



3 Prime Minister stresses importance of enhancing competitiveness in business



7 UN Security Council meets in remote Swedish farmhouse



17 Saudis see oil price on the rise as Trump blasts OPEC



15 Ruthless Rafa sets up Nishikori final, eyes 11th Monte Carlo title



Filipino envoy resummoned amid outrage over 'rescues'

Embassy denies wrongdoing • 3 suspects identified • MPs slam violation of sovereignty

By Ben Garcia, A Saleh and Agencies

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday summoned the Philippines' ambassador for a second time yesterday in protest over "inflammatory comments" he made to a local newspaper, a foreign ministry source said. Remarks by Renato Pedro Villa, along with the "inappropriate behavior" of Manila's diplomatic staff in Kuwait, have been deemed a threat to Kuwait's sovereignty, the source noted.

The move came following videos on social media showing a Philippines Embassy team helping Filipino domestic helpers flee their sponsors' houses in vehicles with diplomatic license plates. Villa had allegedly confirmed to Al-Jarida daily that the videos are genuine and admitted that the embassy team had been conducting such operations for over a month and managed to rescue many domestic helpers from their sponsors in areas around Kuwait.

But at an urgent press conference late yesterday, the Philippines Embassy strongly denied allegations and reports that it was acting alone in rescuing Filipinos in need of assistance in Kuwait. Villa also said statements attributed to him were misquoted.

Kuwait also summoned Villa a day earlier in connection with scathing remarks by Filipino officials, in addition to misconduct on the part of the Philippines' diplomatic staff in the state, and handed him two protest notes. The source stated that the two protest notes are

related to recent remarks of several Filipino officials which entailed serious offenses against Kuwait and the actions made by some Philippine embassy's employees in violation of the diplomatic norms governing the relations of the two countries as per the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. The source expressed regret over such practices which could harm the friendship relations between the two countries.

"The embassy always coordinates with the interior ministry when responding to requests of assistance from our nationals. This is standard procedure and we will continue to do so. All the efforts undertaken in the past weeks are to ensure that we resolve our outstanding issues before the signing of the memorandum of agreement and the upcoming visit of our president," Villa told reporters at the hastily-arranged press conference yesterday at the embassy.

Notably, Kuwait has witnessed several cases of Filipina housemaids escaping following explosive statements made by President Rodrigo Duterte, which has paralyzed the domestic labor market in Kuwait. In January, Philippines stopped sending workers to Kuwait following reports that abuse by employers had driven several Filipinos to suicide. A high-ranking diplomatic source said that Manila has set further conditions to return its workers to the local market, and said that the foreign ministry is studying these conditions to reach a final agreement when Duterte visits Kuwait.

Continued on Page 11



KUWAIT: Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Renato Villa speaks during a press conference at the Philippines Embassy in Sidiq yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: A demonstrator named Khalifa Al-Hashash stages a one-man protest outside the embassy yesterday. — Photo by Ben Garcia

News in brief

Iraq resumes payments to Kuwait

GENEVA/BAGHDAD: Iraq resumed paying Kuwait compensation on Friday for the destruction of Kuwaiti oilfields and facilities during the 1990-91 Gulf War, the United Nations said in Geneva in a prepared statement. The payment had been suspended since Oct 2014 because of security and budgetary problems the Iraqi government in its fight against Islamic State. "The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) today made available \$90 million to the Government of the State of Kuwait," the UN said. "With today's payment, the Commission has paid out \$47.9 billion, leaving approximately \$4.5 billion remaining to be paid to the only outstanding claim." The sum owed, as well as the \$90 million payment, goes towards an overall claim of \$14.7 billion in damages by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, the largest approved by the Geneva-based commission, set up by the UN Security Council in 1991. — Reuters

Saudi fitness center shut

RIYADH: Saudi sports authorities shut down a female fitness center in Riyadh Friday over a contentious promotional video that appeared to show a woman in figure-hugging workout attire. "We are not going to tolerate this," Saudi sports authority chief Turki Al-Sheikh tweeted as he ordered that the center's license be withdrawn. Sheikh, an adviser to powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, also told authorities to investigate and prosecute those behind the video. The video, which was widely circulated on social media showed a woman with uncovered hair in what appeared to be a gym and kicking a punching bag. The General Sports Authority said the video contained scenes that could corrupt public morals. Saud Al-Qahtani, a media adviser to the royal court, lauded the sports authority's swift response, saying on Twitter that the kingdom was on the path of "moderation without moral breakdown". — AFP

No foul play in Avicii's death

MUSCAT: A police source in Oman said yesterday there was no suspicion of criminal activity after Swedish DJ superstar Avicii was found dead in the sultanate's capital Muscat. The 28-year-old's representative announced his death in a statement on Friday without specifying the cause, with reports saying he had been on vacation in Oman. "Two autopsies were carried out, one yesterday and one today and we absolutely confirmed that there is no criminal suspicion in the death," the source with Oman's Royal Police said. "We have all the information and details regarding the death and this incident," the source said, adding that police would not be making any public statement on the case. — AFP (See Page 29)

Kim vows no more nuclear, missile tests

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said he would halt nuclear tests and intercontinental missile launches, in an announcement yesterday welcomed by US President Donald Trump ahead of a much-anticipated summit between the two men. Pyongyang's declaration, long sought by Washington, will be seen as a crucial step in the fast diplomatic dance on and around the Korean peninsula. It

comes less than a week before the North Korean leader meets South Korean President Moon Jae-in for a summit in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula, ahead of the eagerly-awaited encounter with Trump himself.

Kuwait also welcomed North Korea's decision to suspend its nuclear and ballistic activities. This positive step will contribute to building confidence, defusing tension - which the world has long suffered from, promoting security and stability and leading to denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, an official source at the Kuwaiti foreign ministry said. The Korean leaders are expected to agree on lasting peace in the Korean peninsula

Continued on Page 11



PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un delivers a speech while attending the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on Friday. — AFP

India approves death penalty for child rapists

NEW DELHI: India's government yesterday approved the death penalty for child rapists, after the gang rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl and a series of other horrific sexual assaults caused nationwide outrage. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called a cabinet meeting to pass the measure yesterday on his return from the Commonwealth summit, a government official told AFP.

Protests have erupted across India in recent days over the rape and killing of the young Muslim girl by a group of Hindu men in Jammu and Kashmir state, increasing pressure on Modi to take action. The

attack sent out the sort of shockwaves that shook the country after the equally horrific gang rape of a Delhi student on a bus in 2012, which made headlines around the world. The cabinet approved the ordinance amending laws on sexual violence to allow for capital punishment for those convicted of raping children below the age of 12, the official said.

Minimum jail sentences for convicted rapists were also toughened. "The ordinance will be sent to the president for his consent," the official said on condition of anonymity. The president's approval is seen as a formality. The new decree requires trials involving child victims to be completed in two months after an arrest, unusually speedy for India where the wheels of justice turn slowly. The order will remain in effect for a period of six months from the president's approval, or until parliament votes the changes into law.

Continued on Page 11



NEW DELHI: Swati Maliwal, chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Women, speaks to the media yesterday during her hunger strike protest in which she is demanding the immediate implementation of a stringent law to punish convicted rapists. — AFP

Mossad accused of killing Gazan prof in Malaysia

GAZA CITY: The family of a Palestinian professor and Hamas member accused Israel's Mossad spy agency yesterday of killing him on the streets of Kuala Lumpur. Malaysian police said Fadi Mohammad Al-Batsh, 35, was killed in a drive-by motorcycle shooting as he headed on foot to take part in dawn Muslim prayers yesterday. In a statement from the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, his family said: "We accuse the Mossad of being behind the assassination."

The Islamist Palestinian movement said Batsh, a research scientist specializing in

energy issues, was one of its members. Hamas did not accuse Israel of killing him but called Batsh a "martyr" - a word it usually uses for people killed by Israeli forces. Contacted by AFP, an Israeli official refused to comment. Kuala Lumpur police chief Datuk Seri Mazlan Lazim said one of two suspects on a high-powered motorcycle "fired 10 shots, four of which hit the lecturer in the head and body. He died on the spot." "The police also found two empty bullet shells there," the police chief said, according to Malaysia's state-run Bernama news agency.

When contacted later by Reuters, Mazlan declined to comment on reports that the victim was a member of Hamas or had been targeted by hitmen. "It's too early to say, we are still investigating all aspects." A Palestinian in Malaysia who knew Batsh told Reuters on

Continued on Page 11



GAZA: Palestinians gather in mourning outside the family home of slain 35-year-old professor Fadi Mohammad Al-Batsh in Jabaliya yesterday. — AFP

Ministry launches second phase of fiber optics project

Kuwaiti investor plants 1,000 palm trees in Basra

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The ministry of services launched the second phase of a project to install fiber optic cables, which requires subscribers' cooperation by allowing ministry and specialized companies' staff into their homes to install and connect the cables. The third and final phase of the project will encompass all residential areas and will include receiving TV transmission through these cables instead of satellite dishes.

The current telephone cables provide Internet services of no more than 3 megabytes, while the fiber optic ones will provide up to 100 megabytes of Internet services, which means ultrafast Internet services for houses. The new cables will also separate phone and Internet lines. The

ministry reassured subscribers that they will not be charged for the new service and that the annual subscription fee would remain the same.

Projects' funding

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) board of directors discussed a study to fund the projects included in its five-year plan through loans from local and international banks, in addition to issuing some bonds. Informed sources said the board did not discuss its subsidiaries' new administrative structure and denied any intentions to merge, cancel or freeze any of them as recommended by a technical advisor.

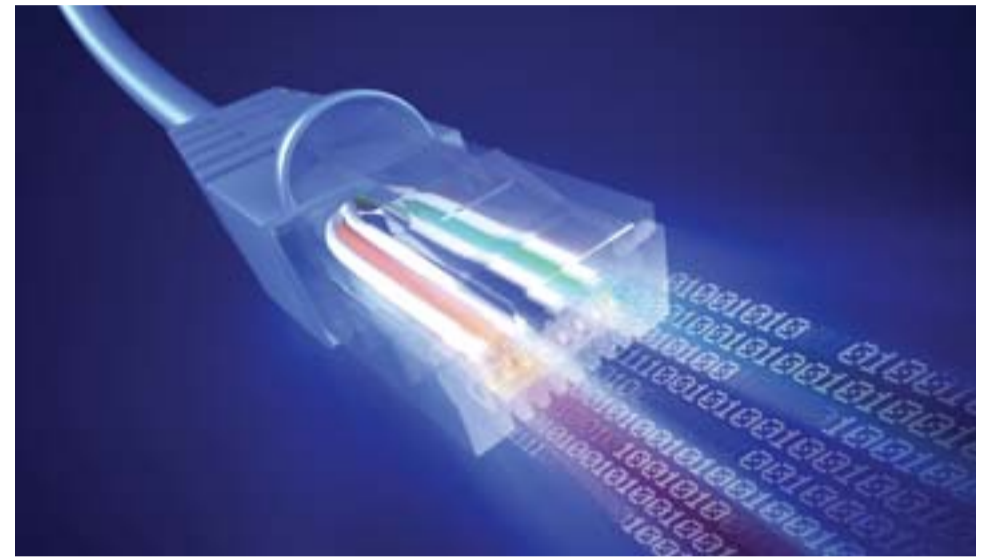
Iraqi prisoners

Iraq's Ambassador to Kuwait Alaa Al-Hashemi stressed that Iraqi prisoners in

Kuwait who were deported to Iraq had been arrested with drugs on entering Kuwaiti land and marine borders. Hashemi added that the prisoners had spent 8-12 years in Kuwaiti prisons after their 15-year sentences were reduced by an Amiri amnesty. He added that two more prisoners will be released soon and six others would be sent to complete their terms in Iraq.

1,000 palm trees

The Basra investment authority announced that Kuwaiti investor Abdul Aziz Al-Babtain had made considerable progress in building a large farm in a desert area, where he planted over 1,000 palm trees. The authority's chairman Ali Chaseb said the farm is irrigated by 14 wells and that Babtain plans to build 1,650 greenhouses to plant other crops.



local spotlight

Prison and beyond



By Muna Al-Fuzai
Muna@kuwaittimes.net

An interesting report published recently by Turkey Post in Arabic drew attention to a unique prison experience. A Turkish prison in Edirne in the northwest of Turkey has transformed into an industrial and agricultural production plant, with prisoners forming all its workers. I think it is an experience that deserves attention and should be taken into consideration by the interior ministry in Kuwait.

When you hear the word prison, the first thing that comes to mind is horror, cruelty, crime and possibly death. But prison can become a beginning of a new life by exploring new fields of work and learning new skills that will benefit the convict after completing his term, so he will know that there is a place for him like others in the community. I believe such faith in him will help him relax and prevent recidivism. A prison is a place for reform and rehabilitation, and I hope the Kuwaiti interior ministry takes note of this Turkish experience.

According to the report, there are around 1,240 convicts in this prison, which produces different food items like meat, milk, honey, bread, eggs, cheese, fruits and vegetables. The report added that the workers are divided into several units - some of them graze livestock, some grow vegetables in greenhouses and some raise poultry, while 45 prisoners produce meat, milk and cheese.

Prisoners also receive nominal wages, in addition to health insurance. Their wages are approximately \$1.70 to \$3.50 a day. It is not about the wages, but the real benefit is to keep the prisoner busy and teach him new skills to prepare him to go back to civil society as an active member.

The volume of sales of products manufactured by the inmates last year amounted to around 6.5 million Turkish liras (more than \$1.5 million). In a press statement, the attorney-general of Edirne said prisoners serve their time on one hand, and contribute to production on the other. The prosecutor explained that it is a benefit to the person to leave after serving his sentence with a skill in hand that can be practiced and used in his civil life. Prisoners are also given certificates for the courses they receive in prison.

The working hours will help the criminal spend his time in a useful pursuit that can be used in the future either to find a real job to earn money or start his own business or farm. A prison should be a place of reform and rehabilitation instead of becoming a quagmire of drugs, death and social ostracism.

For example, a car accident that causes the death of a person, using drugs or even murder has negative effects on the person and his family, especially in a small community such as Kuwait. I believe that providing a suitable environment for the prisoner to spend his time doing useful work will keep him engaged and will undoubtedly have a good effect.



KUWAIT: The scene inside the kitchen of a Rumaithiya house where a fire was reported, pictured after the flames were put out.

Four injured in Rumaithiya house blaze

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: A mother, her two daughters and their housemaid were injured in a fire in their Rumaithiya house. Firemen from Bidaa and Salmiya fire stations rushed to the scene in response to an emergency call, evacuated the place and put out the fire. Investigations are underway to determine the exact cause of the blaze. Meanwhile, firemen from the Farwaniya, Jleeb, Subhan, Capital and backup fire stations rushed to a scene where a fire was reported in a building's basement in which carpets and furniture were stored in Dajeej. Firemen found several violations, and successfully put out the blaze.

Drunk man arrested

A drunken Indian climbed a traffic lamppost and made himself comfortable there. Traffic police arrested



Firefighters tackle a blaze in a building's basement in Dajeej.

him and took him to Salhiya police station, where he was charged with public drunkenness and damaging state property, Al-Rai reported.

Kidnap

A man kidnapped a Filipina who was feeding chickens in her sponsor's garden. He pulled up in a car driven by another person. The sponsor was on the balcony watching and was shocked by what he saw, then immediately went to the police station and told them what happened. Police searched the area but failed to find the culprits. The case is being investigated by detectives.

Fuel theft

Capital detectives arrested a Syrian man who stole diesel and sold it to farms in Wafra and to guards in buildings under construction in Sabah Al-Ahmad. A security source said a citizen working in a communications company told Jaber Al-Ahmad police that 3,500 liters of diesel was stolen from various locations belonging to the company at different times. Detectives who worked on the case noticed a tanker near one of the sites, so the driver was arrested with 3,500 liters of diesel in his tanker. When asked where it was from, he confessed to stealing it, adding that he had done this three times previously.



KIB sponsors 'Food Truck' workshop

KUWAIT: In a continuation of the bank's ongoing commitment to supporting ideas of ambitious youth, (KIB) sponsored the Food Truck workshop, which was organized by Al-Morooj General Trading and held at the Millennium Hotel and Conference Centre, Kuwait. The event attracted a large number of small business owners and culinary entrepreneurs.

The workshop provided a great opportunity to introduce the local community to the mobile food industry, how to operate a food truck, and walk them through the steps needed to obtain the permits and licenses required and business incorporation.

Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, said: "KIB's sponsorship of this unique workshop comes as a reflection of its commitment to support innovative projects spearheaded by youth, particularly those which impact the community as a whole. These projects have truly proven that young local talents are able to turn their ideas into successful businesses. Nowadays, food trucks are becoming increasingly popular and have achieved great success in the food preparation industry, enabling youth to achieve unforeseen profits in this growing industry. We will always continue to support youth by empowering them to take ownership and encouraging them to seek the path of self-employment."

KIB dedicates a large portion of its efforts towards supporting students' ideas and sponsoring their projects that aim at serving all segments of the local community. As a leading national institution in the area of social responsibility, the bank continuously supports local youth, believing in the vital role they play in shaping the nation's future.

Charity provides free medical tests to poor laborers

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Al-Rahma (mercy) Committee for Medical Services, an affiliate of Al-Najat charity society, held its 56th medical camp in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh to provide free medical tests to poor laborers and those with limited income. The camp, which included 50 doctors and 150 nurses and technicians, served over 1,300 individuals from various nationalities. The camp was held in collaboration with the Kerala Muslim community in Kuwait and the Kuwait Cardiology Society. Al-Rahma Committee's CEO Thamer Al-Suhaib said such camps aim at helping poor expatriates by providing them with free tests, diagnoses and medicine.

Expired food

Public Authority for Food and Nutrition inspectors confiscated and destroyed 57.8 kilograms of expired food items and filed 18 citations in Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Ahmadi. Mubarak Al-Kabeer inspection manager Abdullah Ahmed Abbas said his team destroyed 45 kilograms of inedible food items and filed five citations, in addition to issuing 13 warning notices to pharmacies operating prior to getting licenses. Ahmadi inspection manager Saud Al-Humaidi said that his team filed six citations.

73 candidates compete in municipal elections

KUWAIT: Kuwait's general directorate of elections announced yesterday the end of candidacy registration for the 2018 Municipal Council elections. It said that there are 73 male and female contesters in the elections slated for May 12.

The candidates will be distributed to four constituencies as follows: four candidates in the first constituency, four in the second, 13 in the third, 17 in the fourth, five in the fifth, seven in the sixth, three in the seventh, nine in the eighth, six in the ninth and five in the tenth.

The Ministry of Interior has formed a committee to check up requests of the candidates in line with the conditions of Law No. 35, 1962 and then to issue recommendations to the minister for approval. Male and female citizens registered in the lists of 2017 have the right to vote in the forthcoming municipality elections. There are 51,9636 eligible male and female voters.

The voting process will be held at 102 schools of the 10 constituencies. There is current coordination between the ministries of interior and education on the identification of the schools where the polling will take place.

Some new areas have been added in the 2018 Municipality elections in accordance with the decree No. 94 of 2018. 15 days after announcing the results of elections, six members will be appointed through a decree. The decree No. 240 of 2017 was issued on October 10, 2017 on dissolving the Municipality Council. The decree No. 241 of 2017 was issued to form an interim caretaker body to assume the duties of the dissolved council that will end its duty as soon as the members of the new council are elected. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Two employees at an election registration office close the door after the end of the candidacy registration period for Municipal Council elections yesterday. — KUNA photo

Salem Al-Ali Award launches 18th program

KUWAIT: His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award has launched its 18th session encompassing various activities, designed to fuel youth creativity and competition. The program includes the 12th award edition, holding the international informatics forum 2018, seminars, two blogging competitions, a workshop, in addition to participation in Kuwait 4th International Book Fair. These activities will be organized in shadow of the 2015-2020 strategy, themed "supporting digital transformation in knowledge and economy," said Aida Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chairwoman of the award board of trustees, in a press release yesterday. The strategy is in line with His Highness the Amir's vision of transforming Kuwait into an advanced regional center for commercial, financial and technological services, Sheikha Aida said.—KUNA

Local

Prime Minister stresses importance of enhancing competitiveness in business

Private sector prime partner in Kuwait development: Defense Minister

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace head of the Permanent Committee for Streamlining Business Environment Enhancing Competitiveness (PCK) Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and its members. His Highness the Premier stressed the importance of business and enhancing competitiveness, lauding accomplishments made in facilitating licensing procedures, boosting economy and attracting foreign investments.

"This leads to economic diversification and benefiting from advanced technology in the developed countries as well as providing real opportunities to our young sons and daughters," His Highness the Premier said. Such achievements complete the government's directives so as to achieve economic reforms and combat corruption, he noted.

His Highness the Premier expressed his hope that results of these accomplishments would enhance Kuwait's rankings in the global indicators and achieve positive impacts on the ground. He reaffirmed the necessity of paying much attention to combat corruption, and bringing those involved in any negligence to accountability.

Sheikh Meshaal made a presentation on the most prominent accomplishments made by the committee and businesses to be achieved soon. Sheikh Meshaal expressed his and members' gratitude to His Highness the Premier's confidence, thanking him for the meeting which will be a strong push to double efforts for further achievements. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh and Secretary General of Cabinet Abdullahif Abdullah Al-Roudhan were present at the meeting.

Private sector

Separately, First Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah affirmed that all national development schemes recognize the private sector partnership as some of the plans' bases and orientations.

Sheikh Nasser, also the Minister of Defense and chairman of the 'international northern economic zone,' noted the private sector's vital role in Kuwait's development strategy after a meeting with Ali Al-Ghanem, Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI). The development



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with members of the Permanent Committee for Streamlining Business Environment Enhancing Competitiveness. —KUNA

projects in the north, namely Al-Harir (silk) city and the islands' development, will be helpful for cementing relations and cooperation with neighboring states, said Sheikh Nasser, cited by a chamber press release, issued yesterday.

Ghanem said the meeting with Sheikh Nasser constituted an initiative to establish "sincere and sustainable cooperation" between the minister and the chamber. He also lauded him "not only in his capacity as a leader entrusted with the development file but also as architect of a bold development venture compatible with the chamber's strategic concepts regarding easy trade proposed four years ago." This grand development venture, "components of which are being put together by Sheikh Nasser," is under the umbrella of 'New Kuwait Vision 2035,' launched by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah May Allah safeguard him, Ghanem explained.

Other problems

Ghanem expressed hope to expand cooperation at this level not only for the north plans, but also for examining other development issues and problems

affecting the private sector. The chamber's statement, citing members of the region board of trustees, explained that it would be a free economic zone, under an independent administration and would be financed by investors and finance markets, and not with state funds. Moreover, proceeds are projected to be equivalent to 25-30 percent of gross domestic product, thus constituting a main financial source for the state. Furthermore, the board members foresaw "advance steps regarding execution soon," in cooperation with China which has expressed readiness to contribute to the planned major works as a contractor, financier and investor. The board comprises Faisal Al-Medlej, Adnan Al-Bahar, Badr Al-Hajeri, Sara Akbar, Omran Hayat, Loulwa Al-Na'ma and Sheikh Jaber Fahad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from Sheikh Nasser's bureau.

His Highness the Amir's visionary strategy is essentially designed to transform Kuwait into a lucrative regional business hub. Among its aspects is building an advanced town in the north as part of the decentralization and approach-dubbed the silk city-and turn some of the Kuwaiti islands into leisure, tourist and business magnets. —KUNA

News in brief

Amir congratulates Queen Elizabeth II

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable to Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms Elizabeth II, congratulating her majesty on the occasion of her birthday. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent similar cables. — KUNA

KAC flights to Europe proceeding regularly

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways flights to Europe are proceeding regularly, the national carrier said on Friday. The airways, in a press release, categorically denied social media rumors alleging that the European Union would examine halting the KAC flights to some European countries. Such reports are baseless, said the KAC, affirming that its flights to Europe are continuing as regular and declaring it will organize trips to new cities this summer — namely Munich, Vienna, Tbilisi and Trabzon. The company warned it would seek legal action against those who promote rumors to smear KAC's image and undermine the State of Kuwait's interests. — KUNA

KRCS chief nominated to OARCS membership

BAGHDAD: The Organization of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies (OARCS) has nominated the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer to membership of the organization's outstanding committee. This came during the meeting of the organization's general assembly on Friday. Head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting MUSAED AL-ENEZI said that the conferees supported Sayer's nomination for the committee's membership. He noted that the participants in the meeting called on all Arab societies to urge the friendly governments and societies to back Sayer's nomination. — KUNA

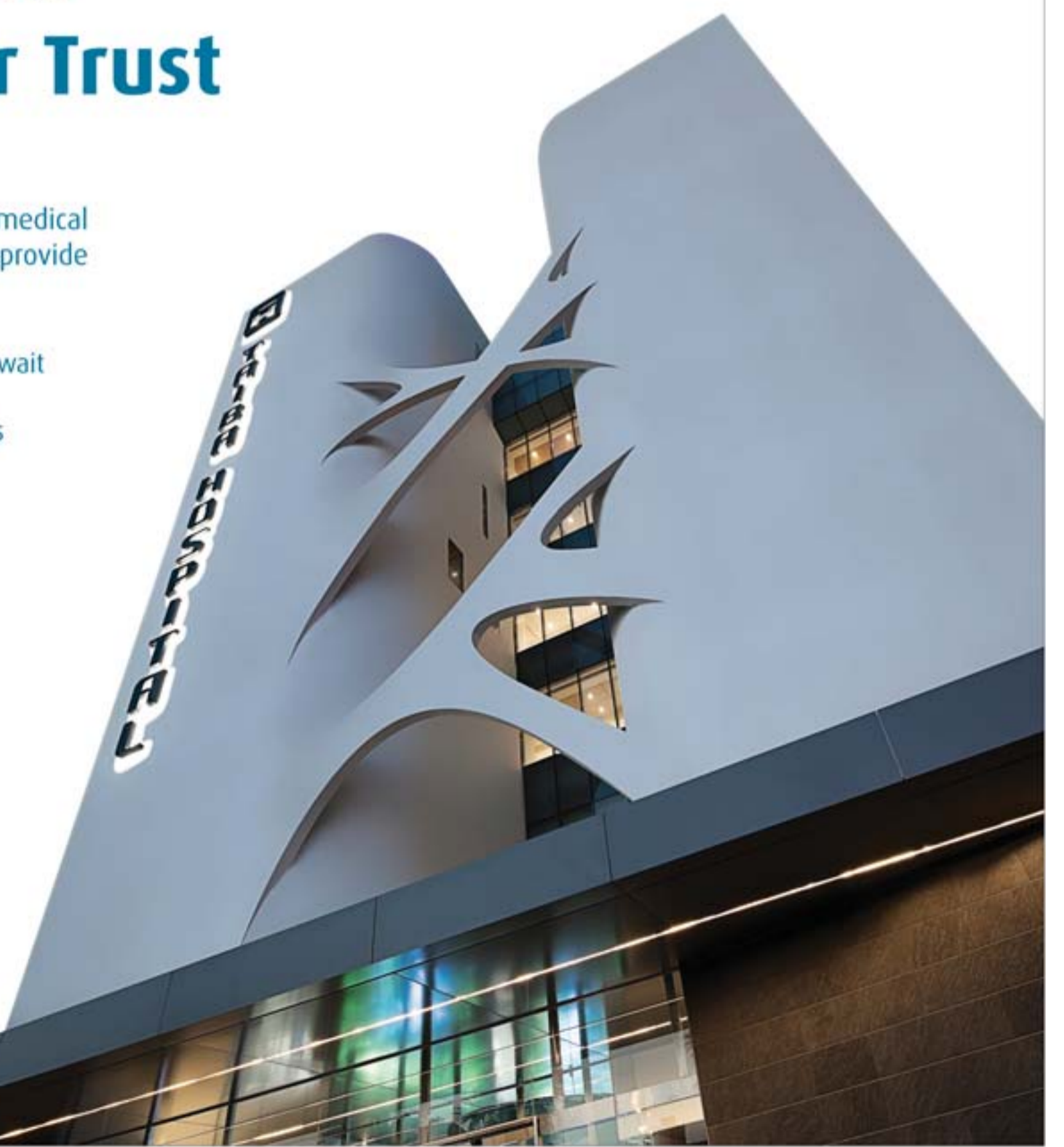
Taiba Hospital... Nurturing Your Trust

Taiba Hospital brings you the finest services, medical expertise and latest technology in Kuwait to provide you the ultimate care.

- First advanced Hybrid Operating Theatre in Kuwait
- Team of Kuwaiti Consultants and Specialists
- Fully equipped labor rooms and elegant suites
- Comprehensive Intensive Care Unit



1808088



Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwait witnessed dusty weather yesterday, especially in open areas, due to northeastern light to moderate winds with speeds between 15-45 kilometers per hour, Kuwait Metrological Center said. — KUNA photo

Kuwait Times
Established 1961

SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW

KD 25

PAINTBALL KUWAIT

* your subscription for one year for only kd 25 and get 4 Free tickets to Paintball Kuwait valued at kd 37

www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 Entrance Ticket Value KD 9.250

50+ Paintballs

30 Paintballs

10 Paintballs

www.kuwaittimes.net

* This campaign is limited to participants in Kuwait only. Ministries and their departments, companies and NGOs cannot enter the festival.
* Kuwait Times employees, spouses and their second-degree relatives also cannot participate.

Arab cultural heritage conference held in Amman

KUWAIT: Dr. Saud Hilal Al-Harbi, Director-General of ALECSO, inaugurated the 23rd 'Conference on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Arab World,' in Amman, Jordan. The opening ceremony

took place recently in the presence of Lina Annab, Jordanian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, and with the participation of experts and officials from all Arab states. The current session of the conference is being held under the theme 'modern technologies in programs and projects to promote awareness of cultural property conservation in the Arab World.'

The conference aims at coordinating Arab efforts and exchange expertise between Arab experts in the fields of preserving and managing cultural heritage in the Arab World, especially in using modern techniques in documentation and preserving the civilized heritage.



Local

NBK Children's Hospital organizes Value-led Hospital conference

Image of NBK Children's Hospital making its way to the international standards



KUWAIT: NBK staff pose for a group picture.



NBK staff pose for a picture with Kuwait Human Rights Society's Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer.

KUWAIT: NBK Children's Hospital inaugurated the first value-led hospital conference in collaboration with National Bank of Kuwait namely 'Value-led Hospital' aiming to best practices in healthcare leadership, the conference was held for two days at the stem cell therapy unit, in Al-Sabah Medical Specialty Region.

NBK Children's Hospital Conference is a hospital initiative to integrate "best practice in healthcare leadership." World-leading professionals from Sweden and Canada discussed how hospital values can be integrated in hospital strategies, policies, process and day-to-day practices. The conference is considered the first of its kind to be held by a hospital under the Ministry of Health and covers all hospital staff. NBK Human Resources (HR) Group also took part in this conference and provided specialized skill programs in client service and experience to a total of 120 employees including medical, nursing and administrative staff.

Dr Maitham Husain, Director of NBK Children's Hospital, said: "The image of NBK Children's hospital is making its way to international standards. The conference took the hospital a step forward towards thriving to excellence he added. "We are proud to see our project striving to the international standards in respect to strategies, policies, processes and day-to-day practices," he noted.

"We aim to increase awareness of leaders and senior management staff about the skills and tools available to achieve the strategic goals of the hospital. Using collaboration as a powerful tool, we had reached to experts nationally and internationally to deliver the scientific program," he added.

