremely honored that American Airlines is deepening its commitment to the 787 Dreamliner," said Boeing Commercial Airplanes president Kevin McAllister in a statement. Boeing says it has more than 1,350 orders registered for the 787. Meanwhile, Airbus announced earlier Friday it recorded 45 net orders during the first three months of 2018, and delivered 121 aircraft. The company said its overall backlog of jetliners to be delivered stood at 7,189 as of March 31. — AFP

### Bayt.com weekly report

## How to avoid a bad hire

If you're in charge of hiring at your company, then you should already know that a bad hiring decision might affect your team's productivity, cost you money, and waste your time.

There are many precautionary measures to take nowadays to avoid a bad hiring decision, and today Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 Job Site, is discussing four of them.

### 1. Start with the basics - Gather the right information

In order to avoid a bad hire, you'll need to have as much information about your candidate as possible. Before searching for this information, you'll need to breakdown the job description related to your vacancy and highlight certain requirements that you're looking for. Once you've broken down the job description, you'll have a clearer idea of what skills are required in order to fulfill the job tasks properly.

After you've done that, you'll need to start looking at CVs to compare skills and experience with what your vacancy requires. If at this point you feel like something is vague on a CV, or a certain piece of information that you need seems to be missing, it would be best to either reach out to the candidate and ask for this information yourself, or overlook the CV at hand and continue on to the next one.

### 2. Screening and phone interviews

So, you've broken down your job description, and you know exactly what you're looking for in your next hire. Now, it's time to start screening your candidates one by one. When it comes to screening talent and finding a qualified candidate, you can use Bayt.com CV Search and utilize 33+ filtration tools to control the search results that are presented to you. Now, let's say you now have a bunch of candidates that you need to contact for phone interviews. But, before you pick up the phone and start dialing away, prepare a list of specific questions that cover important areas of the job description that you've already broken down.

Also, ask personal questions about experiences and challenges the applicant faced at the workplace and how they handled them. This should help you build a better idea of what their character is like, and how they're likely to behave in the workplace. Finally, you can prepare an assignment for your candidates depending on the vacancy they'll be filling. For example, if you're hiring a copywriter, sending them a sample to edit/review would be a good assignment choice to help you assess their skills even further.

### 3. Face-to-face interviews and body language

Face-to-face interviews can be pretty standard. But, there's still a chance

that something may happen in one of your interviews that will change your whole outlook on your candidate.

When speaking to your interviewee, and aside from assessing their skills and their preparation for the interview, make sure to keep an eye on the way the candidates carry themselves during the conversation, and pay attention to their body language. If a candidate is slouching, laid back, or keeps moving further away from you, those are all signs that may suggest that a candidate is not interested in the job you're offering, haven't prepared enough, or are lacking confidence.

If you sense that the candidate is simply nervous, be sure to comfort your interviewee and ease their nervousness. But if that doesn't work, then it might be time to consider that they are not fully equipped and interested.

On the flip side, if you feel like your candidate is interested, keeps leaning forward, is engaged in the conversation, and makes an effort to recap on important points or topics, then this is a person who is seriously invested in the vacancy you're offering.

If you'd like to go the extra mile to ensure your candidates are qualified and capable of performing the job you're offering them, consider conducting assessments such as Bayt.com Employer tests. With over 300 tests from Bayt.com, you can test candidates in various areas including psychometrics, languages, skills, and job knowledge. You'll also be able to grade, analyze, and rank your candidates from their results.

### 4. Candidate background checks

The world of social media allows us to do a little digging on the candidate that we'd like to hire. Of course, as employers, we should respect the privacy of others. But, at the same time, it would be hard to ignore that a potential candidate is politically outspoken and would probably harm the company's image with their activities outside the workplace. Or even worse, imagine stumbling across a post where a candidate is bad mouthing their previous manager. Of course, there are more professional items that potential candidates might mention or share on their social media profiles such as their previous job title, a personal portfolio of their work, or even personal views and thoughts that remain within the professional boundaries as we know them.

When searching the internet for information on job seekers, be wary of what you stumble upon and really try to think of whether or not your potential hire fits organization. If you don't feel comfortable digging up social media dirt, there are other things you can do to check on their qualifications. For example, it's customary for employers to ask candidates for references (if they haven't already been provided on their CV). Calling references is always a sure way of finding out whether or not the candidate at hand is suitable for your vacancy.



Bayan weekly market report

# Boursa Kuwait equities come under new selling pressures

## Premier Market Index closes down 4.13%

SECTORS TRADING ACTIVITY					SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %	Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	70,557,454	31.35%	31,605,124	55.38%	OIL & GAS	957.42	1,000.00	-4.26%	-4.26%
BASIC MATERIALS	4,781,357	2.12%	2,637,336	4.62%	BASIC MATERIALS	987.34	1,000.00	-1.27%	-1.27%
INDUSTRIALS	4,770,638	2.12%	972,999	1.70%	INDUSTRIALS	923.80	1,000.00	-7.62%	-7.62%
CONSUMER GOODS	24,476,899	10.87%	2,973,897	5.21%	CONSUMER GOODS	1,000.40	1,000.00	0.04%	0.04%
HEALTH CARE	35,164,332	15.62%	2,399,826	4.21%	HEALTH CARE	987.81	1,000.00	-1.22%	-1.22%
CONSUMER SERVICES	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	CONSUMER SERVICES	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00%	0.00%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	22,452,737	9.98%	8,875,764	15.55%	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	978.68	1,000.00	-2.13%	-2.13%
BANKS	145,215	0.06%	24,889	0.04%	BANKS	974.59	1,000.00	-2.54%	-2.54%
INSURANCE	4,251,499	1.89%	151,824	0.27%	INSURANCE	972.11	1,000.00	-2.79%	-2.79%
REAL ESTATE	48,075,297	21.36%	2,983,444	5.23%	REAL ESTATE	990.49	1,000.00	-0.95%	-0.95%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	26,051	0.01%	3,924	0.01%	FINANCIAL SERVICES	1,035.86	1,000.00	3.59%	3.59%
TECHNOLOGY	10,374,292	4.61%	4,439,781	7.78%	TECHNOLOGY	935.41	1,000.00	-6.46%	-6.46%

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the red zone. The Premier Market Index closed at 4,793.50 points, down by 4.13 percent, the Main Market Index decreased by 2.64 percent after closing at 4,867.87 points, whereas the All-Share Market Index closed at 4,820.80 points down by 3.58 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 5.97 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 11.41 million, whereas trading volume average was 45.02 million shares, recording a decrease of 7.60 percent.

The Boursa recorded declines this week affected by the selling pressures that included many listed stocks in the Market, headed by the leading stocks listed in the Premier Market, which received most of the traded cash liquidity during the week, and was apparent on the Premier Market Index, the most declining among the three markets indices, where it recorded a loss of over 4 percent in the last week. The Boursa witnessed such performance in parallel with the drop in the trading indicators, where the total volume during the week decreased by 7.60 percent reaching 225.12 million stock, and the value declined by 5.97 percent reaching KD 57.07 million.

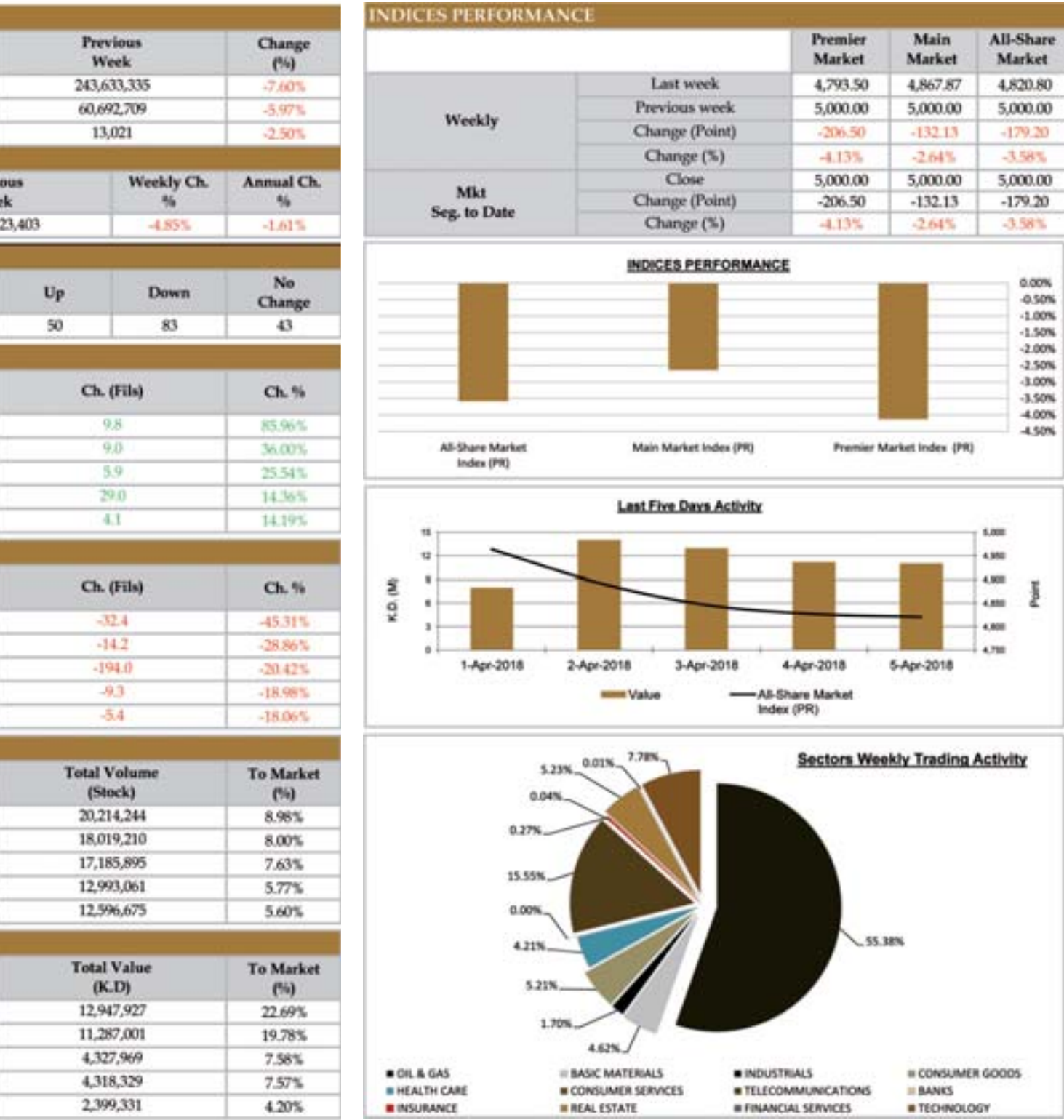
The Market lost more than KD 1 billion in five sessions only, as the market capitalization for the total listed stocks dropped by the end of the week to around KD 26.50 billion against KD 27.86 billion in the previous week, down by 4.85 percent. (Note: The market capitalization for the listed companies in the Market is calculated based on the weighted average number of outstanding shares as per the latest available official financial statements).

As far as the daily trading activity during the last week; the Boursa initiated the first session, which came in parallel with launching the Market Development 2, with a decline in its three indices, affected by the selling operations that the Market witnessed on many stocks. The Premier Market Index was the most declining by the end of the session, due to the concentration of the selling operations on the heavy stocks. The next session witnessed a decrease in the three Market indices, headed by the Main Market, which lost more than 100 point by the end of the session, recording a loss of 2.08 percent, and came as a result to the continued selling trend in controlling the trading operations in the Market, amid concentration of the cash liquidity on the Premier Market stocks, as its Index declined by 1.03 percent by the end of the session, while the All Share Index decreased by 1.42 percent.

The Boursa continued its downward sloping in the mid-week session amid a drop in the cash liquidity and the increased selling pressures over the leading stocks, which was reflected on the Premier Market Index in particular, to receive around 75 percent of the cash liquidity during the session. However, the selling operations sharpness declined on Wednesday's session, which witnessed a fluctuated closings of the Market indices for the first time since its new launch, as the All Share Index and the Premier

MARKET ACTIVITY					
	Last Week	Previous Week	Change (%)		
Volume	225,119,325	243,633,335	-7.60%		
Value (K.D)	57,069,563	60,692,709	-5.97%		
Deals	12,695	13,021	-2.50%		
MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)					
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %	
	26,504,458,472	27,856,323,403	-4.85%	-1.61%	
STOCKS' ACTIVITY					
	Total Listed Stocks	Traded Stocks	Up	Down	No Change
	176	141	50	83	43
TOP GAINERS					
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (Fils)	Ch. %	
CABLETV	21.20	11.40	9.8	85.96%	
BIHC	34.00	25.00	9.0	36.00%	
MENA	29.00	23.10	5.9	25.54%	
SHIP	231.00	202.00	29.0	14.36%	
SULTAN	33.00	28.90	4.1	14.19%	
TOP LOSERS					
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (Fils)	Ch. %	
DANAH	39.10	71.50	-32.4	-45.31%	
GFC	35.00	49.20	-14.2	-28.86%	
VIVA	756.00	950.00	-194.0	-20.42%	
AMAR	39.70	49.00	-9.3	-18.98%	
SENERGY	24.50	29.90	-5.4	-18.06%	
MOVERS BY VOLUME					
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Total Volume (Stock)	To Market (%)	
KFIN	521.00	593.00	20,214,244	8.98%	
NBK	719.00	750.00	18,019,210	8.00%	
JYAD	106.00	100.00	17,185,895	7.63%	
AUB	179.00	209.00	12,993,061	5.77%	
ABYAAR	18.00	18.10	12,596,675	5.60%	
MOVERS BY VALUE					
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Total Value (K.D)	To Market (%)	
NBK	719.00	750.00	12,947,927	22.69%	
KFIN	521.00	593.00	11,287,001	19.78%	
ZAIN	460.00	480.00	4,327,969	7.58%	
AGLTY	831.00	865.00	4,318,329	7.57%	
AUB	179.00	209.00	2,399,331	4.20%	

Market Index continued to decrease, while the Main Market Index was able to realize a limited increase by the end of the session, supported by the purchasing operations that included some small-cap stocks. The end of week session witnessed a return to the three Boursa indices to meet in the red zone once again, whereas it recorded limited declines affected by the continued selling operations in controlling the trading activity, amid a continued decline to the cash liquidity which decreased by 1.60 percent, while the number of traded stocks grew by 4.66 percent at the end of the session.



**Sectors' Indices**  
Nine of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, two recorded increases, whereas the Health Care sector's index closed with no change. The Consumer Goods sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 7.62 percent to end the week's activity at 923.80 points. The Telecommunications sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 6.46 percent, closing at 935.41 points, followed by the Banks sector, as its index closed at 957.42 points at a loss of 4.26 percent. The Real Estate sector was the least declining as its index closed at 990.49 points with a 0.95

percent decrease. On the other hand, last week's highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 3.59 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,035.86 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Consumer Services sector's index closed at 1,000.40 points recording 0.04 percent increase.

**Sectors' Activity**  
The Banks sector dominated a total trade volume of around 70.56 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 31.35 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of

trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 21.36 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 48.08 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 31.61 million or 55.38 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Industrial sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 8.88 million representing 15.55 percent of the total market trading value. —Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.

## Wall St ends down 2% as US-China trade fears intensify

NEW YORK: US stocks dropped about 2 percent on Friday, with the Dow falling more than 570 points, as US President Donald Trump's latest tariff threat on Chinese imports fueled increasing concern over a US trade war with China.

Stocks added to losses and hit session lows in afternoon trading after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the US central bank will likely need to keep hiking interest rates to keep inflation under control and said it was too soon to know if rising trade tensions would hit the US economy.

Fears of a trade war since Trump announced tariffs on steel and aluminum imports more than a month ago have kept investors on edge over concerns that such protectionist measures would hit global economic growth. "It's a reaction to con-

cerns about the administration's approach to trade. The market has vacillated between writing it off as just talk and assuming there could be a serious problem," said Rick Meckler, president of investment firm LibertyView Capital Management in Jersey City, New Jersey.

He and others said investors also appeared to be reducing risk ahead of the weekend. "If the market is down it often tends to accelerate on Friday. Investors don't want to take the risk of coming in Monday after having something happen over the weekend," Meckler said. Trump late Thursday threatened to slap \$100 billion more in tariffs on Chinese imports, while Beijing said it was fully prepared to respond with a "fierce counter strike". US companies seen as more likely to be hit by trade tensions with China were among the biggest drags on the Dow, including Boeing, down 3.1 percent. The S&P 500 industrial index, down 2.7 percent, had the biggest losses among sectors, though selling was broad-based.

Chipmakers, which as a group rely on China for about a quarter of their revenue, also declined. The Philadelphia semiconductor index fell 3.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 572.46 points, or 2.34 percent, to 23,932.76, the S&P 500 lost 58.37 points, or 2.19 percent, to 2,604.47 and the

Nasdaq Composite dropped 161.44 points, or 2.28 percent, to 6,915.11. The trade war worries continued to pressure stocks even as Trump administration officials sought to dampen concerns. Trump's top economic adviser Larry Kudlow said in various interviews that he learned of the new tariffs on Thursday night, but also said there are ongoing talks on trade between the United States and China.

US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin in an interview on CNBC said he was cautiously hopeful the United States will reach an agreement with China on trade. The S&P 500 ended just above its 200-day moving average after trading well below that key support level that is watched by technical analysts.

Powell, who was speaking on the US economic outlook in Chicago, also said the labor market appeared close to full employment. It was his first speech on the economic outlook since taking over as chairman on Feb. 5. Before the session started, a Labor Department report showed nonfarm payrolls increased by a smaller-than-expected 103,000 last month. While annual growth in average hourly earnings rose to 2.7 percent, it stayed below the 3 percent that economists estimate is needed to lift inflation toward the Federal Reserve's 2-percent target. —Reuters



NEW YORK: Traders and financial professionals work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) ahead of the opening bell in New York City on Friday. —AFP



Business

# Ford scoops up two wins at Middle East Car of Year Awards ceremony

## Mustang Shelby GT350 named Performance Coupe of the Year



**KUWAIT:** The Ford F-150 Raptor and Mustang Shelby GT350 have earned top honors during the prestigious Middle East Car of the Year (MECOTY) awards, held in Abu Dhabi earlier this week.

The Shelby GT350 collected honors as Performance Coupe of the Year, and the all-conquering F-150 Raptor crushed its opposition to be named Truck of the Year. The awards, now in their fifth year, are the most coveted automotive awards in the region, combining the expertise and experience of 16 leading motoring journalists from the GCC and Levant, who work through multi stage nomination and scoring process to arrive at their list of winners.

“We’re thrilled to see two of the most exciting and dynamic vehicles we produce excel in the MECOTY awards this year,” said Chris Probert, Ford Middle East and Africa Director of Marketing Communications. “The Shelby GT350 is an incredible performance coupe, with a track ready chassis and high-revving 534 PS V8 engine, while the F-150 Raptor continues to be the region’s favorite out-of-

the-box performance truck for off-road extremes. Both models embody Ford’s passion for performance and resonate with millions of fans around the world.”

The Shelby GT350 badge has been associated with the Ford Mustang since 1965 - and has become synonymous with high performance road and track driving ever since. The current model develops its enormous horsepower and 582 Nm torque from a 5.2-litre flat plane crank V8 (known as the Voodoo) - the most powerful naturally aspirated road-going engine in Ford history. With a redline of 8250rpm, it is also the highest revving production V8 Ford to date.



## F-150 Raptor secures Truck of the Year

The Shelby GT350’s dynamic and adrenaline-fueled ride comes courtesy of the MagneRide Damping System, while an aluminum strut brace and coolers for the engine oil, transmission and differential all help the car to perform at its best. The sporty interior is trimmed with aluminum, alcantara and leather. Recaro sports seats hug the driver and passengers with a mix of carbon weave cloth and Miko sewn cloth to help hold them firmly in place turn after turn.

Ford’s all-conquering F-150 Raptor added another award to its growing trophy cabinet. The purpose built off-road machine gathered the MECOTY Truck of the Year award, having

been named Dubai-based Wheels magazine’s Pickup of the Year just a week earlier.

Based on the backbone of America’s best-selling truck for the past 41 straight years, the 2017 F-150 Raptor saw the introduction of a high strength aluminum body and second generation, high output 3.5-litre twin-turbo EcoBoost engine with 10-speed transmission.

Use of advanced materials saw its weight drop up to 227 kilograms over its predecessor, while the 421 PS engine with its 678 Nm torque boosted its on- and off-road performance. A new four-wheel drive system, 10-speed transmission, torque on demand transfer case and all-new Terrain Management system gives the Raptor its incredible off-road capability, while its FOX Racing Shox with 9-stage bypass damping with 48mm more suspension travel helps improve its monstrous capability beyond the pavement. Massive, second generation BFGoodrich K02 tyres with beadlock capable wheels are also designed for serious off-road work.

## Malabar Gold & Diamonds signs Miss World Manushi Chhillar as Brand Ambassador



**KUWAIT:** Miss World Manushi Chhillar, who made billion-plus Indians proud with her beauty and brain and continues to win billions of hearts across the globe through her humanitarian causes, will now be the face of one of the world’s BIG 5 jewelry retailer - Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

The Haryana-born beauty, who brought home the Miss World crown after 17 years, has signed an agreement to be the brand ambassador of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, which has 214 showrooms spread across nine countries. 21-year-old Manushi, a medical student, was crowned Miss World 2017 in November, trumping participants from 108 countries. She is the sixth Indian woman to win this coveted crown. Among the many accolades, recognitions and global events that followed the crown, she was elected as the most trending personality of the year 2017.

“Miss Manushi is immensely talented as we all know. First, the world was bowled over by her intelligence in the Miss World contest where she said mother’s job deserved the biggest salary in the world. Then, we all knew she has a big heart too. She had

started her humanitarian works as a student, long before her Miss World crown. Manushi and Malabar Group thus share a common passion for making lives better,” said Malabar Group Chairman M P Ahamed on selecting Manushi as the brand ambassador.

“I am a proud Indian: it’s the land of celebration with all the festivals, vibrancy and most importantly emotions. That is what I took to Miss World! Being associated with Malabar Gold & Diamonds is a great occasion, a relationship which is close to my heart with moments that are special to every Indian. I look forward to a strong association with Malabar Gold & Diamonds” said Manushi Chhillar.

Manushi brought back the family values to the center by giving a new meaning to human relationship with her award winning answer to the question of Miss World pageant’s jury: “Which profession deserves the highest salary and why? “I think a mother is of highest respect. I don’t think it’s just about cash but love and respect she gives to someone. She is the biggest inspiration in my life. Mother should get highest respect”. The youth icon’s answer, which



made all the mothers in the world proud, went viral and took the social media by storm and Manushi’s followers on networking sites multiplied in millions in no time.

A gifted poet, painter and a trained Kuchipudi dancer, Manushi wants to be a cardiac surgeon and work for the people, after seeing by herself the other side of the world in her native State of Haryana and beyond.

“Malabar Gold & Diamonds has been celebrating the beauty of life through our unique designs and quality products. Joining hands with the Miss World Manushi perfectly blends with this basic philosophy of having customer at the center of service. The collaboration with is significant as we continue our aggressive expansion at the global level,” Ahamed added.

The new brand ambassador will be the face for the global campaigns and charity movements of Malabar Gold & Diamonds which is among the BIG 5 jewelry retailers in the world. The Group is planning to expand its presence at the global level, entering more territories and opening 50 more showrooms this year.

## KIB sponsors young local talents at Food Buzz market

**KUWAIT:** In a continuation of the Bank’s efforts to support ideas of ambitious local youth, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) sponsored the Food Buzz market. Held at Crystal Tower, the market was attended by a wide range of young local talents and small business entrepreneurs. The market aimed at attracting employees working in Kuwait City to enjoy a morning coffee and a delicious meal during their break. Taking place on every last Tuesday and Wednesday of every month, the food market will provide light food options and a wide selection of refreshing beverages.



Nawaf Najia

On this occasion, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: “Our sponsorship of this market reflects our commitment to supporting ambitious youth’s innovation and entrepreneurship. For that reason, KIB is adamant on supporting events and activities that allow youth to showcase their services and products, thereby helping them build a sense of responsibility and encouraging self-employment.” Najia also noted that KIB continuously supports youth-related projects and events that serve all segments of the local community. This stems from the Bank’s social responsibility role as a national institution committed to promoting local talents and products that contribute to the development of the nation’s future. As part of its leading social responsibility program, KIB always strives to participate in events and initiatives that serve all segments of the local community.

## 26 new winners in Al-Hassad Islamic account

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al-Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait’s leading sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 4th of April 2018. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, “With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al-Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300.

The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 Mayyan Mahmood Ebrahim Jaffar.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as

follows: Mousa Elyas Khadadah Khadadah, Wadhha Saad Saud Alajmi, Third the heirs of Ahmad Ibraheem Alduwaisan, Manar A I Al-Rubaian, Samir Wazan, Ghoulam Ali Mohammed Nour Ameri, Salman Jeaitheh Sehli Al-Jouzani, Musaedd Faraj Khamees Alsaheed, Qumar Abdullmohsen Mohamed Al-Saygh, Saadah Helal Laftah Al-Shammri, Dalal Moussa Hussain Elamin, Faleh M K Al-Husaini, Fatemah Hasan Ali Al-Saffar, Saif M S Al-Rashood, Manal Motlaq Ahmad Al Obaid, Mohammad Jassim Ali Al-Saif, Hesham M A Al-Baqer, Abdulhameed Sanad Mohammad Ali Mostafa, Suhailah Abdulrazzaq Abdullah Ali, Talal A A Al-Zemami, Anisa Abdulaziz Mohsen Al-Tajer, Zainab Ali Abdullatif Ali, Mahalakshmi Priya Nalan, Abu Alqassim Ali and Enas Hazim Sheit.

Al-Hassad Islamic account’s customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program’s terms and conditions. Ahli United Bank added, “There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al-Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year.”

Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw.

## KFH announces winners of Hesabi draw



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the seventh and final raffle draw “Hesabi” for Youth. The draw was held under the supervision of Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

KFH awarded Khadija Al-Adhila, and Randa Alsubaei with a cash prize of monthly KD 200 for a year each. KFH launched this draw in an attempt to reward the youth segment of customers by providing them with pro-

grams tailored especially for the youth to suit their lifestyles and meet their expectations. Hesabi program has been designed to meet the needs of youth and aspire for their active life style. This program presents for youth many exclusive offers and a wide range of privileges including Hesabi ATM card with a unique design, eligibility to issue Hesab prepaid card (as per credit regulations of KFH), distinguished offers and discounts etc.



Technology

# As eSports grow, China teams make themselves at home

## LPL’s ‘home stadiums’ put China ahead of the curve

**HANGZHOU, China:** Tucked away in a nondescript furniture mall, LGD Gaming’s multimillion-dollar eSports home venue may not bring to mind Old Trafford or Yankee Stadium, but it could represent the future of sport. The 400-seat arena in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou packs in pumped-up fans several times a month for LGD’s matches in the League of Legends Pro League (LPL), a 14-club professional eSports competition that this year began playing in purpose-built home venues.

eSports is booming in China, driven by popular games such as League of Legends and Dota 2, raising hopes of eventual Olympic inclusion and turning young players into rich celebrities. Specially designed eSports arenas are appearing in the United States and China to accommodate growing crowds attending multi-team tournaments. But the LPL’s “home stadiums” put China ahead of the curve, industry insiders said.

“Home venues let the club localize its fan base,” said Yang Shunhua, LGD’s general manager. “It gives fans more opportunity to meet the athletes and clubs. It’s the future of eSports.” Beginning play in 2013, LPL matches were staged in Shanghai, Yang said. But Chinese internet giant Tencent, the league’s owner, is encouraging teams to lay down local roots. Three clubs now have home arenas—the others are in the southwestern cities of Chongqing and Chengdu—and more are planned, Yang said.

### Home sweet home

Whether the strategy proves successful remains to be seen, but there is no shortage of ambition at LGD’s flashy facility, which Yang said cost 30 million yuan. Occupying 2,200 square meters, it features press conference venues, fan zones, practice spaces, a bar, gift shop and high-tech control rooms where squads of young technicians coordinate web broadcasts to millions of spectators.

On stage, LGD’s five-man squad sit like astronauts at futuristic consoles, controlling avatars who battle a team from the city of Nanjing on a seven-meter wide screen above them. Announcers breathlessly call the action, play-



HANGZHOU, China: LGD's 23-year-old captain Chen Bo speaking during an interview ahead of a LGD's match.

by-play. In the stands, around 400 fans, sitting in chairs with massage functions, bang thundersticks and roar whenever the on-screen action—a frantic brawl in a fantasy world—heats up.

Yao Jian, 23, used to stock up on snacks and binge-watch eSports on his phone or computer at home in the city of Wuxi. Now he regularly makes the several-hour trip to Hangzhou. “The atmosphere at the stadium is explosive,” he said, adding that even an “introvert” like him ends up cheering. “Home stadiums give us a sense of belonging.” Chinese eSports

is increasingly resembling big-time sports in other ways as well. LGD’s full squad is mostly Chinese but includes two Korean imports and Yang says transfer fees for top LPL players have reached several million dollars.

### Game on

The global professional eSports industry will grow 38 percent in 2018 to \$906 million in revenue, industry analyst Newzoo has forecast, with China representing 18 percent of that, third behind the US and Europe. Around 380



HANGZHOU, China: These pictures in Hangzhou show supporters of LGD reacting during a LGD's match in the League of Legends Pro League (LPL).—AFP photos

million fans worldwide will watch professional eSports events this year, Newzoo said. US-based Allied Esports has built several venues in the United States, Europe and China, where it also organizes competitions.

CEO Jud Hannigan said Allied Esports, a consortium of Chinese sports and entertainment companies, is talking with several other cities in China, hoping to add to its arenas in Beijing and Shenzhen. “Previously you had to find space to rent, plus equipment and people. You could spend millions of dollars to set up a space over five days, only to rip it down. It’s not very efficient,” he said. “We are having a lot of interesting conversations with cities that recognize this is where the future is and they are saying ‘how do we bring this to our town?’”

Top Chinese LPL players earn as much as \$1.5 million per year, Yang said. “It gives our youths more choices. It’s

not like before when all you could do was study. Now there are other roads,” he said. LGD’s 23-year-old captain Chen Bo admits he was a truant, blowing off school to play computer games—to his parents’ dismay. But mum and dad feel better now that his growing earnings bought them a previously out-of-reach house and car.

A home stadium brings committed, adoring fans. But Chen, whose player handle is “Pyl”, eschews the female supporters who send gifts and dating requests. At LGD’s match, several of them held illuminated screens with messages of support for their heroes. Chen admits fan-player romances are common, but says the pro game’s high-stakes pressure, in which one weak performance can cripple a career, leaves him little time for that. “When playing professionally it can be pretty hard on the woman because there is so little time to spend with them,” he said.—AFP

## Facebook apologizes after Myanmar groups blast Zuckerberg

**YANGON:** Facebook apologized on Friday to Myanmar civil society groups who took issue with Mark Zuckerberg’s defense of the platform’s record on curbing hate speech roiling the country. Facebook has been battered by allegations that posts on its site have helped fuel communal bloodshed in Myanmar, a mainly Buddhist country accused of waging an ethnic cleansing campaign against Rohingya Muslims.

On Thursday six Myanmar organizations published an open letter criticizing an interview Zuckerberg gave with news site Vox this week. In it he cited examples of both Myanmar Buddhists and Muslims spreading “sensational” messages on Facebook Messenger that warned of imminent violence from the other community. “That’s the kind of thing where I think it is clear that people were trying to use our tools in order to incite real harm. Now, in that case, our systems detect that that’s going on. We stop those messages from going through,” Zuckerberg was quoted as saying.

In their letter the six local tech and human rights organizations said they were “surprised” to hear Zuckerberg “praise the effectiveness” of Facebook’s systems in Myanmar. “It took over four days from when the messages started circulating for the escalation to reach you,” said the groups, who had flagged the worrying content to Facebook. “Far from being stopped, they spread in an unprecedented way, reaching country-wide and causing widespread fear and at least three violent incidents in the process.”

When reached for a comment on Friday, a Facebook spokesperson conceded the company was too slow in responding to reports about the incendiary messages. “We should have been faster and are working hard to improve our technology and tools to detect and prevent abusive, hateful or false content,” the spokesperson said by email. “We are sorry that Mark did not make clearer that it was the civil society groups in Myanmar who first reported these messages.”

Facebook has also added more Myanmar-language reviewers and is rolling out the ability to report content in the Messenger service, the spokesperson added. In late January Facebook removed the page of popular monk Wirathu, known for virulent anti-Rohingya rhetoric. Last year it regulated the use of the word “kalar” which is considered derogatory against Muslims.

### Facebook a ‘beast’

In their joint letter the local groups said Facebook’s handling of hate speech and vicious rumors in Myanmar has been “inadequate” for years, adding that their offers to craft broader solutions have gone unanswered. They urged the social media giant to add reporting mechanisms to the Messenger app, increase transparency, engage more with local stakeholders and draw on data and engineering teams to identify repeat offenders.