Emad Al-Ablani, NBK General Manager, Human Resources Group, said: "This is an unprecedented step in the medical sector in Kuwait. This conference confirms the distinction of NBK Hospital in enhancing its advanced treatments and values to align with the international modern standards."

Ablani expressed his pride of taking part in this conference, where NBK Human Resources Group offered workshops on family-centered communication, time management, career planning and employee satisfaction. These workshops focused on to develop the staff's performance in order to meet NBK's standards.

Manal Al-Mattar, NBK Assistant General Manager, Public Relations, said: "This first of a kind initiative highlights NBK's role in the Health sector in Kuwait and reflects the bank's high sense of duty and responsibility towards the community and help those in need. It is a well rooted tradition that has been carried out by NBK each year in its efforts to continuously have an active role in Kuwait's society.

The conference comes in line with the bank's social responsibility towards the hospital and to improve the staff's performance in order to meet NBK's standards and enhance the hospital's value. NBK will always be committed in supporting the Hospital to go forward in progress at the level of services and care" she added.

Dr Jonas Nordquist from Karolinska Institute outlined the NBK Children's values including family-centered care, collaborative, teamwork and center of



Dr Maitham Husain



Dr Jonas Nordquist



Dr Jerry Maniate

excellence and how they influence patient and family experience. Dr Jerry Maniate from The Ottawa Hospital defined the development of educational and training needs and program at the hospital which will enhance further the inter-professional development. Furthermore, Dr Abdullah Ali, from the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS), discussed how hospital can provide an environment that support training of healthcare professionals.

Child Life is Key

As "child and family well-being" is part of integral part of care for children at NBK Children's Hospital, Stephanie Hopkinson, a child life specialists from KACCH, explored how family-centered care can be integrated in the hospital vision and patient care. In her turn, Hadia Sajet also informed the audience about the role of Children Life Service CLS during the plan of care of child with cancer and chronic diseases.

Our People are Our Priority

In addition, the conference hosted several workshops targeting frontline staffs both administrative and clinical focusing on family centered communication, time management, career planning and employee satisfaction. These workshops were conducted by the Human Resources Group at NBK and enabled participants to use different strategies and tools to be client focused yet maintain job satisfaction.

Patient Safety and Quality Initiatives

Safety and Quality are strategic goals at NBK Children's and hence this is reflected on the program at the conference which presented three live sessions on quality initiatives at the workplace. As well, Dr Haythem Abdulaziz and Dr Hanaa Alganim from the Accreditation and Quality Directorate informed the audience about the use of using safety and quality initiatives such PDSA cycle in daily practice.

It is worth mentioning that NBK's Stem Cell Therapy Unit is the first children's bone marrow transplant center in Kuwait. The new center is the largest corporate social responsibility donation in Kuwait and will expand the hospital's ability to treat children with cancer and blood diseases.

Workshops focused on staff performance development



A general view of people in attendance.—Photos by Joseph Shagra

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

It is with deep sorrow that

Imad Flayhan & his family

announce the sad demise of his

Brother Wajdi Sleiman Flayhan

Condolences will take place at his residence
on Sunday, 22nd April 2018
from 5 PM to 8 PM
Anjafa, Block 13
Dina Complex, House No. 9
Al Ta'awon Street
adjacent to Arabella Complex

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



In wealthy Germany, growing up poor is 'a dead-end street'

India to seize property of super-rich fugitives

Page 9

Page 8



WASHINGTON: A journalist reads 'A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies and Leadership' by James Comey in Washington, DC. Fired former FBI chief James Comey lashed out at Donald Trump in an interview with ABC broadcast calling him 'morally unfit' to be president and describing him as a serial liar who will 'stain everyone around him.' —AFP

Comey memos add to Trump legal woes

Memos depicts president as obsessed with smutty video, Russia

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump has lashed out after memos of his meetings with the FBI's then chief James Comey depicted the president as obsessed with the Russia probe and a smutty video allegedly showing him with two prostitutes. But the memos were just the latest twist in a week of awful headlines for Trump: from the release of a bestselling book in which Comey labels him "morally unfit," to a courtroom circus featuring his embattled personal lawyer and a porn star who alleges a tryst with Trump.

Trump's legal and personal woes—and wall-to-wall Comey book interviews overshadowed his summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, at which the president confirmed CIA chief Mike Pompeo had met Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang to lay the groundwork for an upcoming summit with Trump himself. As the week drew to a close, the flurry of developments on the North Korean front were once again eclipsed by the Comey memos—which depict Trump pressuring the FBI chief over the probe into his campaign's links to Russia before firing him, and could bolster potential obstruction of justice allegations.

"James Comey Memos just out and show clearly that there was NO COLLUSION and NO OBSTRUCTION. Also, he leaked classified information. WOW! Will the Witch Hunt continue?" Trump tweeted Friday in response to the documents. And to top it off, on Friday the Democratic Party filed a lawsuit in New York alleging the Trump campaign, the Russian government and WikiLeaks conspired to skew the 2016 presidential election toward the Republican.

"We must prevent future attacks on our democracy, and that's exactly what we're doing today," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez. "If the occupant of the Oval Office won't protect our democracy, Democrats will."

Personal lawyer raided

Trump's legal problems reach back to the beginning of his presidency, but have multiplied. Two weeks ago FBI agents raided the New York residences and offices of his longtime personal lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen, seizing files that could bare Trump's past business dealings and expose more about his relationships with several women in the 2000s, when he was married. One of them, the porn actress Stormy Daniels, whom Cohen paid \$130,000 to keep quiet about an alleged affair with Trump in 2006, showed up to much publicity at the first hearing over the Cohen raid.

Days later she went on the hit show The View where she said she was threatened not to talk about her Trump affair.

Daniels and Trump are now locked in dueling lawsuits that serve to keep the alleged tryst in the headlines. Separately, Trump is battling a lawsuit that alleges he is breaking anti-corruption clauses in the US Constitution by profiting from the use of his namesake Washington hotel by foreign dignitaries. Most ominous of all, Trump is under pressure from Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into links between his campaign and Russia, a probe that is also examining possible obstruction by the president.

Comey's new book deflects questions back to president

That investigation has numerous top aides and possibly family members of Trump in its sights. In recent weeks, according to reports, Trump has considered firing both Mueller and the Justice Department's number two, Rod Rosenstein, whom Trump himself appointed a year ago. In a tweet late on Friday night, Trump wrote: "James Comey illegally leaked classified documents to the press in order to generate a Special Council? Therefore, the Special Council was established based on an illegal act? Really, does everybody know

what that means?" It is not the first time Trump has misspelled the word "counsel."

Comey book

Trump and the Republicans have sought to undermine Mueller's probe by discrediting him and his team as biased and corrupt. But Comey's new book, "A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies and Leadership," has deflected questions back to the president. Comey likens Trump to a Mafia boss who demands absolute loyalty, and lacks any moral foundation. "This president is unethical, and untethered to truth and institutional values," he writes. "His leadership is transactional, ego driven and about personal loyalty." The book, and the memos released by Congress, add support to allegations Trump wanted to suppress the Russia probe and fired Comey because of it.

Trump expands legal team

The strain on the White House is clear. On Thursday Trump added three new attorneys, including former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani and two white collar criminal defense specialists. According to Axios, the Trump team is still seeking to add more firepower to the legal team, and is pitching for Emmet Flood, who represented former president Bill Clinton in his fight against impeachment in 1998-99. While Trump doesn't yet face any personal charges, both Democrats and Republicans in Congress have warned him he could face impeachment if he fires Mueller.—AFP

N Korea's nuclear declaration: What it does and does not mean

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has declared an end to the nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests that sent tensions soaring on the peninsula, in the region, and beyond. The move, enshrined in a decision by the ruling Workers' Party, comes ahead of a summit with the South's President Moon Jae-in next week, and with a much-anticipated meeting with US President Donald Trump due later. But it is only one step in a complicated sequence of moves that has a long way to play out. Here are some questions and answers on the latest developments.

Giving up nuke arsenal?

Not in the slightest. Kim explicitly said that the possession of nuclear weapons was "the firm guarantee by which our descendants can enjoy the most dignified and happiest life in the world". The North also reserved itself the right to use atomic weapons if there were "nuclear threats and nuclear provocations" against it—a threshold that falls short of an attack. "I don't see how North Korean statement constitutes a step toward denuclearization," tweeted Christopher Green of the International Crisis Group. "It is a moratorium on testing, but re-commits North Korea to nuclear weapons status."

Why this announcement now?

Pyongyang's declaration comes less than a week before the inter-Korean summit, and it has been on a charm offensive for months with the South's Winter Olympics triggering a diplomatic rapprochement on the peninsula. Kim first declared the

completion of the country's nuclear force at the beginning of this year, and the North appears to believe last year's technological advances put it into a position of strength from which to negotiate.

At the same time analysts say it has been rattled by the belligerent rhetoric of the Trump administration, and according to diplomats sanctions are having an increasing impact on the economy. The declaration of an end to testing has long been demanded by Washington, and will be seen as a confidence-building measure ahead of the talks. Jon Wolfsthal, director of the Nuclear Crisis Group, said: "The DPRK is really eager both to ensure the summit happens and, if it fails, to build the case now that they bent over backwards to be reasonable."

Will there be a deal?

Trump warned on Wednesday that he would call off the Kim summit if it was unlikely to prove "fruitful". But what an ultimate deal over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons might look like, and what it will demand in the form of security guarantees, remains deeply unclear. And we have been here before—there have been declarations of a moratorium on testing, negotiations and even agreements in the past, but they have ultimately foundered sooner or later.

How significant is it?

All but one of the North's nuclear blasts have been carried out under Mount Mantap at the Punggye-ri nuclear test site in the northeast of the country, with landslides and earthquakes after the last blast leading to speculation it was suffering from "tired mountain syndrome". Closing Punggye-ri does not preclude the use of other locations, or even atmospheric nuclear tests. MIT political scientist Vipin Narang pointed out. But David Albright of the Institute for Science and International Security said the declared intention to "transparently guarantee" the end of testing was highly significant, opening the way to the US seeking access to the site. "Transparency is critical and a key concession, if sincere."



SEOUL: A telephone hotline to North Korea is displayed at the presidential Blue House in Seoul. The two Koreas opened a hotline between their leaders, a week before a summit between North Korea's Kim Jong Un and the South's President Moon Jae-in in the Demilitarized Zone. —AFP

How powerful is arsenal?

Monitoring groups put the size of Pyongyang's sixth and last atomic blast in September at 250 kilotons - 16 times the size of the US bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945 and the kind of yield generated by a hydrogen bomb. In a 2016 defense white paper, Seoul estimated the North had 50 kilograms of plutonium—reportedly enough for about 10 bombs, and US estimates of its bomb numbers are said to be significantly higher.

The Hwasong-15 ICBM Pyongyang tested in November has an estimated range of more than 13,000 kilometers, analysts say, bringing the whole of the US mainland within range. There are still questions over its capabilities—it has not demonstrated targeting abilities, miniaturization of a warhead, or the re-entry technology needed to survive coming back into the Earth's atmosphere. But it claims to have mastered all three. And whenever it holds a military parade, it puts scores of missiles and giant launchers on show rolling through Kim Il Sung square.—AFP

Western airstrikes on Syria - a turning point

BEIRUT: Unprecedented Western strikes against regime targets in Syria yielded a lot of political chest-thumping but no hope that the seven-year war would end soon or even claim fewer civilian victims. On April 14, the United States, France and Britain fired missiles meant as a response to what the trio of nations said was evidence Damascus had used chemical weapons a week earlier. Meanwhile, international inspectors on Friday had yet to begin their probe at the site of the alleged chemical attack in Douma, amid concerns that its security was not guaranteed and that evidence had been removed.

Purported footage of victims foaming at the mouth after the April 7 attack sparked an outcry and prompted the West to launch its biggest military action yet against President Bashar Al-Assad's regime. A bullish US administration hailed the strikes as a success and argued a clear message had been sent to the Damascus regime that the use of chemical weapons would no longer go unpunished. "If Assad doesn't get it, it's going to hurt," the US ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, said.

French President Emmanuel Macron also claimed that the missiles could have a major diplomatic impact, achieving what analysts saw as an attempt by the West to reclaim a seat at the table after staying aloof. Russia, Damascus's top ally, was warned of the strikes and many analysts said the Syrian regime had ample time to hide its chemical stockpile. The Western trio at the UN Security Council had emphasized the need to bridge the rift with Russia, which is the main broker in the conflict but whose peace initiatives have also failed.

Diplomatic stalemate

Russia has instead reaffirmed its alliance with Turkey and Iran and is still alleging that the April 7 Douma attack was a Western-engineered fabrication to justify strikes. That claim has gained considerable traction in global public opinion thanks to a relentless campaign by Russian media and a network of pro-Russian social media accounts. After a week of trading threats and recriminations, UN ambassadors will try to find some common ground during a three-day retreat starting Friday at a farmhouse in southern Sweden. A voice often drowned out by the bluster that preceded and followed the strikes, was that of Syrian civilians. On a wall in the northern province of Idlib, graffiti artist Aziz al-Asmar had these words for Trump: "Your strike is like a rooster's fart." —AFP

International

Israeli criticism of journalists on Gaza border conflicts with video

Israel accuses Hamas of using protests as cover up

JERUSALEM: Israel's military has suggested that a photo it has distributed shows journalists are willingly being used as human shields by Palestinian militants during recent protests, but video and a witness account of the incident tell a different story. The military has made a photo from April 13 protests and clashes on the Gaza Strip border part of its public relations effort, with one army spokesman using it in a tweet to suggest bias and recklessness by journalists covering recent demonstrations.



Those suggestions conflict with video footage of the incident shown in the photograph filmed by an AFP journalist and the reporter's description of what happened. The distribution of the photo comes as Israel comes under scrutiny over its use of live fire during protests and clashes on the Gaza border.

Thirty-four Palestinians have been killed and hundreds wounded by Israeli forces since the protests began on March 30, according to Gaza's health ministry.

The dead include a Palestinian journalist who witnesses said was wearing a press vest when he was shot. Israel accuses Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs the Gaza Strip and with whom it has fought three wars since 2008, of using the protests as cover to carry out violence and says it has only opened fire when necessary. There have been no Israeli casualties, and Palestinians say protesters are being shot while posing no threat to troops.

'Terror purposes'?

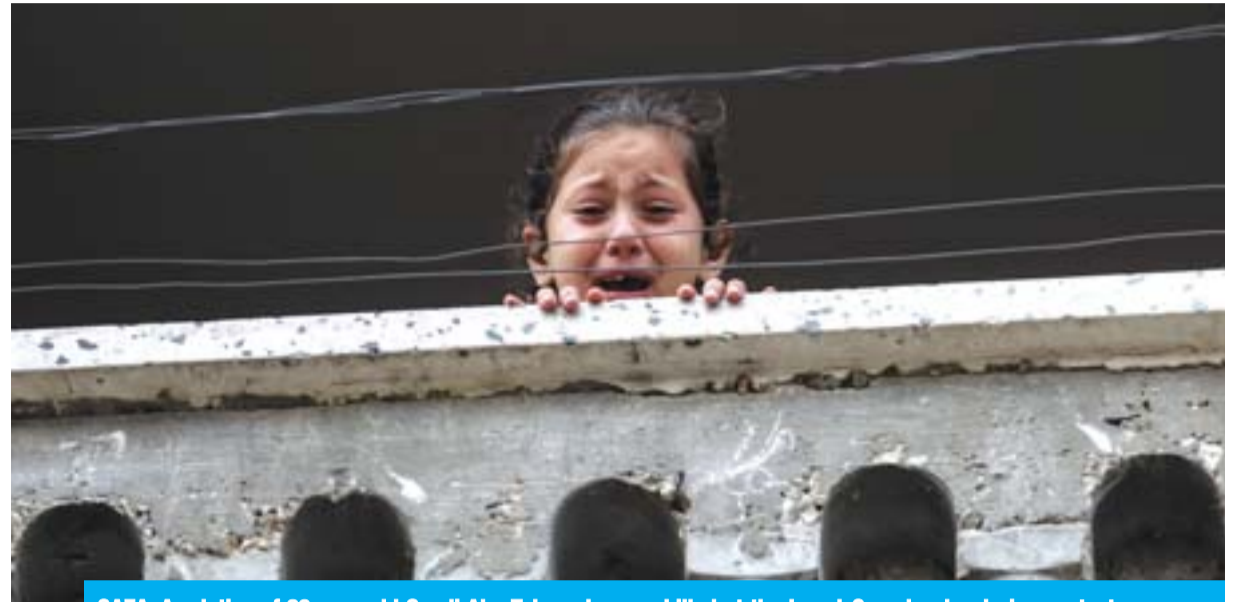
When first distributing the photo on April 13, Israel's military said the main person in it was "a terrorist wielding an item suspected of being an explosive device used for terror purposes while journalists and a handicapped person stand closely behind him." "Once again, the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) cautions against being present in areas where the violent riots are taking place, as they are being used as camouflage for terror acts targeting Israel's security infrastructure and IDF troops."

The military's Arabic-language spokesman Avichay Adraee took it further, tweeting the photo to his 190,000 followers with fake dialogue written next to the people in it, including an AFP video journalist. Dialogue next to the AFP journalist says: "I came alone, but I don't care if I am used as a human shield. If something happens, we'll accuse Israel." The AFP journalist recorded video of the incident shown in the photograph during protests east of Gaza City.

Footage shows a man wearing a keffiyeh scarf attempting and failing to light what seems to be a standard firework while lying on the ground amid black smoke from burning tyres. He was at least 100 meters from Israeli forces at the time, the journalist said, and later gave up and left the area. The journalist, who has extensive experience in conflict zones, had positioned himself and his camera there in part because he believed he was far enough from the border fence to avoid unnecessary risk.

Thirty-four Palestinians killed during protest

AFP has not been able to identify the person in the photo and video and it is not clear what he did before or after the footage was recorded. In response to questions from AFP, Israel's military said "these types of explosive devices were hurled over the security fence along the Gaza border several times during the violent riots in an effort to harm IDF troops. "As for the related tweet, the content was posted to illustrate the dangerous and complex situation journalists and civilians put themselves in when they choose to be present in the violent riots organized by the Hamas terror organization. "The illustration was not intended to specifically or personally target the journalist pictured." —AFP



GAZA: A relative of 29-year-old Saadl Abu Taha, who was killed at the Israel-Gaza border during protests, mourns while looking out of a balcony in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza strip yesterday. —AFP

UN Security Council meets over Syria in remote farmhouse

BACKAKRA: The UN Security Council met in a secluded farmhouse on the southern tip of Sweden yesterday in a bid to overcome deep divisions over how to end the war in Syria. In a first for the Council, which normally holds its annual brainstorming session in upstate New York, the 15 ambassadors and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres were this year invited to hold an informal meeting in Backakra by Sweden, a non-permanent member of the body. The United Nations' special envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, is expected today. The farmhouse is the summer residence of Dag Hammarskjold, the United Nations' second secretary-

general who died in a plane crash in Africa in 1961. Situated in the heart of a nature reserve, just a stone's throw from the Baltic Sea, the farmhouse consists of four buildings around a courtyard and has been completely renovated in recent years. The southern wing serves as the summer residence for the Swedish Academy which awards the Nobel Literature Prize. With both New York and Damascus thousands of kilometres away, the Council is exploring "the means to strengthen and make more effective United Nations peacekeeping missions," the Swedish government said.

Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom welcomed the decision to hold the meeting in Sweden, "where there is a long tradition of peaceful conflict prevention and resolution". But as she arrived in Backakra yesterday morning she warned against being too hopeful the Syrian issue would be resolved over the weekend. "Hopefully there will be some new ideas on the table and I think it'll be on those tracks: the humanitarian situation, the chemical weapons," she said. But "not even the beautiful settings like these can solve all the problems", the minister added. The country's deputy UN Ambassador Carl Skau said

the idea was to foster dialogue and "relaunch momentum" with "humility and patience", a week after the air strikes by France, Britain and the United States against the Syrian regime. "It's important for the council's credibility," Skau told reporters in New York. While the war in Syria is not the only topic of the deliberations, it is high up on the agenda because it was an issue that divided council members deeply in recent months. Skau said Backakra was a "fitting and inspiring venue" to reconnect with the power of diplomacy. "It's a place to roll up our sleeves, take off our jackets and ties and come up with some real and meaningful ways forward," he said.

The air strikes by the three Western powers on April 14 targeted three sites, which the countries argued were used by the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad for a chemical weapons program. Syria has been accused of using chemical weapons in an attack a week earlier in Douma, the last rebel stronghold near Damascus. Assad and Russian allies have denied that Syria was responsible for the attack, which according to rescuers, left more than 40 people dead. But the Western powers insist that the Syrian regime had crossed a red line. —AFP

Security challenges loom over Buhari's re-election bid

KANO: Muhammadu Buhari's pledge to end Boko Haram's Islamist insurgency in northeast Nigeria played a large part in his 2015 presidential election victory. With elections approaching next year and Buhari, 75, having declared his intention to seek a second, four-year term, the extent to which he has done that is coming under increasing scrutiny. But as Africa's most populous nation gears up for months of hard campaigning before the vote in February 2019, the former military ruler is not just facing questions about Boko Haram.

In recent months there has been a resurgence of clashes between farmers and nomadic herders—and a heavily politicized reaction—which could have an impact on polling. Ryan Cummings, Africa analyst at the Signal Risk consultancy in South Africa, noted the violence "now accounts for more civilian casualties than the Boko Haram insurgency and may continue to do so in the foreseeable future". Elsewhere, criminal violence and kidnappings for ransom in some northern states have increased, while tensions persist from pro-Biafran separatists in the southeast.

Boko Haram weakened

In the 12 months before the last election, Boko Haram fighters ran riot across northeast Nigeria, capturing swathes of territory with the military seemingly unable to respond. Buhari, who headed a military government in the 1980s, was seen as a better bet to end the violence, which has killed at least 20,000 since 2009. He has achieved that to an extent but persistent attacks have undermined his repeated assertion that the militants have been virtually defeated. "It is fair to say that President Buhari has failed in delivering on his promise to defeat Boko Haram within his first term," said Cummings.

The group recently gave a clear indication of the threat it still poses by abducting 112 schoolgirls from Dapchi in Yobe state in almost a carbon copy of the Chibok kidnapping in 2014. Buhari secured massive support across the mainly Muslim north in 2015. That looks unlikely to change significantly in 2019. In the north's biggest city and most populous state, Kano—a key election prize because of its size—people said Buhari had their vote for weakening Boko Haram. But they warned he needed to take action against security threats elsewhere. "That is where he is going to face his toughest challenge," said Abdulhadi Ahmad, a garment trader.

Herder-farmer violence

Violence in the decades-old dispute between herders and nomadic farmers in the central states of Benue, Taraba, Nasarawa, Plateau and Kogi has flared again in the past two years. Buhari has been criticized for failing to stop the violence, which according to some estimates has killed more than 2,000 since the start of this year. It will be a key issue in central states, where the Muslim north meets the mainly Christian south, that typically swing between parties.

In Benue, the head of the state's tribal leaders, Chief Edward Ujege, said Buhari "does not deserve a single vote... because he has failed to give us security". The conflict, which is driven by land and resources, has been seen largely through the prism of Nigeria's ethnic and religious identity politics. The president of the ethnic Tiv Youths Organization, Timothy Hembraor,



ABUJA: A man runs holding mace (the symbol of authority of the Upper Legislative Chamber) seized at the chamber in Abuja. The ceremonial mace of Nigeria's upper chamber of parliament was stolen Senate leaders said, condemning the theft as an 'act of treason'. —AFP

indicated patronage will play a part: people in Benue will back Benue's APC governor, even if he moves party, he said. Buhari "shouldn't even come here to campaign", he added.

No political will

Amachi Nwokolo, from the Roman Institute of International Studies in Abuja, said Buhari, whose candidacy still needs to be endorsed by his party, had already "most likely lost the vote in Benue", an APC state. "He may not win in many of the states that have gone up in flames and many people are going to use that against him around the country," added the security analyst.

Ndi Kato, a campaigner for indigenous people in the central states, said the attacks put a way of life under threat and the government's lack of action had caused outrage. "We feel we cannot have four more years of this," she said, adding there was "zero political will" to end the violence, which has made tens of thousands of people homeless. "All things being equal the Middle Belt won't be voting for this government. However, we don't know who they will be voting for—and that is another problem." —AFP

24th APRIL 2018 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Hilton Resort, Mangaf, Al Dana Ballroom | ترجمة فورية

KNOWLEDGE CLUB
2018
1 DAY SEMINAR

CREATING BEHAVIOR THAT LASTS

A New Approach to Employee Engagement

With
DR. Marshall Goldsmith
The World's #1 Leadership Thinker

DEVELOPING OURSELVES, OUR PEOPLE, OUR TEAMS AND OUR ENGAGEMENT

BOOK YOUR SEAT

REGISTRATION & INQUIRIES

+965 9491-3803

+965 2246-1445

ALGAS | Road 15, Al Gas Tower, Ahmad Al-Jaber St., Shing, Kuwait City, Kuwait

www.knowledgeclub.com

info@vigorevents.com

Download Vigor Events App

Available on Google Play | Available on the App Store

@knowledgeclub | /knowledgeclub

/vigorevents | /vigorevents

You can pay online and book your seat via K-NET through www.dawrat.com

ORGANIZED BY: VIGOR

CO-ORGANIZER: ALGAS ENGINE

GOLD MEMBER: بنك ووراء WARAA BANK

SUPPORT PARTNERS: ISC

CORPORATE MEMBER: [Logo]

ASSOCIATED WITH: [Logos]

MARKETING PARTNERS: [Logos]

MEDIA PARTNERS: [Logos]

MOBILE PARTNERS: [Logos]

INTERNET PARTNER: [Logos]

International

In wealthy Germany, growing up poor is 'a dead-end street'

20 percent of under-18s live in 'relative poverty'

BERLIN: Chancellor Angela Merkel touted Germany as a country "in which we live well and happily" during her re-election campaign. But those words ring hollow to the one in five children living in poverty in Europe's top economy, with little prospect of climbing the social ladder. It's just gone 3:00 pm at the Lichtenberg youth centre in east Berlin, where youngsters are laying out cherry tomatoes and carefully chopped cucumber as they get ready to prepare dinner together. For many of them, the weekday ritual is an eagerly awaited moment. "We notice it a lot especially among the teenagers, they ask us: 'When can we eat? I haven't eaten all day'," said Patric Tavanti, head of the centre run by the charity Caritas. Many of the youngsters' parents often lack the money or the time to provide regular meals, he said, adding that the centre aims to give the youths a space "where they can feel at home". "I come almost every day," Leila, one of the teens, told AFP. "We chat, cook together and just have fun."

“When can we eat? I haven't eaten all day”

Downward spiral

In Europe's powerhouse, the economy is humming, public coffers have never been fuller and unemployment is at its lowest since reunification in 1990. Yet some 20 percent of under-18s live in "relative poverty", according to the family ministry, defined as living in households that have to get by on less than 60 percent of the average German household income. For a single parent with one child, that amounts to a monthly net income below 1,192 euros (\$1,470). For a family with four children, it's under 2,355 euros.

Despite record employment, only a third of the parents of Germany's roughly 2.8 million impoverished children have jobs, said Heinz Hilgers, of the Child Protection Association (Kinderschutzbund). Beyond the material shortcomings they suffer, growing up poor takes its toll in many other, more insidious ways. "It's a downward spiral," said professor Klaus Hurrelmann, of the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. "The children feel

excluded, they start to feel ashamed when they can't join in school excursions or invite friends over for a birthday party. They end up losing confidence in themselves and struggle at school," he said.

Falling behind at school

Tavanti, of the Berlin youth centre, said it was a phenomenon he had witnessed first-hand. "Just one of our adolescents is currently trying to pass the Abitur," he said, referring to the secondary-school leaving certificate required to pursue higher education. He believes many German schools struggle to meet the needs of these at-risk children, who often come from immigrant families or single-parent homes. "We're seeing a growing need for food, but also for help with homework and reading," agreed Lars Dittebrand, who runs the Manna family centre in Berlin's Gropiusstadt area, famed for its towering social housing estates. Compounding the problem is Germany's early-age education sorting system, critics say, which can prematurely put disadvantaged pupils on a less academic route, potentially leading to lower-paying and less secure jobs.

Decrying what it calls "hereditary poverty" in Germany, a study by the Bertelsmann Foundation think tank found that just some three to 16 percent of households, depending on calculations, managed to cross the poverty line and improve their lot. "That's how generations of poor children become poor adults and poor parents," said Hilgers, of the Child Protection Association. As well as being a stain on Germany's conscience, it's "a huge economic risk", he warned, in a greying nation already grappling with a shortage of skilled labor.

'Making their own way'

Germany's new government, a repeat coalition of Merkel's conservatives and the centre-left Social



BERLIN: A girl eats lunch at a family centre and kindergarden at the Gropiusstadt quarter in Berlin. Chancellor Angela Merkel touted Germany as a country 'in which we live well and happily' during her re-election campaign. But those words ring hollow to the one in five children living in poverty in Europe's top economy, with little prospect of climbing the social ladder. —AFP

Democrats, has vowed to tackle the challenges by raising child benefits, offering more child care facilities and all-day schools to make it easier for parents, especially mothers, to work. But for lawmaker Lisa Paus, of the opposition Greens party, those promises don't go far enough. She said Germany urgently needed to do more to support single parents. "Poverty often starts when couples split up," she said. Indeed, statistics show that 45 percent of children raised by a sole parent, usually their mother, live in relative poverty.

Some politicians and campaigners have called for a

basic monthly income for children of around 500 euros for the lowest-earning households to help break the poverty doom loop. But for a government determined to maintain a balanced budget, any hint of lavish spending is anathema. Instead, Family Minister Franziska Giffey plans to introduce a law in coming months aimed at improving the quality of daycare facilities, with a bigger emphasis on early-child development. "Every child should be allowed to make their own way, regardless of where they come from and where they grew up," she said. —AFP

Vietnam War refugees deported under Trump struggle to settle down

HO CHI MINH CITY: Nguyen was nine when he boarded a boat alone to escape the communist regime in Vietnam for the United States. Some 40 years later, he returned in shackles, deported from the only country he really knows to one he can scarcely remember. With conspiracy and fraud convictions under his belt, he was expelled in line with a Trump administration push to remove immigrants with criminal records for convictions ranging from traffic offenses to drug-related crimes and murder.

Nguyen left his four grown kids and second wife Annie behind in Boston, and now spends his days aimlessly cruising the web because he cannot find work, or battling bureaucracy to obtain identity papers. "I still don't believe it," Nguyen told AFP in Ho Chi Minh City this week, using only his last name for safety. "I really want to go back there because I lived there for more of my life there than here," said Nguyen, who's not yet used to the city's sweltering heat and complains of dry fried chicken at the local KFC.

The former construction worker was sent to immigration detention with orders of removal after his prison release last year, joining some 8,600 Vietnamese nationals tagged for deportation, most with criminal records. In the 2017 fiscal year, 71 Vietnamese nationals were deported from the US double the 2016 figure—and 76 have been sent so far since October 2017 according to data from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) which does not track refugees' date of arrival to the country when compiling removal data. The move comes as immigration officials ramp up raids and removals of aliens from Mexico, Cambodia, Myanmar and elsewhere who Trump has vowed to crack down on.