“Facebook doesn’t have an office in Myanmar,” Jes Kaliebe Petersen, CEO of Phandeeay, a Yangon tech hub that signed the letter, said. “We don’t really see much of a commitment to dedicate resources to fix what’s going on Facebook in Myanmar,” he added. Facebook dwarfs all other social media platforms in Myanmar, with even the government and the military using it to make public announcements.

But it has come under fire for allegedly helping broadcast ethnic hatred in a fledgling democracy still emerging from decades of repressive junta rule. Scrutiny has intensified in the wake of a bloody military campaign against the Rohingya that erupted last August, expelling some 700,000 of the minority to Bangladesh. In March the UN’s special rapporteur to Myanmar Yanghee Lee said Facebook had morphed into a “beast” and had incited “a lot of violence and a lot of hatred against the Rohingya or other ethnic minorities”.—AFP

## Daniel Ek, Spotify’s tenacious, taciturn CEO

**STOCKHOLM:** Spotify’s billionaire CEO Daniel Ek, who revolutionized on demand music listening for millions of people, is a resilient entrepreneur from a Swedish working-class suburb whose no-nonsense attitude has drawn investors and staff alike. A casual dresser with his habitual sneakers, T-shirt and blazer, the 35-year-old is known for being extremely tight-lipped about the financial deals of the world’s largest music streaming company, which he co-founded with Martin Lorentzon in 2006.

“He is shy, comes from a working-class background and was very interested in computers and music early on,” said Pelle Snickars, co-author of a forthcoming book, “The Swedish Unicorn: the story about Spotify”. “He’s quite Swedish in terms of values: we don’t see him on magazine covers alongside celebrities, he’s not hierarchical and does not hesitate to showcase his collaborators,” Snickars said. Ek’s pragmatic approach has endeared him to investors, consumers and employees. On Tuesday, Spotify, which has never made a profit, soared to a market capitalization of more than \$26 billion in its long-awaited debut on the New York Stock Exchange.

### Combining things

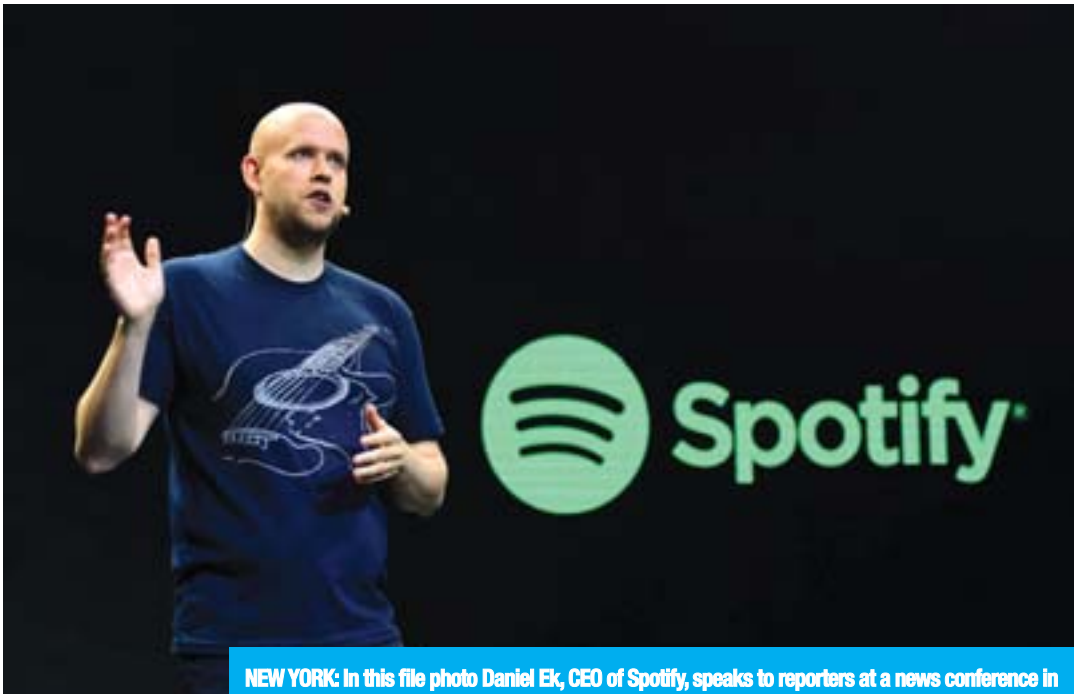
With 9.2 percent of capital and 37.3 percent of voting rights, according to industry sources, Ek potentially holds a \$2.4 billion fortune. In 2006, Ek and Lorentzon came up with the idea of creating a legal platform to distribute music online, which at the time was dominated by illegal file sharing sites. The duo experimented with sharing mp3 music files between the hard drives on their computers. And in October 2008 Spotify was finally ready to go live after Ek pleaded with music labels to open their catalogues.

“Innovations are never entirely new,” Ek told the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm during a 2013 visit. “The success comes from combining things that already exist and trying to solve a problem that one is really involved in,” added Ek, who reportedly dropped out of the university’s engineering program to pursue an IT career.

## ‘Far Cry 5’ record sales buoy gamemaker Ubisoft’s shares

**PARIS:** French videogame powerhouse Ubisoft saw its share price surge over six percent on the Paris CAC stock exchange Thursday, buoyed by record global sales of its “Far Cry 5” shooting game. Within just a week of its launch the latest instalment in Ubisoft’s blockbuster franchise pulled in \$310 million. “Far Cry 5” is now the fastest selling title in the franchise’s history, Ubisoft said in a statement on Wednesday.

It pits players against a dangerous, violent cult, and is the first in the series to be set in the United States. Previous editions played out in places such as jungles in Africa, Himalayan mountains and an archipelago in the South Pacific. The game sees players immersed in an ultraviolent world, fighting



NEW YORK: In this file photo Daniel Ek, CEO of Spotify, speaks to reporters at a news conference in New York.—AFP

### Room to learn and grow

His perseverance in a rapidly transforming sector may have led to the remarkable rise and survival of the start-up, but artists have complained of it paying them too little and cannibalizing sales from their albums. Taylor Swift ended her contract with Spotify in 2014 over fees and returned three years later. And on March 29, she tweeted that her new video “Delicate” would only be launched on the service.

“Sometimes we succeed, sometimes we stumble. The constant is that we believe we are still early in our journey and we have room to learn and grow,” Ek said in an April 2 blog post. “My job is to ensure that we keep our foot on the pedal during the ups, so that we don’t become complacent, and that we continue to stay the course with a firm grip on the wheel during the downs,” he added. He has repeatedly argued that streaming is a better alternative for artists and that “piracy doesn’t pay (them) a penny—nothing, zilch, zero”.

### Cat out of the bag

In their book “The Swedish Unicorn”, a name referring to billion dollar startups, Pelle Snickars

and Rasmus Fleischer dispute the idea that Spotify was founded to end piracy and force consumers to pay for music. They claim that neither Ek nor Lorentzon “had any experience with working professionally with music” but that they had a common background from digital advertising.

“They weren’t particularly interested in music...they could have worked on skin products instead,” Snickars said. However, this does not diminish the founders’ business skills as Wall Street could go far in securing Spotify’s status as a success story. While companies usually spend their time doing interviews to convince investors that their stock is worth their money, Ek did not blow his own trumpet.

“If you’re this shy in the public eye, then are you really suited to being a CEO on the US stock exchange?” Snickars said. Referring to his company going public, Ek tweeted on April 28: “Feels great to have the cat out of the bag. Transparency breeds trust”. The father of two children married his long-time partner Sofia Levander in 2016 on the shores of Italy’s Lake Como in the presence of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, comedian Chris Rock and singer Bruno Mars.—AFP

“a fanatical doomsday cult”, Ubisoft said.

“Far Cry 5 offers players total freedom to navigate a serene-looking yet deeply twisted world as the new junior deputy of fictional Hope County, Montana,” it added. The idea of bringing “Far Cry” to the US was considered early in the franchise, but it was only after political tumult gained momentum in recent years that the plan cemented, executive producer Dan Hay said last year.

Hay insisted that the game is not a commentary on politics in the United States, while admitting it was developed amid feelings that American society wasn’t as safe as one might hope. “I’m proud that the culmination of years of passionate work from the team is paying off, and that Far Cry 5’s experience resonates with so many people,” Hay said, according to the latest statement from Ubisoft. In Thursday morning trading, Ubisoft saw its share price jump 6.3 percent to 70.90 euros.

On Wednesday, the group said “Far Cry 5” had become its second best-selling game on launch after “Tom Clancy’s The Division”, an online role-playing game released in 2016. “Far Cry 5”, released on March 27, also became the fastest-sell-



CALIFORNIA: In this file photo ‘Far Cry 5’ executive producer and creative director Dan Hay poses for a photo at Ubisoft offices in San Francisco, California.—FP

ing game in the series, going twice as fast in the first week since its launch as the previous instalment, Ubisoft said in a statement. More than half of the sales were online, it added. Ubisoft has sold more than 40 million copies of “Far Cry” overall since the first installment launched in 2004.—AFP



# Bolivia’s jaguars facing threat from Chinese fang craze

Jaguar’s future in the hands of anti-trafficking police



LA PAZ: This picture shows Jaguar canines, which trafficking to China - to be used in jewelry and as an aphrodisiac - has turned into a lucrative enterprise.



CACERAS: This file picture shows a jaguar on the shores of the Paraguay river, in Caceres, Brazil. —AFP photos

LA PAZ: Bolivia's once-thriving jaguar population is loping into the cross-hairs of a growing threat from poachers responding to growing Chinese demand for the animal's teeth and skull. Researchers believe there are around 7,000 of the speckled big cats in Bolivia, out of a global population of some 64,000, stretching from North America to Argentina. But such is the appetite in China's huge underground market that "if controls are not put in place, it can lead to a serious problem" for their survival, warned Fabiola Suarez of the Environment Ministry.

Considered vulnerable by conservationists, the jaguar's future in the South American country is in the hands of anti-trafficking police only now coming to grips with the potential scale of the problem. Local authorities began getting reports in 2014 of trade in the animal in the northeastern area of Beni, according to Rodrigo Herrera, an advisor to Bolivia's directorate of Biodiversity at the Environment Ministry. He says the increased presence of Chinese nationals in the South American country has stimulated demand.

President Evo Morales' leftist government has awarded

seven billion dollars' worth of public works contracts to Chinese groups, sparking an influx of workers from the Asian giant. Herrera said each of the cat's teeth, which measure between eight and 10 centimeters, can fetch up to \$100 for poachers, but that figure can reach \$5,000 on the Chinese market. The feline's skull is also prized by traffickers, at rates of up to \$1,000. Traffickers also sell the skin, and even the testicles, which along with the ground-down teeth, are prized by some Chinese as an aphrodisiac.

While trade in the jaguar or its body parts are prohibited, the big cats have been listed as "near threatened" on

the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's "Red List". Herrera said that "from every animal, a poor person can take in up to \$2,000. That's a lot of money." In Bolivia 38 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2015, according to the most recent World Bank figures.

**Embassy appeal**

Conservationists fear the money is an added incentive to farmers who often shoot jaguars to protect their livestock. To date, Bolivian police have intercepted 400 jaguar teeth being sent in the mail to addresses in China. But Suarez, a specialist in the biodiversity department in the Environment Ministry, said this is likely only the tip of the iceberg and describes as alarm-

ing the quantity she believes has already left the country undetected. The state has belatedly begun to hit back, mounting 15 separate prosecutions, including 11 against Chinese nationals living in Bolivia, according to official data. But the trade continues. On March 19, a trafficker selling jaguar teeth and skulls on social networks was arrested in the Amazon region. Unusually, the Chinese embassy in La Paz has acted to warn its nationals to steer clear of trafficking, reminding them in a note to "respect and strictly observe the laws and regulations, both Chinese and Bolivian, against the illegal trafficking of wild animals."

According to Bolivia's National Statistics Institute, more and more Chinese are coming to live in Bolivia. In 2011, there were only 2,624 Chinese nationals living in the country, but the figure jumped to 12,861 by 2016. Herrera said the growing presence of Chinese has created a market back home in China, where wearing jaguar's teeth in a necklace, or attached to a key ring, is a status symbol. The largest cat species in the Americas, its habitat extends from the northern United States across South America to Argentina.—AFP



Big cats have been listed as near threatened

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## What's On

# Taiba Hospital concludes Heartsaver Month activities



Taiba Hospital, Kuwait's leading private healthcare provider, concluded a number of activities in observance of Heartsaver Month, an annual campaign declared by the American Heart Association (AHA) to be throughout the month of March. Utilizing its AHA-accredited Training and Education Center, Taiba Hospital held activities serving various segments of society to educate them on the basics of CPR.

Underscoring its commitment to its social responsibility, Taiba Hospital held special CPR training sessions to the teaching and administrative staff of Dasman Bilingual School, ensuring that they are knowledgeable on dealing with emergency situations. The hospital also organized a special training session for students of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's Nursing

Institute, which was attended by 30 students.

Commenting on this initiative, Taiba Hospital's Chief Executive Officer Rashed Al-Fadala emphasized the hospital's dedication to aligning its activities with international awareness campaigns, especially ones that are endorsed by reputable organizations such as the American Heart Association. He noted, "We are happy to participate in this worldwide campaign to educate members of the public on the basics of CPR. We at Taiba Hospital are keen on



Rashed Al-Fadala



utilizing our expertise and facilities to raise public health awareness, and we are proud to join hands with esteemed entities such as the Public Authority for Applied Education and Dasman Bilingual School. We look forward for more opportunities to raise public health awareness, as this is reflective of Taiba's core values of care, communication and collaboration."

In addition to providing training courses, Taiba Hospital designated a booth at the hospital lobby where representatives of the Training and Development Unit were able to interact directly with visitors to educate them about this international campaign. Over the course of three days, they delivered comprehensive presentations to visitors on the difference between Hand-Only CPR, and the more inclusive Heartsaver CPR method that

includes rescue breaths. These methods are essential to provide immediate intervention while waiting for medical assistance to help victims in different scenarios such as cardiac arrests, heart attacks and drowning.

Stemming from its deep-rooted values of investing in all its human resources, Taiba Hospital also held several training sessions to non-medical staff, to educate them on the basics of CPR and ensure that they are well-equipped to deal with emergencies. Taiba Hospital is currently in the final phase of its expansion plans, which double the hospital's capacity to more than 110 beds. The renovated building also includes modern facilities, and is equipped with two MRI suites, an advanced CT Scan suite, 5 state-of-the-art operating theaters, and one Hybrid OT.

## ACK concludes its 3rd PBL symposium

The Center for Project Based Learning (PBL Center) at Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) successfully concluded its third Project Based Learning (PBL) Symposium, under the support of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). The symposium entitled "Motivation and Creativity in the Classroom," brought together educators to share experiences and insights related to PBL in engineering education.

Keynote speakers, Prof. Alex Stojcevski, Dean of the School of Software and Electrical Engineering at Swinburne University, Australia, and Prof. Xiangyun Du, professor for education at the Aalborg University, Denmark, and Qatar University, Qatar, shared their wealth of cross cultural experiences and insights. Project Based Learning (PBL) was highlighted as a strategy to improve effectiveness of engineering education and principles that increase motivation and creativity of engineering students were presented. From his end, Prof. Stojcevski stated: "The PBL model applied at ACK is an advanced model which prepares students effectively for the workplace."

Dr. Martin Jaeger, Associate Professor in the School of Engineering and Senior Manager of the Center for Project Based Learning (PBL Center) at ACK, stated in his speech: "The current PBL model consists of the following principles: A vague and ill-defined project brief allows students to face challenges, which trigger the learning process. Although learning facilitators guide students' learning, students take ownership of their learning. The projects require students to become active, starting with brainstorming, collecting information, applying necessary management tools, creating technical documentation, as well as



building and testing prototypes."

"The projects are as close to real life as possible. A common guiding question of facilitators is 'What would you do in real life?' In order to stimulate students' thinking in general, and specifically their analytical thinking, learning facilitators approach students with challenging questions. However, the facilitator is also a mentor and ensures that students don't 'feel lost'. Students work in teams and use agendas and meeting minutes to document their meetings, as well as responsibility matrices, team schedules, etc.," he added.

Local and international participants agreed that the event was a great opportunity to exchange experiences with PBL and its impact on students' motivation and creativity. During parallel presentation sessions, educators presented their experiences and entered into further discussions with the audience.