Advocates argue that the expulsion of Vietnamese nationals violates a 2008 deal that says Vietnam refugees who arrived in the US before the normalization of ties between the former war foes in 1995 should not be deported. Four refugees have filed a class action lawsuit over months-long pre-deportation detentions. But ICE says their birth nations are obligated to take them back and that it does not target immigrants "indiscriminately". "ICE focuses its enforcement resources on individuals who pose a threat to national security, public safety and border security," spokesman Brendan Raedy said.

'Very risky'

Nguyen and nearly 30 others landed in Ho Chi Minh City in December after a 24-hour flight during which his hands and feet were shackled, and he has spent the last few months uneasily settling into a city he still calls by its former name Saigon. He says his father was shot dead by communist authorities in 1979, soon after Nguyen left his mother behind for the US where he was taken in by American sponsors for a few years. Since his return, his elderly mother has been visited by plain-clothes police asking about her son and he fears further harassment because of his family's past work with the US military. —AFP

'Civility, grace': What US could learn from ex-first lady Barbara

WASHINGTON: In an era of hyper-partisan feuding and noxious personal attacks, the life and lengthy marriage of former first lady Barbara Bush serve as poignant reminders in power-obsessed Washington that decency and grace can win out. Bush's death Tuesday at age 92 triggered an outpouring of affection for the snowy-haired matriarch of one of America's storied political dynasties. Smart, tough and quick-witted, Bush had a no-frills style, a focus on family, and a willingness to engage across the political aisle that endeared her to millions. And her 73-year marriage to George HW Bush—the longest presidential marriage in US history—only heightened her reputation as a fiercely loyal and honest partner in a city full of two-faced politicians.

Politics has always been a brutal game in Washington. But Bush, the wife and mother of two Republican presidents, exemplified a comity that has steadily evaporated in the posturing, intense partisanship and even name-calling that has come to dominate the US capital. "It's important for people to reflect on the dignity, civility and grace that she brought to public life," said John Cornyn, the Senate's number two Republican and one of several senior lawmakers who discussed Bush's legacy with AFP.

"I know today we think everything's a food fight, and there don't seem to be any sort of prevailing standards when it comes to public life. And that's really our loss," he added. "So it is reassuring to remember that there are people like her and her husband and that family who really set a very high standard, and one that I think we should aspire to." Today's discourse in Washington often fails to clear such a high bar. President Donald Trump himself launches attacks on Twitter, using slurs to demean opponents or critics.

Lawmakers routinely lob their own verbal hand grenades at Trump and one another. Senate Democrat Patrick Leahy, who has served in the chamber since George HW Bush was US ambassador to China in 1975, often opposed Bush policy—but said the quality of character in the Bush White House shone through. "Both my wife and I think the world of them," he said. "A lot of people like to talk about family values and all that, and don't practice it," he said of today's politicians. "They practice it."

Queen marks 92nd birthday

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II marked her 92nd birthday yesterday with traditional gun salutes and a Commonwealth-themed charity concert featuring Tom Jones, Kylie and Shaggy. Horse-drawn guns fired 41 times in Hyde Park and 62 times at the Tower of London, while at Windsor Castle, the band played "Happy Birthday" during the changing of the guard.

In the evening, the monarch and her family were due to attend a concert with performers from around the Commonwealth, the 53-nation grouping which held its summit in London this week. Australia's Kylie, Canadian pop chart-topper Shawn Mendes, South African all-male choir Ladysmith Black Mambazo and US-Jamaican reggae star Shaggy were to join British stars including Jones, Craig David and Sting. The queen usually celebrates her birthday



HOUSTON: An attendant at Second Baptist Church holds a memorial card she was given after viewing former First Lady Barbara Bush's casket lying in repose at St Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston. —AFP

'Tribalism'

After leaving the White House, Barbara Bush aimed to downplay the differences between Democrats and Republicans, telling National Public Radio in 1994 that party platforms "should be very broad-based and inclusive, not exclusive." A longtime Bush friend, former congresswoman Connie Morella, said Barbara's "unpretentious" nature, candid but diplomatic approach, willingness to compromise and mutual respect are missing in today's Congress.

"It's like tribalism right now," Morella, who was picked by George W Bush in 2003 to be US envoy to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, said in an interview Thursday. "They don't know each other, so there's not a chance for them to respect each other." Morella, now 87 and an ambassador in residence at

American University, said Bush "is a reminder to all of us, members of Congress and voters, that this is what we admire and want."

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, who entered Congress when Barbara Bush's husband was president, said the late first lady "brought dignity, civility, and spirit—we all know that—to everything she did." Bush's civility would likely clash with much of today's abrasive, even caustic, tone in Washington. Retiring Republican Senator Bob Corker, who has been the target of wicked Trump tweet storms in the past, fondly recalled a visit by George and Barbara Bush to his Tennessee home in 2000. "There was no fanfare, a lot of humility.... There was just no airs," he said. But can that approach succeed in today's overheated, partisan Washington? "Oh gosh yeah," Corker said. —AFP

in private, saving the pomp for her official birthday in June.

The concert at the Royal Albert Hall will raise money for a new youth charity, The Queen's Commonwealth Trust. The monarch's grandson Prince Harry, who will marry US actress Meghan Markle at Windsor on May 19, is the trust's new president and was due to give a speech at the concert. The queen has been the symbolic head of the Commonwealth since her father king George VI's death in 1952, but its leaders agreed on Friday that her son and heir Prince Charles should succeed her.

The summit was overshadowed by a row over Britain's treatment of Caribbean immigrants, while Charles himself also came under scrutiny. A non-white writer, Anita Sethi, claimed he joked about whether she was really from the British city of Manchester when they met at a Commonwealth meeting this week. Sethi—whose mother was born in Guyana—said Charles asked her where she was from and when she replied, said: "Well, you don't look like it!" and laughed. She wrote in The Guardian that she felt humiliated and angry, adding that "some people, including the prince, urgently need a history lesson about immigration". —AFP



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II

International

Iranian president criticizes violence by morality police

Lawmaker slams Iran Revolutionary Guards

TEHRAN: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani yesterday appeared to criticize the morality police after a video emerged of a violent encounter with a woman accused of breaching the country's strict dress code. "Some say the way to promote virtue and prohibit vice is... by going to the street and grabbing people by the neck," said Rouhani in a wide-ranging speech to government officials carried on state television. "Promoting virtue will not work through violence," he added. On Thursday, mobile footage went viral on Iranian social media showing a female member of the morality police violently beating a woman whose headscarf was not sufficiently covering her hair.

The video prompted outrage on social media and the interior ministry vowed an investigation, but also implied the woman may have provoked the violence by swearing at the police. Rouhani did not refer directly to the case, but appeared to use it to criticize recent efforts to clamp down on social media networks. "Mobiles are the way to promote virtue and prohibit vice. I don't know why some people don't like mobile phones or social networks," he said. "They don't like people having information. They think if people are in total ignorance, they can sleep better at night. "Being informed is people's right... Criticism is people's right," he said. "Let people live their lives."

There is mounting pressure to block foreign social media networks such as Telegram, which are the only way to spread information critical of Iran's Islamic system. But Rouhani said uncensored networks were vital to the economy, and warned that the Islamic revolution of 1979 would ultimately be judged by the regime's behavior towards its people. "If our behavior has gotten worse (since 1979), then this revolu-

tion is on the wrong path. The fundamental purpose of the revolution is to respect people and solve their problems," he said. "Whatever we want to do, if we convince people rather than threaten them... we will succeed."

The morality police have been far less visible in cities since Rouhani came to power in 2013, and Tehran's police chief claimed in December that a softer line was being taken on breaches of Islamic code such as clothing rules, with an emphasis on "education" rather than detention. But thousands of cases are still brought against women for breaching clothing rules, and a former police chief, General Hossein Sajedinia, said in April 2016 that 7,000 undercover morality police were operating in the capital.

MP slams Iran Guards

In another development, a reformist lawmaker in Iran criticized the Revolutionary Guards yesterday for holding a group of environmentalists without access to lawyers or their families. Outspoken member of parliament Mahmoud Sadeghi wrote an open letter to the head of the

Revolutionary Guards' intelligence wing, Hossein Taeb, published on his Telegram channel. He accused the Guards of frequently breaching the "religious and legal rights of defendants during various stages of detention and interrogation." Sadeghi referred particularly to the recent crackdown on environmentalists, which has included the arrest of seven members of the Persian Wildlife Heritage Organization in January.

Their treatment "clearly violates the legal rights of the defendants who, three months into their detention, are deprived of access to lawyers or meeting up



TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (right) listens to a speech by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (center), in the presence of Iranian Guardian Council head Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati (left), and Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi (2nd-left) Chairman of Expediency Discernment Council, during a ceremony in Tehran. —AFP



Video shows a violent encounter with a woman

with their families," he wrote. The head of the NGO, Kavous Seyed Emami, died in custody two weeks after the arrests. The authorities say he committed suicide, which has been disputed by the family. He also criticized the treatment of Kaveh Madani, the deputy head of the government's environment agency who was forced to resign and leave the country under pressure from the intelligence services.

"Since my return to Iran, in the absence of any judicial permission, not only have my personal hardware and accounts been broken into, but my 'citizen rights' and privacy have also been violated right

from the beginning," Madani wrote in a resignation letter, published on Twitter last week. Madani's boss, Isa Kalantari, wrote on the environment agency website yesterday that he had no choice but to accept the resignation, which was a product of "narrow-mindedness in the country". Sadeghi said the "behaviour of your agents towards an outstanding young man", who had given up a glittering scientific career abroad to work on Iran's major environmental challenges, had destroyed "the hope of young people that they can be of service to their country". —Agencies

Colombian border teems as Venezuelans flee crisis

CUCUTA: Outside a church in the Colombian border city of Cucuta, Martha Carbalino flips nervously through a pile of papers in her hands, standing with dozens of other migrant Venezuelan parents hoping to enroll their undocumented children into school. Like some 1.5 million other people in the last two years, Carbalino, 46, fled the hunger and violence of economic collapse and a political crisis in Venezuela.

A month ago she, along with her son and her mother, disabled by a stroke, crossed the border to scrape a living in Cucuta, a city receiving many of the Venezuelans leaving their homeland. Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has described the situation in Venezuela, with its hyperinflation and severe recession, as a "humanitarian crisis." Colombia was spending millions of dollars to support the migrants, he said during a recent visit to the border.

Carbalino hopes to get Luis Angel, her 7-year-old son who likes to draw robots, into school, but she cannot figure out how. "I knock on doors, and no one opens for me," she said through tears outside offices of the Scalabrini International Migration Network, a Catholic organization for migrant aid. "I don't have anywhere to go and here, they say, they give help," Carbalino said.

Not going to school

Thousands of Venezuelan children in Cucuta are not going to school, spending their days alone, following their parents, selling items on the streets or begging. Every day more arrive. About 40,000 Venezuelans were legally entering Colombia each month at the end of 2017, according to Colombian authorities, with thousands more thought to enter illegally. All along the Venezuelan border, towns are struggling to cope. Last week, leaders of Brazil's state of Roraima asked the Supreme Court for permission to close its border temporarily to halt the mass arrival.

While many Venezuelans with the means to migrate legally fled years ago, those leaving today are often seeking jobs to send money to families back home. Few seek political asylum. Aid groups and authorities warn poverty plus lack of schooling or daily supervision will push children into the ranks of Colombia's organized crime groups. "If you don't educate a child, you can't correct that. You totally change the trajectory of their life," said Yadir Galeano, Norwegian Refugee Council manager for Colombia's border areas. "Many kids end up being easy subjects for criminal or armed groups."

In January, Colombia enacted a national decree allowing all foreign children to register and attend school while they sort out their documents and legal status. But for children of undocumented Venezuelans, get-



CUCUTA: People line up outside the Centro Piloto office seeking information about school enrollment for undocumented Venezuelan children in Cucuta, Colombia. —Reuters

ting passports is virtually impossible. "We know that Venezuela isn't helping at all. They aren't giving out passports," said Jonathan Mejia, the official in charge of school enrolment in Cucuta, a city of about 670,000 people. "We need support from the national government in this process of legalization of documents," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Colombia has born the brunt of the exodus of Venezuelans fleeing their once prosperous nation - the number living within its borders jumped by 62 percent in the second half of last year to more than 550,000.

Food is priority

In Cucuta, nearly 4,000 foreign students, mostly Venezuelans, have registered for school. But no one knows how many children of struggling families remain out of school, according to Father Francesco Bortignon, director of the local Scalabrini mission. "School is not a priority," the priest said. "The priority is food." Cesar Gil, 51, sells coffee from a streetcart with his four young children in tow. On a typical day, they leave their rented room before dawn and return after dark with earnings of about \$5. They survive on fried potatoes and corn cakes.

Gil had enrolled his children, all undocumented, in school in Cucuta. But the principal called police a week later when Gil was late to pick them up at the end of the day. "They do it because we are Venezuelans," Gil said. Fearing trouble with authorities, he withdrew his children from school. Venezuelans in the schools are stretching Cucuta's resources and more funds are needed from the national government to hire teachers, according to Mejia. Some of the city's 59 schools have taken more than 220 new students without adding teachers. Mejia

including a \$2 billion fraud at state-run Punjab National Bank that was uncovered in February. Mumbai jewelers Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi are prime suspects in the case and a special court of India's Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) this month issued non-bailable warrants against them.

But authorities say the two men left the country before the fraud was uncovered. Modi and Choksi have denied the allegations against them. Following an executive order, or ordinance, issued by the cabinet, investigating agencies will be able to confiscate the properties of fugitives in such cases. "The ordinance is expected to re-establish the rule of law with respect to the fugitive economic offenders as they

said. Some locals have stepped in, such as three police officers who volunteered to teach two weekly classes. "If they don't study, it's more likely they end up as delinquents in the street," said Jessica Sepulveda, communications officer with the Cucuta police.

'Without pencil or paper'

In the hills outside Cucuta, about 630 students attend a six-classroom school in two daily shifts. Three years ago there were 400. The area is dotted with concrete and wood homes filled with Venezuelan families. Some live in meager shelters of scavenged materials. "They arrive here without anything, without pencil or paper," said Arley Laguado, head of the Juan Bautista primary school, which is part of the Scalabrini mission. "They live between four sticks and a green tarp with six people." Yadir Albernia, the school secretary who interviews new families, said many arriving students lag their Colombian peers in education. One 9-year-old Venezuelan arrived having never been in school, and a 12-year-old tested at the level of a 7-year-old, Albernia said.

The school, which draws public funds from Colombia and organizations including the World Food Program and the UN High Commission for Refugees, donates uniforms to most new arrivals. The school also provides a hot meal each day, and teachers donate notebooks and supplies. The Juan Bautista school said it had opted to accept every student in the area. But Laguado, the school's head, said the school can only stretch so far. Already, classrooms meant for 30 children hold 40. "We open our doors to everyone," Laguado said. "But it will happen that we arrive at a moment when we say there is no more space." —Reuters

would be forced to return to India to face trial for scheduled offences," the government document said.

According to the ordinance, a special court set up under anti-money laundering laws will have to declare a suspect fugitive before authorities can seize property. India is seeking the extradition of Indian liquor and aviation tycoon Vijay Mallya over unpaid loans to his defunct Kingfisher Airlines after the businessman, co-owner of the Formula One Force India team, moved to Britain in March 2017. Mallya's lawyers argue that he is being used as a scapegoat by Indian politicians of all stripes to deflect public anger at the accumulation of bad debts by state-owned banks. —Reuters

News in brief

'White angel' nun dies

DIEPPE: A French nun who was called "the white angel" by Canadian soldiers saved during one of the worst single disasters to befall Allied armies during World War II has died aged 103, authorities said yesterday. Sister Agnes-Marie Valois died on Thursday in a monastery, officials in the northern town of Dieppe said. She tended to wounded soldiers in the Dieppe Raid of August 19, 1942, when a 6,000-strong force of Canadian and British troops lost 4,131 men - they were killed, wounded or captured in just six hours while briefly seizing a Channel port held by the Germans. Valois saved several lives by persuading German officials to tend to some of the wounded and also stole German rations to feed the injured. The raid, codenamed Operation Jubilee, was the first time the Canadian army had engaged in the European theatre of the war. —AFP

Italy's political divides

ROME: The deadlock in Italian politics for the past two-and-a-half months shows little sign of loosening after a court ruled that former government officials colluded with Sicily's Mafia in the early 1990s. A third round of talks for a new government between the Five Star Movement (M5S) and Matteo Salvini's nationalist League, which leads a right-wing coalition that includes Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party, went nowhere on Friday as M5S leader Luigi Di Maio continues to demand Salvini dump his scandal-dogged partner. Berlusconi was not involved in the Mafia trial in Palermo, however his close ally Marcello Dell'Utri, fellow Forza Italia founder, was sentenced to 12 years in prison along with other ex-officials and mafia bosses. The verdicts will likely be subject to a lengthy appeals process. —AFP

US anti-gun activists

LOS ANGELES: Leaders of the student-led anti-gun movement, who inspired classroom walkouts across the country on the 19th anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre, say they plan to maintain their activism through the long summer break. This week's protests marked the second mass student walkout since a 19-year-old man opened fire at a Parkland, Florida high school in February, killing 17 people. It signaled the emergence of a growing national campaign led by young people to lessen gun violence and tighten laws on firearms sales. But the movement faces a major early challenge as the traditional three-month summer break approaches for most US public schools at a critical moment in their bid to be heard by politicians in their home states and Washington, DC. —Reuters

Controversial Shrine

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent a ritual offering to the controversial Yasukuni Shrine yesterday but has no plans to visit it to avoid tensions ahead of a three-way meeting with China and South Korea, officials and local media said. Abe sent a sacred "masakaki" tree bearing his name to the shrine as it started a three-day spring festival, a shrine spokeswoman said. On the eve of the festival, more than 70 lawmakers made a pilgrimage to the shrine, which China and South Korea see as a symbol of Tokyo's past aggression. Kyodo News and other reports said Abe would not visit the shrine during the festival to avoid creating tension as he plans to host a trilateral meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Moon Jae-in in early May. —AFP

Authorities to seize properties of India's super-rich fugitives

NEW DELHI: Indian authorities will be empowered to seize properties of super-rich fugitives whose economic offences or crimes involve sums over 1 billion rupees (\$15 million), according to a government document seen by Reuters yesterday. The move comes as the country reels from a series of banking scandals,

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYANEditor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYANEDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL : info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Washington Watch

Struggle for the
idea of America

By Dr James J Zogby

This week I traveled to Dearborn, Michigan to speak at the 15th annual "Images and Perceptions" Diversity Conference. The focus of my remarks were the challenges we are facing today. Dark forces have been unleashed in our society that are threatening the very meaning of the America that we have fought to create and that we must now fight to protect.

Before discussing this issue, I want to reflect on how important it is that Arab American leadership brought together this convening of elected officials, law enforcement, educational institutions, social service agencies and a broad array of ethnic and religious organizations.

Thirty-three years ago, I remember coming to Dearborn under very different circumstances to address a traumatized and vulnerable Arab American community. The leading candidate for mayor had just sent a mailing to every household in the city featuring a bold headline that screamed "ABOUT THE ARAB PROBLEM". The mailing went on to decry the huge influx of Arab immigrants - who at that point were about 20 percent of Dearborn's population - claiming that these foreigners were "ruining our darn good way of life". The community was both hurt and frightened. When I spoke to them on that occasion, I sought to boost their morale by telling them that "you aren't Dearborn's problem, you are Dearborn's promise".

Like so many other Arab American communities before them, these Dearbornites worked hard, built their businesses, educated their children, established institutions, and became engaged in the political and social life of their city. In the process, they, in fact, succeeded in becoming Dearborn's promise. Today, the President of the City Council and a majority of the Council are Arab Americans, as are the State Representatives and a number of local judges. In addition, members of our community serve in leadership roles in law enforcement, education, and a range of civic institutions.

In just three decades Dearborn's Arab Americans worked their way from the margins to the mainstream. But, and here is what is so important, they have not forgotten from whence they came nor have they forgotten the discrimination they had to endure. And so, they annually convene this critical conference and are now in a position to provide leadership in promoting the values of diversity and inclusion.

It was this issue - the urgency of promoting these values - that was the subject of my remarks to the conference. It is urgent, because I believe that America is at a dangerous crossroads, and at stake is the very self-definition of our country. This is not a new struggle. From the beginning, there have been two competing ideas of America. On the one hand, there was the vision of some of our founders to create an open, inclusive, and tolerant society where all could find freedom and opportunity. They were countered by darker forces driven by intolerance and our "original sins" of slavery, genocide, territorial conquest, and ethnic cleansing.

Despite the early dominance of the darker forces of bigotry, in each period of our history there have been those who struggled to assert the more inclusive idea of America. Not only African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans, but the diverse communities of immigrants that came and experienced discrimination and exclusion which included Asians, Irish, Italians, Jews, Eastern Europeans, and Arabs. Despite repeated efforts to close the doors to different ethnicities, America remained open and welcoming. And we are better for it.

Immigrants have made their way into the mainstream. In the process of becoming Americans, they have changed the meaning of America. What would America be today if not for the contributions of the many peoples that have made up this land? What we can rightly ask is what would our food, music, art, style, and humor be if not for the contributions of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and the waves of immigrants who came to our shores?

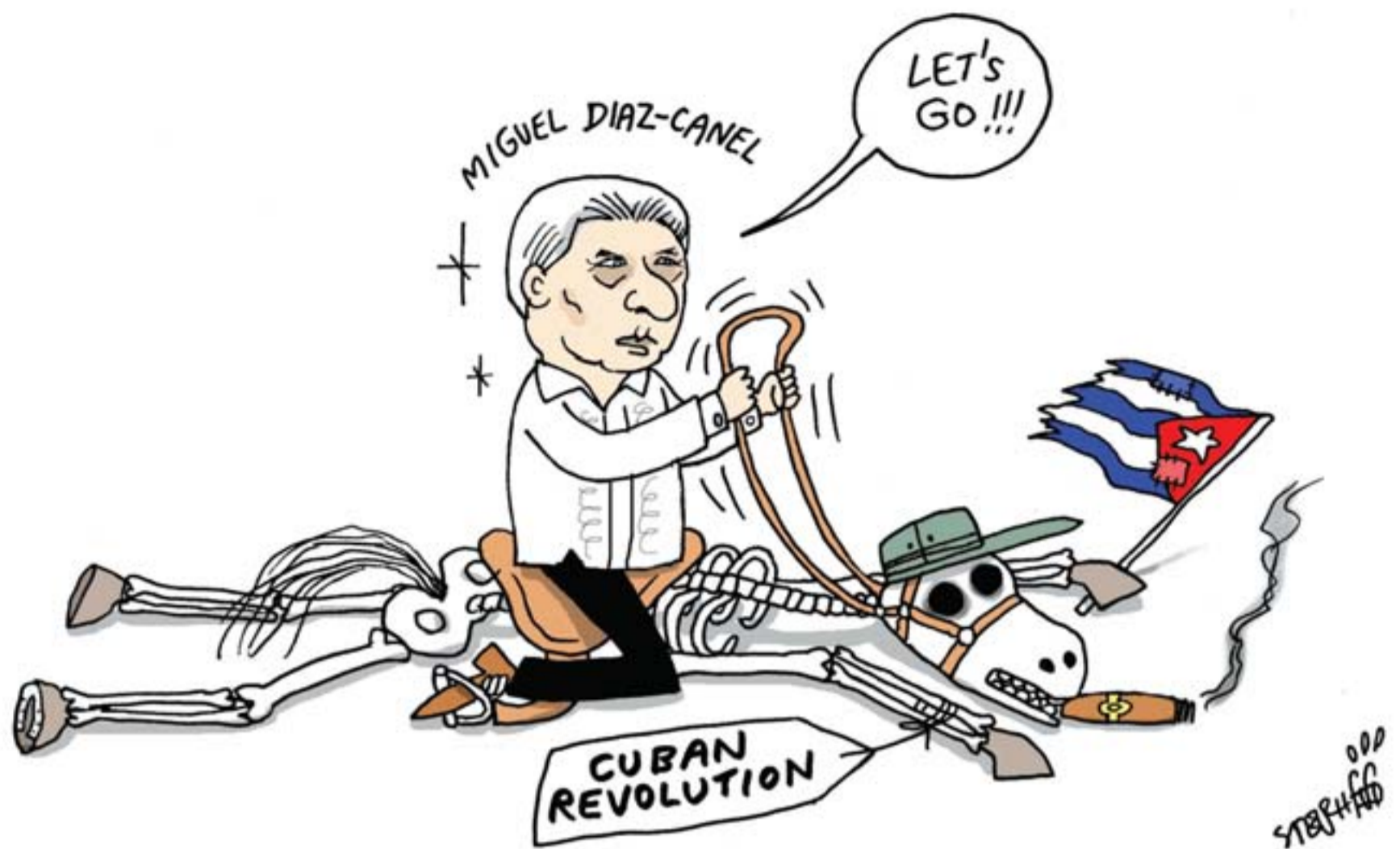
Never-ending struggle

This struggle, however, is never-ending because the roots of intolerance run deep and are always with us. We cannot forget this reality. When I hear good, but naïve, people decry acts of intolerance saying, "this not American" or, "this isn't who we are," I feel forced to respond, "tragically, it is who we are and it is a part of our story."

If we think only of the open and welcoming America, we can easily fall victim to the purveyors of intolerance. BUT, we must also remember that in our history, time and time again, our better angels have won. We are now facing yet another manifestation of this same struggle to define the idea of America. The forces of darkness have reemerged preaching their gospel of bigotry and fear. Some blame President Trump for creating this intolerance, but that is too simplistic. He didn't create it, he merely tapped into the darker forces that have always been with us. For a time, they were submerged but he gave voice to them, he legitimized them, and brought them into the public square.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

CUBA'S NEW PRESIDENT...



Castro bows out but Cold War chill returns

Raul Castro has stepped down as president and his brother Fidel is dead but US relations with Cuba are frostier than in years, with their reopened embassies nearly empty and President Donald Trump hinting at measures that could further lower the temperature. A new Cuban president, 58-year-old Miguel Diaz-Canel, took office on Thursday after decades of rule by the Castros since they toppled a US-backed dictator in 1959, nationalizing US properties, allying with the Soviet Union and sending thousands of Cubans into exile in Florida.

The Castros were personally reviled by at least the older generation of Cuban-Americans, and some political analysts believe Diaz-Canel's ascent to power will make it easier over time for US politicians to normalize relations. In the short term, though, the path ahead looks rocky. In his first speech as president, Diaz-Canel, a stalwart of the ruling Communist Party, clearly stated he intends to preserve the one-party socialist system. Moreover, Castro, who will retain considerable political clout as head of the party, delivered a long parting speech in which he poured scorn on the Trump administration.

In turn, the White House was dismissive of the presidential change, saying the Trump administration did not see the Cuban people gaining greater freedoms and had no intention of softening its policy toward the government. Trump took office last year promising to roll back Democratic former President Barack Obama's policy of engagement, which included re-establishing diplomatic relations. The Republican president made it harder for US businesses to invest in Cuba, while restoring some limitations on travel to the island that had briefly become a hotspot for American visitors for the first time in decades following Obama's loosening of restrictions.

Trump's latest choices for his foreign policy team - Secretary of State nominee Mike Pompeo and new national security advisor John Bolton - have advocated a hard line on Cuba and the president has hinted that a further roll-back of the engagement with Havana is on the cards. "We're being very tough on Cuba because we want the people to have freedom," Trump said last week in an interview with Spanish-language network Univision. "You're going to see some very, very good things happen," he said, adding that Bolton was "very strong on Cuba and Venezuela".

Cleanest city in
Africa? Kigali
scrubbing up

In the rainy season, water used to pour into Dativa Nyiramajambere's house on a cheap plot of land in the Kigali suburb of Rugenge. Outside her home, a half-metre-wide hole in the pavement gathered rubbish. But in 2009, Kigali's leaders decided to start demolishing slums in the capital's poor suburbs - those with little access to piped water or electricity - and replace them with new roads and homes. Nyiramajambere, who had owned a small milk shop, was given a modest new home on the outskirts of the city. Families like hers also got compensation of \$1,500-2,000 to help them settle in.

The move was a first step in what has turned into an ambitious master plan to clean up Kigali - one that has led to the city being hailed as one of the greenest and cleanest in Africa. Earlier this year, at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland, UN Environment Program head Eric Solheim referred to Kigali as the "cleanest city on the planet", both in terms of lack of rubbish on the streets and green initiatives.

The accolade recognized a combination of government schemes that have made the Rwandan capital much tidier than before, but that also have spurred resistance from many displaced slum-dwellers. The clean-up effort is in part a response to rapid growth in the capital, which has seen its population double since 1996, to about 1.3 million residents, many of them living in informal settlements, according to the municipal government.

Traffic to waste

In 2013, municipal authorities drew up a master plan to improve the city's environment while also trying to promote social inclusion, sustainable economic development

and access to civic facilities. One focus was traffic congestion. To try to alleviate it, the Rwandan government spent \$76 million to pave narrow streets, widen all main roads to dual carriageways, and improve signs. It also upgraded bus services between the suburbs and the city center to encourage people to use public transport, said Bruno Rangira, a Kigali city spokesman, in an interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

As well, the government committed nearly \$40 million to relocate several dozen factories in a former wetlands industrial area to a newly established Special Economic Zone. It has also begun to remove nearly 2,100 smaller businesses - from motor repair shops to restaurants - that encroach on the city's wetlands, with the goal of restoring the land to its natural state by 2020.

Parfait Busabizwa, Kigali's vice-mayor for economic development, told reporters in December that the city wants to create an artificial lake on reclaimed wetlands, for recreation and to protect against flooding, a worsening problem in the city as climate change brings more intense rainfall. Owners of businesses constructed illegally on wetlands are not being offered compensation, according to the Rwanda Environmental Management Authority and the ministry in charge of industries. But they will be given the chance to buy new land in a suburban area, where they will be given construction permits, Busabizwa said.

Other legal businesses displaced by the cleanup effort are expected to receive compensation and help relocating by the end of 2019, using a nearly \$30 million government fund, he said. Not all business owners are happy about the shift. Emile Murekezi, who saw his garage in Kinamba, a marshland suburb, closed and demolished in 2015, said he is now doing part-time jobs while waiting to find an appropriate place to relocate his shop. Shifting businesses could lead to "many people losing their jobs", he said, as old clients disappear and finding new ones proves a struggle. Slum residents and landlords with property in central parts of the city also have objected to being relocated, usually to more distant areas.

White House
dismissive
of change

from Florida, has asked for more funding for democracy groups in Cuba and believes Washington should expand efforts to provide satellite Internet access on the island, he told Reuters last week. "The one project we're really going to focus on this year is breaking the info blockade," Rubio said. Rubio is also called for the White House to expand the list of Cuban entities that US companies are not allowed to do business with, in accordance with the administration's stated aim of stopping US money flowing into Cuban government coffers.

William LeoGrande, who co-authored a book on the secret talks that led to the 2014 detente Obama reached with Castro, said new sanctions "would not be a surprise," but added that it was also possibly just more rhetoric. At a Summit of the Americas in Lima this month, US Vice President Mike Pence said Cuba's "tired Communist regime" denied its people basic rights, then walked out of the gathering. In reply, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno

Rodriguez decried a "moral vacuum" in the US government. Such gestures take Cuba and the United States back to the familiar territory of their nearly six decades of hostilities. It was a far cry from the last Summit of the Americas, held in Panama in 2015. There Obama shook Castro by the hand as he unwound what he called a counterproductive US policy of trying to force change by isolating Cuba.

Bay of Pigs memories

There were more harsh words on Thursday, as Castro gave his farewell speech as president at an event timed to coincide with the 57th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion, when a CIA-funded Cuban exile force tried to overthrow Fidel Castro. Opening with a reference to Cuba's military victory then, Castro said Trump's language was "insulting" and accused the administration of spending millions of dollars on "subversion."

The two countries have not broken off diplomatic relations again or ditched talks that were re-established after the 2014 detente on issues from fighting crime to promoting agriculture. But the number of US diplomats in Havana is down to 12, a State Department roster shows, lower than in the depths of the Cold War and around a third of the number in 2015, when the embassy reopened. Cuba's presence in Washington is similarly reduced.

Most of the remaining embassy staff are there for security or administrative duties, according to a Reuters analysis of publicly available US information. The downgrade was triggered by a spate of unexplained illness among US diplomatic staff in Havana that Canada says has also affected its embassy staff. Canada has withdrawn diplomatic families from the island, but has maintained staffing levels.

Cuba says the US move was politically motivated. Some dissidents in Cuba and former US diplomats say the paucity of staff undermines Washington's stated aim of promoting pro-democracy movements. With no chief political officer and no human rights officials at the embassy, rights activists say they find it harder to speak to US officials and the embassy is holding fewer workshops. With virtually no consular services available in Havana, Cubans now have to travel abroad to get US visas.—Reuters

Better services

One goal of the changes in the city is to reach more people with services, but greener ones - such as biogas from sewage, Rangira said. Key contributors to Kigali's green push are residents themselves who, like all Rwandan citizens, are required to perform a day of community work, called "umuganda", once a month. In the capital, the long-established workdays focus on things like clearing land for community gardens, picking up rubbish, or helping to build new roads, classrooms or residential toilets for families that lack them.

The city also is trying to set up trash collection sites in all suburban areas and is working with local businesses to install public toilets, Rangira said. In the meantime, Busabizwa said that Kigali, rather than relying primarily on fines to ensure cleanliness, is building awareness campaigns to promote a culture of hygiene. According to national government statistics, more than 90 percent of households in Kigali now have access to toilets and to clean water.

The city also plans to create a new more than \$300 million wastewater treatment plant by 2022 in Giti Cy'Inyoni, a suburb of Kigali, according to Giselle Umuhumaza, deputy managing director of the government's Water and Sanitation Corporation. Teddy Kaberuka, a Kigali-based independent researcher on economic and development issues, said that clean-up efforts - from banning plastic bags to budgeting for city cleaning - have crucially been accompanied by efforts to persuade people of the benefits of the changes.

Even more progress in winning backing for the green push could be made by creating more jobs for cleaners, rubbish collectors, and gardeners, he said. So far, the Rwanda Utility Regulatory Authority has granted nearly 200 licenses to cleaning services companies, which mostly hire women relocated from shanty towns, according to a 2017 report by the authority. Nyiramajambere is one of them, having traded her job as an informal shop owner for one as a street cleaner - something she says has increased her income. "Thanks to the new job, I can now feed my family and my children are now going to schools," she said.—Reuters



Emirati competitors sail a traditional dhow during the Marwah Traditional Dhow Sailing race, as part of Al-Dhafra Water Festival off the coast of Al-Mirfa beach outside Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

Filipino ambassador resummoned...

Continued from Page 1

Villa said yesterday efforts to assist Filipinos would not be possible without the support of the Kuwaiti government. "I would like to assure that all actions taken by the embassy are intended to support our collective efforts to find solutions to problems we have encountered concerning our workers. In this connection I would like to clarify a statement attributed to me that 'we do not need the help of Kuwaiti authorities in extending assistance to our nationals,'" he added.

"We will answer the ministry's concerns and maybe by this week we will send the reply in a letter," he said with regards to the foreign ministry's summons. Asked if embassy personnel are entering homes to rescue distressed workers, Villa denied it. "No it's not true. We do not force our way into the houses of Kuwaitis to get our workers. We coordinate with the police and the police are the ones pursuing the employers to settle the problem," he said.

The ambassador acknowledged the support and cooperation of the Kuwaiti government. "We appreciate the support of Kuwait authorities in addressing our government's concerns on the conditions of our domestic helpers. We thank the government for the extension of the amnesty program for undocumented foreign nationals, including Filipinos. As a result, we were able to bring 5,000 of our workers home to the Philippines."

Interventions

Villa had told Al-Jarida the team intervenes if no action is taken 24 hours after informing the interior ministry. He added the seven-member team also intervened in urgent cases that couldn't wait to contact Kuwait's interior and foreign ministries. "This is normal," he stressed, noting that after helping the workers escape, the embassy contacts the sponsors to pay overdue salaries, release the workers' passports and pay the expenses of a flight ticket as per the labor agreement signed with Kuwait. Al-Rai daily reported yesterday the rescue team waits for the domestic helper outside the employer's home and then drives her either to the embassy or to hospital if needed.

On Wednesday, the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait, together with an augmentation team from the home office, has been working overtime in the past two weeks to take custody of as many as 200 distraught Filipinos who have been awaiting rescue. It added seven teams under the supervision of Executive Director Raul Dado of the Office of Migrant Workers Affairs have been carrying out the rescue operations with the assistance of Kuwaiti authorities. However, although rescue operations required

Kuwaiti police assistance, Dado said that, in some cases, rescue teams had to do it on their own, especially in cases of sexual and physical abuse.

On Thursday, the Philippine Star daily reported that rescue teams went as far as knocking on doors to find Filipino domestic helpers who have cried out for help. "Executive Director Dado says his teams would proceed to the given address, knock and request the employer to present the Filipino worker," the DFA said. The DFA said that "26 Filipino workers have been rescued since April 7 and released a video that showed how two operations were carried out. "If the household service worker has injuries, Kuwaiti police are immediately called in and the embassy takes custody of the Filipino," the DFA said.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti authorities have identified and tracked down three suspects who are believed to have helped a housemaid escape from her sponsor's home. The three suspects and the housemaid, all Filipino nationals, have been tracked down, read a statement by the Kuwaiti interior ministry yesterday. The statement cited Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah's grave concern over the incident, noting that the full force of law will be used to bring those complicit in the wrongdoing to justice.

MPs slam embassy

Lawmakers were outraged after the latest revelations. MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei charged the Philippines Embassy has become a state within a state and that what happened cannot be ignored. He said he condemns the abuse of Filipino workers in Kuwait, but totally rejected the idea that the embassy forms its own security teams in the country. MP Abdullah Fahhad stressed that Kuwait's sovereignty is non-negotiable and that violating the law and playing the role of the interior ministry is unacceptable. He also urged the interior and foreign ministers to take strict measures to protect Kuwait's security and sovereignty.

MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari said that what the embassy did is a clear violation of Kuwait's sovereignty, laws, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and all relations between both countries. "The teams operating around Kuwait are actually doing field work outside the diplomatic mission, which calls for implementing article 9 of the Vienna Convention that considers such diplomats personae non gratae in the host country," he said.

MP Faisal Al-Kandari condemned the statements made by Villa about his country's intervention in the responsibilities of the state. "Are these statements made by an ambassador who knows and respects the laws and regulations of the host state?" he asked, noting that such disrespect of Kuwaiti laws calls for immediate measures against the ambassador including legal measures and expelling him to be an example to others. "Will the government of the Philippines accept that our embassy violates its laws the way its ambassador to Kuwait did?" he demanded.

Kim vows no more nuclear...

Continued from Page 1

when they meet on April 27, the source added. But Kim gave no indication Pyongyang might be willing to give up its nuclear weapons, or the missiles with which it can reach the mainland United States. The North had successfully developed its arsenal, including miniaturizing warheads to fit them on to missiles, Kim said, and so "no nuclear test and intermediate-range and inter-continental ballistic rocket test-fire are necessary for the DPRK now". As such the North's nuclear testing site was no longer needed, he told the central committee of the ruling Workers' Party, according to the official KCNA news agency.

The party decided that nuclear blasts and ICBM launches will cease as of yesterday - the North has not carried any out since November - and the atomic test site at Punggye-ri will be dismantled to "transparently guarantee" the end of testing. Within minutes of the report being issued, Trump tweeted: "This is very good news for North Korea and the World - big progress! Look forward to our Summit." Seoul too welcomed the announcement, calling it "meaningful progress" towards the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

But Kim offered no sign he might be willing to give up what he called the North's "treasured sword", saying its possession of nuclear weapons was "the firm guarantee by which our descendants can enjoy the most dignified and happiest life in the world". Pyongyang has made rapid technological progress in its weapons programs under Kim, which has seen it subjected to increasingly strict sanctions by the UN Security Council, the United States, the European Union, South Korea and others.

India approves death penalty...

Continued from Page 1

In recent months, four Indian states have already introduced similar legislation in local parliaments to approve the death penalty for child rapists. India has the death penalty for the most brutal murders and terror attacks. But the sentences are rarely carried out and are often struck down on appeal by higher courts. India carried out its last hanging in 2015 of a 1993 Mumbai bombing convict.

The recent protests began after police accused eight Hindu men of raping a Muslim girl in a bid to force her nomad community out of a Hindu-dominated area of Jammu and Kashmir. Public anger boiled over after police last week made public how the girl was drugged, repeatedly raped while held captive for five days at a Hindu temple and then beaten to death. India previously introduced tougher laws in 2013 after the brutal New Delhi gang rape. The incident trig-

Mossad accused of killing Gazan...

Continued from Page 1

condition of anonymity that the victim was also an imam at a mosque close to his residence.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the suspects were believed to be Europeans with links to a foreign intelligence agency, state news agency Bernama reported. He added the victim had links with foreign intelligence and was active in pro-Palestinian non-governmental organizations, describing him as an expert in electrical engineering and rocket-building. The victim could have been seen as "a liability for a country that is an enemy of Palestine", Zahid was quoted as saying by Bernama.

The police chief said that footage from closed-circuit television cameras near the scene of the shooting showed that two assailants waited for around 20 minutes in the area before attacking. "We believe the lecturer

Last year it carried out its sixth nuclear blast, by far its most powerful to date, while Kim and Trump traded threats of war and personal insults as tensions ramped up. Even when there was an extended pause in testing, US officials said that it could not be interpreted as a halt without an explicit statement from Pyongyang. South Korean envoys have previously cited Kim as promising no more tests, but Saturday's news is the first such announcement directly by Pyongyang.

Analysts cautioned that the declaration was promising but limited. "Certainly this is a positive development," said Daniel Pinkston of Troy University. "It's a necessary but not sufficient step in North Korea returning to its past non-proliferation commitments." And Christopher Green of the International Crisis Group added on Twitter: "I don't see how North Korean statement constitutes a step toward denuclearisation. It is a moratorium on testing, but re-commits North Korea to nuclear weapons status."

Lassina Zerbo, executive secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, described North Korea's announcement as "a strong signal and an important step in the right direction". But he called for North Korea to sign up to the nuclear test ban treaty alongside the seven other countries who have still yet to do so: China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, and the United States. Japan - which has seen missiles fly over its territory - gave a mixed response, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe offering a cautious welcome but his defense minister saying North Korea did not mention the short- or medium-range missiles that put Tokyo within reach.

Beijing said it believed the move would "help to promote the process of denuclearization and attempts to find a political settlement" on the peninsula. UN chief Antonio Guterres hailed Kim's announcement as "a positive step forward" on the path towards denuclearization. The EU also welcomed it while Russia said it was "an important step towards the future easing of tensions" on the peninsula. — Agencies

gered weeks of street protests and global condemnation.

But sexual violence, including against children, remains unabated in India, with some 11,000 child rape cases reported in 2015. A 2014 UN report said one in three rape victims in India was a minor. Yesterday, police in central Madhya Pradesh state arrested a man over the rape and murder of a four-month-old girl. The infant's blood-soaked body was found on Friday in a building in Indore city hours after she went missing. Police said the suspect was a distant relative of the victim and had targeted the child after an argument with her mother.

Activists say lax implementation of laws and snail-paced trials fuel the "rape culture" in India, with many accusing police of being slack in cases involving influential people. Modi's government faced criticism after one his party members in Uttar Pradesh was accused by a teenager of raping her. The politician remained free for almost a year after police rejected pleas from the victim to file a rape case against the lawmaker. He was finally arrested last week after the teenager tried to set herself on fire outside the residence of the state chief minister, triggering a wave of protests. — AFP

was their target because two other individuals walked by the place earlier unharmed. We will view the recordings of all the CCTV in the area to identify the suspects and get the registration number of the motorcycle," he said.

The Palestinian representative in Malaysia, Anwar Al-Agha, told AFP that Batsh, who was married and a father of three, was a lecturer in electrical engineering who had lived in Malaysia for the past 10 years. "I visited the site of the attack. Fadi is a member of Hamas," he said. Asked if Mossad could be responsible for his killing, he said: "I cannot comment on this. We have to wait for the official investigation."

The Batsh family urged Malaysian authorities to investigate his murder and "arrest those responsible for killing him before they flee". They also asked for the return of his body to his hometown of Jabalya in the Gaza Strip. The Mossad is believed to have assassinated Palestinian militants and scientists in the past, but has never confirmed such operations. Hamas has accused Mossad of assassinating one of its drone experts - Mohamed Zouari - in Tunisia in 2016, and the spy agency is also believed to have been behind the 2010 murder of top Hamas militant Mahmoud Al-Mabhouh in a Dubai hotel. — Agencies

Kuwait Times Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call: +965 248 35 616 / 617
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
ads@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

SAVING OFFERS

MX-GX1021WTZ Blender 400 Watts only. 7 months 12 months. SAVE 4 months.

NN-SM33HWKQP Microwave 25 months 800 Watts only. 19 months 31 months. SAVE 12 months.

MK-5086MWTZ Food Processor 230 Watts only. 25 months 33 months. SAVE 7 months.

best 1809 809

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalid str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahsheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

Sports

Crusaders hold off spirited Sunwolves, Chiefs outgun Reds

Wellington Hurricanes have a bye this weekend

BRISBANE: The Canterbury Crusaders overcame a spirited Sunwolves and stormy weather as the Waikato Chiefs secured a vital bonus point deep in stoppage time against the Queensland Reds in Super Rugby yesterday.

The Crusaders, with their bonus point in a 33-11 victory sealed by three late tries, moved to the top of the New Zealand conference while the Wellington Hurricanes have a bye this weekend.

It was a hard-fought win as the bottom-placed Sunwolves, who conceded 50 points to the Crusaders a year ago, played above themselves and held the defending champions to 14-11 until 15 minutes into the second half. But once Ryan Crotty scored his second try to stretch the lead to 21-11, the Crusaders moved up a gear and were in charge for the final quarter. There were six tries scored, five to the Crusaders, in a match that for much of the time was an arm wrestle as periods of thunder, lightning, torrential rain and occasional hail restricted efforts to produce a free-flowing game.

"It made it slippery, especially when the hail came down, and it probably took us too long to adjust," captain Matt Todd said of the unconvincing Crusaders performance.

"They made us work for every point we got. We had to defend our line at times, and then we built some phases to get some points late which was pleasing."

The Chiefs led the Reds 31-0 just after half-time but two Samu Kerevi tries meant they needed a Samisoni Tauke'aho try in the fifth minute of stoppage time to claim a 36-12 win and the bonus point.

It was the 35th straight win by New Zealand teams over Australian opposition and leaves the Reds in fourth spot in the Australian conference. The Chiefs lost fly-half dynamo Damian McKenzie with a head knock midway through the first half but were always in command of the Brisbane game, scoring five tries to two.

"We were really stoked to get that bonus point right there at the end but it was very tough. It would have been nice to kick on after that first 25 minutes," Chiefs skipper Sam Kane said. Veteran open-side flanker George Smith made his first appearance of the season for the Reds as a substitute after December back surgery. The result completed a dismal 24 hours for Australian rugby after the NSW Waratahs were held scoreless for the first time in a 29-0 loss to South Africa's Golden Lions in Sydney on Friday. — AFP



CHRISTCHURCH: Sunwolves' Hosea Saumaki (C) is tackled by Crusaders' Manasa Mataele (R) during the Super Rugby match between the Canterbury Crusaders of New Zealand and the Sunwolves of Japan in Christchurch yesterday. — AFP

It was a hard-fought victory



Australia's Horne forced into shock retirement

LONDON: Australia international Rob Horne has been forced to retire from professional rugby union at the age of just 28 following a career-ending arm injury, the centre's English Premiership club Northampton announced yesterday.

Northampton's statement came just a week after Horne suffered nerve damage to his right arm in the opening minute of the Saints' 27-21 win away to Leicester last Saturday.

He then required several minutes of on-field treatment before being carried off and undergoing tests by neurological specialists at London's Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. "This is absolutely tragic news and has been devastating for every member of the squad and staff here," said Northampton interim head coach Alan Dickens. "All our thoughts are of course with Rob and his family at this time."

"Rob is not only a world-class rugby player, but he is an exceptional man." Dickens added: "He is a hugely-respected and popular member of the dressing room, and this will be an enormous loss to Saints, both from a rugby and a personal perspective."

"Even though he had only been here for one season, I am sure he was destined to become a club legend and, like everyone, I am deeply saddened that his career has been prematurely ended in this way." Horne joined Saints in pre-season from the Sydney-based Super Rugby side the Waratahs. He won 34 Test caps, playing in two World Cups, and represented the Wallabies against the 2013 British and Irish Lions. He scored eight tries in 21 games for Northampton, and captained them in the Leicester match.

Saints chief executive Mark Darbon added: "Rob has been the ultimate professional in his time at Franklin's Gardens, and shone on the pitch in what has



Rob Horne

been a difficult season for Saints.

"This news has shaken everyone at the club, and I am sure all of our supporters will join us in sending our best wishes to Rob, his wife Simone and their two young children. "Rob will always be a part of the Saints family, and we will, of course, do everything we can to help him through his rehabilitation and transition in to the next stage of his life."

"Rob has asked me to pass on his deepest gratitude for all of the messages of support he and his family have received, but would now like everyone to respect his privacy while they deal with this news." — AFP

Carter on Racing bench, Munster's Earls makes rapid return

PARIS: Dan Carter will start on the bench when Racing 92 take on Munster today for a place in the Champions Cup final, but the All Blacks superstar will be waiting for a chance help his team towards a first European title.

"I love having history and doing things that no teams have done before," Carter told the competition web site. Carter, a three-time world player of the year, has been displaced at fly half this season by South African international Pat Lambie. Carter played 112 times for New Zealand but, at 36, is winding down his stint in France before heading off to play for Kobe Steelers in Japan in the summer.

Lambie, 27, is a rising force and, since arriving in the Paris suburbs in the autumn, has formed a productive partnership with French scrum half Maxime Machenaud. While Racing's team for the match in Bordeaux is noteworthy for who has been omitted, the surprise when Munster's XV was announced on Friday was that winger Ireland Keith Earls will start.

Earls suffered knee ligament injuries as Ireland won the Grand Slam at Twickenham on March 27, but returned to training this week and goes straight into the team. Andrew Conway, who ran more than half the length of the field with four minutes left to score the dazzling try that beat Toulon in the quarter-finals, keeps his place on the other wing. That means another Ireland international Simon Zebo is relegated to the bench.

Zebo is leaving Munster in the summer and joining Racing. "You cannot replace Dan Carter," Jacky Lorenzetti, the Racing president, told AFP on Friday, explaining that the club had recruited Lambie, Zebo and Scotland's Finn Russell to fill the void.

IMPLACABLE DEFENCE

While Munster scrum half, Conor Murray, is in dazzling form, Racing combine a pacy, potent attack with great size and implacable defence. "Racing have got big players, incredible individuals with hundreds of international caps between them," Conway told the Irish Rugby Football Union web site.

The two teams met in the pool stage. Munster won at home but in January, Machenaud kicked two penalties in the last four minutes to give Racing a 34-30 victory in the first European game at their new U Arena. "There are guys who know how to win knockout games of rugby in both teams and we know Racing quite well from the last few years," Conway said. "We'll put a plan in place that we think is our best shot at beating them." Racing 92 have rebuilt on and off the field and in 2016 won their first French title since 1990, when the sport was still amateur, and also reached the European final, losing to Saracens in Lyon.

This time, Lorenzetti said, the club has "maturity." "That was the first time that we had played in a final in the European Cup," Lorenzetti explained. "We had no experience." European cup history is littered with teams who reached a final, or even two, lost, and found their chance had gone.

Carter knows time could be short. "If you look back at Racing 92's history and how rare it is to make a final in Europe, we were lucky enough to do it a couple of years ago, so we'd love to go one step further," he said.

Carter played his part in the quarter-final in Clermont, coming off the bench for the last 20 minutes and setting up the decisive try with a pass to Machenaud. — AFP

Lexus sport yacht concept earns special award

YOKOHAMA: The unique Lexus Sport Yacht concept was recognized with a special award by Japan's "Boat of the Year" committee recently during the occasion of Japan International Boat Show in Yokohama.

The Lexus Sport Yacht concept was conceived by Lexus Design to explore new areas of luxury and active lifestyles. It was engineered by the Toyota Marine Division and a single running proof-of-concept was built in partnership with Marquis-Larson Boat Group of Pulaski (Green Bay) Wisconsin, USA.

The hull, inner structure and superstructure of the bespoke 42-foot open sport cruiser were made of hand-laid carbon-fiber fabric, vacuum-infused with two-part polyurethane resin. The Lexus Sport Yacht concept was powered by two marinized versions of the Lexus 2UR-GSE 5.0 L performance V8 engines as used in the high-performance Lexus RC F coupe, GS F sedan and new LC 500 grand tourer.

The Lexus Sport Yacht concept carries up to 8 guests on board in high-speed luxury with a high-tech multi-media entertainment system and beautiful hand-made woods and leather.

While accepting the award Shigeki Tomoyama also announced plans to produce a future Lexus premium yacht for sale worldwide. "Based on our amazing experiences in engineering, building, testing and showing the Lexus Sport Yacht concept last year, we've decided to take the next bold step of producing an all-new larger yacht that builds on the advanced nature of the concept while adding more comfort and living space," said Tomoyama. "We plan to start sales in the U.S. in the latter half of 2019, with sales in Japan following in the spring of 2020."

The new yacht builds on the partnership with Marquis-Larson, leveraging their renowned boat manufacturing expertise.

Planned as a larger 65-foot sport fly-bridge cruiser, the new yacht will have luxury staterooms below deck and entertaining space for up to 15 guests.



Connected services using the company's new Mobility Services Platform (MSPF) will provide security, smartphone integration, remote diagnostics

and maintenance and other services. Specifications, pricing and other details of the 65-foot yacht will be announced at a later date.

Sports

Bogdanovic's double duty spells trouble for Cavaliers

Milwaukee Bucks rout Boston 116-92

LOS ANGELES: Bojan Bogdanovic scored a playoff career-high 30 points as the Indiana Pacers stormed back from a 17 point halftime deficit to edge the Cleveland Cavaliers 92-90 in game three of their NBA playoff series.

The win gives the Pacers a 2-1 lead in the first round clash and they can take a stranglehold on the Eastern Conference series with a win today in Indianapolis. "We've been resilient all year. We've overcome adversity," said Pacers' Thaddeus Young.

Croatia's Bogdanovic scored 19 points in the second half, finishing seven of nine from beyond the arc. Victor Oladipo added 18 points, six rebounds and seven assists in the win. Bogdanovic scored several different ways but he was also asked to carry a heavy load on defence. His double-duty performance included guarding superstar LeBron James, who finished with 28 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists and six turnovers.

"Everybody thought before this season that I cannot play defence," Bogdanovic said. "I don't say that I'm playing great defence, but I'm working hard to make it tough for every player I'm guarding." James joined Michael Jordan as the only players in NBA history with 100 double-doubles in the post-season. Jordan had 109. "We were more aggressive in the first half. We had tempo, they didn't," James said. "Then they were more aggressive in the second half, they had tempo, and we didn't."

“ I don't say that I'm playing great defence ”

James tried unsuccessfully to rally his team twice in the final minutes as the three-time defending Eastern Conference champs were outscored 52-33 over the final two quarters. "We have to regroup and figure out how we can be better in game four," James said of the Cavs who were 39-0 in the regular season when leading after three quarters.

Elsewhere, Khris Middleton scored 23 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo tallied 19 and the Milwaukee Bucks used a dominating first half to rout Boston 116-92, cutting the Celtics series lead to 2-1. Eric Bledsoe and Jabari Parker each added 17 for the Bucks, who held the Celtics without a field goal for nearly an 11-minute stretch of the first half. The Bucks used a balanced attack Friday as reserve centre Thon Maker scored 14 points. Guard Matthew Dellavedova clamped down on defence holding Celtics point guard Terry Rozier to nine points on just two-of-seven shooting. "That's what you need, is the energy first," coach Joe Prunty said. Al Horford scored 16 for the Celtics, who got no closer than 76-62 with three minutes left in the third quarter.

The Celtics will be looking to get off to a better start in game four on Sunday in Milwaukee as a Bucks' win would level the series 2-2.

WINSLOW FINED

In Washington, Bradley Beal and John Wall were the best players on the floor combining for 56 points as the



INDIANAPOLIS: Lance Stephenson #1 of the Indiana Pacers goes to the basket against the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game Three of Round One of the 2018 NBA Playoffs on Friday at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana. — AFP

Wizards crushed the Toronto Raptors 122-103, narrowing the Raptors' series lead to two games to one. Elsewhere, the league slapped Miami Heat's Justise Winslow with a \$15,000 fine on Friday for stepping on

the facemask of Philadelphia 76ers Joel Embiid in their playoff series. Winslow intentionally stepped on Embiid's mask in the second quarter of game three which was won by the Sixers. — AFP

Farah faces tough examination in London Marathon

LONDON: British track legend Mo Farah had few peers in distance championship running but he may find a few better than him on the road in today's London Marathon.

The 35-year-old-who achieved the Olympic double of 5000/10000 metres champion twice-couldn't hope for a better send off in his second tilt at his home marathon than for Queen Elizabeth II due to press the start button from a specially erected podium at Windsor Castle.

However, with the likes of Kenya's Olympic champion and two-time London Marathon winner Eliud Kipchoge, Ethiopian legend Kenenisa Bekele and Kenyan defending champion Daniel Wanjiru in the field Farah will have his work cut out to make an impression.

The warm temperatures expected won't ruffle Farah-although those 'fun runners' who are planning to dress up as a knight and Paddington Bear have been advised to have a rethink over the sagacity of donning those outfits-but he is realistic about his chances.

"Acceptable for me would be knowing I mixed in with the guys, I fought for it, and that I ran a personal best," Farah told the BBC this week. "That would be a great start for me."

With Kipchoge expected to have a go at breaking the world record-presently 2hr 02min 57sec set by compatriot Dennis Kimetto in the 2014 Berlin Marathon-Farah is loathe to fall into the trap of trying to keep pace.

"It's a loaded race, so I need to make sure I don't make any mistakes, to save as much energy



Mo Farah

as I can," said Farah. "It's all new for me. I'm listening to Gary (Lough his coach and husband of women's marathon world record holder Paula Radcliffe) and soaking up the miles. I shouldn't get excited too much.

"It wouldn't surprise me if someone broke the record, because you look at the field. There are so many guys!" The women's race sees another Kenyan Mary Keitany favoured to repeat her victory from last year but also to complete a collection of world records.

Keitany broke British heroine Paula Radcliffe's women-only record last year when she timed two hours, 17 minutes and one second, and also drew alongside the Briton with three wins in the race.

But the quickest that Radcliffe ever ran a marathon was when she posted a time of 2hrs 15 mins 25 secs in winning in London in 2003.

However, for much of that marathon Radcliffe was running alongside men, so the time was classified as a "mixed race" women's world record by the International Association of Athletics Federations, who also recognise a women's only record.

"It would mean so much to me because I've had Paula's record in mind since I started my career," said Keitany on Wednesday. "She was an inspiration and that world record is still ahead of me as a lifetime goal. As long as I'm running I want to get it," added the 36-year-old. — AFP

Thailand's Moriya leads at halfway stage of LA Open

LOS ANGELES: Thailand's Moriya Jutanugarn, who is seeking her first win on the USLPGA Tour, fired a bogey-free five-under 66 to take a one stroke lead after the second round of the LA Open.

Moriya started quickly on the back nine on Friday with two birdies in her first four holes of the round at the Wilshire Country Club course to reach a total of eight-under 134. "I just tried to hit fairways and greens. That's the key for this week. That's what I try to do," the former LPGA rookie of the year Moriya said. American Marina Alex is alone in second after shooting a 68 for a seven-under total while two time major winner Ryu So-yeon is in the hunt two shots back of Moriya after a 65.

Seven time major champion Park In-bee is tied for fourth with South Korean compatriot Ji Eun-hee at five-under 137. Ko Jin-young shot a 67 and is alone in sixth as five of the top six players are from South Korea to the delight of the galleries this week because Los Angeles is home to a huge South Korean expat community.

Moriya, who also has a sister Ariya on the Tour, rocketed to the top of the leaderboard with a burst of three straight birdies on her back nine. This is just the second time in her career Moriya has held the 36-hole lead. The first was last season at the Evian Championship, where she finished just one stroke away from making a playoff between Anna Nordqvist and Brittany Altomare.

Last week's tournament champ Brooke Henderson of Canada stumbled to an eight-over 79 and missed the cut along with former major champions Anna Nordqvist, Stacy Lewis and Juli Inkster. — AFP

Cycling's 'Old Lady' may take young gun over Valverde

LIEGE: Julien Alaphilippe's hot form suggests he can thwart Spanish veteran Alejandro Valverde's bid for a record-equalling fifth Liege-Batogne-Liege crown at cycling's oldest, and some say, toughest Monument today.

There is a world class field for the 104th edition of this relentlessly challenging test of stamina with its 258km of narrow, winding hill laden roads known as "The Old Lady" and which is due to be run in searing sunshine. The race is a huge event in Belgium, where the cycling mad public gather en masse to watch a war of attrition dictated by the pace of the peloton over the never-ending hills.

Movistar's Valverde, winner in 2006, 2008, 2015 and 2017, would appear to have the teammates, the deep well of experience and indeed the stamina to clinch one more victory and equal the great Belgian sports icon Eddy Merckx's record of five.

The Spaniard, who is 38 next Wednesday but says he will race until Tokyo 2020, dug deep at the Fleche Wallone in midweek in a desperate bid to haul back Quick Step's Alaphilippe. The 25-year-old Frenchman just held on to win his first classic, hinting at a generational changing of the guard. "He won because he was better," Valverde told the Belgian press. "But if I have my nose in front with 250m to go today, no-one will stop me." Valverde won here in 2017, latching on

to a Dan Martin's break away and outsprinting the remaining challengers.

Another younger rival is Sky's Michal Kwiatkowski who is still only 27 but has won six classics already. The 2014 World Champion was on the podium here last year and has the "Fondisti" profile of a racer with the deep stamina to outlast his rivals in the heat over the eleven hills. When Alaphilippe won by a wheel at the Fleche Wallone he dispelled the feeling that he had been falling short of expectations. His team leader Philippe Gilbert, himself a former winner in Liege, had been urging Alaphilippe to step up.