## KGL organizes its annual blood donation drive

Kuwait and Gulf Link (KGL) Transport Company organized its annual blood donation drive in cooperation with the Central Blood Bank, as part of its social and humanitarian commitment to the help of those in need of blood. The Blood Drive was well received by all of KGL's employees, who came to the drive's location, expressing their commitment to donate blood annually. KGL is keen to provide this support to the blood bank, to help save the lives of others in need of blood.

KGL also provides tremendous support to healthcare institutions in charge of taking care of citizens and residents alike, especially through the Blood Donation Drive, which aims to increase the blood bank reserves and help them to effectively save lives of patients



requiring blood transfusions. Ali Al-Dawood, Deputy CEO of KGL praised the KGL employees' participation and their humanitarian initiative. He expressed his hope that this humanitarian action will continue to take place, as it is accustomed, on a yearly basis.

Al-Dawood explained that the annual blood drive is part of the company's CSR plan that encourages the strengthening of the company and employees' social role between the company and Kuwait. He hoped that the rest of the companies will follow suit and

encourage their employees to donate blood to offset the shortage faced by the central blood bank. Al-Dawood wished the continuation of this annual social and humanitarian activity as part of the team's social responsibility to save lives.

KGL has a track record of many pioneering social and humanitarian initiatives. The company is eager, and through a specialized team, to assess its social role and participate in activities aimed at the social and humanitarian development.

## KFH customers enjoy special offers at Cofe District Festival

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offered Hesabi cardholders special offers at Cofe District Festival organized by Cofe App held at Al-Hamra tower. KFH participated in the festival as a strategic partnership. KFH strives to reward its customers while supporting the Kuwaiti youth activities and encouraging the entrepreneurship that plays a key role in boosting the national economy and revitalizing the private sector market, especially that most of the coffee shops are owned by Kuwaiti youth entrepreneurs.

This festival, that brings together all the coffee specialists and lovers under one umbrella, contributes in opening new horizons for visitors to get acquainted to the success stories of the Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, while paves the way for establishing relationships with suppliers and industry pioneers and specialists.



## Al-Hamra Real Estate sponsors Fikra program

Al-Hamra Real Estate Company sponsored 'Fikra' program for entrepreneurship for the third year in a row as part of its social

responsibilities and to support programs for sustainable development initiated by Cubical Services Company. As a Platinum sponsor, Al-Hamra provided all support and encouragement to entrepreneurs and provided them with needed tools, equipment and space to develop their ideas and start their own businesses over a period of six months. The 45th floor of Al-Hamra Tower hosted all educational workshops and lectures as part of the program.



## The Knowledge Club 2018 launches HRDME conference

Developed and Organized by Vigor Events and co-organized by Al Gas Events, in association with International Advertising Association (IIA) - Kuwait Chapter, the leading business skills' development platform in Kuwait - The Knowledge Club - is launching its 6th edition in 2018 with a new focus and an innovative structure. This year's calendar is focused on Productivity, Performance, and Employee Engagement through Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, and Business Simulations.

The annual calendar starts on April 10th - 11th with the first dedicated conference for HR development in Kuwait - Human Resources Development in the Middle East (HRDME) Conference in Kuwait which is

the one and only dedicated platform in Kuwait that gathers strategic leaders and HR professionals from government, public and private sector organizations together with international HRD, experts, consultants and firms to share their latest approaches to driving human capital excellence.

The conference will be delivered by Vigor Events on April 10 -11, 2018, in Al Dorra ballroom at the Hilton Resort Kuwait. The two days conference is brought by Warba Bank as a forward-looking approach to the emerging trends in human capital and the latest innovation in HR practices through eight keynote speeches, two discussion panels, and six workshops. Through this conference attendees will discover the newest strategies in talent management and HR in an accessible and meaningful way, network with prominent practitioners, thought-leaders and authors.

The HRDME Conference is hosting world-class speakers and experts on the subject such as Ross Sparkman Head of Strategic Workforce Planning - Facebook; Brad Boyson Executive Director for SHRM MEA; Abdulmajeed Al Balushi Regional Managing Partner Middle East - RBL Group; Graham

Moore 1st Certified Master in the Middle East -The Leadership Challenge, Co-Founder and President - International Direct Selling Educational Institute; Maya Lewis, Chief Adulting Office - Professional Adulting; Shakil Butt HR and Leadership Consultant- HR Hero for Hire; Sandrine Bardot An award-winning Compensation & Benefits expert, Former Compensation and Benefits leader in Microsoft, Apple, FIAT; Kurt Nelson, PhD, President & Founder - Lantern Group; Al Moscardelli Founder and CEO -Infinity (X) Group; and global full-service business simulations and experimental learning providers Silega expedition.

For a unique learning experience for senior level and high potential HR professionals, is in partnership with SHRM - the world's largest HR professional Society & global firms like IE Business School, RBL Group, and Leadership Challenge. The Knowledge Club is prominent for the preparation of annual business calendars and trainings budgets on an organizational level, providing the unique opportunity to gain a wealth of knowledge and skills presented by the World's top speakers and experts.



## TV



00:25 Under Siege 2  
02:15 Independence Day: Resurgence  
04:25 Operation Chromite  
06:30 Knight And Day  
08:30 Independence Day: Resurgence  
10:35 Operation Chromite  
12:30 Independents' Day  
14:10 Knight And Day  
16:10 Street Fighter  
18:00 Live Free Or Die Hard  
20:15 Kings Of Egypt  
22:25 The Transporter



00:45 Snake Sheila  
01:13 Snake Sheila  
01:40 Snake Sheila  
02:08 Swamp Brothers  
02:35 Swamp Brothers  
03:00 Swamp Brothers  
03:25 Swamp Brothers  
03:50 Swamp Brothers  
04:15 Swamp Brothers  
04:39 Swamp Brothers  
05:02 Preposterous Pets  
05:49 Preposterous Pets  
06:36 Meet The Sloths  
07:00 Swamp Brothers  
07:25 North Woods Law  
08:15 The Animals' Guide To Survival  
09:10 The Animals' Guide To Survival  
10:05 The Animals' Guide To Survival  
11:00 The Animals' Guide To Survival  
11:55 River Monsters  
12:50 Cat vs Dog  
13:45 The Vet Life  
14:40 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet  
15:35 Swamp Brothers  
16:03 Swamp Brothers  
16:30 Swamp Brothers  
16:58 Swamp Brothers  
17:25 Snake Sheila  
17:53 Snake Sheila  
18:20 Baby Panda's First Year  
19:15 League Of Monkeys  
20:10 Wild Appalachia  
21:05 Man-Eating Super Croc  
22:00 Attack Of The Giant Jellyfish  
22:55 Untamed & Uncut  
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:35 Hold The Sunset  
01:05 Trust Me  
02:05 Death In Paradise  
03:00 The Detectorists  
03:30 EastEnders  
04:00 EastEnders  
04:30 EastEnders  
05:00 EastEnders  
05:30 Hold The Sunset  
06:00 EastEnders  
06:30 EastEnders  
07:00 Call The Midwife  
07:55 The Detectorists  
08:30 EastEnders  
09:00 The Coroner  
09:50 The Coroner  
10:40 The Coroner  
11:30 Father Brown  
12:20 Call The Midwife  
13:15 Hold The Sunset  
13:45 The Detectorists  
14:15 The Detectorists  
14:45 EastEnders  
15:20 Death In Paradise  
16:15 Father Brown  
17:05 Call The Midwife  
18:00 EastEnders  
18:30 EastEnders  
19:00 Death In Paradise  
20:00 Trust Me  
21:00 Line Of Duty  
22:05 Death In Paradise  
23:05 EastEnders  
23:35 The Detectorists



00:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Casebook  
01:00 Cursed  
01:55 My Haunted House  
02:50 When Life Means Life  
03:45 Fred Dineage: Murder Casebook  
04:30 Cursed  
05:15 The First 48  
06:00 Cold Case Files  
07:00 It Takes A Killer  
07:20 The First 48  
08:05 Cold Case Files  
08:50 It Takes A Killer  
09:15 It Takes A Killer  
09:35 It Takes A Killer  
10:05 It Takes A Killer  
10:30 It Takes A Killer  
11:00 It Takes A Killer  
11:25 Hatton Garden Heist: One Last Job  
12:20 Britain's Biggest Heists  
13:15 Britain's Biggest Heists  
14:10 Britain's Biggest Heists  
15:05 Britain's Biggest Heists  
16:00 Escaping Polygamy: After The Escape  
17:00 Escaping Polygamy: After The Escape  
18:00 It Takes A Killer  
18:30 It Takes A Killer  
19:00 It Takes A Killer  
19:30 It Takes A Killer  
20:00 It Takes A Killer  
20:30 It Takes A Killer  
21:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence  
22:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence  
23:00 The Zodiac Killer: Case Closed?



00:05 Demetri Martin: Person  
00:55 Why? With Hannibal Buess  
01:20 This Is Not Happening  
01:45 Nathan For You  
02:10 South Park  
02:34 Ridiculousness Arabia  
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 3alwagef  
06:50 Lip Sync Battle  
07:15 Lip Sync Battle  
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  
13:30 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  
17:20 Friends  
17:45 Disaster Date  
18:10 Lip Sync Battle  
18:35 Lip Sync Battle  
19:00 Friends  
19:25 Friendszone  
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
20:12 Friends  
20:35 Friends  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 Takeshis Castle Thailand  
22:00 Takeshis Castle Thailand  
22:25 Russel Simmons Presents: The Ruckus  
22:50 Nightcap  
23:15 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor  
01:20 Nextworld  
02:10 Nextworld  
03:00 Nextworld  
03:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
04:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
04:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
05:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
05:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
05:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
06:20 How It's Made  
06:40 How It's Made  
07:00 Bear Grylls Survival School  
07:25 Bear Grylls Survival School  
07:50 Bear Grylls Survival School  
08:15 Bear Grylls Survival School  
08:40 How It's Made  
09:05 How It's Made  
09:30 How It's Made  
09:55 How It's Made  
10:20 How It's Made  
10:45 How It's Made  
11:10 How It's Made  
11:35 How It's Made  
12:00 How It's Made  
12:25 How It's Made  
12:50 Tanked  
13:40 Tanked  
14:30 Tanked  
15:20 Tanked  
16:10 Tanked  
17:00 Now That's Funny  
17:50 How It's Made  
18:15 How It's Made  
18:40 The Next Great Magician  
19:30 Keeping Up With The Kruger  
20:20 Deadliest Snakes Of South Africa  
21:10 Biggest And Baddest  
22:00 Great White Shark: Uncaged  
22:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor  
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor



00:45 Ghost Stalkers  
01:40 The 1980s: The Deadliest Decade  
02:35 Shadow Of Doubt  
03:30 Murder In The Heartland  
04:25 Evil Lives Here  
05:20 The Perfect Murderer  
06:10 Your Worst Nightmare  
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
07:25 Betrayed  
08:15 Betrayed  
09:10 Betrayed  
10:05 Betrayed  
11:00 Betrayed  
11:55 I Almost Got Away With It  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:45 I Almost Got Away With It  
14:40 I Almost Got Away With It  
15:35 I Almost Got Away With It  
16:30 I'd Kill For You  
17:25 I'd Kill For You  
18:20 I'd Kill For You  
19:15 American Monster  
20:10 American Monster  
21:05 Shadow Of Doubt  
22:00 Murder In The Heartland  
22:55 True Conviction  
23:50 Death On A Submarine



00:00 Hank Zipzer  
00:25 Alex & Co.  
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Binny And The Ghost  
02:55 Hank Zipzer  
03:15 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 S1  
Splits  
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...  
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 Descendants 2  
15:20 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
15:35 K.C. Undercover  
16:00 Raven's Home  
16:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
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 Descendants Wicked World  
20:20 Elena Of Avalor  
20:45 Elena Of Avalor  
21:10 Bizaardvark  
21:35 Bizaardvark  
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
22:50 Lolorick  
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 Puppy Dog Pals  
08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
08:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital  
09:00 PJ Masks  
09:30 Sofia The First  
10:00 Vampirina  
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
11:00 The Lion Guard  
11:30 Sofia The First  
12:00 Sofia The First  
12:30 Sofia The First  
13:00 Goldie & Bear  
13:30 Goldie & Bear  
14:00 Goldie & Bear  
14:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
15:00 Goldie & Bear  
15:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital  
16:00 Vampirina  
16:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
17:00 The Lion Guard  
17:30 Sofia The First  
18:00 Sofia The First  
18:30 Vampirina  
19:00 PJ Masks  
19:30 P-King Duckling  
20:00 The Lion Guard  
20:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
21:00 Trulli Tales  
21:30 Doc McStuffins  
22:00 Mission Force One  
22:30 Vampirina  
23:00 PJ Masks  
23:30 PJ Masks



00:15 Goblin Works Garage  
01:05 Cuban Chrome  
01:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert  
02:40 Kidnap And Rescue  
03:20 Impossible Engineering  
04:05 Flying Wild Alaska  
04:50 Dirty Jobs  
05:35 Storage Hunters  
06:00 Factory Line  
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks  
06:45 Storage Hunters  
07:10 Storage Wars Canada  
07:35 Flying Wild Alaska  
08:20 Factory Line  
08:45 Dallas Car Sharks  
09:10 Dirty Jobs  
09:55 Heavy Rescue  
10:45 Manhunt With Joel Lambert  
11:30 Flying Wild Alaska  
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 Storage Hunters  
15:53 Storage Wars Canada  
16:15 Manhunt With Joel Lambert  
17:05 Factory Line  
17:28 Dallas Car Sharks  
17:50 Flying Wild Alaska  
18:40 Dirty Jobs  
19:25 Ice Cold Gold  
20:15 Impossible Engineering  
21:00 Fast N' Loud  
21:50 Goblin Works Garage  
22:40 Cuban Chrome  
23:30 Street Outlaws vs Fast N' Loud



06:00 Milo Murphy's Law  
06:10 Phineas & Ferb  
06:25 Milo Murphy's Law  
06:35 Phineas & Ferb  
06:50 Right Now Kapow  
07:15 Star Wars Rebels  
07:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
07:45 Lab Rats: You Posted What!?!  
08:35 Mech-X4  
09:00 Walk The Prank  
09:25 Marvel's Spider-Man  
09:50 Milo Murphy's Law  
10:20 Lab Rats Elite Force  
10:45 The Suite Life On Deck  
11:10 Gravity Falls  
11:35 Pair Of Kings  
12:00 Marvel's Spider-Man  
12:30 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 Lab Rats  
15:55 Lab Rats  
16:25 Kickin' It  
16:50 Kickin' It  
17:15 Supa Strikas  
17:40 Supa Strikas  
18:05 Gravity Falls  
18:35 Gravity Falls  
19:00 Right Now Kapow  
19:25 Milo Murphy's Law  
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  
22:35 Phineas & Ferb  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:00 Botched  
00:55 Botched  
01:50 E! News  
02:50 WAGs  
03:40 Botched  
04:35 Botched  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 WAGs Atlanta  
06:55 WAGs Atlanta  
07:50 WAGs Atlanta  
08:45 WAGs Atlanta  
09:40 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
10:35 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
11:30 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
12:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
13:20 WAGs LA  
14:15 WAGs LA  
15:15 WAGs LA  
16:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
17:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
18:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
19:00 E! News  
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
22:00 Botched  
23:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
23:55 WAGs LA



00:05 Coronation Street  
00:30 Coronation Street  
01:00 Royal Recipes  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Coronation Street  
03:00 Coronation Street  
03:25 Coronation Street  
03:50 Cannonball  
04:45 The Voice UK 2018  
06:15 Dancing On Ice  
07:55 The Jonathan Ross Show  
08:45 Murdoch Mysteries  
09:40 Murdoch Mysteries  
10:35 Victoria  
11:30 Cannonball  
12:25 The Voice UK 2018  
14:00 The Voice UK 2018  
15:35 Murdoch Mysteries  
16:30 Murdoch Mysteries  
17:20 Dancing On Ice  
19:00 The Voice UK 2018  
20:30 Victoria  
21:25 It's Not Rocket Science  
22:20 The Chase  
23:15 Coronation Street  
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 The Universe  
01:00 The Universe  
02:00 WWII: Lost Films  
02:50 WWII: Lost Films  
03:40 Ancient Impossible  
04:30 Ancient Impossible  
05:20 Million Dollar Genius  
06:10 Million Dollar Genius  
07:00 Lost Magic Decoded  
09:00 WWII: Lost Films  
10:00 WWII: Lost Films  
11:00 Ancient Impossible  
12:00 Ancient Impossible  
13:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved  
14:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved  
15:00 WWII: Lost Films  
16:00 WWII: Lost Films  
17:00 Ancient Impossible  
18:00 Ancient Aliens  
19:00 Ancient Aliens  
20:00 UFO Files  
21:00 UFO Files  
22:00 Blood And Glory: The Civil War In Color  
23:00 Blood And Glory: The Civil War In Color