"It's time for him to prove what he is capable of," said the savvy Gilbert last week. The main challenge on the way back from Bastogne is the Cote de la Redoute, which needs to be taken with elan and is similar to the Fleche's Mur de Huy. There is also much more vertical climbing on this final of the three Ardennes classics - 4,500m of it.

Which is why French climber Romain Bardet, sixth in 2015 and 2017, is thought to have a chance. "I've got something up my sleeve," he told a press conference this week.

REAL HOT WEATHER

World time-trial champion and defending Giro d'Italia champion Tom Dumoulin is on the starting list, a huge boost to Sunweb teammate speedster Michael Matthews, who was fifth in the Fleche and 7th at Milan San Remo. Dylan Teuns will lead the BMC Team who are mourning the loss of their owner, Swiss magnate Andy Rihs, who died this week aged 75 and for whom a minute's silence is expected to be held today.

Teuns is the right type of rider for this course and



Julien Alaphilippe

after working hard this spring for Greg Van Avermaet now has former winner Simon Gerrans working for him.

"Dylan is strong, motivated and ready," BMC's Valerio Piva said Friday. Vincenzo Nibali won the Milan-San Remo with a long range escape and tried

to do the same on Wednesday. "Fifty kilometres full gas, the idea was to make the race as hard as possible," said the Italian Tour de France winner.

After some particularly cold months, we encountered the first real hot weather of the season and that had an impact. We suffered." — AFP

Sports

Quick strike Jets blank Wild to win NHL playoff series

Last time any Winnipeg team won NHL series was 31 years ago

LOS ANGELES: Winnipeg scored four times in the first 12 minutes of the contest as the Jets clinched their first playoff series win in franchise history with a 5-0 victory over the Minnesota Wild on Friday.

Jacob Trouba, Bryan Little, Brandon Tanev and Joel Armia scored first period goals to chase Wild netminder Devan Dubnyk as the Jets won the first round best of seven series four games to one.

The four goals on their first 10 shots sent the white-clad crowd of 15,300 at the Bell MTS Place arena into a frenzy. A similar size group of fans stood outside on the streets of Winnipeg watching the game on giant TV screens.

The party then kicked into high gear after the final buzzer sounded with the Winnipeg police tweeting some words of

advice and encouraging people to have fun. "Seems a #WPGWhiteout has hit Portage & Main. Motorists may wish to steer clear for a bit - but friendly @NHLJets fans welcome. We've shut down the intersection for a series clinching celebration. We'll let you know when it's open again. This is your night #Winnipeg," the police tweeted.

Jets coach Paul Maurice said in a strange way it feels like the city's passion for the sport has taken prece-

dence over the team's play on the ice. "They are not long suffering fans," he said. "We (coaches) have a TV in our room and we see the crowds in the stands and on the streets and they love the game of hockey. It is almost like we are secondary to what is going on in the city." Winnipeg's previous playoff appearance was a sweep by the Anaheim Ducks in 2015. The franchise moved to the Manitoba city from Atlanta in 2011. The Thrashers started in the league 1999-2000, with their only playoff series ending in four straight losses to the New York Rangers seven seasons later.

The last time any Winnipeg team won a NHL series was 31 years ago when the original Jets' franchise did it before relocating to Arizona in 1996. Trouba scored 31 seconds into

Friday's game and in a blink of an eye Little, Tanev and Armia scored to make it 4-0.

Dubnyk was replaced by Alex Stalock who stopped 15 shots but gave up a third period goal to Jets forward Mark Scheifele. Connor Hellebuyck stopped 30 shots for the shutout. The Wild were making their sixth straight appearance in the postseason. They got as far as the second round in 2014 and 2015, when Chicago eliminated them both times. — AFP



Party kicked into high gear after final buzzer



WINNIPEG: Bryan Little #18 of the Winnipeg Jets clears the puck away from Eric Staal #12 of the Minnesota Wild during the 2018 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs on Friday at Bell MTS Place in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. — AFP

Three African champions in CAF Cup group

JOHANNESBURG: Former African champions ASEC of the Ivory Coast, Raja Casablanca of Morocco and V Club of the Democratic Republic of Congo were drawn in the same CAF Confederation Cup group Saturday. Aduana Stars of Ghana completed the Group A lineup when the draw was made at the African Football Confederation (CAF) headquarters in Cairo. Raja have won five CAF competitions, including three Champions League finals, but last lifted an African trophy 15 years ago. The Moroccans impressed in qualifiers, scoring 10 goals against Nouadhibou of Mauritania and Zanaco of Zambia, and look the team to beat in the African equivalent of the Europa League.

ASEC were crowned champions in 1998 and V Club in 1973 while Aduana are among 11 qualifiers who have secured mini-league places for the first time. The other two former African champions in the draw-CARA of Congo Brazzaville and Enyimba of Nigeria-face each other in Group C, and Djoliba of Mali and Williamsville of the Ivory Coast.

Rayon Sports of Rwanda, Gor Mahia of Kenya and Young Africans of Tanzania, three of the four east African survivors, are in Group D with USM Alger of Algeria.

Group B comprises Al Masry of Egypt, UD Songo of Mozambique, Renaissance Berkane of Morocco and Al Hilal of Sudan.

In a change to the format, weekend matches will be played only on Sundays and midweek matches are restricted to Wednesdays. The first fixtures are scheduled for May 6. TP Mazembe of the DR Congo, the 2016 and 2017 Confederation Cup winners, are not defending the title as they have qualified for the Champions League group stage.

Tunisian clubs have won the competition five times-the best record of any nation-but no team from the north African state qualified for the group stage.

Draw

Group A

Raja Casablanca (MAR), ASEC Mimosas (CIV), Aduana Stars (GHA), V Club(COD)

Group B

Al Masry (EGY), UD Songo (MOZ), Renaissance Berkane (MAR), Al Hilal (SUD)

Group C

Djoliba (MLI), Williamsville (CIV), CARA (CGO), Enyimba (NGR)

Group D

Rayon Sports (RWA), Gor Mahia (KEN), Young Africans (TAN), USM Alger (ALG)

Matchdays: May 6 and 16, July 18 and 29, Aug 19 and 29

Note: Group winners and runners-up qualify for quarter-finals. — AFP

Celtic's Rodgers rules out Arsenal move

GLASGOW: Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers yesterday distanced himself from speculation he could succeed Arsene Wenger as Arsenal boss. "There's nothing really in it. I have always said I'm extremely happy here," Rodgers told BBC Scotland. Wenger announced on Friday he will step down at the end of the season after 22 years in charge of the Gunners.

Rodgers has restored his reputation in nearly two years in Scotland after a troubled end to his three-and-a-half years at Liverpool in 2015, leading Celtic to the brink of back-to-back domestic trebles in Scotland. Celtic majority shareholder Dermot Desmond said he wouldn't stand in Rodgers's way should he wish to return to the Premier League. "I don't think you can put handcuffs on anybody if they want to go to a club as good as Arsenal," said Desmond on Friday. "It will be Brendan's decision and Brendan's decision only."

However, Rodgers insisted he intends to see out a four-year contract extension at Parkhead he signed a year ago. "I have three years left on my contract. I am loving every minute of being at Celtic from a professional perspective but also my life up here," he said. "I have a number of years left as a manager. I am 45, I probably look a lot older but, 45, and I'm enjoying my position here. "It's a huge privilege for me to manage Celtic. It's a huge club with pressure and that's all I concentrate on." —AFP

Chongqing's top sponsor 'positive' of signing Iniesta

BEIJING: The top sponsor of Chinese club Chongqing Dangdai Lifan has said he is "positive" over signing Barcelona captain Andres Iniesta for next season. The 33-year-old Spain midfielder would be a major coup for the little-known Chinese Super League side and the latest in an influx of top-tier foreigners following record-shattering signings in recent years. Gong Daxing, chairman of the club's title sponsor SWM, told state-run Xinhua news agency he was "positive on introducing Iniesta". "Iniesta's arrival would be beneficial for Chongqing and a great bonus for our brand," Gong said.

PPTV, the online broadcaster who holds rights to Spanish league-La Liga-in China cited "anonymous internal sources" from the club on Friday who said "it's already confirmed that Iniesta will sign up".

The club has yet to comment on the reports. Iniesta was earlier linked with Tianjin Quanjian, although the Chinese Super League club declared the rumours "false" last month and threatened legal action.

The Spanish midfielder came up through the youth system at Barca and has made over 400 appearances for the club. He was one of the stars of the Spanish team that won the 2010 World Cup, scoring the winning goal in the final. He signed a "lifetime contract" with Barcelona in October, but has said before that his future may lie elsewhere.

"Before April 30 I have to make the decision whether I'm still in Barcelona or I'm going to China. I have to assess what is best for me and for the club," Iniesta said last month. "It is a decision that I will communicate to the club first and then you will find



BARCELONA: File photo shows Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Andres Iniesta (L) vies with Valencia's Portuguese forward Goncalo Guedes during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Valencia CF at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona. — AFP

out. I will make a decision before April 30. Chongqing Lifan's chairman, Jiang Lizhang, is spearheading attempts to lure the star player to China, Spanish sports newspaper Marca said Thursday. Desports, a sports marketing agency owned by the Chinese billionaire, has worked closely with Iniesta for years and the footballer has travelled to Chongqing for promotional events in the past. "We have a close relationship. Iniesta is a very sincere person," Zhang said in an interview with Chinese

news site Sports Face on Wednesday. Zhang, 36, also owns Spanish football club Granada and owns stakes in Italian club Parma and US National Basketball Association franchise the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Some sports critics have frowned upon the move saying the little known club in Chongqing-whose only title was winning the Chinese Cup in 2000 — was no place for the Spaniard who was part of the winning Spain team at Euro 2008 and 2012. — AFP

Wenger 'was sacked', insists Arsenal's Wright

LONDON: Former Arsenal striker Ian Wright has insisted Arsene Wenger must have been sacked as he cannot believe his old boss would have walked away from his post. Wenger announced Friday his intention to step down as Arsenal manager at the end of the season after more than 21 years in charge of the north London club. Arsenal haven't won the Premier League title since 2004 and now face a second successive season where they will finish outside the top four. They'll also likely need to win the Europa League-Wenger's men are in the semi-finals-to qualify for Europe's elite Champions League tournament. Wenger had faced repeated calls to quit from frustrated Gunners' fans in recent seasons but the 68-year-old Frenchman had remained steadfast in wanting to carry on.

Wright, who helped Arsenal win the Premier League title in the early years of Wenger's reign, was adamant he must have been forced by the club's hierarchy. "Arsene Wenger is a man of principle, honesty and integrity-that is why I am convinced he has been sacked and not resigned," Wright told Saturday's edition of The Sun tabloid.

"For all the vitriol and abuse thrown at him, Arsene has never been a man to walk out before the end of a contract," he added.

'DOESN'T ADD UP'

"It is a sad situation that it's come to this and I don't suppose we will ever find out who is responsible, because they will hide behind each other. "One



Arsene Wenger

day he is doing a press conference with no hint of this, the next he's gone. It doesn't add up. "But Arsene can go with his head high. That's why, whatever the results, it is imperative he gets the send-off a true Arsenal and football legend deserves. We all owe him so much." Meanwhile Wright's former teammate Martin Keown, who won three titles under Wenger, said leaving Arsenal would feel like a "bereavement" for the manager.

"My overwhelming emotion is one of sadness,"

Keown told the Daily Mail. "Beyond his family, Arsenal and football are Arsene Wenger's two greatest loves. To give up one of them will feel like a bereavement. "That is what it felt like to me when my time with the club ended. I spent 18 years of my career there and, even now, I still have not really got over leaving. To leave Arsenal Football Club hurts to the very core. "For many of Wenger's former players - myself included - it will feel like a part of them is gone from the club forever following his departure." — AFP

Sports

Roma warm up for Liverpool with 3-0 win over SPAL

SPAL fell to their first defeat in nine games

MILAN: Roma warmed up for next week's Champions League clash with Liverpool by easing past SPAL 3-0 yesterday to keep their push for elite European football next season on track. Eusebio Di Francesco's side have 67 points from 34 games-three ahead of city rivals Lazio who can pull level again when they host Sampdoria today. "The performance was excellent," said coach Eusebio Di Francesco. "The team's attitude three days before such an important match with Liverpool is an important step in the right direction, I'm really happy with this performance today, I got important answers. "This is a side that has great goals in its head, a team that looks at the present and not the future, and it's a moment of great satisfaction for me." He added: "The only downside was that in the first half we could have scored more.



Performance was excellent



"Of course against Liverpool this precision and solidity we must have from the beginning." A Francesco Vicari own goal gave the Romans a first-half lead in Ferrara with Radja Nainggolan and Patrik Schick adding two more in an eight-minute spell in the second half. SPAL fell to their first defeat in nine games leaving their top-flight survival increasingly in doubt as they sit just one point above the relegation zone. Di Francesco rotated his side ahead of Tuesday's Champions League semi-final at Anfield with Argentinian left-back Jonathan Silva getting his first start since his January signing.

Roma's top scorer Edin Dzeko stayed on the bench alongside captain Daniele De Rossi with the visitors missing three chances in the first half-Stephan El Shaarawy misfiring twice and Lorenzo Pellegrini also missing a third opportunity.

But Pellegrini contributed to the opener, crossing a low ball into the area as Vicari turned into his own net when trying to anticipate Kevin Strootman in a scramble in front of goal. Nainggolan missed a chance for a second with the Belgian sending the ball into the side netting just before the break.

SCHICK BREAKTHROUGH

But seven minutes into the second half Nainggolan sent a diagonal half-volley into the bottom corner, with Pellegrini setting up Schick to head in the third on the hour mark. It was the first goal for Czech forward Schick since he joined Roma on loan from Sampdoria last August.

"Finally, I've been waiting for too long," said Schick whose season had been hampered by injuries. "It was tough today and very hot, so it was important to get the win. "Now there's Liverpool, we must prepare for that game and have the same attitude we did against Barcelona."

Roma's Champions League rivals Liverpool meanwhile were held 2-2 in Premier League action yesterday. "They're not very solid in defence, but Liverpool are the kind of team where if they score six and concede three, they're happy," said Di Francesco.



MILAN: Roma's Czech forward Patrik Schick (L) heads the ball and scores a goal during the Italian Serie A football match between SPAL and AS Roma at the Paolo Mazza Stadium in Ferrara yesterday. — AFP

"Liverpool are a side of great quality. The first leg is away from home and that can be an advantage, but also makes it very difficult to prepare tactically.

"I know the starting eleven, it's all planned, but I won't tell you. I can say that Edin Dzeko will play." Champions Juventus and second-placed Napoli go

head-to-head today in a clash which could decide the Serie A title.

Napoli have reduced the deficit to four points on Juventus with five games to play. But history does not favour Maurizio Sarri's side who have always lost in the Allianz Stadium. — AFP

Bayern tune up for Real with victory at Hanover

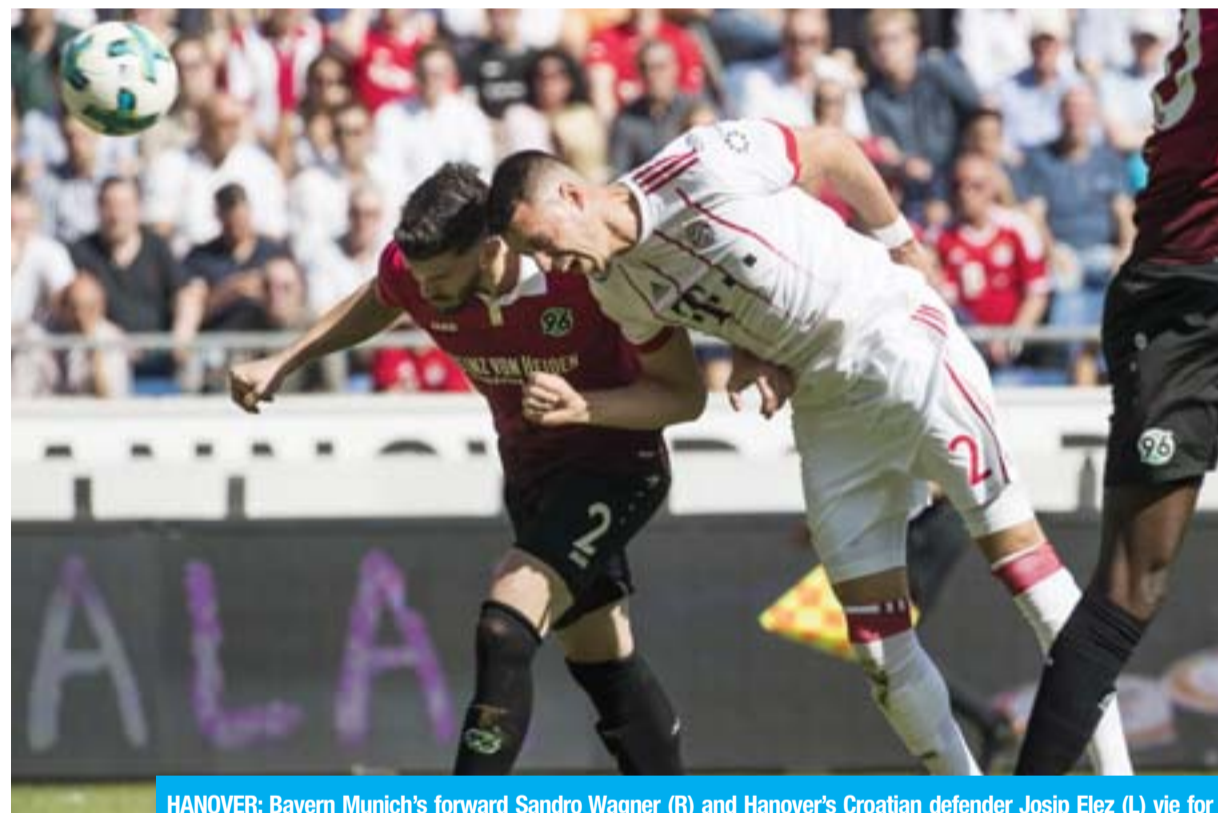
BERLIN: Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich warmed up for Real Madrid with a 3-0 win at Hanover 96 yesterday as Thomas Mueller and Robert Lewandowski both scored after coming off the bench. Mueller struck within 12 minutes of his half-time introduction before Lewandowski doubled the lead and Sebastian Rudy added a third after coach Jupp Heynckes started a weakened team.

With one eye on Wednesday's blockbuster Champions League semi-final first leg at home to Real, Heynckes left out several regulars while handing 18-year-old centre-back Lars Lukas Mai his Bundesliga debut. Arjen Robben captained the side with Thiago Alcantara, James Rodriguez and Jerome Boateng the only other outfield players in Saturday's line-up likely to start against Real.

Both sides had their chances in a goalless first half before Bayern pulled away after Mueller replaced Robben, the Germany international striking on 57 minutes when his first-time shot from a Juan Bernat cross deflected off Salif Sane and past goalkeeper Philipp Tschauner.

Bayern's top scorer Lewandowski added a second just six minutes after coming on himself. Rudy swung in a corner and the Polish forward headed home to score for the 38th time this season in all competitions.

Defensive midfielder Rudy capped the win a minute from time to leave Bayern 23 points clear of second-placed Schalke, who are at bottom side Cologne today. Ten-man RB Leipzig crashed to a 5-2 home defeat by Hoffenheim in a key clash for the Champions League places next season. Swedish international Emil Forsberg was sent off for a foul on Florian Grillitsch just after the break with Hoffenheim already 3-0 up. Mark



HANOVER: Bayern Munich's forward Sandro Wagner (R) and Hanover's Croatian defender Josip Elez (L) vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between Hannover 96 vs Bayern Munich in Hanover, yesterday. — AFP

Uth, Serge Gnabry and Pavel Kaderabek all scored as Leipzig's defence buckled in the opening 45 minutes.

Naby Keita pulled a goal back before the hour mark, but Uth scored his second goal with a header before midfielder Lukas Rupp hit Hoffenheim's fifth. England Under-21 international Ademola Lookman, on loan from Everton, set up Dayot Upamecano to score Leipzig's second on 88 minutes. The result leaves Hoffenheim fifth, just two points from the Champions League places, while six-placed Leipzig are four adrift. Mid-table Hertha Berlin romped to a 3-0 win at German Cup finalists Eintracht Frankfurt as Davie Selke, Mathew Leckie and Alexander Esswein scored. Frankfurt suf-

fered a cup hangover, after beating Schalke in Wednesday's semi-final, and remain seventh. Club captain Christian Gentner and Berkay Ozcan scored Stuttgart's goals in their 2-0 victory over Werder Bremen.

Ex-Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Lewis Holtby boosted Hamburg's hopes of avoiding relegation with their 1-0 win at home to Freiburg. Holtby jinked through the Freiburg defence and tapped home just after the break to leave second-from-bottom Hamburg five points from safety with three games left. Hamburg are the only current Bundesliga to have played in every season since its foundation in 1963. — AFP

Zaha denied penalty shouts as Watford, Palace share point

WATFORD: Watford and Crystal Palace continued to inch towards Premier League safety after a scrappy goalless draw at Vicarage Road yesterday that means the home side have taken just two points from a possible 21. Wilfried Zaha always looked the most likely to break the deadlock, with Watford struggling to control his trickery by whatever means possible. The Palace winger repeatedly drew challenges from an increasingly desperate defence and twice had penalty appeals turned down, one of which led to a booking for simulation.

Watford's Abdoulaye Doucoure was so incensed by his behaviour that he was also yellow carded for pushing Zaha after one appeal. With his name already in the referee's notebook, Doucoure could easily have been dismissed. Although neither side really deserved to win, Palace hit the post twice and Watford once. The home side started with a greater sense of purpose and almost went in front when Palace keeper Wayne Hennessey had to be at his sharpest to prevent an own goal from Joel Ward. The second half, though, largely belonged to the visitors as Zaha became increasingly influential and Luka Milivojevic was unlucky not to break the deadlock in the second half. In the end, there were no goals but plenty of bookings with referee Chris Kavanagh issuing eight cards.

Watford defender Adrian Mariappa said: "It was a tough game. We take the point and the clean sheet. They've got a lot of good players and it's down to us to keep them quiet. "It's a massive clean sheet for us. Everyone from top to bottom put in a real shift today. We're fully focused on the rest of the games and it's a good opportunity to pick up some points." The win leaves Palace six points clear of relegation with Watford three points and places above them in 12th. — Reuters

Nadal sees off Dimitrov to cruise into Monte Carlo final

MONTE CARLO: World number one Rafael Nadal swept aside Grigor Dimitrov to ease into his 12th Monte Carlo Masters final with a 6-4, 6-1 victory yesterday. The 31-year-old, who needs to win an 11th Monaco title to retain the number one ranking ahead of Roger Federer, will face either Kei Nishikori or Alexander Zverev in today's final.

"Every year is different and equally special," said Nadal, after beating Dimitrov for the 11th time in 12 meetings. "So I'll just focus on doing the things that I have to do to give me another chance tomorrow. That's it. "I don't want to think about another title yet, I just want to think about the way I have to play and try to be ready for it." Nadal came through a tight first set but always looked too strong for Dimitrov and raced through the second in half an hour. "He's playing very good on clay. Simple as that. Tactically and everything else," admitted Dimitrov.

"It hurts a lot of us, a lot of the players that are maybe not as physically strong." The top seed is bidding for an outright record 31st Masters title this week and extended his run of consecutive sets won on clay to 34. Nadal, playing his first ATP tournament since he

retired from his Australian Open quarter-final against Marin Cilic in January with a hip injury, has shown no signs of rust.

Following a 6-0, 6-2 last-eight demolition of Dominic Thiem, Nadal has lost only 16 games in four matches this week.

Dimitrov immediately put Nadal's serve under pressure with two perfectly-judged lobs forcing deuce, but the top seed came through an eight-minute opener. Nadal didn't take long to get into his stride, breaking at the first time of asking as Dimitrov struggled in the longer rallies. The Bulgarian continued to go for his shots and brought up three break-back points in game five as Nadal followed a double fault with two wayward groundstrokes.

Nadal fired long, before Dimitrov saved a break point himself with a venomous forehand to level at 3-3. The fourth seed was displaying the resolve needed to push Nadal on his favourite surface, and came back from break point down again as the Spaniard continued to miss chances.

But Dimitrov wasted all of his earlier good work, handing Nadal two set points with back-to-back double faults and a wild forehand. The 16-time Grand Slam champion wrapped up the set with a whipped forehand onto the line. "It was my fault when I got broken. Simple as that," said world number five Dimitrov.

"Two double faults, it's just definitely not acceptable, especially when you play against him on that surface." That effectively ended Dimitrov's chances, and Nadal broke to love in the second game of the second set.

Nadal stormed towards the finishing line with eight straight points on his opponent's serve and a wide Dimitrov backhand wrapped up yet another comfortable victory. — AFP



MONACO: Spain's Rafael Nadal hits a return to Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov during their semi final match at the Monte-Carlo ATP Masters Series tournament yesterday in Monaco. — AFP

Live		Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
ENGLAND FA CUP			
Chelsea v Southampton	beIN SPORTS HD 1	17:00	
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE			
Arsenal v West Ham United	beIN SPORTS	15:30	
Stoke City v Burnley	beIN SPORTS	15:30	
Manchester City v Swansea City	beIN SPORTS	18:30	
SPANISH LEAGUE			
Girona v Espanyol	beIN SPORTS HD 3	13:00	
Malaga v Real Sociedad	beIN SPORTS HD 3	17:15	
Las Palmas v Deportivo Alaves	beIN SPORTS HD 3	19:30	
Atletico de Madrid v Real Betis	beIN SPORTS HD 3	21:45	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE			
Cagliari Calcio v Bologna	beIN SPORTS HD 4	13:30	
Atalanta v Torino	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
Arena Sport 2 HD Cro			
Lazio v Sampdoria	beIN SPORTS HD 4	16:00	
Udinese Calcio v Crotone	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
Chievo Verona v Internazionale Milano	beIN SPORTS HD 8	16:00	
Juventus v Napoli	beIN SPORTS HD 4	21:45	

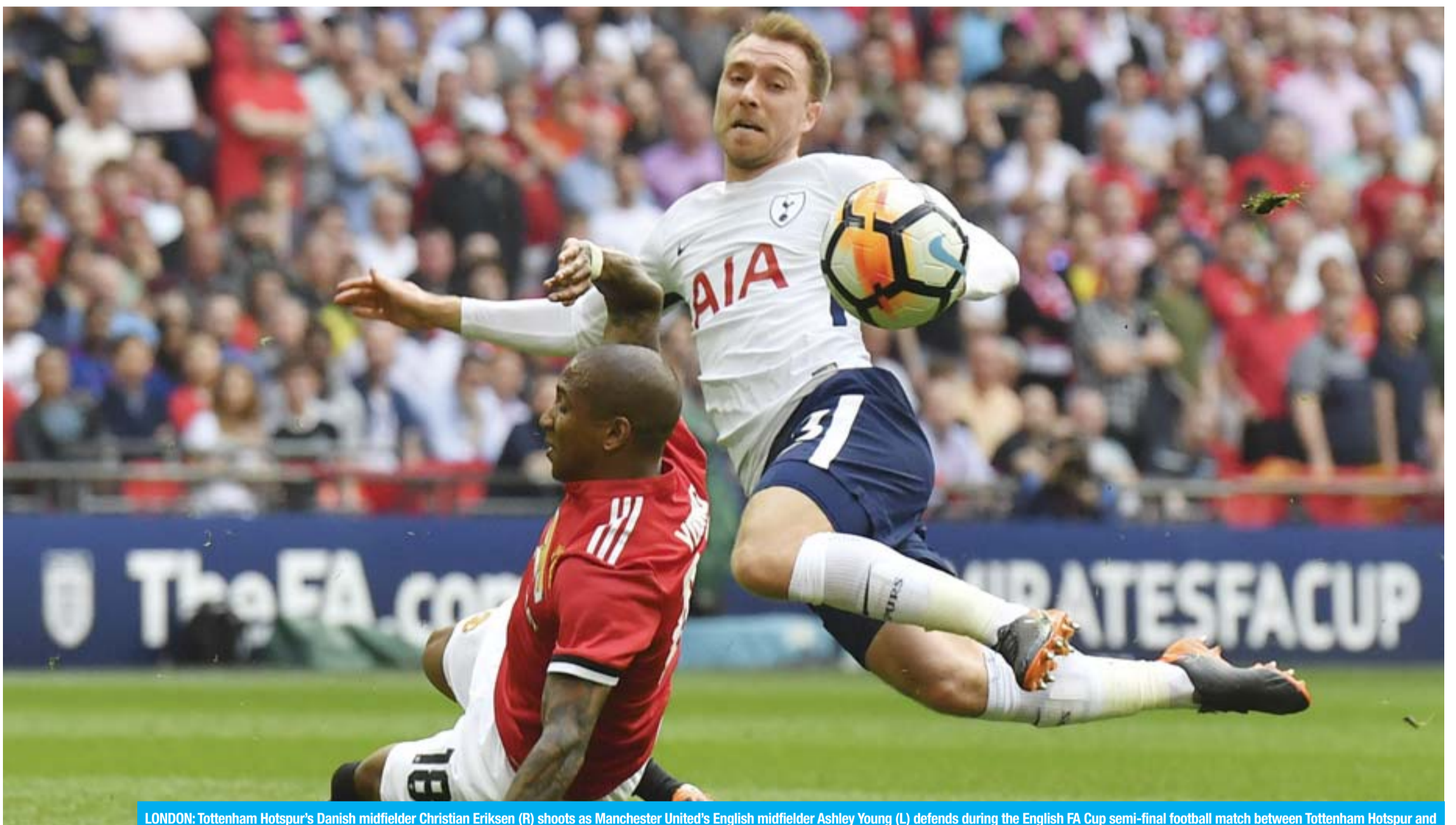
13 Farah faces tough examination in London Marathon



14 Quick strike Jets blank Wild to win NHL playoff series



15 Roma warm up for Liverpool with 3-0 win over SPAL



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's Danish midfielder Christian Eriksen (R) shoots as Manchester United's English midfielder Ashley Young (L) defends during the English FA Cup semi-final football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United at Wembley Stadium in London, yesterday. — AFP

Man United reach FA Cup final

Tottenham's decade-long wait for a trophy continues

LONDON: Manchester United weathered an early Tottenham storm to come from behind to win 2-1 and reach a 20th FA Cup final at Wembley yesterday. Goals from Alexis Sanchez and Ander Herrera cancelled out Dele Alli's opener and ensured that Tottenham's decade-long wait for a trophy continues.

Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino played down the importance of winning his first silverware as a coach to back up four years of undoubted progress at Tottenham beforehand, claiming it "wouldn't change their lives". However, Spurs started like the side determined to make a statement.

Harry Kane and Son Heung-min had already seen shots deflected behind before Spurs went in front with a brilliant team goal on 11 minutes. Davinson Sanchez's long ball picked out Christian Eriksen perfectly as Paul Pogba failed

to track the Danish midfielder's run down the right.

And his cross was inch-perfect for Alli to apply the finishing touch for his 13th goal of the season. Spurs failed to make the most of their early dominance, though, as Eriksen scuffed wide from Kane's layoff before the England striker just couldn't reach Son's viscous in-swinging cross at the back post.

Pogba has been a figure of frustration all season for Jose Mourinho, who has often left the £89 million (\$125 million) Frenchman on the sidelines. Mourinho said Pogba had shown what he is capable of in Wednesday's 2-0 win at Bournemouth after being substituted just four days earlier in a shock 1-0 home defeat to West Brom that handed Manchester City the Premier League title.

And having showed the side of his game that Mourinho detests for Spurs' opener, Pogba demonstrated his combi-

nation of physical power and technical ability as he out-muscled Mousa Dembele before delivering a pin-point cross for Sanchez.

The Chilean has also been much-criticised since reportedly becoming the highest paid player in Premier League history when he moved from Arsenal in January. However, Sanchez has a superb record at Wembley. His third United goal was his eighth in eight games at the home of English football for club and country.

Both sides were unfortunate to not take the lead in the dying moments of a captivating first 45 minutes as firstly Michel Vorm got fingertips to a deflected long-range strike from Pogba.

At the other end, Eric Dier then drove against the base of the post with David de Gea unmoved. Kane had the first chance of the second period, but saw his shot blocked

behind by Chris Smalling as Spurs again started on the front foot.

But, once more, they were hit by a sucker punch when Sanchez's ball across the face of the area fell perfectly for Herrera arriving late from midfield and, despite going in the middle of the goal, his low effort beat Vorm, who was slow to react down to his right.

Eriksen came closest to a reply for Spurs with a long-range strike that flew just wide. Spurs will likely seal their place in the Champions League for a third successive season in the coming weeks as Pochettino's proof that progress is being made. However, with Spurs only three defeats of 2018 now all coming at Wembley against the toughest of opposition in Juventus, Man City and now United, questions remain over Pochettino's ability to turn Tottenham into trophy winners. — AFP

West Brom steals spotlight from Salah

WEST BROMWICH: Mohamed Salah bagged a record-equalling goal for Liverpool, but a dramatic late equaliser from Salomon Rondon earned West Bromwich Albion a 2-2 draw yesterday. Rondon rose impressively in the 89th minute, arriving to nod in Chris Brunt's free-kick and complete Albion's recovery from a two-goal deficit at the Hawthorns.

But bottom of the table West Brom still look set for relegation from the Premier League as they are eight points from safety with only three games left. Liverpool remain third, three points behind second-placed Manchester United. Jurgen Klopp's side had seemed firmly in control as Salah equalled Ian Rush's Liverpool record of scoring in 32 different games in a single season and collected his 31st league goal of the campaign, his 41st overall.

Egypt winger Salah tied the Premier League

record of most goals in a 38-game campaign, joining Alan Shearer (1995-96), Cristiano Ronaldo (2007-08) and Luis Suarez (2013-14).

He also equalled Suarez's Liverpool record for most goals in a Premier League season. Earlier, it was Danny Ings, a player whose Liverpool career has been blighted by injuries since moving from Burnley, who was the centre of attention with his first goal in 930 days.

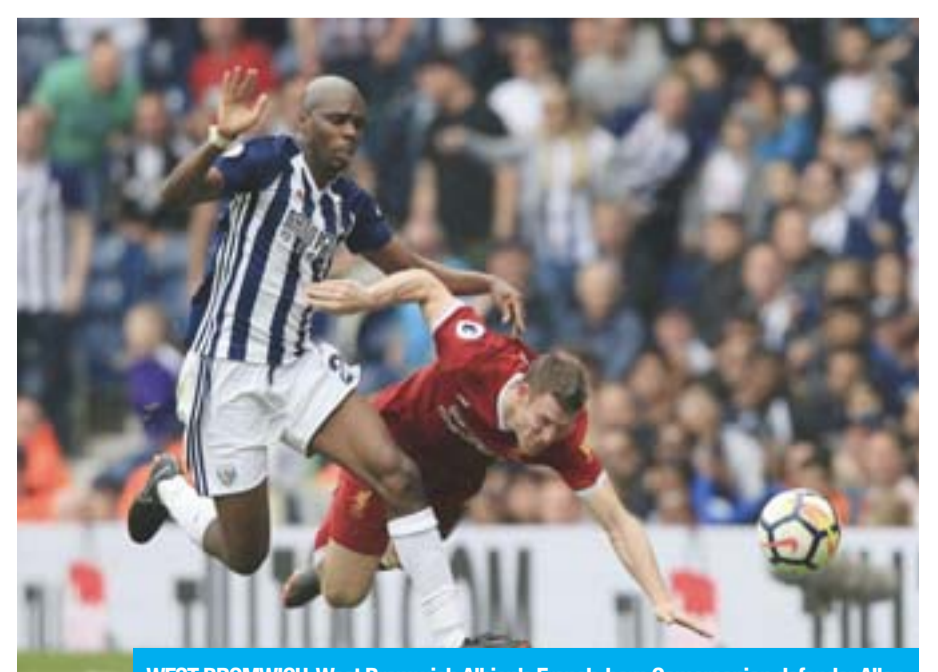
Ings was preferred to Roberto Firmino, one of five key personnel rested by Klopp with an eye on Tuesday's Champions League semi-final leg with Roma, and the former England international wasted little time in justifying his manager's faith. Sadio Mane worked a short corner with James Milner, crossing into the six-yard area where Georginio Wijnaldum had space to control the ball into the path of Ings who drove home convincingly.

It was Ings' first goal since scoring against Everton in October 2015, shortly after his move to Anfield, and his celebrations indicated the obvious relief felt by a player who has badly injured the cruciate ligaments in both knees in the intervening years.

More importantly, the goal put Liverpool ahead in a game Klopp badly needed to win in his quest to ensure his side finishes the season in the top four to guarantee Champions League

football next term. Klopp has insisted that a top-four finish remains as much a priority as reaching the Champions League final and a run of just one defeat in their last 15 games in all competitions testifies to the German's intent. On this occasion, Liverpool seemed to be as good as over the finishing line on 71 minutes when Salah moved five goals clear of Tottenham's Harry Kane in the race for the Premier League's Golden Boot award. Firmino headed on a long punt from Loris Karius with Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain taking up the running before playing in Salah who finished clinically by lifting the ball over the keeper from eight yards. But Klopp was left to face an anxious finale when Albion pulled a goal back on 78 minutes.

Brunt's corner was headed back across goal by Jay Rodriguez and, after a Craig Dawson shot had been saved, Jake Livermore rammed home the loose ball. The balancing act, of ensuring his side continues to pick up league points while preparing for their Champions League campaign, has not been an easy one and Klopp's team selection carried with it a degree of risk. Not that the early going was too problematic for Liverpool as Salah saw a shot deflected behind off Livermore. Ings headed wide from Milner's cross and Salah planted a 20-yard free-kick over.— AFP



WEST BROMWICH: West Bromwich Albion's French-born Cameroonian defender Allan Nyom (L) battles with Liverpool's English midfielder James Milner (R) during the English Premier League football match between West Bromwich Albion and Liverpool at The Hawthorns stadium in West Bromwich, central England, yesterday. — AFP

Business

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018

19 Top 100 CEOs in Middle East honored in Saudi**20** Bursa Kuwait equities close mixed; small caps incur losses**21** New Ford Tourneo Custom people mover to make debut at ATM

JEDDAH: Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) secretary general Mohammed Barkindo (left), Saudi Energy Minister Khaled Al-Falih (center) and Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak (right) attend a meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC members to assess compliance with production cuts and to discuss potential long-term cooperation, in Jeddah on Friday. —AFP

Trump slams OPEC for high oil prices

Barkindo says no price objective in OPEC

WASHINGTON/JEDDAH: US President Donald Trump accused OPEC on Friday of "artificially" boosting oil prices, drawing rebukes from some of the world's top energy exporters.

"Looks like OPEC is at it again. With record amounts of oil all over the place, including the fully loaded ships at sea. Oil prices are artificially Very High! No good and will not be accepted!" Trump wrote on Twitter. It was unclear what triggered the tweet. Trump's first mention of OPEC on social media during his term. US oil prices are near a three-year high, at close to \$70 a barrel, and have been rising since OPEC and non-OPEC producers including Russia cut supply in January 2017 to end a global oil glut and price collapse. Trump's tweet came shortly after officials from top oil exporter Saudi Arabia said they would like to see prices climb even higher and that they were still far from their goal of ending the supply glut. The cartel is expected to restrain supply through the end of this year, and possibly into 2019.

Three Saudi officials told Reuters this week they would be happy to see oil hit \$80 or \$100 a barrel. Higher prices drive up gasoline prices for motorists worldwide and rising energy costs feed inflation. But higher oil prices have also benefitted the US energy industry, feeding rapid growth in output from shale fields. US oil output is at record levels.

Despite Trump's comments, oil benchmarks ended the day modestly higher, rebounding from early losses. Several members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries responded to the tweet, saying prices were not artificially inflated.

Political tensions

Delegates at an OPEC/non-OPEC monitoring committee meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia said oil prices were higher partially because of global political tensions, mentioning sanctions on Venezuela, threats to the Iran nuclear agreement, strikes on Syria and saber-rattling over North Korea.

OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo said the output cut agreement halted the collapse in global oil prices, and is "on course to restore stability on a sustainable basis in the interest of producers, consumers and the global economy." "We don't have any price objective in OPEC, and not in this joint endeavor with non-OPEC," Barkindo said on Friday, in response to Trump's tweet.

The group is next slated to meet in June to discuss output policy. Ministers from both Iraq and the United Arab Emirates also disagreed with Trump on Friday, with Iraqi Oil Minister Jabar Al-Luabi saying prices are "not very high" and that the market is stabilizing. Trump gave no details on what action his

administration might take regarding oil or OPEC, and the White House did not respond to elaborate on the issue on the record.

"We have a difficult time seeing how OPEC would in any way be swayed here in terms of changing course, in terms of policy," said Michael Tran, commodity strategist at RBC.

OPEC's output fell in March to an 11-month low, according to a Reuters survey. The cartel has targeted the five-year average of inventories in 35 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries as a barometer for the deal's success. As of mid-April, those inventories were 2.85 billion barrels, or 43 million more than the five-year average; a year ago, it was 268 million barrels above that benchmark. This week, crude futures benchmarks Brent and US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) hit their highest since November 2014, with Brent touching \$74.75 and US crude \$69.56 per barrel.

Iran sanctions

That has raised fuel costs, with average US prices for gasoline hitting \$2.75 a gallon on Wednesday, according to motorist advocacy group AAA, up more than 30 cents from a year earlier and at their highest since July 2015. Trump is "just trying to relate to his base when it comes to the retail gasoline prices, so he's blaming OPEC for this," said Josh Graves, senior market strategist at RJO Futures in Chicago.

Trump's first OPEC tweet on social media as president

expectations that Washington will re-introduce sanctions on OPEC-member Iran, and might expand sanctions against Venezuela after that country's presidential election next month.

"If one concern about reinstating sanctions on Iranian oil is the impact that it could have on oil prices, then it could be a pre-emptive measure to blame OPEC instead," said Antoine Hallf, senior research scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University.

Hedge funds and other speculators hold a record level of bullish bets on Brent, on expectations of further price rises. The US government cannot legally influence oil prices other than through releasing oil from its strategic reserve which it does occasionally. This year's budget agreement includes the sale of about 100 million barrels of crude oil - about 15 percent of the reserve - as US oil production recently hit a record at more than 10 million barrels a day. That release is not related to high oil prices, and analysts said it signaled Washington was not concerned about the potential for future global shortages.

"Washington has fully given up this idea of scarcity. You don't get to the point of selling your strategic reserves to balance your budget if you think the world is short," said Kevin Book, managing director at Clearview Energy Partners. —Reuters

US-China trade tension dominates IMF gathering

WASHINGTON, DC: Trade tensions between the United States and China, which threaten to spill over into the global economy, are dominating a gathering of world finance officials even as the Group of 20 avoided the topic on Friday.

Official after official has called for disputes to be resolved through dialogue rather than unilateral tariffs, and warned about the threat to the economic recovery.

French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire criticized what he called a "vain and pointless" spat with China. "We run the risk of trade war. We run the risk of multilateral order breaking down that is good for no one, and most definitely not for the world economy and growth," Le Maire told reporters during the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund.

But US President Donald Trump's top finance official said the fault lies with countries that employ unfair trade policies. "We strongly believe that unfair global trade practices impede stronger US and global growth, acting as a persistent drag on the global economy," US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement to the IMF.

While IMF chief Christine Lagarde has offered the fund as a forum to resolve differences, Mnuchin instead said the IMF "should be a strong voice" in urging members "to dismantle trade and non-tariff barriers and to protect intellectual property rights."

Le Maire agreed China must respect the rules, but said the country is a key part of the world trading system. "We must redefine international trade with China, not against China."

Serious consequences

Theft of American intellectual property and technology has been a key irritant in the dispute with Beijing, which prompted President Donald Trump to announce steep tariffs on tens of billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods, on top of last month's punitive duties on steel that were primarily targeted at China as well. Washington and Beijing have traded tariff threats and also filed complaints against each other at the World Trade Organization.

WTO Director Roberto Azevedo warned that the effects of a major escalation "could be serious," and poor countries would be the collateral damage.

"A breakdown in trade relations among major players could derail the recovery that we have seen in recent years, threatening the ongoing economic expansion and putting many jobs at risk," he said in a statement to the meetings.

The IMF has highlighted the trade tensions as a major downside risk to the otherwise solid global recovery, and Lagarde said the dispute undermines confidence and creates uncertainty that could choke off investment which has been a prime engine of the global recovery.

The WTO projects global merchandise trade will expand by 4.4 percent this year, after increasing by 4.7 percent in 2017.

G20 avoids trade issue

Despite the intense focus on the US-China dispute, the Group of 20 finance ministers, from the world's major economies, avoided discussion of the issue Friday, even while acknowledging the potential danger it posed to the global economy.

"We didn't have a discussion on specific measures on trade," Argentine Treasury Minister Nicolas Dujovne told reporters after the meeting. "The G20 is not the place to discuss specific measures. That's the WTO." It was a surprising omission for the group that was key to shepherding the global economy through the 2008 financial crisis and preventing another depression.

But Dujovne said, "We have to also recognize the limitations that we as a group have... and try to find a consensus even if the consensus is more limited than we want."

The ministers did express concern over the growth of "inward looking policies," he said, using a frequent euphemism for trade protectionism.

But German central bank chief Jens Weidmann said the G20 officials all agreed trade must benefit all countries. "Protectionism, not to mention a trade war, is certainly not the solution."

Le Maire repeated his criticism of the US tariffs on steel and aluminum which were aimed at China but only spared the EU and other key trading partners under a temporary exemption that is due to expire May 1.

As close allies in the EU "we expect not only temporary exemption but a full and permanent exemption," he said. "We cannot live with a kind of sword of Damocles hanging over our heads." —AFP

Business

Raging trade dispute could derail recovery, put 'jobs at risk': WTO

An all-out trade war to hit poor countries the hardest

WASHINGTON: A major escalation in the trade dispute between the US and China could derail the global recovery and put "many jobs at risk," World Trade Organization chief Roberto Azevedo said Friday. And most of the impact of an all-out trade war would hit poor countries the hardest, he said in a statement to the International Monetary Fund's spring meetings.

It is difficult to measure the effects "of a major escalation, but clearly they could be serious," he said. "A breakdown in trade relations among major players could derail the recovery that we have seen in recent years, threatening the ongoing economic expansion and putting many jobs at risk."

The spat between Washington and Beijing has cast a shadow over the IMF gathering and the fund cites the dispute as the biggest risk to the otherwise solid global growth outlook.

US President Donald Trump last month imposed steep tariffs on steel and aluminum imports and threatened to impose more on tens of billions of dollars in Chinese imports, prompting Beijing to slap duties on US goods like pork and sorghum and to threaten even more sensitive US exports like soybeans.

Global cooperation

Azevedo expressed concern over "the possibility

that we enter a sequence of unilateral, tit-for-tat measures, all of which generate uncertainties for global trade and GDP growth," since the damage would reach "far beyond those countries who are directly involved."

He urged countries to use the WTO as a forum for resolving any disputes, which "will be essential to prevent current tensions from escalating." "The WTO, which was created as a forum for members to hold each other to account, will play its proper role in this process."

In fact China has gone to the WTO to complain about US steel tariffs, which were imposed on national security grounds. And although Trump has disparaged the organization saying it does not treat the United States fairly, Washington has filed several WTO dispute cases including one against China for theft of US intellectual property.

The WTO chief's comments reflected the growing concern among global officials to keep the disagreement from spreading. IMF chief Christine Lagarde said on Thursday the uncertainty generated by the dispute undermines confidence and could choke off investment and hamper trade, which have been two key drivers of global growth.

The WTO projects global merchandise trade will expand by 4.4 percent this year, after increasing by 4.7 percent in 2017. —AFP



JAKARTA: People visit the 2018 Indonesia International Motor Show in Jakarta yesterday. — AFP

GE shares rise despite Q1 loss on hefty legal charge

NEW YORK: Slumping industrial conglomerate General Electric won a reprieve on Wall Street Friday after reporting strong results in some divisions even as it suffered a quarterly loss due to a hefty legal charge.

GE, which has been hurt by weakness in its power and oil and gas businesses, reported a first-quarter loss of \$1.2 billion, due to \$1.5 billion in reserves to cover legal settlements connected to a subprime lending unit it exited. However, investors took heart after GE reaffirmed its full-year financial targets and avoided fresh negative surprise announcements that have plagued recent results.

Revenues increased 6.7 percent to \$28.7 billion. "The first quarter is a step forward in executing on our 2018 plan and we are seeing signs of progress," said chief executive John Flannery.

GE has been signaling for months that its encumbered power division would be an earnings vulnerability for some time to come, but Flannery said Friday that the outlook was even worse than previously thought.

The company now expects the overall market for new gas turbine orders to be less than 30 gigawatts, compared with the prior estimate of 30 to 34. Factors driving the weakness include the rising share of renewable energy, energy efficiency efforts and some delays in orders, Flannery said.

Since Flannery became CEO last summer, GE has trimmed costs, streamlined its board, cut its dividend and revamped employee compensation. The company also has announced plans to sell \$20 billion in industrial assets. Flannery reaffirmed he is open to further overhauling GE, raising speculation of a breakup of the company.

"There's no sacred cows," he said during a conference call with analysts. "We're reviewing a number of structures. We're working through this right now in great detail with the board, including new board members." GE was the biggest gainer in the Dow, rising 3.9 percent to \$14.54.

Oil rebound?

GE's other problem division of late, oil and gas, could be poised for a turnaround in the foreseeable future due to strengthening oil prices. Major producers including Saudi Arabia and Russia signaled Friday they plan to extend a production accord to defend higher oil prices.

Baker Hughes, an oil services company in which GE holds a majority stake, offered an upbeat outlook when it reported results Friday, saying "market fundamentals remain supportive" due to stable oil prices. GE scored higher profits compared with the year-ago period in four divisions, including healthcare and aviation, which have been the strongest businesses.

GE has previously signaled that it expected additional legal costs connected to WMC. In a February US securities filing, the company said it believed the US Department of Justice would assert the company violated US law "in connection with WMC's origination and sale of subprime mortgage loans in 2006 and 2007."

GE chief financial officer Jamie Miller said the company set aside the \$1.5 billion in reserves "based on our discussions with the DOJ and a review of settlements by other banks."

CFRA Research analyst Jim Corridore praised some aspects of GE's performance and noted that it exceeded its cost-cutting targets. But he cut his earnings estimate and share price target.

"Given the severity of the downturns at oil & gas and power, and ongoing losses from GE Capital, we do not think it's worth wading into the shares despite the below-market valuation," Corridore said in a note. JPMorgan Chase analyst Stephen Tusa also cautioned against euphoria over the results. "Bottom line, unlike the past several quarters that were undeniably weak, this has something for everyone so there will be more debate, but we don't see a turn in fundamentals as supporting upside," he said in a note.

"There is plenty to play out here including the ongoing potential for downside to 2018 expectations and degree of dilution from ongoing asset sales." —AFP

Bayt.com weekly report

Behind the scenes: What are employers thinking during the interview?

Your glowing credentials, winning public profile, brilliant references and stellar endorsements on a leading career site like Bayt.com have impressed and you find yourself face to face with your employer of choice. Chances are they have a routine and well-studied list of interview questions to drill you through and clear expectations of what they would like to hear from you to consider you for the role. But what is really going on beyond what you hear? What is the employer's thought process and what are they asking themselves?

Here are just some of the questions an employer is asking themselves behind the scene:

1. Is this candidate real?

Clearly you have done something very right with your public profile, CV, Specialties conversations and networking activities or you wouldn't have made it to the interview invitation. However now the employer wants to know if you really are as good in person as you are on paper. HR professionals often find discrepancies between what is promised on paper and what the candidate is really all about. They will want to know you actually have accomplished all you claim to have accomplished, and that you can present yourself, communicate and project enthusiasm for the role to the levels required.

In fact, 59% of employers consider good communication skills to be the most important trait when hiring candidates according to the Bayt.com Job Index survey. At the same time, 84% of employers will always conduct reference checks before they hire you, as stated in the Bayt.com 'Skills and Hiring Trends in the MENA' poll.

2. Is this candidate manageable?

You may be an absolute rocketship and top of your game in all you do but be aware that a less confident manager may take any perceived over-confidence and over-achievement habits as a threat to the status quo or even their own role and status in the company. Great managers prefer to hire excellent people they can learn from and to stand on the shoulders of giants, but even the best managers will want to ensure a candidate can take constructive feedback well, can work in a team and can handle being supervised easily, cordially and professionally.

This means the interviewer will be looking out for anything that suggests you have a pattern of not getting along with bosses or disrespecting systems, procedures and managers. Good news is, no matter how hard things may be at work.

3. How ambitious is this candidate?

Always bear in mind the role you are interviewing for and be realistic in your expectations for the short term. Some roles, even with top organizations, are less glamorous and less highly paid than others, and an employer will want to be absolutely sure you are not going to jump ship or start asking for a corner office and a slew of added resources or different responsibilities shortly after hire. An employer wants to make sure you know what you are getting into and are fully, unwaveringly and sincerely dedicated to the role with all it entails for the foreseeable future.

As per the Bayt.com 'Hiring Practices in the MENA' poll, 29 percent of employers say that 'hunger, drive and ambition' is the most important factor in their when making a hiring decision.

4. Will this candidate fit in the corporate culture?

If you are used to having a corner office with a coffee machine, the manager may be really pressing to see whether you will fit in a loud rambunctious open space physical office environment. If you are used to a large hierarchical organization with lots of red tape and rigid systems and processes, the manager may question whether you fit in their smaller outfit that requires more creativity, innovation and open fluid communication. If you are used to a small company, the large blue-chip HR head will be wondering if you can handle the more centralized processes, procedures and the different pace and priorities.

The interviewer will also be thinking about the different players and stakeholders, and trying to ascertain whether you will mesh optimally with all of them. Finally, they will want to know how much enthusiasm you have for the brand and the company and for work in general and how positively you will impact the general corporate culture.

5. Can this candidate grow in this organization?

Companies know how costly it is to lose great people and in today's top companies, career growth is expected and career planning is a central facet of HR activities and the regular performance discussion framework. The best candidates are those who can be seen as capable to assume the next role up eventually and to be leaders and managers in their own merit in time.

6. How is this candidate in terms of character, ethics and integrity?

You will be assessed in detail for all the hard and soft skills required for the role but just as importantly you will be assessed for sound character. The last thing a company wants is the brand damage associated with disloyal or unethical employees. The interviewer will be watching out for danger signals like lying about past performance, disloyalty to past employers and managers, or negativity in general.

In matter of fact, while 55 percent of professionals assert that they have been asked to do something that

clashed with their personal values, 70 percent of professionals feel that success is possible without compromising their morals and values at work as stated in the Bayt.com 'Values, Ethics and Integrity in the MENA Workplace' poll.

7. How soon will this candidate start making a meaningful contribution?

Some candidates require more training than others, and here is where you need to really prove you know what the role requires and can apply your transferable skills and self-learning and energies and enthusiasm to make a direct and immediate contribution. If the race is between a candidate who has no relevant experience and requires months of training and a candidate who has demonstrated they understand what the role is all about and can make an immediate impact, the candidate who will hit the ground running will be a better business proposition.

The Bayt.com 'Hiring Practices in the MENA' poll reveals that 67 percent of professionals in the MENA region say they will hire a person with the skills they need, even with little to zero experience in the field.

8. Is this the right role for this candidate?

At the end of the day no matter how stellar your credentials, the interviewer needs to assess how directly relevant they are to the actual vacancy. They also need to ascertain that your interests, enthusiasm, values and priorities are matched to the role. It may be that you are a veteran in your field but the particular role and environment is simply not one you will grow or thrive or excel in.

9. What do I need to watch out for or encourage with this candidate?

An employer will want to know you better and learn early on what makes you tick and what to encourage or avoid. He will want to know your strengths and weaknesses as well as your desires and dreams. A shared hobby of tennis or football may bring you closer as may a shared dream of taking the company's brand name to the stars. Conversely, asking for holidays and dwelling over personal worries, responsibilities and concerns at this stage may dampen the employer's confidence in your enthusiasm and commitment to the role.

10. What makes this candidate the best candidate for the role?

With hundreds of strong candidates applying for any attractive job vacancy, it is imperative you position yourself uniquely and prove without any shadow of a doubt that you have the energy, commitment, skills and enthusiasm it takes. In today's very transparent, fast and competitive job market, it's not just about being suitable for the role. It's about being the very best candidate there is. Being fully prepared for the job interview helps, as poor preparation is among the most common mistakes a candidate can make in a job interview.

X-cite Brings Back its Super Sale with up to 70% off with daily deals on thousands of products!

KUWAIT: X-cite by Alghanim Electronics, Kuwait's largest electronic retailer, brings back its massive sale of up to 70 percent discount on various products ranging from computers, tablets, smartphones, home entertainment and appliances. Whether you are shopping for a new TV, laptop, digital camera, or any other electronic device, drop by any of X-cite showrooms across Kuwait between April 19 and May 17, and benefit from their Super Sale with amazing discounts.

Some of the major brands with huge savings include Wansa, Philips, Sony, Apple, Samsung, HP, Daewoo, Toshiba, Nikon, Lagermania, Acer and Huawei. Customers can take advantage of unprecedented prices on all ranges of electronics in addition to the daily exclusive offers launched on select products. Customers can learn more about the daily offers and ongoing sale on X-cite's social media platforms.

Through its customer-centric concept, X-cite offers customers competitive quality and

prices to serve every segment of its customer-base, providing them with the highest level of service, engaging with them, and earning their trust through supporting services and offerings. X-cite also enables customers to shop from the comfort of their homes through its free mobile app and shopping website at www.xcite.com.

X-cite has established itself as a leading brand in providing the latest products to customers as it continues to build strong relations with international brands in the electronics sector. Continuously seeking to satisfy the needs of its customers, X-cite provides them with diverse services that enable customers to experience products and interact with them, and the service of buy online and pick the product in the store whether in their 21 showrooms or through the website, designed to make online shopping a fast and easy experience. X-cite also offer premium maintenance, and purchase services at most of its major showrooms throughout Kuwait and other services such as

free delivery and X-care packages.

To stay updated on the latest events, monthly promotions and offers, subscribe to the daily newsletter on xcite.com, follow X-

cite's social media channels on Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat. @xcitealghanim, or Facebook. XcitebyAlghanim, or visit the online store at www.xcite.com

Business

Top 100 CEOs in Middle East honored

'Top CEO Conference and Awards' held in Saudi

DUBAI: The winners of the Top CEO Awards 2018 have been announced following the successful conclusion of the "Top CEO Conference and Awards," which took place under the "Paradigm Shift" theme at King Abdullah Economic City, Saudi Arabia, on April 10th and 11th. The event saw business leaders and more than 56 expert speakers from across the Middle East gathering to discuss the burning issues facing the corporate world today in a series of keynote sessions and was concluded with an awards ceremony that recognized the exceptional business leadership of the region's top 100 CEOs.

The Top CEO Awards, organized by TRENDS magazine and INSEAD, the leading international business school, celebrates the region's best-performing CEOs from companies that are listed on the stock exchanges of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman. The transparent ranking process is based on hard facts, such as growth, profitability and size, and supported by corporate governance institute Hawkamah to ensure that governance and disclosure criteria are strictly adhered to, as well as a number of global auditors to ensure full transparency.

Julien Hawari, Co-CEO of Mediaquest, the company behind the "Top CEO Conference and Awards," commented: "Over the years, we are proud to have seen the 'Top CEO Awards' growing into a globally esteemed platform that sets a gold standard for business leadership and stimulates business growth by opening up tangible new opportunities for companies in the Middle East. Our meticulous, independent and credible ranking process recognizes only the leading expertise and has been designed to distinguish exceptional companies with a respected accolade that boosts their businesses. The winners of the 'Top CEO Awards' stand as role models to all members of the region's business community."

The second day of the "Top CEO Conference" also featured keynote sessions including "Lean & Mean," where panellists explored the importance of restructuring businesses in the Gulf and Middle East to adapt to the end of the era of abundance; "The Execution Challenge," which addressed the fact that the majority of C-suite executives consider poor execution the single biggest hindrance to the growth of their industry; and "Moving away from Bureaucracy," which considered how hurdles can be removed at an administrative level to allow the public sector to come into its own.

Other topics included "Maintaining Momentum,"

"The Social Model," "The Private Sector" and "A New Era," as well as "Levelling the Playing Ground," "Internationalizing Business," "Startups: Rethinking the Ecosystem," and forward-thinking sessions on "Beyond Vision 2030" and "Securing the Future."

The event was supported by American Express as the Strategic Sponsor, King Abdullah Economic City as the Strategic Partner, Al-Aan and DHL as Silver Sponsors, KPMG as Bronze Sponsor, INSEAD and IPSOS as Knowledge Partners, and the Capital Club Bahrain, ECA, Hawkamah and the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce as Supporting Partners. Communication sponsors for the event include Cicero & Bernay Public Relations as PR Partner, Arab News as Official English Media Partner, BBC as International TV Partner, and The New York Times and Nabd App as Media Partners.



Elham Yousry Mahfouz from Commercial Bank of Kuwait receiving the award

Safe no more? Swiss franc slide raises Russia puzzle

LONDON: The Swiss franc, long a place to park cash during times of stress - and away from the taxman's eyes - may be losing its cachet, not least for Russian tycoons who face growing crackdown risks, from local regulations as well as at home. The franc slid on Thursday to 1.20 per euro, the level at which the Swiss National Bank in January 2015 abruptly abandoned as its exchange rate cap in a decision dubbed Frankenshock. The currency's latest drop has drawn particular attention because it coincides with a spike in geo-political tensions. In previous years, that would have caused the franc to surge because it was one of the assets that would hold its value, even during troubled times.

So far this year, though, it has lost 2.5 percent against the euro. Meanwhile, gold and the yen, also considered safe, have gained nearly five percent each. Even the past weekend's missile strike on Syria and crippling sanctions on a range of Russian companies failed to lift the Swiss currency.

For many, the reason is simple. The SNB has refused to signal it will follow the European Central Bank in tightening monetary policy when the latter ends its

bond-buying program later this year. SNB Chairman Thomas Jordan has stressed that ending its ultra-loose policy is not on the agenda.

As a result, bets against the Swiss franc are being rebuilt, leading to the peculiar weakening of the currency, some argue. Latest CFTC data shows a 1.4 billion net short position against the franc, nearly doubling from a month ago. Jonathan Davies, head of currency strategy at UBS Asset Management sees fair value in the "low 1.20s", attributing it to "divergence in monetary policy trends between the two central banks, which is favoring a weaker franc."