00:20 American Pickers  
01:10 American Pickers  
02:00 Forged In Fire  
02:50 Forged In Fire  
03:40 Forged In Fire  
04:30 Forged In Fire  
05:20 Forged In Fire  
06:00 Ice Road Truckers  
06:50 Forged In Fire  
07:40 The Curse Of Oak Island  
08:30 Hoard Hunters  
09:20 Ice Road Truckers  
10:10 Alone  
11:00 Forged In Fire  
11:50 The Curse Of Oak Island  
12:40 Hoard Hunters  
13:30 Ice Road Truckers  
14:20 American Pickers  
15:10 Alone  
16:00 American Pickers  
16:50 The Curse Of Oak Island  
17:40 Hoard Hunters  
18:30 Ice Road Truckers  
19:20 Forged: Iron & Fire  
19:45 Pawn Stars  
20:10 American Pickers  
20:40 Storage Wars  
21:25 Storage Wars  
21:50 Battle 360

22:40 Forged: Iron & Fire  
23:05 Pawn Stars  
23:30 Ice Road Truckers



00:15 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen  
00:45 Places We Go  
01:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
01:40 Mega Food  
02:35 What's For Sale?  
03:00 What's For Sale?  
03:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure  
03:55 Eat Street  
04:25 Chocolate Perfection With Michel Roux Jr  
05:20 Restoration Man  
06:15 Access 360 World Heritage  
07:10 Gok's Chinese Takeaway  
08:05 Restoration Man  
09:00 Miguel's Feasts  
09:25 David Rocco's Dolce India  
09:55 Cool Spaces  
10:50 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure  
11:15 Eat Street  
11:45 John Torode's Korean Food Tour  
12:40 Mega Food  
13:35 What's For Sale?  
14:00 What's For Sale?  
14:30 Confucius Was A Foodie  
15:25 John Torode's Korean Food Tour  
16:20 Restoration Man  
17:15 Access 360 World Heritage  
18:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
18:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
19:05 What's For Sale?  
19:30 What's For Sale?  
20:00 Confucius Was A Foodie  
21:00 John Torode's Korean Food Tour  
22:00 Restoration Man  
22:55 Access 360 World Heritage  
23:50 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia



00:10 Rebuilding Titanic  
01:00 Yukon Gold  
02:00 Wicked Tuna  
03:00 Fish Tank Kings  
04:00 India's Mega Kitchens  
05:00 Route Awakening  
05:30 Route Awakening  
06:00 One Strange Rock  
07:00 Nazi Scrapbooks From Hell  
08:00 Brothers In War: American Heroes  
09:00 Locked Up Abroad  
10:00 For The Love Of Fashion  
11:00 Years Of Living Dangerously  
12:00 Miracle Hospital  
13:00 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation  
14:00 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation  
15:00 Yukon Gold  
16:00 Wicked Tuna  
17:00 Inside Turkish Airlines  
18:00 India's Mega Kitchens  
19:00 Yukon Gold  
20:00 Wicked Tuna  
20:50 Inside Turkish Airlines  
21:40 India's Mega Kitchens  
22:30 Yukon Gold  
23:20 Ultimate Survival Alaska



00:20 Chasing Rhinos  
01:10 America The Beautiful  
02:00 Unlikely Animal Friends  
02:50 How Big Can It Get  
03:45 Vacations Gone Wild  
04:40 Wild Case Files  
05:35 Africa's Deadliest  
06:30 Monster Fish  
07:25 Monster Fish  
08:20 Wild 24  
09:15 Snake Underworld  
10:10 Animals Gone Wild  
11:05 Ultimate Animal Countdown  
12:00 World's Weirdest  
12:55 Baby Animals In The Wild  
13:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER  
14:45 My Life Is A Zoo  
15:40 Photo Ark  
16:35 Animal Fight Club  
17:30 Monster Fish  
18:25 Wild Indonesia (2015)  
19:20 My Life Is A Zoo  
20:10 Photo Ark  
21:00 Animal Fight Club  
21:50 Monster Fish  
22:40 Wild Indonesia (2015)  
23:30 World's Weirdest

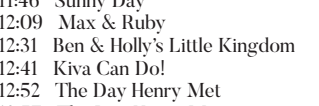


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
00:36 Rabbids Invasion  
01:00 Rabbids Invasion  
01:24 Sanjay And Craig  
01:48 Sanjay And Craig  
02:12 Winx Club  
02:36 Winx Club  
03:00 Harvey Beaks  
03:24 Harvey Beaks  
03:48 Rabbids Invasion  
04:12 Rabbids Invasion  
04:36 Breadwinners  
05:00 Breadwinners  
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  
15:24 Rabbids Invasion  
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
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  
00:30 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:40 Kiva Can Do!  
00:52 The Day Henry Met  
00:57 The Day Henry Met  
01:03 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:27 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:49 Team Umizoomi  
02:13 Team Umizoomi  
02:35 Paw Patrol  
02:58 Paw Patrol  
03:21 Shimmer And Shine  
03:44 Shimmer And Shine  
04:08 Nella The Princess Knight  
04:30 Nella The Princess Knight  
04:53 Rusty Rivets  
05:17 Rusty Rivets  
05:40 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
06:15 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
06:24 Paw Patrol  
06:37 Dora The Explorer  
07:00 Nella The Princess Knight  
07:22 Kiva Can Do!  
07:33 Kiva Can Do!  
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
08:06 Dora And Friends: Into The City!  
08:51 Nella The Princess Knight  
09:13 The Day Henry Met  
09:19 Paw Patrol  
09:43 Rusty Rivets  
10:07 Wallykazam!  
10:31 Bubble Guppies  
10:54 Team Umizoomi  
11:17 Kid-E-Cats  
11:23 Shimmer And Shine  
11:46 Sunny Day  
12:09 Max & Ruby  
12:31 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
12:41 Kiva Can Do!  
12:52 The Day Henry Met  
12:57 The Day Henry Met  
13:03 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:25 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:48 Team Umizoomi  
14:11 Team Umizoomi  
14:34 Paw Patrol  
14:58 Paw Patrol  
15:21 Shimmer And Shine  
15:44 Shimmer And Shine  
16:06 Nella The Princess Knight  
16:28 Nella The Princess Knight  
16:50 Rusty Rivets  
17:14 Rusty Rivets  
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
18:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
18:24 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  
21:14 The Day Henry Met  
21:20 Paw Patrol  
21:43 Rusty Rivets  
22:07 Wallykazam!  
22:30 Bubble Guppies  
22:53 Team Umizoomi  
23:16 Kid-E-Cats  
23:21 Shimmer And Shine  
23:44 Sunny Day



01:45 Ferrari Ki Sawaari  
03:00 Ferrari Ki Sawaari  
03:55 Koffee With Karan  
05:00 Koffee With Karan  
06:05 Little Krishna - The Darling Of Vrindavan  
07:55 Bhaag Milkha Bhaag  
11:20 Sholay  
14:55 Bodyguard  
17:15 Golmaal Again  
20:00 Judwaa 2  
22:30 Hu Tu Tu



00:40 Hot Property  
02:45 Preggoland  
04:05 Once I Was A Beehive  
06:05 Tyler Perry's Boo: A Madea Halloween  
07:55 Fan Girl  
09:35 Christian Mingle  
11:25 Tyler Perry's Boo: A Madea Halloween  
13:15 Fan Girl  
14:55 Big Trouble  
16:30 Big Momma's House  
18:10 Article 99  
20:00 Boomerang  
22:00 Plan 9  
23:45 Dead Snow: Red vs Dead



01:20 JFK  
02:35 Bunny Tales  
03:55 Freddy Frogface  
05:25 Rock Dog  
07:00 Legend Of The Sea  
08:25 The Wheelers  
09:50 Moomin And Midsummer Madness  
11:45 DinoFroz - An Island In The Sky  
12:35 The Wish Fish  
14:00 Rock Dog  
15:35 Legend Of The Sea  
17:00 Funny Little Cars  
18:00 DinoFroz - An Island In The Sky  
19:20 Pacific Pirates  
20:50 Last Wizard



01:10 Rh+ The Vampire Of Seville  
02:35 Bunny Tales  
03:55 Freddy Frogface  
05:25 Rock Dog  
07:00 Legend Of The Sea  
08:25 The Wheelers  
09:50 Moomin And Midsummer Madness  
11:45 DinoFroz - An Island In The Sky  
12:35 The Wish Fish  
14:00 Rock Dog  
15:35 Legend Of The Sea  
17:00 Funny Little Cars  
18:00 DinoFroz - An Island In The Sky  
19:20 Pacific Pirates  
20:50 Last Wizard

22:10 Funny Little Cars  
23:10 Moomin And Midsummer Madness



00:40 By The Sea  
02:45 Sleepless In Seattle  
04:35 Ghostbusters  
06:45 Bridge To Terabithia  
08:35 Sleepless In Seattle  
10:25 Ghostbusters  
12:25 Dirty Dancing  
14:40 Nine Lives  
16:15 13 Going On 30  
18:00 A Few Good Men  
20:20 Along Came A Spider  
22:05 Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising  
23:40 Little Miss Sunshine



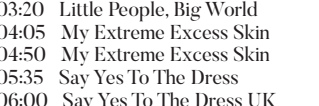
00:30 Prototype This  
01:20 Prototype This  
01:20 Prototype This  
03:00 Prototype This  
03:48 How Do They Do It?  
04:12 How Do They Do It?  
04:36 How Do They Do It?  
05:00 How Do They Do It?  
05:24 Food Factory  
05:48 Food Factory  
06:12 Food Factory USA  
06:36 Food Factory USA  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:26 Junkyard Wars  
08:14 Prototype This  
09:02 Prototype This  
09:50 Prototype This  
10:38 Prototype This  
11:26 Mythbusters  
12:14 Mythbusters  
13:02 Mythbusters  
13:50 Mythbusters  
14:38 Mythbusters: The Search  
15:26 Food Factory  
15:50 Food Factory  
16:14 Food Factory USA  
16:38 Food Factory USA  
17:02 Food Factory USA  
17:26 How Do They Do It?  
17:50 How Do They Do It?  
18:15 How Do They Do It?  
18:40 How Do They Do It?  
19:05 How Do They Do It?  
19:30 NASA's Unexplained Files  
20:20 NASA's Unexplained Files  
21:10 NASA's Unexplained Files  
22:00 The Big Brain Theory  
22:50 The Big Brain Theory  
23:40 The Big Brain Theory



01:45 Ferrari Ki Sawaari  
03:00 Ferrari Ki Sawaari  
03:55 Koffee With Karan  
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06:05 Little Krishna - The Darling Of Vrindavan  
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14:55 Bodyguard  
17:15 Golmaal Again  
20:00 Judwaa 2  
22:30 Hu Tu Tu



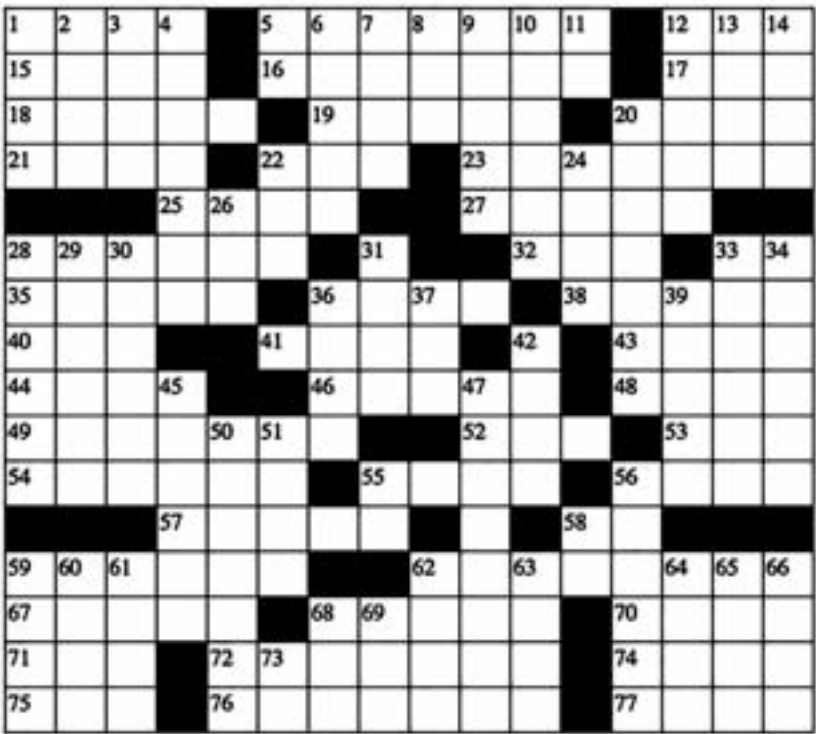
01:00 The Singing Detective  
03:00 Heshel  
04:45 Moonrise Kingdom  
06:15 Crossing Over  
08:00 Zero Dark Thirty  
10:30 A Walk To Remember  
12:15 Song One  
13:45 The Singing Detective  
15:30 Gangs Of New York  
18:15 All Good Things  
20:00 Valkyrie  
22:00 The Animal  
23:30 Frank



00:00 The Fashion Fund  
01:00 The Fashion Fund  
02:00 Grey's Anatomy  
03:00 Project Runway All Stars  
04:00 Project Accessory  
05:00 Devious Maids  
06:00 Project Accessory  
07:00 Devious Maids  
08:00 Devious Maids  
09:00 Project Runway All Stars  
10:00 Project Accessory  
11:00 Devious Maids  
12:00 Cedar Cove  
13:00 Cedar Cove  
14:00 Grey's Anatomy  
15:00 Project Runway All Stars  
16:00 Project Accessory  
17:00 Devious Ma



CROSSWORD 1878



ACROSS

- 1. A member of a pastoral people living in the Nilgiri hills of southern India.
- 5. Of or relating an apse.
- 12. A sudden loss of consciousness resulting when the rupture or occlusion of a blood vessel leads to oxygen lack in the brain.
- 15. The sixth month of the civil year.
- 16. A cocked hat with the brim turned up to form two points.
- 17. Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
- 18. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 19. (astronomy) An indistinct surface feature of Mars once thought to be a system of channels.
- 21. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 23. A state in southwestern Germany famous for its beer.
- 25. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
- 27. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- 28. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- 32. Large northern deer with enormous flattened antlers in the male.
- 35. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- 38. German chemist who did research on high-speed chemical reactions (born in 1927).
- 40. A local computer network for communication between computers.
- 41. A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
- 43. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- 44. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- 46. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
- 48. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- 49. A unit of conductance equal to the reciprocal of an ohm.
- 52. The compass point that is one point south of due east.
- 53. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 54. The capital and largest city of Zimbabwe.
- 57. Any of several fleet black-and-white striped African equines.
- 59. An elaborate and systematic plan of action.
- 67. A cushion on a throne for a prince in India.
- 70. A special way of doing something.
- 71. Standard time in the 7th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 105th meridian west.
- 72. Gradually narrowed toward a point.
- 74. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
- 75. The basic unit of money in Bulgaria.
- 76. New Guinea echidnas.
- 77. Tall woody perennial grasses with low slender stems especially of the genera Arundo and Phragmites.

DOWN

- 1. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
- 2. A European river.
- 3. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

The energy of feeling as though you are being mistreated or insulted is indicated; be careful you don't throw a pity party. You could bet on a certain game or outcome by supporting the one less favored. You long for a mate or to repair a relationship you are already involved in. Your sexual desires get and hold your attention: a need for acceptance and being cared for is strong as is a desire to be in control of a certain situation you could find disturbing. You are in command of your situation and the choices you make. Someone could try to apply pressure or persuade you with threats; take your time and make decisions after long consideration. This evening you work through petty difficulties; a friend shows up with dinner and a movie.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You feel sorry for someone who appears at your door; beware strangers asking for money or food. You enter a new cycle that pulls at your heartstrings which could indicate volunteer projects at a nursing home or caring for children. You have a tendency to look through rose colored glasses just now, feeling sympathy for anyone less fortunate than you. Idealizing certain people causes others to doubt your judgment. You are able to see that problems can teach if you'll learn; remember that learning is a choice! Delay making decisions until your options become clear. If you feel separated or discarded take this time to look at your actions regarding those who may seem distant. A quiet evening alone forces you to honestly think.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Keeping your head in the clouds seems like just the place to be; take the day by the horns and face the music of an uncomfortable situation. You could be led to an incorrect decision by not looking at the truth of a matter. A certain ideal or religious belief could hide your true feelings and cause you to do something that won't last. Your feelings could undergo drastic change in the future; make sure you do nothing that might cause a permanent difficulty. A sense of being isolated and alone is not surprising. You could feel as though you're the underdog, but in truth you're not; you're simply moving in a different direction than normal. This is not the time to be down on yourself or pessimistic about who you are. You're a true blue friend.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Childhood or younger memories in general stay top of mind; melancholy could cause your heart to swell with sentiment. Serious consideration occurs regarding the legacy you're presently creating. This could pertain to family or work as you recognize the passing of time and how fast this occurs. You seek the give and take found in intimate or romantic relationships; you're ready and willing to care for someone special and to be cared for in return. Your life grows more private and less involved with the world on the whole. If it can be made or grown at home you make that happen; you may entertain living off the grid and more independently than most. You could be dreaming instead of using your logic or being realistic right now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your spiritual gifts are working at top performance just now; pay close attention to dreams and intuitive hints that are strongly present. Be aware that you can misinterpret meanings but you begin to see the difference in what's real and what's imagined. Keep your attention focused on seeing true meanings. You're pulling for someone who's less favored; you make strong efforts to assist this person. Looking in unusual places for treasures results in helpful findings and attitudes. A desire for true romance and companionship may create unneeded pressure and dismay if it becomes too important. An open mind and heart reveal new opportunities to acquire something you've had your eye on for quite some time as you visit a new place in town.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You side with the underdog every time and now is no different. Beware of hanging in there for the sake of pride instead of having to admit defeat; choose only the battles you have a chance to win! You're more into the wisdom side of things than the facts and figures; take the time to study and consider any important decisions. You prefer to look at things through dreamy, idealistic eyes, but now's not the time for that; rather keep your feet firmly on the ground and your mind focused on realistic consequences. You could be introduced to a worrisome situation that causes major changes. You commit to keeping your focus on all that's creating abundance and security in your life situation; anything petty has outgrown its importance to you.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Summer Olympics

Find and circle all of the Summer Olympic events that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.

Note: Similarly named events are hidden separately. For example, SWIMMING and SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING do not overlap.



- |               |                       |               |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| ARCHERY       | FOOTBALL              | TABLE TENNIS  |
| ATHLETICS     | GYMNASTICS            | TAEKWONDO     |
| BADMINTON     | HANDBALL              | TENNIS        |
| BASEBALL      | HOCKEY                | TRAMPOLINING  |
| BEACH         | JUDO                  | TRIATHLON     |
| BEES          | MODERN PENTATHLON     | VOLLEYBALL    |
| BICYCLE       | RYTHMIC GYMNASTICS    | WATER POLO    |
| BLUE SKY      | ROWING                | WEIGHTLIFTING |
| BOATING       | SHOOTING              | WRESTLING     |
| BREEZE        | SOFTBALL              | YACHTING      |
| DIVING        | SWIMMING              |               |
| EQUESTRIANISM | SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING |               |
| FENCING       |                       |               |

Libra (September 23-October 22)



The underdog appeals to you today as you visit certain projects that seem to be competitive. If you have to make a decision regarding more than one person, you struggle with being fair; remember the best person should be chosen, not the one you feel for! Someone seems shady and dishonest and you want no part of them. You seek justice and equality over anything else; listen very closely to your intuition and special gifts of instinct. Your talent of dealing with people is needed as a sticky situation crops up; you have got this. A large ego steps on your toes and you don't back away from saying something; sometimes people just don't give. A younger person visits and spends an enjoyable time learning from your wisdom and life experiences.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You're overwhelmed with being irritated by everyone and everything. Anger could be an issue as you spend much of the day working on a demanding, domestic project. Choices you make at this time could be the wrong thing for everyone concerned; take a time out on this one for better results later. An invitation to a gathering could create serious problems; make sure attending is worth it. You notice something delightful as you work at home; a moment of joy can create the very best energy. You could test your limits by doing something daring. As usual, you root for the underdog, or less favored person, in a competition. Your deep need for affection is filled this evening as you enjoy dinner and a movie with someone you love and respect.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You suspect someone of being underhanded and even sinister. Be careful that this isn't just a desire to solve a mystery; your intuition is strong and refuses to go away regarding this hunch. You receive a nod from the boss regarding something you did with a special assignment or directive. Your confidence level is high as you work your plans and plan your work. Reading stimulates ideas of romance; someone you have on a pedestal could fall off, watch for this. You love beautiful things and accept an opportunity to surround yourself with these types of things this weekend in a spa or resort setting; enjoy! Your independent streak threatens to ruin a sweet moment; relationships go both ways when it comes to being available and willing.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your tendency to root for the underdog is in full swing. Also, you long for a mate, someone compatible, funny or unique; if already attached the re-igniting of an existing relationship is called for. Be on guard against throwing yourself a pity-party, you know this only invites trouble. You may feel a need to day-dream and wander off the path. You're into beauty of any kind and strive to surround yourself with it in the forms of plants, animals or art to name a few. Your interest in otherworldly subjects grows and enters new levels of understanding, yet curiosity remains! This evening is shared with loved ones enjoying good food and making precious memories. After a late night, retiring to bed with a good book is for you.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

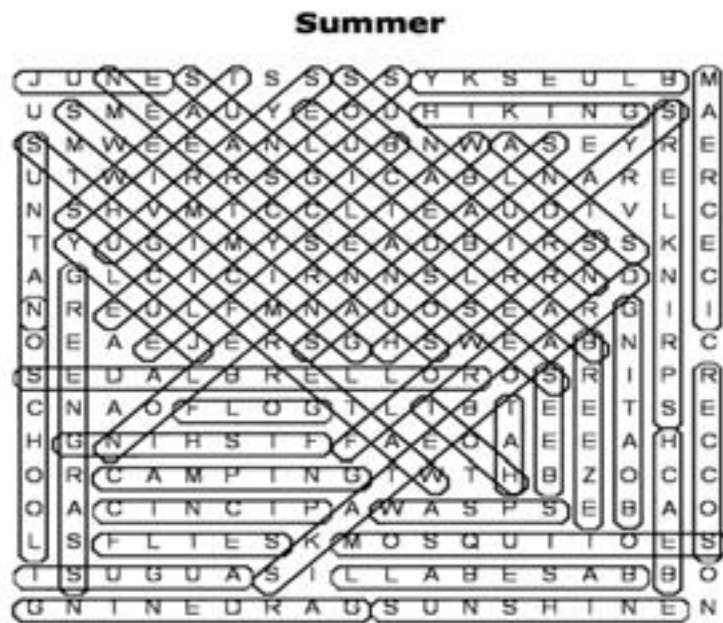
You're just entering a new cycle that generates energies of compassion and concern for the less fortunate. Make sure you don't fall into a period of feeling sorry for yourself or self-pity; you have accomplished far too much for that! Searching for a love match or reigniting a current one that has grown cool. Your thoughts go to mystic matters as you have many questions regarding life and spiritual directions. This is a great day to think about how very quickly time passes and things left undone. The urge to put yourself down could be strong but resist this and hold to positive images and thoughts! If thoughts and actions don't produce good results for the important things in life, discard them. Important goals become clear this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

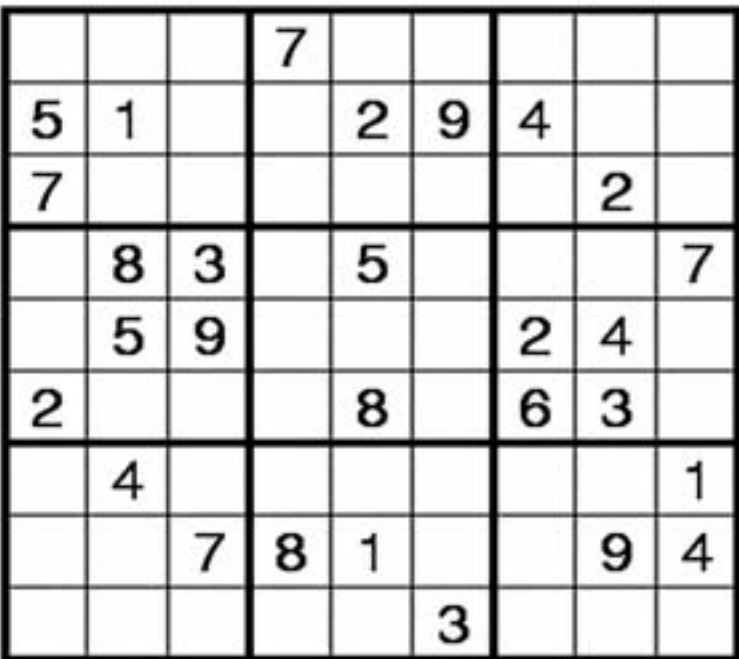
Ideas are many as the day unfolds; though normally quiet, your mood is one of talking and sharing verbally. You could strongly desire to use new methods of food preparation or entirely new foods; perhaps you're looking at fermenting or organic gardening. You could find an opportunity to shop in a new store or website that caters to exactly what you seek. If you feel stunted or slow in your efforts, focus and overcome whatever obstacles you encounter. A feeling of being blocked or hindered later today or tomorrow lasts for only a short time. Your security is intact regarding home and work. Be patient when confronted with an unexpected task; just remember that you're very fortunate to have the money to pay for surprise expenses.

Friday's Solution

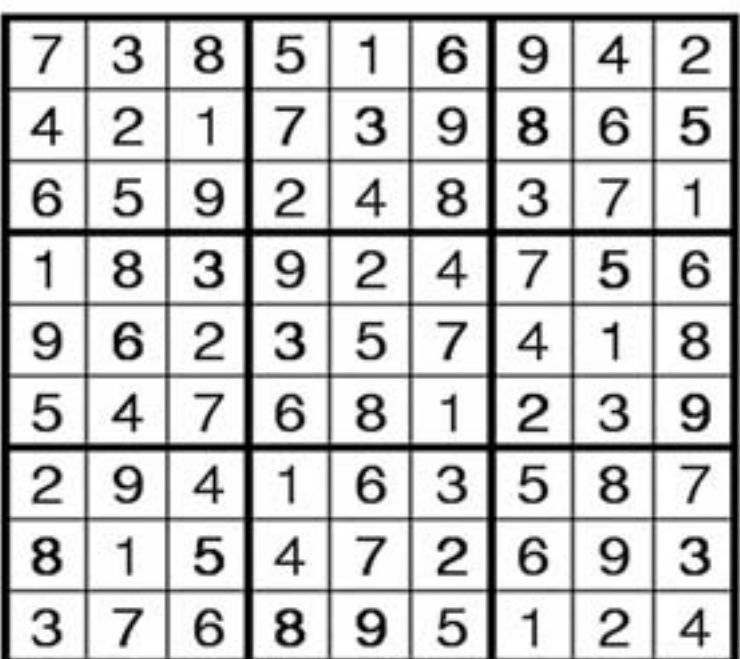


The hidden message is: SUMMER VACATION

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution





# Classifieds

Sunday, April 8, 2018



STATE OF KUWAIT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817

Fax: (+965) 24348714

www.met.gov.kw

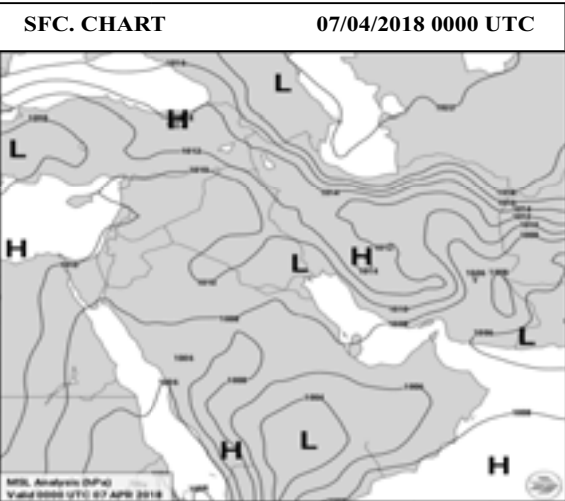
## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Mostly Sunny with light to moderate variable wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h with a chance for haze over some areas.

**BY NIGHT:** Partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery.

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
-----------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	30 °C	21 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	30 °C	19 °C
ABDALY	32 °C	18 °C
BUBYAN	----- °C	----- °C
JAHRA	31 °C	20 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	28 °C	19 °C
SALMIYAH	26 °C	21 °C
AHMADI	00 °C	00 °C
NUWAISIB	28 °C	21 °C
WAFRA	30 °C	18 °C
SALMY	31 °C	18 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	04/08	Mostly Sunny	30 °C	21 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 26 km/h
Monday	04/09	Partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain	32 °C	21 °C	VRB-SE	12 - 35 km/h
Tuesday	04/10	Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	34 °C	22 °C	SE	15 - 45 km/h
Wednesday	04/11	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	33 °C	22 °C	SE-S	15 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:10
Sunrise	05:31
Zuhr	11:50
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:10
Isha	19:28

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	28 °C
MIN. Temp.	20 °C
MAX. RH	84 %
MIN. RH	43 %
MAX. Wind	SE 68 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	1.55mm

## 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

## FOR RENT

### FOR COMPANIES SABAH AL SALIM

2 BEDROOMS FULLY FURNISHED  
(GYM/INTERNET/WATER &  
ELECTRICITY/ 24/7 SECURITY&  
MAINTENANCE)  
MONTHLY RENT: KD425 – KD450

Tel: 97261803/97283667  
Email: LEASING@THEBRIDGE.CO.COM

## EMERGENCY



112

Automated enquiry  
about the Civil ID  
card is  
**1889988**

## SITUATION WANTED

MEP Engineer (HVAC,  
plumbing, FF), 14 years  
experience, Indian (M)  
searching job. Ph -  
99054703, email:  
shibin@live.in (C5390)  
1-4-2018

## FOR RENT

Warehouse  
in Sulaibiya  
farms area.  
Various sizes.

Tel:  
**99674024**

## 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



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 8/4/2018				MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	THY	764	Istanbul	23:15	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00	
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	FDB	072	Dubai	23:35	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05	
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	792	Madinah	13:40	JZR	241	Amman	23:40	RSB	1073	TQD	12:10	
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10	
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	FEG	341	Sohag	13:50					JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55		Departure Flights on Sunday 8/4/2018				SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	THY	767	Istanbul	13:40	
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	JZR	144	Doha	13:55	
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	618	Doha	14:10	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05	
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:35	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10	
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	WAN	134	Doha	14:20	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15	
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	516	Tehran	14:20	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30	FEG	442	Asyut	14:50	
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC	364	Colombo	14:20	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55	
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00	
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	JZR	789	Riyadh	14:45	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00	
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:45	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05	
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	TRQ	231	KRT	02:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15	
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:05	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45	
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:10	JZR	283	Doha	03:20	KAC	283	Dhaka	15:50	
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20	UAE	854	Dubai	03:40	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55	
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	KAC	562	Amman	15:20	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00	
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00	
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	502	Beirut	15:35	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	KAC	563	Amman	16:10	
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:00	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15	
JZR	551	Alexandria	04:05	JZR	1535	Cairo	16:10	KAC	1417	Manila	04:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:15	
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20	
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC	118	New York	16:20	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20	
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:20	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00	
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:50	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15	
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	542	Cairo	17:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20	
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25	
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40	
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	KAC	103	London	05:45	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45	
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	145	Doha	17:35	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55	
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	WAN	976	Baku	17:40	JZR	786	Riyadh	06:05	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00	
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	177	Dubai	17:40	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15	
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20	
QTR	8511	Doha	06:25	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20	RJA	643	Amman	07:05	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20	
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	JZR	902	Baku	07:15	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25	
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	RJA	640	Amman	19:00	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	JZR	240	Amman	18:30	
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50	JZR	266	Beirut	18:30	
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	QTR	8512	Doha	07:55	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35	
KAC	358	Kochi	07:40	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20	
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20	
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	WAN	874	Istanbul	19:30	KAC	165	Rome	08:25	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30	
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:35	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50	
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:35	BAW	156	London	08:55	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50	
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:40	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00	
WAN	352	Luxor	08:30	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00	RJA	641	Amman	20:00	
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	117	New York	09:05	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20	
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:00	KAC	104	London	20:00	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30	
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35	
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	DLH	624	Bahrain	20:50	
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	561	Amman	09:40	KAC	353	Bengaluru	21:00	
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	620	Doha	20:15	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00	
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	KAC	166	Rome	20:25	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05	
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40	JZR	1534	Cairo	09:45	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15	
WAN	312	Asyut	10:20	KAC	172	Frankfurt	20:45	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:20	
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	JZR	553	Alexandria	20:50	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35	
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	KAC	101	London	10:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50	
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50	
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15	IRC	529	Ahwaz	10:00	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00	
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05	
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:10	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20	
JZR	125	Bahrain	11:15	KAC	564	Amman	21:50	KAC	617	Doha	10:10	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25	
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:25	
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25	KAC	860	Dubai	22:35	
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	WAN	416	Beirut	22:15	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50	
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:15	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00	
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:15	
WAN	542	KTM	12:50	WAN	136	Doha	22:30	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20	
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	WAN	118	Bahrain	22:40	JZR	788	Riyadh	11:20	JZR	560	Sohag	23:45	
JZR	903	Baku	12:55	JZR	185	Dubai	22:50	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35					