Kamal Sharma, director of GIO FX strategy for Europe at Bank of America Merrill Lynch recommends shorting franc versus euro. "Swiss franc weakness has flown under the radar. We are not surprised and see further losses ahead versus the euro and the yen," Sharma said.

Back in Russia

But the franc's latest decline has also been blamed on Russian tycoons yanking cash from Switzerland as a way of avoiding tough new US sanctions that were imposed on several Russian entities and businessmen earlier this month. Swiss banks have long been used by the world's wealthy, including rich Russians, to avoid their home country's taxes or simply to shelter money offshore. Some 14 percent of total Russian cross-border outflows in 2017 were to Switzerland - almost three times as much as went to the United States, ING Bank analysts noted, citing Russian central bank data.

But Swiss banks have been under increasing pressure

to curb money laundering and stop handling the money of sanctioned individuals. Swiss financial watchdog FINMA told Reuters it did not require banks to enforce foreign sanctions, but they "had a responsibility to minimize legal and reputational risks."

The SNB declined to comment on the currency's latest moves. Currency experts are skeptical this month's sanctions were a direct cause of the franc's latest decline. Commerzbank analyst Esther Reichelt said trading patterns did not "indicate any pronounced weakness specific to the franc since the introduction of the sanctions".

A 6 percent decline by the ruble against the franc the week after April 6 jars with the idea this was caused by repatriated Russian money. Whether money was moved first to other European banking centers in London or Luxembourg is unclear, but sanctions pressure would presumably apply there, too. However, some link between Russian money flows and Swiss franc fluctuations this year may well exist - one that goes beyond just the recent round of sanctions.

"The repatriation of Russian flight capital is certainly a live theme, but the latest geo-political tensions are just adding fuel rather than being the root cause," said Christopher Granville, managing director at consultancy TS Lombard.

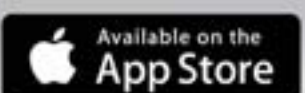
He noted Russia had joined the Automatic Exchange of Information on Financial Accounts, an OECD initiative to crack down on tax dodging, in 2016, but its information exchange process with partner countries, including Switzerland, went live only in January 2018. — Reuters



New Look. New Website. New Remittance Mobile App

Kuwait's First Remittance App - 'Al Mulla Exchange' Now on App Store as well as Android

Average time spent by our users on completing a transaction 1.56 minutes



www.almullaexchange.com

OUR HOTLINE NUMBER
1840 123

Boursa Kuwait equities close mixed; small caps incur losses

Premier Market Index rises on random purchasing operations

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week with mixed performance. The Premier Market Index closed at 4,773.19 points, up by 0.16 percent, the Main Market Index decreased by 0.51 percent after closing at 4,839.37 points, whereas the All-Share Market Index closed at 4,797.48 points down by 0.09 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 11 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 12.28 million, whereas trading volume average was 73.37 million shares, recording an increase of 4.94 percent.

The Boursa ended last week's trading with mixed closings to its three indices, whereas the Main and All-Share indices declined as a result of the selling operations executed on many listed stocks, especially the small-cap stocks listed in the Main Market, the most declining stocks by the end of the week. While some leading stocks, which acquired the most cash liquidity pumped to the market, witnessed random purchasing operations contributed into pushing the Premier Market Index to close in the green zone by the end of the week. Such performance came in light of a continued watch by the traders to the listed companies' disclosures of its first quarter financial results, which they will build their investment decisions based on for the next period.

The Boursa lost around KD 89 million during the last four sessions only, as its market capitalization reached by the end of last week KD 26.48 billion, down by 0.33 percent from its level in a week earlier, where it was KD 26.57 then. The Boursa lost since the initiation of Market Development 2 phase on the beginning of the current month to date around KD 1.37 billion, down by 4.93 percent. (Note: The market cap 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 three Market indices were able to record some gains in the first session of the week, supported by the purchasing operations that included many stocks especially in the Banks sector, after disclosing some banks of its new fiscal results, which contributed in improving the traders' physiological state to a certain extent. Also, the Market realized such gains amid a decreased trading indicators of the value or the volume, whereas the traded number of stocks dropped by 8.56 percent, while the cash liquidity declined by the end of the session by 27.27 percent.

The second session of the week witnessed a mixed closing for the three indices, as the Premiere Market Index continued its increase supported by the continued random purchasing operations that concentrated on some heavy stocks, while the Main and All-Share indices declined affected by the profit collection operations that included many small-cap stocks, amid a growth in the trading indicators compared to the previous session, whereas the volume increased by 18.82 percent, and the cash liquidity grew by 11.77 percent.

The third session of last week witnessed a continued fluctuation of the three Market indices, with changing positions, where the Premiere and All-Share indices declined, and the Main Market index went against the current and ended the session in the green zone. Such fluctuation came in light of the profit collection operations that included some leading stocks, against some random purchasing operations executed on a number of small-cap stocks, especially after the decrease in prices of such stocks, reaching tempting purchasing levels.

On the end of week session however, the three Boursa indices returned to meet once again in the red zone, affected by the increased selling operations that included a wide range of leading and small-cap stocks together, which came in parallel with the increased trading rates of volume or value, where the number of traded stocks grew by 36.73 percent, and the cash liquidity recorded an increase of 37.20 percent, compared to the previous session. Moreover, last week witnessed trading of around 136 stock out of 176 listed stock in the Market, where the prices of 58 stock dropped against prices of 66 increased, with 52 stock remained at no change.

Sectors' indices

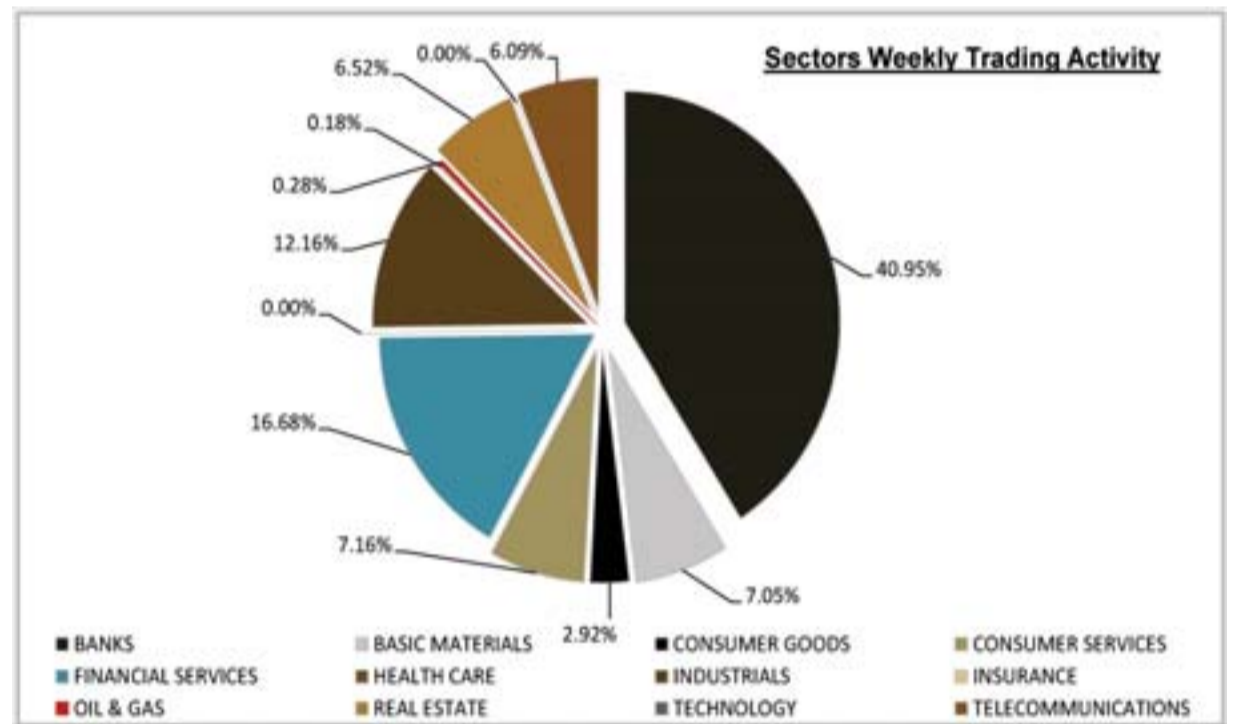
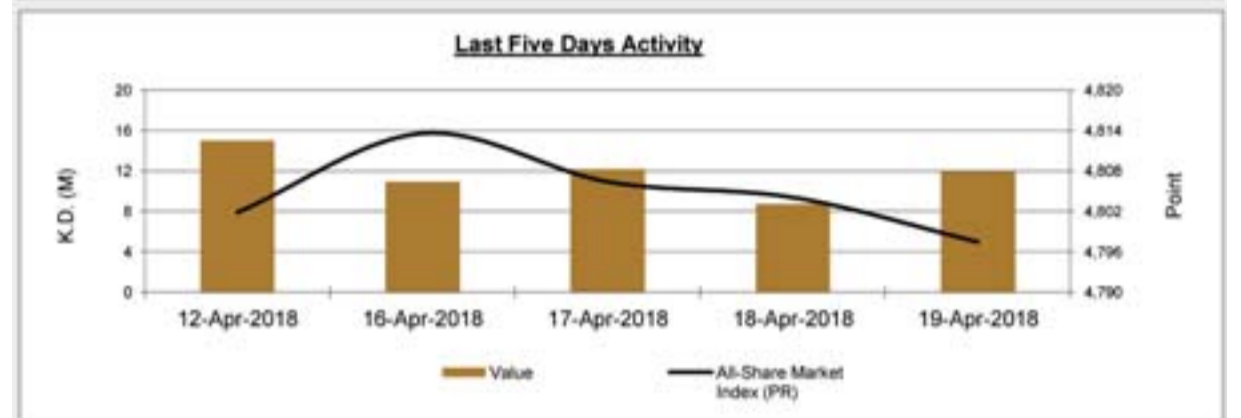
Five of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the green zone, and six recorded declines, whereas the Health Care sector's index closed with no change from the week before. Last week's highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 7.26 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,071.73 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Basic Material sector's index closed at 1,048.06 points recording 3.01 percent increase. The Oil & Gas sector came in third, as its index achieved 1.68 percent growth, ending the week at 990.73 points.

On the other hand, the Industrial sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 0.73 percent to end the week's activity at 974.16 points. The Consumer Services sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 0.64 percent, closing at 1,004.53 points, followed by the Real Estate sector, as its index closed at 970.92 points at a loss of 0.60 percent.

Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 118.22 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 40.28 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 20.32 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 59.64 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 17.91 million or 40.91 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 7.29 million representing 16.68 percent of the total market trading value. —Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.



SECTORS TRADING ACTIVITY

Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
BANKS	59,639,429	20.32%	17,909,689	40.95%
BASIC MATERIALS	4,944,965	1.68%	3,084,138	7.05%
CONSUMER GOODS	5,513,240	1.88%	1,277,653	2.92%
CONSUMER SERVICES	31,749,163	10.82%	3,132,663	7.16%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	118,217,114	40.28%	7,293,553	16.68%
HEALTH CARE	14,500	0.00%	1,740	0.00%
INDUSTRIALS	14,754,155	5.03%	5,316,768	12.16%
INSURANCE	328,798	0.11%	78,075	0.18%
OIL & GAS	2,883,057	0.98%	121,473	0.28%
REAL ESTATE	48,937,508	16.67%	2,851,196	6.52%
TECHNOLOGY	9,102	0.00%	1,409	0.00%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	6,493,987	2.21%	2,664,629	6.09%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE

Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
BANKS	966.74	967.05	-0.03%	-3.33%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,048.06	1,017.41	3.01%	4.81%
CONSUMER GOODS	912.47	910.41	0.23%	-8.75%
CONSUMER SERVICES	1,004.53	1,011.01	-0.64%	0.45%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	972.01	973.68	-0.17%	-2.80%
HEALTH CARE	991.93	991.93	0.00%	-0.81%
INDUSTRIALS	974.16	981.33	-0.73%	-2.58%
INSURANCE	926.18	923.05	0.34%	-7.38%
OIL & GAS	990.73	974.34	1.68%	-0.93%
REAL ESTATE	970.92	976.82	-0.60%	-2.91%
TECHNOLOGY	1,071.73	999.16	7.26%	7.17%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	868.61	872.52	-0.45%	-13.14%

US yield hits 4-year high; stocks fall on tech sector

NEW YORK: A US bond sell-off continued for a second day on Friday, pushing the 10-year Treasury yield to its highest level in more than four years and steepening the yield curve after two weeks of flattening. World stock markets dipped as worries about a global slowdown in smartphone demand dented the technology sector, while oil prices fell after US President Donald Trump sent a tweet criticizing OPEC and then mostly recovered.

The higher yields seemed to reflect a technical shift in the market, rather than a jump in investor confidence in the US economy or rising inflation, so analysts are regarding the steeper curve as temporary. "If you look at the chart, you have to squint to see it," Gene Tannuzzo, senior portfolio manager at Columbia Threadneedle Investments, said of the

two-day counter-trend.

With the Federal Reserve raising short-term interest rates, "a flattening makes sense," Tannuzzo added. Benchmark 10-year notes touched 2.962 percent, surpassing their January 2014 levels. They last fell 13/32 in price to yield 2.9602 percent.

"Investors want to wait on the sidelines. It seems like the 10-year will get to 3 percent. Everybody's being patient so they can see how far it corrects until we get there," said Michael O'Rourke, chief market strategist at JonesTrading in Greenwich, Connecticut.

US crude fell 0.4 percent to \$68.06 per barrel and Brent was last at \$73.66, down 0.16 percent on the day. Oil prices have been supported by tightening crude supplies and continued support from OPEC and its allies on supply cuts.

Trump's tweet

Trump's tweet, in which he called prices "artificially Very High!", sent crude futures tumbling, but they stabilized a bit later. "We have a difficult time seeing how OPEC would in any way be swayed here in terms of changing course, in terms of policy," said Michael Tran, commodity strategist at RBC Capital Markets. "One of the major variables that's fueling the rally

in oil prices is the market's perception that his administration is taking an increasingly hawkish stance on foreign policy," he said.

Weakness among tech stocks drove Wall Street equities lower for a second session, following a slide on Thursday by Apple Inc and its suppliers. A strong earnings season could offset fears of slowing global growth and help stock markets recover from first-quarter volatility, which was fueled by a trade spat between the United States and China and mounting geopolitical tensions over Syria.

"While fundamentals remain robust, geopolitics and trade war fears, concerns over slowing global growth, and idiosyncratic issues in the tech sector have all weighed," Deutsche Bank strategists wrote in note to clients. They said a full-blown trade war between the United States and China was a major risk. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 201.95 points, or 0.82 percent, to 24,462.94, the S&P 500 lost 22.99 points, or 0.85 percent, to 2,670.14 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 91.93 points, or 1.27 percent, to 7,146.13.

The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index rose 0.05 percent and MSCI's gauge of stocks across the globe shed 0.83 percent. The US dollar index rose to



NEW YORK: The closing numbers are displayed after the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange on Friday in New York. — AFP

a two-week high against a basket of peer currencies, while sterling extended a decline in the wake of dovish comments from Bank of England Governor Mark Carney overnight.

The pound continued to fall against the dollar, hitting its lowest against the greenback since April 6. The dollar index rose 0.42 percent, with the euro down 0.47 percent to \$1.2286. — Reuters

Business

New Ford Tourneo Custom people mover to make debut at ATM

Bold exterior styling, completely new premium specification level

KUWAIT: Ford yesterday announced that the versatile new Tourneo Custom people mover, which delivers first class travel for up to nine occupants and the option of an all-new Premium model, will make its regional debut at the Arabian Travel Market at Dubai's World Trade Centre, April 22-25.

Ford's flagship SUV, the 2018 Ford Expedition Platinum will also be on the stand alongside the Tourneo people mover - offering VIP and executive transport operators the perfect choice of luxury vehicle for their needs.

Targeting hotel and airport shuttle services, tour operators, VIP and private hire firms, employee transport and taxi services, the new Tourneo Custom is available in a choice of three trim levels, two wheelbase options and two roof heights.

Distinguished by its bold new front-end design with five-bar trapezoidal grille with larger intake and stylish chrome bars, the new Tourneo Custom offers customers a spacious cabin with full-sized seats for every occupant and flexible seating configurations.

The introduction of the 2019 Tourneo Custom people mover brings with it the range topping Premium model, with superior levels of refinement and sophistication that includes high-quality trim materials, improved comfort and reduced noise levels, and segment leading Ford technologies.

"With the new Tourneo Custom, every passenger can enjoy the best seat in the house," said Terry Rayner, Commercial Vehicle Director, Ford Middle East and Africa. "This versatile people mover has been transformed with a stylish interior that combines the comfort and quality of a luxury car with outstanding space, practicality and efficiency - precisely what this market demands."

Sophisticated design and versatility

New Tourneo Custom has a bold new front-end appearance that shares its design DNA with Ford's latest passenger cars. The high-mounted trapezoidal grille and dynamic, slim headlamps that flow neatly into the vehicle's muscular shoulder line give it a more muscular appearance for 2019.

Dual side-opening doors provide best-in-class

access to the rear seats; side-step running boards ease entry and exit from the vehicle, while the concealed sliding door rail helps provide a cleaner appearance and improved function. Side protection moldings have also been integrated into the design of the front and sliding side doors.

The Tourneo Custom line-up offers both eight- or nine-seat configurations, with a choice of short wheelbase and long wheelbase versions. The longer model provides additional luggage space behind the third seat row.

With more than 30 seating configurations, the new Tourneo Custom allows the space to be maximized to enable equipment and passengers to be transported in comfort. Seats can be arranged in almost any order, or removed completely should the need arise.

Travelling comfort is further enhanced by new reclining seat designs featuring revised foam padding and geometry for optimized support, plus improved refinement resulting from a significantly upgraded sound reduction package in the rear cabin. Cabin passengers will also appreciate the separate and dedicated air conditioning and climate control system for the rear, while the 12-volt power supply and two USB chargers will keep phones and other devices topped up on the go. An optional 230-volt power point is also available.

Throughout the vehicle, the interior trim has been updated - from the headliner and seats to the side panels and carpets. The selection of more upscale materials reinforces the impression of quality and attention to detail within the cabin.

The perfect Tourneo for you

The 2019 Tourneo gives operators a broad choice of trim and specification levels to suit their needs. The Tourneo Custom Kombi offers seating for nine and comes with a single side sliding door, black grille, black rear bumper and swing open rear cargo doors. It is available with a high-roof design that creates an additional 300mm of vertical space in the cabin, perfect for its intended role as both a passenger and cargo van.

The Base gets an additional sliding door, cruise control, a chrome and black grille, automatically folding door mirrors and a rear liftgate. The Base and



Kombi are designed to appeal to customers who operate employee transport, taxi and hotel and airport shuttle services.

Tour operators, VIP and Private Hire firms will find the more luxurious interior and commanding road presence of the Premium more in fitting with their customer expectations. A black B-pillar provides a cohesive, visual appearance of a continuous side glass panel for Premium models, while 16-inch alloy wheels, front fog lamps and color coded wing mirrors also help boost the model's exclusivity. The leather wrapped gear shifter and steering wheel, carpets throughout, premium seat material and rear seat USB charging ports are also exclusive to the Tourneo Custom Premium.

Advanced technology

Powered by a choice of 100hp or 125hp 2.2-litre

Duratorque TDCi turbo diesel engines, the Tourneo Custom delivers exceptional fuel efficiency. The long-range 80-litre fuel tank combined with the excellent fuel economy enables an industry leading 1200 kilometres between fuel stops. Individual seats all equipped with three-point seat belt, headrests and air conditioning (with 20 vents) enables customers to arrive safe and relaxed.

Every version comes equipped with Roll Over Mitigation, Anti Brake Locking System, Traction Control, Hill Hold Assist and a Tyre Pressure Monitoring system. The Kombi comes fitted with driver and passenger airbags, while the Base and Premium have additional seat side and curtain airbags, plus front and rear parking sensors. The new 2019 Tourneo Custom will be on display during the Arabian Travel Market at the Dubai World Trade Centre between April 22-25, Hall 3, Stand ME4230.

Burgan Bank encourages premier customers to benefit from free travel insurance

KUWAIT: Since travel season is getting closer, Burgan Bank encourages its premier customers to benefit from the free travel insurance by purchasing the airline tickets using VISA Signature Cards.

The bank stated that this service will cover premier customers and their families against any travel accidents and other expenses up to \$500,000 for personal accidents, \$150,000 for emergency medical expenses and \$1,500 for trip cancellations. Customers are also covered in case of delayed departures, baggage delays or loss of personal belongings.

Premier banking customers using their VISA Signature cards can avail of the multi-trip travel insurance on all destinations, for duration of 90 days for the cardholder, spouse & up to 5 children.

Customers interested in availing this offer can visit VISA's website (<https://cardholderbenefitsonline.com>) to access and download the terms and conditions to receive the travel insurance certificate.

Kuwait-Turk Best Islamic Bank in Turkey

KUWAIT: Turk won a highly distinguished and reputable prize as part of the annual prize award ceremony by Islamic Finance News (IFN) magazine for the year 2017. The bank has also received the best Islamic bank award in Turkey. These prizes come as part of many prizes awarded by highly reputable international organizations to KFH as one of the most important and leading Islamic banks operating in Turkey.

The prize was received by KFH-Turkey represented by Group Chief Finance Ahmed Saud Al-Kharji who emphasized in a press release that this prize affirms the bank's success in the Turkish market and its large spread through its large branch base to match highest levels of e-banking worldwide. Kuwait-Turk has introduced new finance vehicles to the Turkish market namely "Sukuks" which Kuwait-Turk has become one of the leading issuers thereof in Turkey. This product has received great interest from companies wishing to obtain finance to develop their business and achieve expansion in light of a major development and growth in the marsh of Turkish economy in general. Islamic Finance News magazine (IFN) honors the best financial and banking institutions operating in the Islamic finance sector. It is one of the most prestigious awards in the global Islamic finance arena.

Special committee

IFH Group has selected KFH for this award based on the recommendations made by a special committee comprising Islamic banking experts and analysts worldwide. Evaluation was made based on a set of basic elements and financial indicators for the best Islamic deals and institutions during 2017.

Islamic Finance News (IFN) group manages Islamic



banking and finance prizes and publishes Islamic banking news worldwide. The magazine was established in 2004 as a subsidiary of "Red Money" International and has branches in Dubai and Kuala Lumpur.

Kuwait-Turk has succeeded over the last 30 years in building a large customers base and introduce an integrated array of services and products, thus taking the lead position in the Turkish market and one of the fastest growing banks therein. The bank aims to be one of the largest 10 banks in Turkey in the near future.

Kuwait-Turk made significant and remarkable contributions in financing minor and medium enterprises and industries. It has supported growth efforts and Turkish economy mechanisms and expanded its market share by fulfilling the needs of traders and businessmen, thus aiming to fulfill real economy needs and focus on core business activities.

Kuwait-Turk has expanded its activities to include the use of modern technology in its banking products and services and provide alternative distribution channels. These modern e-banking services have achieved major success as

customers have expressed their extreme admiration and interest in these various modern e-banking services e.g. XTM machines which provide full branch and ATM services without the need for any human involvement. Also, the bank enjoys high ratings assigned by highly reputable global rating agencies.

Leading position

The bank aims to maintain its leading position which it has achieved in Islamic banking following three decades since inception. The bank aims to focus on banking operations, develop innovative services and products and continue international expansion efforts which were crowned by the inauguration of a fully integrated branch in Germany to provide a full series of Islamic financial services in one of the largest European markets. This step would qualify the bank to be a hub for Islamic banking in Europe, enhance Kuwait-Turk spread in neighboring countries, and develop cooperation and partnership relations with several economic and commercial activities in Turkey and GCC through the finance of major export business and projects.

VIVA launches Nintendo Switch offer to enjoy gaming on-the-go

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched Nintendo Switch offer with VIVA internet plans starting at KD 11, that allows customers to enjoy gaming on-the-go.

VIVA brings customers the exciting Nintendo Switch designed to go wherever they go, and transforms from home console to a portable system in a snap, so they can get more time to play the games they love. Customers can use the unique two Joy-Con controllers to play face-to-face, or jump online for a 4v4 match and dock the Nintendo Switch to enjoy HD gaming on the TV with the ability to flip the stand to share the screen for a multiplayer game. Nintendo Switch features total gameplay flexibility with Joy-Con and allows to combine both Joy-Cons into a traditional-style controller. In addition, it has HD rumble which makes games more immersive including sense shape, movement and distance with IR motion camera.

This offer is part of VIVA's continued innovative pool of products that cater to its customer needs and expectations.

EQUATE highlights HR practices at Kuwait Oil & Gas Summit

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, a global producer of petrochemicals, sponsored the 5th Kuwait Oil & Gas Summit (KOGS) 2018, which is one of the Arabian Gulf's key industrial events.

Participating in a panel discussion titled "Energizing the Workforce and Strategies for Talent Development", EQUATE's Global Human Resources Director Mohammad Al-Sharhan said, "EQUATE has a diverse workforce of over 1,500 professionals from different age groups representing more than 25 nationalities and working in the Arabian Gulf, Asia, Europe and North America. EQUATE ensures performance excellence by dedicating great focus to our people's competencies and career development. This diverse workforce requires agile and flexible people practices that adapt to the needs of different generations, as well as various cultures in several locations. Digitization is also key to making sure that the new generation is engaged throughout our global locations while maintaining a healthy level of human interaction."



KOGS 2018 gathered leaders in oil, gas, petrochemical and financial sectors to discuss a number of topics including challenges, opportunities, reliability, innovation and investments.

The EQUATE Group is a global producer of petrochemicals and the world's second largest producer of Ethylene Glycol (EG). The Group has industrial complexes in Kuwait, North America and Europe that annually produce over 5 million tons of Ethylene, EG, Polyethylene (PE) and Polyethylene Terephthalate

(PET). The products are marketed throughout Asia, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The EQUATE Group's shareholders include Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), The Dow Chemical Company (Dow), Boubyan Petrochemical Company (BPC) and Quraan Petrochemical Industries Company (QPIC). The Group is a leading enterprise that pursues sustainability wherever it operates through partnerships in fields that include the environment, economy and society.

Technology

Asian push to crack down on 'fake news' sparks alarm

Fake stories dressed up as fact can go viral overnight

KUALA LUMPUR: Inflammatory stories masquerading as real news pose a particularly toxic threat in Asian countries with long-standing religious and ethnic divides, but promises by some regional leaders to tackle the problem carry equal menace. Borrowing from US President Donald Trump's political playbook, government heads with an authoritarian streak are using the mantra of "fake news" to shield themselves from negative media coverage, and push legislation that critics say is aimed more at stifling dissent than punishing fabrication.

The problem they profess to be addressing is a genuine one. Internet penetration is now so extensive—even in the poorest areas—that fake stories dressed up as fact can go viral on social media overnight and reach massive audiences with often dire consequences. In India last year, seven people were killed by a mob after a false story spread on WhatsApp that they were child-traffickers, while in Myanmar, doctored photos and bogus reports shared on Facebook have fuelled the persecution of Rohingya Muslims.

A number of Asian leaders have tapped into the resulting public concern and launched campaigns that claim to target malign rumor-mongers but, experts say, actually serve to turn the screws on critical media and political opponents. "This vague notion of 'fake news', which has been used and abused by US President Donald Trump, is a boon for governments who want to muzzle overcurious independent voices," Daniel Bastard, head of the Asia-Pacific desk at Reporters Without Borders (RSF), told AFP.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte—who once memorably warned media that "just because you're a journalist, you're not exempted from assassination"—has regularly accused news outlets critical of his deadly war on drugs of peddling fake news. He has openly attacked a top newspaper and broadcaster, while the biggest target of the media

clampdown has been news website Rappler. Philippine authorities have cancelled its corporate license over claims the outlet violated foreign ownership laws and filed a criminal complaint over an alleged failure to pay taxes on bonds it issued.

Pushing legislation

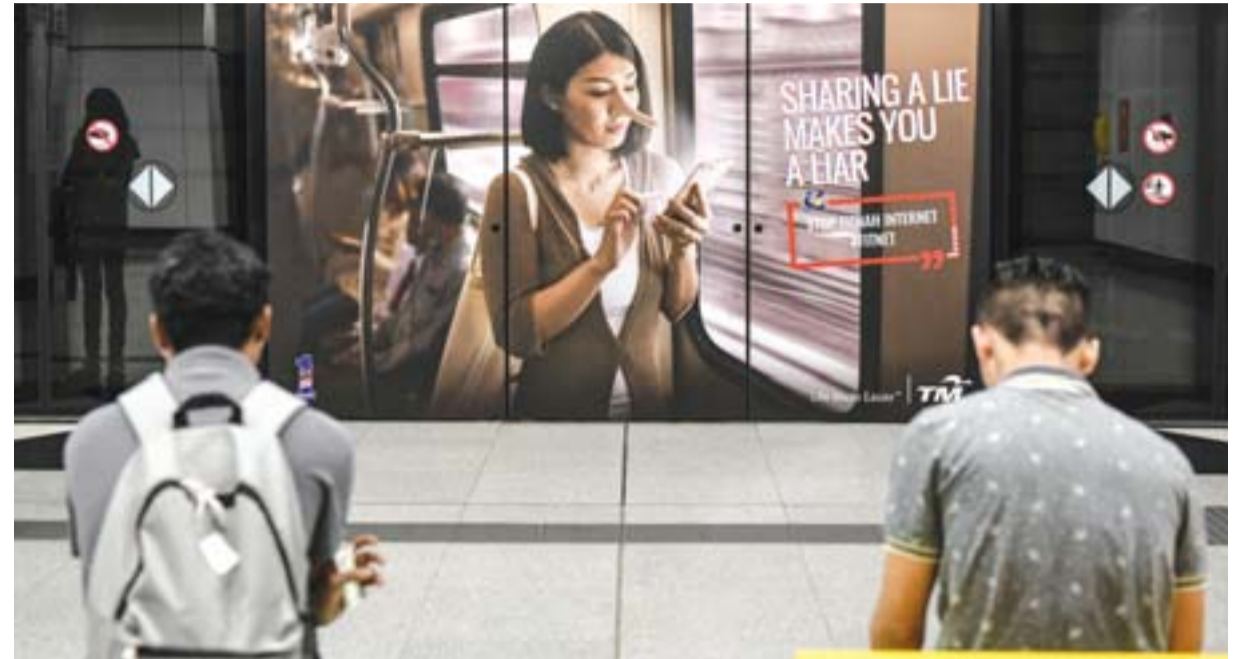
In Cambodia, authoritarian Prime Minister Hun Sen has openly praised Trump's "Fake News Awards"—handed out in January by the president to his usual targets, including CNN and The New York Times—and lobbied the "fake news" charge at his own media critics. It has helped provide ammunition for his government's sweeping assault on independent media in recent months, with the widely-respected Cambodia Daily newspaper shuttered after being hit with a huge tax bill and dozens of independent radio stations closed.

Some countries are seeking to legislate against fake news, sparking concerns that the laws will be used to stifle dissent. Malaysia enacted a law this month that punishes publishers of false reports with up to six years in jail, which observers say is a clear bid to stifle criticism of scandal-hit Prime Minister Najib Razak before elections next month.