## Ezra’s struggles with fame

George Ezra has admitted that he struggled to accept his fame. The 24-year-old singer/songwriter has named his new album ‘Staying at Tamara’s’ after the owner of an Airbnb he stayed at in Barcelona and he admitted that travelling to Spain to work on his record was a way of trying to escape his fame. He told BBC.com: “At a basic level, I just worked out what I was experiencing in my own head. My life was changing but, subconsciously, I was battling that. “I can only say this now - I didn’t know it at the time - but to interact with fans was to admit that there were fans, And to admit there were fans was to admit that I wasn’t just George from Hertford - and I didn’t want that. “So there was that element of taking in everything that happened and seeing, ‘OK, it’s not a bad thing at all, you’re not in a bad place, it’s a really good situation’.” George didn’t tell Tamara who he was at first and the pair bonded over music before he finally confessed his identity. He said: “The thing is, she loved music but it was quite obscure music - to me at least. “One night it was me and her in her room - a bit of red wine, and we had Spotify on, and she said, ‘You’ve got a guitar, do you play at all?’ “I was a bit sheepish, I tried to deflect it, but then she went, ‘Do you have anything on Spotify?’ and I was like, ‘OK, here we are. Either I lie, or I tell her.’ “I actually had to help her spell George Ezra. And that would have been fine, but then Budapest alone has had something like 300 million plays, and that’s insane. She looked at me as if to say, ‘What the what?!’” George’s album was inspired by his travels and he admitted he finds it hard to be productive at home. He explained: “I love community and I love my home town. My front door is quite literally open. I love people just swinging by. Nothing makes me happier than that - but it’s a huge distraction. If your friend’s clocked off early, they’ll pop round at one o’clock and you go, quite harmlessly, ‘I haven’t seen you in a while, let’s go for lunch’. And then lunch turns into last orders at the bar!”



## Ali Campbell says Stevie Wonder helped with dream collaboration

UB40 singer Ali Campbell says Stevie Wonder helped him to secure a dream collaboration. The 59-year-old musician had originally hoped to work with Stevie, but ultimately, the ‘Isn’t She Lovely’ hitmaker played a crucial role in helping him to organize a collaboration with Smokey Robinson. Speaking to BANG Showbiz, Ali recalled: “Of course I love Stevie Wonder, I don’t remember there being a reggae version of ‘Place in the Sun’, I just wanted it on their because I love Stevie. “I’ve met Stevie several times, he’s a lovely man, he’s never said he’s a UB40 fan but he has always been very warm to me and he did agree to work on some stuff with me when I made my first solo album ‘Running Free’ - just after I left UB40 - but I ended up with Smokey Robinson, who did a duet with me. “Smokey did that because I told him that Stevie Wonder was doing a duet with me! What happened was, I was doing a version of Stevie’s song ‘Big Brother’ and I asked if he’d play harmonica on it for me, I went through his management and they said yes he’d love to.” However, the situation then took an unusual and unexpected turn. He said: “I sent him the demo and he lost it, I kept going back to them asking if he’d done it, but then he lost it. I went to Smokey and said, ‘Will you work with me? Stevie is.’ And he went, ‘Yes I’d love to, man.’ I was very pleased with that still. “Stevie Wonder was a massive part of my life growing up, from ‘Music of My Mind’ to ‘Talking Book’, ‘Inner Visions’, they were all massive albums in my life.” UB40’s latest album, ‘A Real Labour of Love’, is out now.



## Drake’s star-studded video



Drake has released his star-studded video for ‘Nice For What’. The Canadian rapper’s music video, which was directed by Kareena Evans, features a host of Hollywood’s powerful women including Tiffany Haddish, Tracee Ellis Ross and Zoe Saldana. The music video opens with Olivia Wilde, who Drake first mentioned in his remix of Partynextdoor’s ‘Freak In You, where he said “we can get wild like Olivia.” Misty Copeland and Issa Rae also feature, along with Rashida Jones, who Drake once admitted to being in love with. He previously said: “I was, like, in love with Rashida. I love funny women and I love beautiful women and I love women that have great taste in music and Rashida is all those things.” Other women featured in the video, which does not have a plot but shows the stars dancing, include Yara Shahidi, Zoe Saldana, Letitia Wright, Bria Vinaite, Emma Roberts, Syd, Michelle Rodriguez and Elizabeth and Victoria Lejonharta. The song samples ‘Ex Factor’, from the 1999 ‘The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill.’ He previously sampled Hill’s ‘Doo Wop (That Thing),’ from the same album, on his 2014 song ‘Draft Day’. Drake announced the new single during a surprise appearance at a Toronto concert by Majid Jordan last week and revealed that his new album is nearly finished. He said: “The reason I’m here tonight is because I’m back in the city finishing my album. I’ve got a new single dropping too, just in case you got some free time.”

## Frances Bean Cobain teases first original song

Kurt Cobain’s daughter Frances Bean Cobain has teased fans with her first original song. The late Nirvana frontman - who tragically took his own life on April 5, 1994 aged just 27 - influenced a generation of people with his grunge rock band, and now it appears his and Courtney Love’s daughter could be following in his and Hole singer mother’s musical footsteps. The 25-year-old artist-and-model shared a clip of her singing with her Instagram followers this week, as she belted out: “I think I found you, a penny for your good thoughts. I think I found you, Jesus hangs in your place on the cross.” Frances shows off her impressive range - both vocally and with her emotions - in the moving video. She explained: “I’m super restless because I can’t play guitar with long nails so I’m just sitting in my room alone singing to myself.” Not having a TV in my house is the best decision because I’m forced to occupy my time with things that feed my brain and soul instead of wasting energy on thinking about not having to think.” She asked her followers not to steal her “baby bean of an idea”, suggesting she could have plans for her music. In the past, she’s admitted she had found a new wave of “motivation” when it comes to her art. She previously told Rolling Stone magazine: “[I’m feeling] this motivation and ambition that I didn’t have before ... The hardest part of doing anything creatively is just getting up and doing. Once I get out of bed ... I’m doing it.”



## Slipknot writing songs for new album

Slipknot have been hard at work writing for their next album. The ‘Psychosocial’ rockers have teased the possibility of their sixth LP being released in 2019, and now frontman Corey Taylor has revealed he has already started putting lyrics to music penned by the rest of the group. He told Billboard magazine: “The guys are writing tons of music and I’ve written lyrics to almost all of it. “We’re going to start trying to put together demos here and there with the time off that I have and really try to get ahead of the curve as far as what happens next.” Although Corey, 44, admitted the masked band are still aiming to release the new record next year, he insisted he didn’t want to put a timeline on it at this stage. He added: “I know that we’re gonna try and put an album out next year - however, that is all speculation. The best way to make God laugh is to announce your plans out loud. “So I’m just going with the flow. The plan right now is next year but that is a huge plan because we still haven’t narrowed anything down, so we will definitely see what happens.” Late last year, Corey’s bandmate Shawn “Clown” Crahan suggested the LP could end up being their last. Speaking on ‘The Jasta Show’ podcast, he said: “I feel like this could be it for me. We’re all getting older. I never like telling anyone like, ‘Hey this is it!’ Because I don’t have to.’ But like I’ve said, I’ve been reflecting and there’s a lot of hard things that I could say about friends, brothers ... We’re good, but it’s a big world. I’ve done enough work, I’ve produced and done remixes and art and performed, I’ve done enough where while I was in it none of it was registered.”



## Marr announces release date for new album



Johnny Marr’s new album ‘Call The Comet’ will be released on June 15. The 54-year-old musician - who is best known for his time with The Smiths - has claimed that his upcoming third solo record will be something than his fans can relate to. He explained: “‘Call The Comet’ is my own magic realism. “It’s set in the not-too-distant future and is mostly concerned with the idea of an alternative society. The characters in the songs are searching for a new idealism, although there are some personal songs in there too. It’s something that people like me can relate to.” The 12-track album features new single ‘The Tracers’, with other highlights including ‘Actor Attractor’, ‘Walk Into The Sea’ and ‘Bug’. Johnny is also scheduled to play a series of intimate venues to preview the release of ‘Call The Comet’, starting in Dublin on May 12 and finishing in Los Angeles on June 5. The guitarist - who released his earlier solo albums, ‘The Messenger’ and ‘Playland’, in 2013 and 2014 respectively - previously spoke of his determination to sound distinct from The Smiths. Johnny - who has also appeared in various bands since The Smiths, including Modest Mouse and The Cribs - shared: “As successful as that was and as much as people loved it, when you’re 24 or 25 you don’t want to have a label stuck on your forehead and just be going round on a conveyor belt for the rest of your life, no matter how good that label is.”

## Lawson joins Sheeran on tour



Jamie Lawson has released his brand new single ‘Fall Into Me’ after being announced as the support act for Ed Sheeran’s stadium tour. The singer/songwriter - who brought out his latest album #Happy Accidents’ in September - has unveiled the track after being confirmed as the support act for the ‘Perfect’ hitmaker’s upcoming run on the road across the UK and Europe. The track comes hot on the heels of the exciting announcement that Jamie, 42, will be playing on Ed’s 46-date tour alongside ‘Rockabye’ star Anne-Marie. He said: “It’s with continued respect and amazement that I see Ed Sheeran play to bigger and bigger audiences, it’s pretty remarkable what he’s achieving. I’m very excited that I get to be a part of that journey again by opening for him on his stadium tour in Ireland, UK and Europe. I’ll be bringing the band with me too which means I’ll get to play the new single ‘Fall Into Me’ in all its glory! I’ll see those of you with tickets very soon. I can’t wait.” The pair are close, with Jamie being the first act signed to Ed’s Gingerbread Man Records in 2015, after they had both met while both on the folk circuit in London. The upcoming leg of Ed’s mammoth tour - supporting his latest chart topping album ‘Divide’ - kicks off with three shows at the Pairc Uí Chaoimh in Cork on May 4, and finishes with two nights at the PGE Narodowy in Warsaw. — Bang Showbiz



# Popularizing the ukulele, with mischievous punk spirit



The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain plays in Central Park in New York City. — AFP photos



Musicians Dave Suich and Peter Brooke Turner of The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain play in Central Park.

The ukulele has two obvious selling points: it is affordable and easy to carry. But could the unassuming four-string instrument also incarnate the spirit of punk rock? Since forming three decades ago, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain has helped build a new audience for what it calls the “bonsai guitar,” playing musically faithful but thoroughly tongue-in-cheek renditions of popular tunes. Starting its latest US tour, the orchestra-clad in evening finest, including tuxedo jackets and bow ties—quickly pulled in dozens of smartphone-snapping onlookers as the eight ukuleleists strummed their way through AC/DC’s “Highway to Hell.”

Playing with the Australian headbangers’ poetry, soloist Ben Rouse sang, “Hey Satan / Paying my dues / Playing in a ukulele band,” as the players raised their instruments to the heavens in mock defiance. Asked why he took up the ukulele, fellow player Jonty Bankes said, “Basically, it’s cheap and rather easy to play, so for people

like us it was a godsend.” But the self-styled orchestra has noticed a power in the tiny instrument over the years—with gigs including two nights at Carnegie Hall, a set at the Glastonbury Festival in England and a private party at Windsor Castle for Queen Elizabeth II’s 90th birthday. “The thing is, when you bring a ukulele out and start playing it, it does actually make people smile,” Bankes said. “It’s an unthreatening, friendly instrument which causes a bit of happiness worldwide, really,” he said.

**Started as a joke**

Co-founded by Kitty Lux—whose death last year at 59 brought a rare serious note to the ensemble with a memorial concert—the group initially was interested not in the ukulele itself but in the irreverent energy of punk rock, then on its wane. “Punks could form a band and play three chords, if indeed they could play three. The way that the band started, the same thing happened”

said Leisa Rea, who nonetheless had learned guitar before ukulele.

“The instrument was a bit of a joke, I suppose, and we turned everything on its head. The spirit of punk is alive in the band,” she said. “We don’t take ourselves too seriously. We’re British, so we’ve got to have some sense of humor, really,” she said. Rea fronted the group for its take of the Eurythmics’ “Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This),” with an amplified bass ukulele holding the rhythm under seven ukuleles of different pitches. “It’s a good way of detecting if a song is any good,” she said. “If you can play it on a ukulele, it’s a pretty good sign that it’s a decent song.”

**From irony to mainstream**

Despite the orchestra’s wide travels, it has never played in Hawaii, the birthplace of the instrument initially modeled after a miniature Portuguese guitar. The group is eager to make it to the island chain, but its failure so far

to make it there is not entirely accidental. The orchestra avoids Hawaiian music—as well as songs of early 20th-century British film star and ukulele enthusiast George Formby—as it instead tries to surprise audiences.

But the ukulele has become less of an oddity for audiences since the band’s formation in 1985. Native Hawaiian artist Israel Kamakawiwo’ole found an international following in the 1990s with his mellow ukulele songs, while pop artists, notably the indie rock godfather Stephin Merritt, have found ample possibilities with the ukulele. Orchestra member Dave Suich said he hoped the group has helped increase the popularity of the ukulele, especially in schools, where the little four-stringer has been giving stiff competition to the recorder as a first instrument for children. “People younger than 40 don’t know that it’s funny,” Suich said. “They just think you play an instrument.” —AFP

## Cecil Taylor, rebellious jazz pianist, dead at 89



Cecil Taylor, the rebellious pianist whose dissonant, nearly percussion-like approach to the keys helped set the stage for the free jazz movement, has died, his representative said Friday. He was 89. The New York native, who lived more than three decades in a brownstone in Brooklyn, died late Thursday, his legal guardian Adam Wilner said without specifying a cause. Taylor startled the music world in 1956 with his first album “Jazz Advance,” with the pianist wildly sweeping through ostensibly jarring chords and merging clashing rhythms.

With saxophonist Ornette Coleman, who would become his collaborator, Taylor opened the way of free jazz, which removed itself from the structures and toe-tapping rhythms that had underpinned the genre. “Part of what this music is about is not to be delineated exactly. It’s about magic and capturing spirits,” Taylor once told the jazz writer Nat Hentoff. Taylor followed up with a well-regarded live album in 1957 recorded at the Newport Jazz Festival.

Unlike the legendary Coleman, who died in 2015, Taylor was a more divisive character to audiences, some of whom found his hard-hitting, often atonal playing to be off-putting. But Taylor found an unexpected fan in 1978 when he was invited to play at the White House as part of a jazz festival. After performing for his designated time of a mere five minutes, Taylor was unexpectedly approached by president Jimmy Carter, who clasped the artist’s hands and said: “I’ve never seen anyone play the piano that way.” Taylor was trained classically in piano, encouraged by his mother who was a musician and dancer, but first found his calling as he made his way into jazz clubs in Harlem. He later obtained financial stability by taking visiting teaching positions, including at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and his recordings enjoyed popularity in Europe and Japan. Taylor set his music to choreography, including of Min Tanaka, who experiments with Japan’s intricate butoh dance. He also worked closely with Amiri Baraka, one of the leading African American poets of the late 20th century, with Taylor also penning his own verse for their work together. —AFP

## Schwarzenegger back home after heart surgery

Action hero Arnold Schwarzenegger is back home in Los Angeles and in good spirits after undergoing open heart surgery following complications with a routine operation, his spokesman said on Friday. The 70-year-old “Terminator” and “Predator” star, and former governor of California, was at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, near Hollywood, to have a valve replaced on March 29 when doctors opted for the emergency procedure. “Update: Schwarzenegger comes home,” his representative Daniel Ketchell posted on Twitter, later clarifying to AFP that Schwarzenegger had been released Friday afternoon and was “recovering at home in fantastic spirits.”

The former Mr Universe underwent non-urgent heart surgery in 1997 to have the valve put in, due to a condition he said was congenital and had nothing to do with steroids. “That 1997 replacement valve was never meant to be permanent, and has outlived its life expectancy, so he chose to replace it... through a less-invasive catheter valve replacement,” Ketchell said after the successful operation.

Schwarzenegger has been tweeting during his stay at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, telling fans on Monday that “It’s true: I’m back!”—a play on his famous catchphrase “I’ll be back!” He has used the line—or close variations—in numerous movies, including “The Terminator,” “Commando,” “Raw Deal,” “The Running Man,” “Twins,” “Total Recall,” “Kindergarten Cop,” “Last Action Hero,” “Jingle All the Way,” “The 6th Day” and “The Expendables II.” The Austrian-born former bodybuilder was voted in as governor of California in a historic 2003 recall vote—but proved the win was no fluke by routing opponent



Phil Angelides to get re-elected. “I went to sleep expecting to wake up with a small incision and woke up with a big one—but guess what? I woke up, and that’s something to be thankful for,” Schwarzenegger tweeted from hospital.—AFP



## Surprise! Baby No. 3 is a girl for Kate Hudson and boyfriend

Surprise! Kate Hudson and her musician boyfriend, Danny Fujikawa, popped black question mark balloons to let loose the pink in an Instagram reveal that their baby will be a girl.

Dressed in a long, white gown, Hudson, her two sons and Fujikawa each popped balloons, jumping up and down and cheering when pink confetti and smaller pink balloons descended in the Friday post. Hudson wrote below the short video: “If you’ve wondered why I’ve been so absent on my social channels it’s because I have never been more sick!”

She says she’s feeling better and beginning to show, but she didn’t say when the baby is due. It’s her third child and her first with Fujikawa. The two, old friends, began dating a year ago last December. —AP

## Russell Crowe’s \$104M violin high note of Sydney auction

A 128-year-old Italian violin that Russell Crowe learned to play in a few months before he starred in the 19th century war drama “Master and Commander” stole the show among movie memorabilia on offer at the Oscar-winning actor’s auction yesterday. The rare instrument by Leandro Bislach sold for 135,000 Australian dollars (\$104,000), the highest price for movie-related offerings among 227 lots up for sale in Sydney as part of the Australia-based New Zealander’s divorce settlement. More surprisingly, a costume that Crowe wore in the same 2003 movie wasn’t far behind, raking in AU\$115,000.

While the violin was close to the top of Sotheby Australia’s valuation, the winning bid for character Captain Jack Aubrey’s dress uniform exceeded the auctioneer’s hopes by AU\$80,000. The violin’s price was only exceeded by a painting from Crowe’s extensive collection by Australian artist Brett Whiteley, “Moreton Bay Fig and Palms,” which sold for AU\$190,000. The auction, titled “The Art of Divorce,” took place on the actor’s 54th birthday and the anniversary of his wedding to singer Danielle Spencer in 2003. A cheerful Crowe made an appearance after Sydney actress-singer Alisa Nasteski sang Happy Birthday and the crowd of bidders and spectators — some in formal wear, others wearing sports team-colored beanies — gave him three cheers “G’day folks, how’re you doing?” Crowe said to the crowd. “Are you having a little bit of fun? It’s exciting, isn’t it? So it’s been a lot of fun putting it together for you.”

Immediately afterward, the violin— which Crowe described as “a lot very close to my heart” — became the 31st item to go under the hammer. Before the auction, Sotheby’s predicted the eclectic offerings, covering movies, guitars, art, watches, sporting memorabilia and Crowe’s jewelry gifts to Spencer,



One of the costumes from the film Gladiator owned by actor Russell Crowe is on display to be auctioned by Sotheby’s auction house as part of the ‘Russell Crowe: The Art of Divorce Auction’ at Carriageworks, Sydney, Australia yesterday. —AP photos

would bring between AU\$2.6 million and AU\$3.7 million. The official final sum was not immediately available after the auction, which took more than five hours. Bidders’ interest had been expected to focus on the violin and paraphernalia from “Gladiator,” the 2000 blockbuster that earned Crowe his Academy Award for Best Actor. Demand for movie memorabilia often overwhelmed expectations.



A chariot from the film Gladiator owned by actor Russell Crowe is on display to be auctioned by Sotheby’s auction house as part of the ‘Russell Crowe: The Art of Divorce Auction’ at Carriageworks.

Crowe’s torso armor, expected to fetch up to AU\$30,000, sold for AU\$125,000. A replica Roman chariot, thought to be worth up to AU\$10,000, was sold for AU\$65,000. A leather boxer’s protector, worn by Crowe when he played heavyweight champion James J. Braddock in the 2005 movie “Cinderella Man,” estimated to bring between AU\$500 and AU\$600, sold for AU\$7,000 after intense bidding. —AP



# Ex-Saint Laurent designer wins huge payout in contract dispute



Hedi Slimane

Star designer Hedi Slimane has won an 9.3 million euro (\$11.5 million) settlement from the luxury group Kering in a court judgement which lifts the lid on how much fashion's big names are paid. Court documents seen by AFP Friday show that the "Sultan of skinny", famed for his skinny jeans look, was only paid 667,000 euros of the 10 million he had been promised for his last year in charge of French label Saint Laurent. A spokesperson for Kering told AFP the group was appealing the decision.

Slimane, 49, one of fashion's hottest and most enigmatic talents, went through a messy divorce with Kering, the brand's owners, in 2016. He has since moved to the rival luxury conglomerate, LVMH, to take the reins at Celine, where he will also create a men's line in a massive overhaul of the brand. The latest payout comes two years after a Paris court ordered Kering to pay Slimane \$13 million concerning a non-competition clause in his contract. The group also appealed that ruling. Slimane's skinny and rock star chic looks made millions for both Dior and Saint Laurent, and were much

copied by mass-market brands. Chanel boss Karl Lagerfeld once famously shed 41 kilos (90 pounds) in order to squeeze into Slimane's skinny jeans. Like Lagerfeld, Slimane is a renowned photographer, and he has spent the last seven years living in Los Angeles, where he had moved his studio at the end of his reign at Saint Laurent. The designer drew much of his inspiration from the LA rock scene, which he tirelessly documented with his photographs and in his blog. A mysterious and intensely private figure, he nonetheless has struck up close friendships with many A-listers including pop star Lady Gaga. The Libertines' bohemian frontman Peter Doherty also became a friend and muse, and figured prominently in his 2006 photo book, "London Birth of a Cult". Born into an immigrant family in Paris, Slimane's father was a Tunisian boxer who became an accountant and his mother an Italian dressmaker. — AFP



## Islamic Fashion Show



This picture shows Acehese models presenting Islamic fashion creations during the Indonesian Fashion Show in Banda Aceh, Aceh province. — AFP photos



(From left) Belgian musician, rapper, singer, and songwriter Stromae, whose real name is Paul Van Haver, his wife Belgian designer Coralie Barbier, and his brother Luc Junior Tam, acknowledge applause after presenting the fashion collection of their brand Mosaert, Friday at the Bon Marche department store in Paris. — AFP photos

## New Fashion Collection



Models sport creations during the presentation of the fashion collection by the brand Mosaert at the Bon Marche department store in Paris. —AFP photos



# Fashion label dies with us, say Dolce and Gabbana

Italian fashion icons Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana said Thursday that their famed Dolce & Gabbana label would die with them. "Once we're dead, we're dead. I don't want a Japanese designer to start designing Dolce & Gabbana," Gabbana, 55, said in an interview with Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera. The veteran fashionistas launched their brand in 1985 and continue to work together despite breaking up as a couple in 2004. "When we split up, we said to ourselves that it was better to divide up everything, because if I took a blow to the head the next day he (Dolce) would have found himself dealing with someone not involved in the industry, like for example my cousin, who could ruin the business," Gabbana said.

"We have created a trust neither of us can touch," Dolce, 59, added that the pair had refused "every offer to buy the brand". "You can have all the money in the world, but if you are not free, what do you do? You don't go to

the grave with a coffin stuffed with money," he said. After decades building up their fashion house, which is famed for its sultry womenswear, Gabbana admits he "doesn't have time" to spend their fortune.

"I'm too busy working. I don't care about becoming richer, my goal is to be successful," he said. The two men said they still share an exceptional bond, even though they are no longer romantically linked. "Even today, what is mine is his, and what is his is mine... our new partners know that's how it is, whether they like it or not," Dolce said. "If a love is born when you are young-for me it was the first experience, for him the first love story-it is pure, total," he said. The pair will head to New York for an extravaganza of haute couture events from 6-10 April. — AFP



Italian fashion designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana.—AFP





This photo shows live tarantulas and leaves in a container at Skun town in Kampong Cham province. — AFP photos



A tourist (left) eating a fried tarantula as a Cambodian guide watches at Skun town in Kampong Cham province.



A Cambodian man eating a fried tarantula at Skun town in Kampong Cham province.

# In Cambodia, *fears tarantula* may go off the menu



A Cambodian woman frying tarantulas for tourists at Skun town.

While a plate piled high with hairy, palm-sized tarantulas is the stuff of nightmares for some, these garlic fried spiders are a coveted treat in Cambodia, where the only fear is that they may soon vanish due to deforestation and unchecked hunting. Taking a bite out of the plump arachnids has become a popular photo-op for squealing tourists who pass through Skun, the central Cambodian town nicknamed “Spiderville” for its massive market of creepy crawlers. But the bulk of the clientele are locals who are there to load up on a traditional snack known as “aping” that vendors say is becoming scarce—and more expensive—as rapid development wipes out jungle habitats.

“Aping are famous in Cambodia but now they are not abundant, they have become rare,” Chea Voeun, a tarantula vendor, told AFP from her stall where she sells other fried insects including crickets and scorpions. Voeun, who has been selling the delicacy for 20 years, used to source the spiders from nearby forests, where hunters dug them out of burrows dotting the jungle floor.

But those trees have since been razed for cashew nut plantations, forcing Voeun and other vendors to rely on middlemen to procure the spiders, which are harvested from faraway forested provinces. That has jacked up the price of the tarantulas to \$1 a piece, a nearly tenfold spike over the past decade. For now the price surge is helping line the pockets of vendors who can unload several hundred spiders a day, but they fear that stocks are running low and will kill their businesses in the long-term.

“When the big forests disappear, these spiders will no longer exist,” said seller Lou Srey Sros, as tourists



A Cambodian vendor holding a fried tarantula at Skun town in Kampong Cham province.

While the Khmer Rouge’s devastating rule came to an end in 1979, spiders stayed on the menu. But the jungles which are home to them are now rapidly disappearing. Cambodia has one of the fastest deforestation rates in the world, with huge swaths of forest cleared for rubber plantations and timber. The Southeast Asian country has lost 20 percent of its forest cover since 1990, according to the conservation NGO Fauna and Flora International (FFI). It is not just habitat loss but over-harvesting to meet a high demand that is driving the spiders out of existence, said Tom Gray, director of Science and Global Development for Wildlife Alliance.

“Across Southeast Asia it is unsustainable hunting in our forests rather than direct habitat loss which is causing the biggest impacts on biodiversity,” he told AFP. The tourist frenzy has helped fuel the tarantula trade, with busloads of travellers stopping in Skun to taste the unusual snack. “It just makes me a little bit swimmy because that was not what I would eat at home but I am here so it’s time to try them,” Australian tourist Elisabeth Dark said after taking a bite of a spider leg. But for many Cambodians, the only fear factor is that the treat will soon run out. “The next generations may not know about them because these beasts have become so rare, not like before,” lamented vendor Lou Srey Sros. “As more people clear (forests) to plant cashew nut trees, they will be gone.” — AFP



Cambodian women counting live tarantulas at Skun town.



A Cambodian vendor preparing fried tarantulas for sale at Skun town.

snapped pictures of children playing with the eight-legged creatures. Locals say the spiders, whose taste has been compared to crab, are best prepared simply: dipped in salt and garlic and then tossed into a pan of sizzling oil.

### Surviving famine

Tarantulas have been part of the Cambodian diet for generations, prized for their purported medicinal qualities. But they are believed to have cemented their place on the Cambodian palate during the brutal years under the Khmer Rouge in the late 1970s. The Maoist regime forced millions of Cambodians out of the cities and was ultimately responsible for murdering, overworking and starving to death nearly a quarter of the population in its drive to create an agrarian utopia. Famine pushed many to forage for any sustenance they could find, eating everything from rats to lizards and tarantulas.



A Cambodian woman digging in a burrow of tarantulas at Skun town in Kampong Cham province.



A Cambodian guide eating a fried tarantula at Skun town.



A live tarantula crawling across a man's shirt with a Cambodian flag at Skun town in Kampong Cham province.



# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018



People pass huge pysankas, or decorated Easter eggs, during the opening of the Pysanka Festival on April 5, 2018 in Kiev. 500 Easter eggs and 374 Easter rabbits made by professional artists and the amateurs from all over Ukraine take part in the open-air festival which became traditional and opens before Orthodox Easter celebration. — AFP

## Huge new Delacroix shows hidden side of ‘protean genius’

The first major retrospective of the great French painter Eugene Delacroix in more than half a century in Paris hopes to show that there was far more to the artist than “Liberty Leading the People”. His painting of Parisians being led over the barricades by a bare-breasted Liberty during the July Revolution of 1830 is one of the most iconic in art, and was used on the cover of the 2008 Coldplay album, “Viva la Vida”. The stirring tableau is also said to have inspired Victor Hugo’s masterpiece “Les Miserables”, with the boy holding two pistols on the right of the picture said to be the model for the street urchin Gavroche.

But curators who have put together the huge exhibition at the Louvre, which holds the world’s largest collection of Delacroix’s work, said the bourgeois painter was hardly a revolutionary firebrand. “There is much people do not understand about Delacroix’s career,” said its co-curator Sebastien Allard. “He does not easily fit into any single movement.” He said the show has put together with his colleague Come Fabre—which will travel to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in September—attempts to demonstrate the artist’s huge range, from large-scale historical subjects to religious and Orientalist themes, and from animal paintings and intimate drawings to still lifes of flowers.

### Manic diarist

Although his “protean genius set the bar for virtually all other French painters” who followed him, his greatest creative period was actually quite short, Allard noted. Delacroix’s most famous and dramatic works—the “Massacre at Chios” (1824), the “Death of Sardanapalus” (1827) and “Liberty Leading the People”—all date from the first decade of his career. Allard said the tension characterizing Delacroix’s work reflects that “on the one hand he wanted to be original and the other wanted to fit in with the grand tradition of Flemish and Venetian artists of the 16th and 17th centuries.”

Delacroix was also probably the great artist who wrote the most, consigning his innermost thoughts about his work and his private life to a series of diaries. In them we learn of his attraction to the writer Georges Sand and his fears about the progress of the tuberculosis which dogged the latter part of his life. After two decades of only intermittently keeping a diary, he threw himself back into it in 1846 only to lose his entire journal for the momentous year of 1848 — when revolutions shook Europe—in a taxi.—AFP



A member of “Sindicato Popular de Vendedores Ambulantes” (People’s Union of Street Vendors) walks the catwalk.



A member of “Sindicato Popular de Vendedores Ambulantes” (People’s Union of Street Vendors) walks the catwalk.



Two members of “Sindicato Popular de Vendedores Ambulantes” (People’s Union of Street Vendors) walk the catwalk during a fashion show to present the t-shirts of their new crowd funded trademark project “Top Manta” in Barcelona. — AFP photos

## BARCELONA’S SENEGALESE STREET VENDORS PRESENT OWN CLOTHING LINE

Senegalese street vendors staged a fashion show Friday in Barcelona to present their own clothing line of “legal clothes made by illegal immigrants”, the slogan of their new campaign to get off the streets. Fifteen vendors showed their small collection of T-shirts and sweatshirts, which were created in cooperation with the Design College of Barcelona. A crowd funding campaign collected 48,000 euros (\$59,000) to help set up their new association of Barcelona street vendors and launch the project in June 2017. It aims to find alternative employment for 200 street vendors, who buy the counterfeit clothes they sell from Chinese merchants, according rights platform PlayGround Do, which supports the project.

“We want to show our value to those who do not want to see it. We want to contribute to the economy of Barcelona, which is our city,” said a spokesman for the street vendors, Aziz Faye, in a statement. African migrants in Barcelona and other Spanish cities have for years earned a living by selling items in the streets like perfume or hats which they lay on white sheets that they quickly pick up and take away when the police arrive. Last month the death of Senegalese street vendor of cardiac arrest in Madrid reportedly following a police chase thrust the spotlight on their plight and sparked violent clashes in the city. — AFP



A member of “Sindicato Popular de Vendedores Ambulantes” (People’s Union of Street Vendors) walks the catwalk.