Singapore has been holding parliamentary hearings to consider measures, including laws, against what the government terms "deliberate online falsehoods" while the Philippines is considering legislation that could see publishers of fake news punished with up to 20 years in jail. Clarissa David, a media expert at University of the Philippines, warned that any such law in the Philippines may become "a tool for censorship" that could be used to "silence legitimate news organisations from covering stories that are unfavorable to groups in power".

Michael Vatikiotis, a Southeast Asia expert, said that

Sweeping assault on independent media



KUALA LUMPUR: This file photo taken March 26, 2018 shows commuters waiting for the train in-front of a public service announcement that reads "sharing a lie makes you a liar" at a train station in downtown Kuala Lumpur. —AFP

legislating against fake news "puts journalists in deeper peril". "Unlike normal justifications for curbing media freedom, fake news is a broad, catch-all definition that is wholly subjective," Vatikiotis, an author and former journalist, told AFP.

Alarm in Europe

Still, fake news is undoubtedly a real threat and has sparked particular alarm in Europe where governments are worried that Russia may try to meddle in elections, following allegations that Moscow sought to tilt the 2016 US poll in Trump's favor. Germany has passed a law threatening social networks with fines if they do not remove bogus reports and hate speech while Brussels is

working on a Europe-wide plan to tackle fake news online. But media rights groups are against legislation, arguing instead for the press to follow a strict set of standards they set themselves, and for social media giants such as Facebook to come up with responsible policies to stem the flood of misleading information. RSF's Bastard warned that the idea of social media companies policing themselves could pose as many problems as governments passing laws, however.

"Will (Facebook CEO) Mark Zuckerberg decide what is 'real' or 'fake'?" he said. "Just as we have big reservations when states want to control the 'realness' of news through legislation, we don't want corporations to decide it without any transparency." —AFP

Alibaba 'doing a lot research' on driverless cars

BANGKOK: E-commerce giant Alibaba is steering resources towards driverless car technology, its CEO Jack Ma confirmed on Thursday, joining a global race to shape the future of driving. Despite fresh safety fears after a woman was hit and killed by a self-driving Uber vehicle in the US last month, many tech giants like Google as well as automakers are accelerating plans in an industry attracting billions of dollars.

The competition is heating up in China, the world's largest car market, with internet firm and Alibaba rival Baidu recently predicting that self-driving vehicles will hit the road in the country within three to five years. Both Baidu and Chinese tech giant Tencent are pursuing the technology, stirring speculation about Alibaba's plans.

"We've been doing a lot of research on driverless things," Ma told reporters on Thursday while on a business trip to Bangkok. "What we want to do is (figure out) how we can make the cars more automatic, more friendly, more like a partner of human beings rather than just a driving tool," he said. Ma was speaking at a press conference in Bangkok after signing agreements with the Thai government, including a more than \$300 million investment in a "digital hub" in eastern Thailand aimed at connecting regional markets.

"I believe our children will only work four hours a day and four days a week or maybe three days a week, but they still will tell us they are very busy. Why are they busy? They are in cars," he added. Ma did not elaborate



BANGKOK: Alibaba founder Jack Ma speaks before an MOU signing ceremony in Bangkok on April 19, 2018 during a visit to the country to announce the group's investment in the Thai government's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) scheme. —AFP

on the company's plans but said the purpose was not to commercially compete with rivals Tencent and Baidu. Chinese authorities approved regulations this month to allow for local driverless road tests, according to state-backed media, which reported on Wednesday that

Alibaba was adding staff to work on the technology. Self-driving cars hold the promise of being more attentive and quicker to react than humans at the wheels, while also allowing people to use travel time more productively or pleasantly. —AFP

Amazon Prime tops 100m paid subscribers

SAN FRANCISCO: The ranks of people subscribing to Amazon Prime service for speedy delivery of purchases and streamed television has topped 100 million, the company's chief Jeff Bezos said in an annual letter. The new high in subscriptions at Prime, launched 13 years ago, was among milestones from 2017 shared by Bezos in the letter, a copy of which was filed with US securities regulators.

Amazon shipped more than five billion items through its Prime service last year, and logged an unprecedented number of new memberships, according to Bezos. Prime subscriptions cost \$99 in the United States, and come with fast, free shipping as well as online access to movies and

television shows. The Seattle-based company has been investing heavily in original television content.

"Prime Video continues to drive Prime member adoption and retention," Bezos said in the letter. "We've expanded our slate of programming across the globe." Amazon offers Prime service in cities in nine countries. In January the company raised the monthly Prime subscription price in the US to \$12.99 from \$10.99, but left the annual cost at \$99.

Best known as an online retail colossus, Amazon has the leading system for hosting services or content in the internet cloud and is the force behind the Alexa digital assistant being built into a wide array of devices. Amazon boasts more than 560,000 employees, and reported a profit last year of slightly more than \$3 billion. The company on Wednesday also announced a collaboration with US consumer electronics retail chain Best Buy to sell Toshiba and Insignia smart "Fire" televisions infused with Alexa. "Amazon and Best Buy have a long history of working together, and today we take our partnership to a new level," Bezos said in a joint statement. —AFP



PARIS: This illustration picture taken on April 19, 2018 shows the logo of online retail company Amazon displayed on a tablet screen. —AFP

Qualcomm: China regulators prompt delay of NXP merger

SAN FRANCISCO: US mobile chipmaking giant Qualcomm said it extended the deadline for its planned merger with Dutch rival NXP to work on getting clearance from regulators in China. At the request of the Ministry of Commerce in China, the companies have refilled a notice of acquisition, Qualcomm said in a news release. The refilling came with an agreement between Qualcomm and NXP to push the end-date of the deal out three months to July 25, according to the California-based chipmaker.

If the merger hasn't cleared all regulatory hurdles by the deadline, Qualcomm is to pay NXP a termination fee. Qualcomm early this year raised its bid for NXP to an estimated \$43 billion as Qualcomm moved to fend off a hostile offer from Broadcom, which was based in Singapore at the time. Broadcom abandoned efforts to take over Qualcomm in March, after its bid was blocked by President Donald Trump over national security concerns.

Broadcom, which was founded in California, has since returned its headquarters to the United States. Qualcomm's new bid amounted to \$127.50 per NXP share and aimed to satisfy NXP shareholders who had expressed concern the original offer was too low. With NXP debt, the deal's value is more than \$50 billion. Adding NXP would give a broader array of products including sensors and microprocessors for connected "internet of things" devices to Qualcomm, which is the dominant maker of chips for smartphones.

Qualcomm has faced antitrust probes in several countries over its dominance of the mobile chip market. According to Qualcomm, the acquisition of NXP has received antitrust clearance from eight of the nine required government regulatory bodies around the world, with the matter still pending in China. Based in the Dutch town of Eindhoven, NXP is a leading maker of chips for the auto industry, as well as for contactless payment systems. A former division of the Dutch electronics giant Philips, it became independent in 2006. —AFP

US Senate narrowly confirms NASA chief

WASHINGTON: The US Senate narrowly confirmed President Donald Trump's pick to head the space agency NASA, over objections from Democrats who warned he lacked a technical background. Jim Bridenstine, a congressman from Oklahoma, US Navy veteran and former pilot, was confirmed on a 50-49 vote, and will become the 13th administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration seven months after Trump named him to lead the agency.

Bridenstine, 42, has expressed an interest in returning humans back to the moon, spoken of closer ties between NASA and the commercial space industry, and has voiced skepticism about human-caused climate change. He was a strong supporter of Trump during the 2016 presidential race. Senate Democrat Bill Nelson, a former astronaut from Florida, was unenthusiastic in his welcome for Bridenstine.

"The @NASA administrator should be a consummate space professional-not a politician," Nelson tweeted. "He or she must also be a leader who has the ability to bring us together on a shared vision for future space exploration." NASA's previous full-time administrator, former astronaut Charles Bolden, resigned in January 2017. The confirmation came as Trump complained in a tweet that Democrats are "slow walking" all of my nominations. —AFP

UK teen who hacked CIA chief gets two year prison term

LONDON: A British teenager who accessed the email accounts of top US intelligence and security officials including the head of the CIA was sentenced to two years in prison on Friday. Kane Gamble, 18, founder of Crackas With Attitude, will serve his sentence in a youth detention facility.

"This was an extremely nasty campaign of politically motivated cyber terrorism," judge Charles Haddon-Cave said at the sentencing at London's Old Bailey criminal court. "The victims would have felt seriously violated," Haddon-Cave said, adding that Gamble had "revealed" in the attacks. Gamble was accompanied by his mother in court. He was 15 and 16 when, from his bedroom in Coalville, central England, he managed to impersonate his targets to get passwords and gain highly sensitive information.

He impersonated then Central Intelligence Agency chief John Brennan in calls to the telecom companies Verizon and AOL. Several sensitive documents were reportedly obtained from Brennan's private email inbox and Gamble managed to get information about military and intelligence operations in Iran and Afghanistan. "It also seems he was able to successfully access Mr Brennan's iCloud account," prosecutor John Lloyd-Jones said earlier. Gamble called AOL and initiated a password reset, and took control of the iPad of Brennan's wife.

Gamble also targeted then US secretary of homeland security Jeh Johnson and made calls to his phone number. He left Johnson's wife a voicemail saying "Am I scaring you?" and managed to get a message to appear on the family television saying: "I own you". Other targets included then US president Barack Obama's deputy national security adviser Avril Haines, his senior science and technology adviser John Holdren, and FBI special agent Amy Hess. —AFP

Health

The first genetic adaptation to diving found in 'Sea Nomads'

Spear-fishing Bajau people regularly free-dive to depths of up to 230 feet

TAMPA: Researchers have discovered the first evidence that people can genetically adapt to deep diving, as shown by the unusually large spleens in indigenous people of Indonesia known as the "Sea Nomads," a study said earlier this week. The spear-fishing Bajau people regularly free-dive to depths of up to 230 feet, with only weights and a wooden mask.

They spend up to 60 percent of their work day diving for fish, spearing octopus and gathering crustaceans—an amount of time rivaled only by sea otters—and can stay underwater up to 13 minutes at a time, said the report in the journal *Cell*. Intrigued by this unusual ability, American researcher Melissa Ilardo, then a post doctoral candidate at the Centre for GeoGenetics at the University of Copenhagen, wondered if they had genetically adapted somehow to be able to spend more time underwater than other people.

She spent several months in Jaya Bakti, Indonesia, with the help of a translator, getting to know the Bajau and another nearby group that did not dive, the Saluan. "I spent my whole first visit to Jaya Bakti introducing myself, the project, and the underlying science," she told AFP. "I wanted to be sure that they understood exactly what I was asking of them so they could help to direct the project to reflect their interests. They were very curious and excited about the research." Before her second visit, she learned some Indonesian in order to be able to communicate directly with the Bajau.

Scans and gene tests

She took genetic samples and did ultrasound scans, which showed that Bajau had spleens about 50 percent larger than the Saluan. Spleens are important in diving—and are also enlarged in some seals—because they release more oxygen into the blood when the body is

under stress, or a person is holding their breath underwater. Spleens were larger in the Balau people whether they were regular divers or not, and further analysis of their DNA revealed why.

Comparing the genomes of the Bajau to two different populations, the Saluan and the Han Chinese, scientists found 25 sites that differed significantly. Among them was one site on a gene known as PDE10A, which was determined to be linked to the Bajau's larger spleen size. In mice, "PDE10A is known for regulating a thyroid hormone that controls spleen size, lending support for the idea that the Bajau might have evolved the spleen size necessary to sustain their long and frequent dives," said the study.

More research is needed to understand how thyroid hormone affects human spleen size. The findings could boost research in medicine by helping researchers understand how the body reacts to a loss of oxygen in various contexts, from diving to high-latitude climbing to surgery and lung disease. "This really tells us how valuable and important indigenous populations are around the world that are living extreme lifestyles," said co-author Eske Willerslev, a professor at the University of Copenhagen.

Willerslev admitted he initially urged Ilardo not to pursue the research for her PhD thesis, believing it was too risky and that she may find nothing. "She said she wanted to do it anyway and that paid off. Melissa was right and our concerns were wrong," Ilardo said she was aware of the risks but "believed so strongly in this project," that she had to push on. "The Bajau and other Sea Nomads are simply extraordinary and I wanted to be able to prove that to the world," said Ilardo, now a US National Institutes of Health postdoctoral scholar at the department of Molecular Medicine at the University of Utah. —AFP



Time rivaled only by sea otters



This undated handout photo obtained April 19, 2018 courtesy of Melissa Ilardo shows a Bajau diver hunting fish underwater using a traditional spear off the islands of Indonesia. —AFP

Wide waist with 'normal weight' riskier than obesity

PARIS: People of "normal" weight who sport a wide waist are more at risk of heart problems than obese people, said researchers Friday, urging a rethink of healthy weight guidelines. How fat is distributed on a person's frame determined disease risk as much as how much fat they had overall, according to an investigation of nearly 1,700 people aged 45 and over.

Even people who are not classified overweight on the

Body Mass Index (BMI) scale, should be concerned if they had an "apple" shape with a waist wider than their hips, said research leader Jose Medina-Inojosa of the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Such excess fat around the middle is called "central obesity." "Current guidelines do not recommend measuring central obesity in those with normal weight as they claim their is no risk exposure," Medina-Inojosa said.

"We found greater risk... for those with normal weight and central obesity, on the contrary. This has the potential to change guidelines." Study participants, 1,692 residents of Olmsted County, Minnesota, had their weight, height, and waist and hip circumference measured between 1997 and 2000. They were monitored until 2016 for cardiovascular diseases such as heart attacks and stroke. Participants with a normal BMI but central obesity had a two-fold higher long-term risk of disease than pear-shaped participants—even technically obese ones, the research found. —AFP

CLINIC

PAGE

248 33 199

Global Medical Center Welcomes

Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader

Consultant vascular and general surgery

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

- All critical and non-critical arteries and veins surgeries
- Carrying out delicate procedures such as removing the extra rib
- All methods of treating varicose
- Treating excess perspiration
- Special department for care of injured diabetic foot
- AV connection for dialysis

مركز جلوبال الطبي
Global Medical Center

Telephone: 1871111

Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar
Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.

@globalmedcenter
www.globalmed-center.com

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
وفهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

What's On

LuLu Hypermarket launches Beautiful Britain 2018



LuLu Hypermarket, the leading retailer in the region, launched the 'Beautiful Britain 2018' promotion on 18 April at their Al-Qurain outlet. The 11-day promotion was inaugurated by Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Kuwait, HE Michael Davenport, in the presence of top management of LuLu Hypermarket in Kuwait, a large gathering of customers, well-wishers and media personnel.

The promotion, which is slated to end on 28 April, is being held across all LuLu Hypermarkets in the country and entails great discounts and value offerings on exclusive products. A wide range of organic products from the UK are on offer at amazing prices during the promotion period, in addition to special discounts on popular UK brands such as Kettle, Muller, Total, Jamie

Oliver, Henllan Bakery, Biona, Harrogate, English Tea Shop, Pertwood Farm and Batchelor among others.

An attractive aspect of the 'Beautiful Britain 2018' promotion are the large cutouts of popular British tourist attractions that are displayed prominently at all the outlet. Close interaction with customers through promotions and active participation in local festivities has always been a priority for LuLu Hypermarket. The 'Beautiful Britain 2018' promotion once again reinforces this customer-centric approach, and the Hypermarket's continued commitment to creating an engaging and fun experience for shoppers, while simultaneously providing them with the widest range of high quality products at the most competitive prices.



Kuwait Autism Center hosted a large number of schools on the occasion of celebrating the world Autism day which occurs on April 2nd each year. Lectures on Autism were delivered on how to recognize autistics and how to help them.

KNES secondary graduation ceremony

Kuwait National English School successfully celebrated the Secondary Graduation Ceremony on Thursday April 12, 2018. The ceremony started at 7:15 pm and ended at 9:00 pm. It was in the Al Farabi School Theatre. Students who have completed their Secondary Education at Kuwait National English School received their Diploma. The Guests of Honor was Her Majesty's Ambassador to Kuwait from the UK Michael Davenport, MBE as well as HE Ambassador for South Africa, MP Bona One, long service member of staff, Yousef Yousef, received the prestigious Chairman's Award in recognition for his good and loyal service to Kuwait National English School.

The Head of Secondary wished all the graduates the best and commended them on their hard work and dedication throughout the years and stressed on the needs to maintain high academic standard in this era with digital technology, artificial intelligence and the tremendous impact of social media. He emphasized that Kuwait National English School would continue to maintain progress.

To that end, the school would keep on working closely with the Council of International School (CIS), New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the British Schools Overseas (BSO) and the British Schools in the Middle East (BSME) to continue to improve academic standards. Her Majesty's Ambassador to Kuwait, Mr. Michael Davenport, talked about the benefit of technologies in our everyday life and gave a philosophical approach to a student future journey through life. He acknowledged the huge amount of Kuwait National English School students who continued their further studies in the United Kingdom and encouraged the graduating class 2018 to join them.

He thanked Kuwait National English School for the continuous involvement with UNESCO in saving the environment. The School Director, Madame Chantal Al Gharabally, concluded by congratulating class 2018 and thanked them for giving a meaning to her life, dedicated to students and education. Madame Chantal was very pleased with the success of KNES alumni around the world and expressed her gratitude to the Sixth Formers for their continuous involvement in Fund Raising and in the organization of school events such as Talent Show, Bake sale, overseas trips to Turkey & Greece etc.



NAFO celebrates 15th anniversary

NAFO Kuwait (National Forum Kuwait) celebrated its 15th anniversary in a colorful and splendid manner on April 12 at the American International School (AIS), Maidan Hawally. The inaugural meeting started with the national anthems of Kuwait and India, followed by invocation chants of NAFO ladies' and kids into the silent and serene venue along with a visual treat decorated on the stage commemorating the season's festival of Kerala "Vishu".

NAFO President O N Nandakumar inaugurated the function by lighting the traditional lamp, along with the

NAFO office-bearers, Advisory Board member, Program Convener and the Ladies' Wing chief-coordinator. Nandakumar chaired the meeting and in his presidential address he briefed about NAFO'S recent socio-welfare activities and the program as a whole.

General Secretary (Acting) Anish Nair welcomed the audience, and Band-Orfeo team narrating the relevance of the day's celebrations and also the major activities planned to support the under privileged sections in Kuwait and back in India beyond of region or religion, as NAFO is a non-profit, non-political socio-welfare organization. V R Vijayan Nair, chief of NAFO Advisory Board, greeted the guests and audience for their participation and thanked the program committee for its professional conduct of the celebrations.

Thereafter the distinguished guest Adel Kohari, CEO of Jassim Transport & Stevedoring Co released "Rareeram" souvenir, by collecting a copy from A R

Subbaraman and handed over the first copy to Shajui Mohandas, General Manager of Lulu Exchange Co and to all the gold sponsors and dignitaries who were invited to the dais. Program convener K C Gopakumar, in his vote of thanks expressed gratitude to all dignitaries and guests, sponsors, Media Forum and NAFO family members for accepting NAFO invitations and for their gracious presence and support. He also thanked band ORFEO for their first visit to Kuwait as NAFO'S guests.

A brief audiovisual documentary, was presented to mark the milestone achievements of NAFO including major accomplishments of inspired services rendered for the recent past years. After conclusion of the formal official inauguration ceremony, the 11-member instrumental music band "ORFEO" began mesmerizing the audience through their amazing magical performance.



Al-Baghly family honors patriarch

The Al-Baghly family honored its family patriarch Hajji Ahmad Taher Ahmad Ibrahim Al-Baghly, in appreciation of his "Al-Baghly family"

book in which he documented the family history in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as well as the achievements of family members. Family members gathered Monday at Al-Baghly Diwan in Nuzha area, and honored Ahmad Al-Baghly and his son Tawfeeq and thanked him for his efforts in preparing the book, collecting and documenting information in it and in the family tree. Hajji Tawfeeq Ahmad Al-Baghly had also thanked family members for taking the time to honor his father.



Birthday greetings

Many happy returns of the day to Mohammad Razik. Good wishes from father Mohammad Rafique, family and friends.

TV

00:10 Assassins Tale
01:55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out Of The Shadows
03:55 The Last Witch Hunter
05:50 Shanghai Noon
07:45 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out Of The Shadows
09:45 The Last Witch Hunter
11:40 Run To Me
13:25 San Andreas Quake
14:55 Crossfire
16:25 Kung Fu Yoga
18:15 Bad Company
20:15 This Means War
21:55 Stratton
23:35 Death Race 2050

00:45 Swamp Brothers
01:13 Swamp Brothers
01:40 Swamp Brothers
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 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
05:49 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 North Woods Law
08:15 Mekong: Soul Of A River
09:10 Mekong: Soul Of A River
10:05 Mekong: Soul Of A River
11:00 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
11:55 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
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 Swamp Brothers
17:53 Swamp Brothers
18:20 Man-Eating Super Squid
19:15 Shark After Dark
20:10 Wild Australia
21:05 Attack Of The Giant Jellyfish
22:00 Saba And The Rhino's Secret
22:55 Untamed & Uncut
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

00:30 Ultimate Survival
01:20 How It's Made
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 How It's Made
02:35 How It's Made
03:00 How It's Made
03:25 How It's Made
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 Keeping Up With The Kruger
07:50 Into The Pride
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
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 Shark City
22:50 Ultimate Survival
23:40 Ultimate Survival

00:30 Mum
00:55 Trauma
01:45 Death In Paradise
02:40 Doctors
03:10 Doctors
03:40 Mum
04:10 EastEnders
04:40 EastEnders
05:10 The Coroner
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Call The Midwife
08:00 Doctors
08:30 Doctors
09:00 The Coroner
09:50 The Coroner
10:40 The Coroner
11:30 Father Brown
12:20 Call The Midwife
13:20 Doctors
13:50 Doctors
14:20 Doctors
14:50 EastEnders
15:20 Death In Paradise
16:15 Father Brown
17:05 Call The Midwife
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:00 Death In Paradise
20:00 Trauma
20:55 Line Of Duty
22:00 Death In Paradise
22:55 Doctors
23:25 EastEnders
23:55 Gumpowder

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 Kidnapped: Elizabeth Smart
12:50 Kidnapped: Elizabeth Smart
14:15 The Killing Of Jonbenet: Her Father Speaks
16:00 The Eleven
17:00 The Eleven
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 Holloway: Women Behind Bars
22:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
23:00 The Zodiac Killer: Case Closed?

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 Jessie
06:25 Elena Of Avalor
06:50 Descendants Wicked World
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
07:20 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
07:45 Tangled: The Series
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Raven's Home
09:00 Bunk'd
09:25 Bizaardvark
09:50 Liv And Maddie

00:05 Norm Macdonald: Me Doing Stand-Up
00:55 Why? With Hannibal Buress
01:20 Nathan For You
01:45 South Park
02:10 South Park
02:35 Inside Amy Schumer
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
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

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 Goldie & Bear
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 Vampirina
12:00 Vampirina
12:30 Vampirina
13:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
14:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
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 Toy Hospital
22:00 Mission Force One
22:30 Vampirina
23:00 PJ Masks
23:30 PJ Masks

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 Goldie & Bear
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 Vampirina
12:00 Vampirina
12:30 Vampirina
13:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
14:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
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 Toy Hospital
22:00 Mission Force One
22:30 Vampirina
23:00 PJ Masks
23:30 PJ Masks

00:15 Goblin Works Garage
01:05 Shifting Gears With Aaron Kaufman
01:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
02:40 Kidnap And Rescue
03:30 Street Outlaws
04:05 Buying Alaska
04:25 Buying Alaska
04:50 Dirty Jobs
05:35 Storage Hunters
06:00 Garage Gold
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks
06:45 Dallas Car Sharks
07:10 Storage Wars Canada
07:35 Buying Alaska
07:57 Buying Alaska
08:20 Garage Gold
08:45 Dallas Car Sharks
09:10 Dirty Jobs
09:55 Dirty Jobs
10:45 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
11:30 Buying Alaska
11:55 Buying Alaska
12:20 Garage Gold
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 Dirty Jobs
16:15 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
17:05 Garage Gold
17:28 Dallas Car Sharks
17:50 Buying Alaska
18:15 Buying Alaska
18:40 Dirty Jobs
19:25 Ice Cold Gold
20:15 Street Outlaws
21:00 Fast N' Loud
21:50 Goblin Works Garage
22:40 Shifting Gears With Aaron Kaufman
23:30 Street Outlaws vs Fast N' Loud

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 Jessie
06:25 Elena Of Avalor
06:50 Descendants Wicked World
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
07:20 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
07:45 Tangled: The Series
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Raven's Home
09:00 Bunk'd
09:25 Bizaardvark
09:50 Liv And Maddie

10:15 Stuck In The Middle
10:40 Gotta Kick It Up
12:05 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
12:20 Liv And Maddie
12:45 Liv And Maddie
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
14:00 Raven's Home
14:25 Raven's Home
14:50 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
15:15 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
15:40 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
15:45 K.C. Undercover
16:10 K.C. Undercover
16:35 Tangled: The Series
17:00 Tangled: The Series
17:25 Bizaardvark
17:50 Bizaardvark
18:15 Elena Of Avalor
18:40 Elena Of Avalor
19:05 Bunk'd
19:30 Bunk'd
19:55 Stuck In The Middle
20:20 Stuck In The Middle
20:45 K.C. Undercover
21:10 K.C. Undercover
21:35 Liv And Maddie
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:50 Lolo
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

00:00 Botched
00:55 Botched
01:50 E! News
02:50 Botched
03:40 Botched
04:35 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
06:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
07:50 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
08:45 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
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 Citizen Rose
23:55 WAGS LA

00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 Britain's Brightest Family
01:30 Britain's Brightest Family
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Coronation Street
03:55 Coronation Street
04:20 Cannonball
05:15 Change Your Tune
06:15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
07:40 The Royal Good Guys
08:30 Murdoch Mysteries
09:20 Murdoch Mysteries
10:15 Victoria
11:10 Britain's Brightest Family
11:40 Britain's Brightest Family
12:10 Cannonball
13:05 The Queen's Worst Year
14:00 Change Your Tune
14:55 Shetland
15:55 Murdoch Mysteries
16:45 Murdoch Mysteries
17:35 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
19:00 Change Your Tune
19:55 Victoria
20:45 The Queen's Worst Year
21:35 The Royal Good Guys
22:25 The Chase
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

00:15 Goblin Works Garage
01:05 Shifting Gears With Aaron Kaufman
01:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
02:40 Kidnap And Rescue
03:30 Street Outlaws
04:05 Buying Alaska
04:25 Buying Alaska
04:50 Dirty Jobs
05:35 Storage Hunters
06:00 Garage Gold
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks
06:45 Dallas Car Sharks
07:10 Storage Wars Canada
07:35 Buying Alaska
07:57 Buying Alaska
08:20 Garage Gold
08:45 Dallas Car Sharks
09:10 Dirty Jobs
09:55 Dirty Jobs
10:45 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
11:30 Buying Alaska
11:55 Buying Alaska
12:20 Garage Gold
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 Dirty Jobs
16:15 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
17:05 Garage Gold
17:28 Dallas Car Sharks
17:50 Buying Alaska
18:15 Buying Alaska
18:40 Dirty Jobs
19:25 Ice Cold Gold
20:15 Street Outlaws
21:00 Fast N' Loud
21:50 Goblin Works Garage
22:40 Shifting Gears With Aaron Kaufman
23:30 Street Outlaws vs Fast N' Loud

00:00 Ancient Aliens
01:00 Ancient Aliens
02:00 WWII: Lost Films
02:50 WWII: Lost Films
03:40 Ancient Impossible
04:30 Ancient Impossible
05:20 In Search Of Aliens
06:10 In Search Of Aliens
07:00 Ancient Aliens
08:00 Ancient Aliens
09:00 WWII: Lost Films
10:00 WWII: Lost Films
11:00 Ancient Impossible
12:00 Ancient Impossible
13:00 Ancient Aliens
14:00 Ancient Aliens
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 Clash Of The Gods
23:00 Clash Of The Gods

00:20 American Pickers
01:10 American Pickers
02:00 The Rise And Fall Of El Chapo
03:40 Alone
04:30 Alone
05:20 Alone
06:00 Ice Road Truckers
06:50 Milwaukee Blacksmith
07:15 Pawn Stars
07:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
08:30 Hoard Hunters
09:20 Ice Road Truckers
10:10 Alone
11:00 Milwaukee Blacksmith
11:25 Pawn Stars

00:15 Lucky Chow
00:45 Places We Go
01:10 Lucky Chow
01:40 Mega Food
02:35 Pond Stars
03:30 Billionaire's Paradise: Inside Necker Island
04:25 John Torode's Korean Food Tour
05:20 Restoration Man
06:15 Access 360 World Heritage
07:10 Chef On The Road
08:05 Restoration Man
09:00 Migue's Feasts
09:25 David Rocco's Dolce India
09:55 The Food Files
10:20 The Food Files
10:50 Eat Street
11:15 United Plates Of America
11:45 John Torode's Korean Food Tour
12:40 Mega Food
13:35 Pond Stars
14:30 Fusion Forager
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 Pond Stars
19:00 Fusion Forager
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 Mystery Files
00:35 Mystery Files
01:00 Car SOS
02:00 Yukon Gold
03:00 Wicked Tuna
04:00 Taiwan's Toughest
05:00 Route Awakening
05:30 Route Awakening
06:00 One Strange Rock
07:00 Stalking Hitler's Generals
08:00 My Fighting Season
09:00 Breakout
10:00 Jackie Chan's Green Heroes
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 Genius
18:00 Genius
19:00 Taiwan's Toughest
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Genius
21:40 Genius
22:30 Taiwan's Toughest
23:20 Ultimate Survival Alaska

00:20 The Naked Superhero
01:10 Paradise Islands
02:00 Amazing Animal Selfies
02:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
03:40 My Life In A Zoo
04:40 Photo Ark
05:35 Africa's Deadliest
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Wild 24
09:15 Snakes In The City
10:10 Animals Gone Wild
11:05 Philly Undercover
12:00 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo
12:55 Bandits Of Selous
13:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
14:45 Photo Ark
15:40 Symphony For Our World
16:35 Africa's Lost Eden
17:30 Madagascar's Fantastic Creatures
18:25 Wild India
19:20 Photo Ark
20:10 Symphony For Our World
21:00 Africa's Lost Eden
21:50 Madagascar's Fantastic Creatures
22:40 Wild India
23:30 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo

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

00:20 American Pickers
01:10 American Pickers
02:00 The Rise And Fall Of El Chapo
03:40 Alone
04:30 Alone
05:20 Alone
06:00 Ice Road Truckers
06:50 Milwaukee Blacksmith
07:15 Pawn Stars
07:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
08:30 Hoard Hunters
09:20 Ice Road Truckers
10:10 Alone
11:00 Milwaukee Blacksmith
11:25 Pawn Stars

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 Milwaukee Blacksmith
19:45 Pawn Stars
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Storage Wars
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 Battle 360
22:40 Milwaukee Blacksmith
23:05 Pawn Stars
23:30 Ice Road Truckers

00:10 Mystery Files
00:35 Mystery Files
01:00 Car SOS
02:00 Yukon Gold
03:00 Wicked Tuna
04:00 Taiwan's Toughest
05:00 Route Awakening
05:30 Route Awakening
06:00 One Strange Rock
07:00 Stalking Hitler's Generals
08:00 My Fighting Season
09:00 Breakout
10:00 Jackie Chan's Green Heroes
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 Genius
18:00 Genius
19:00 Taiwan's Toughest
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Genius
21:40 Genius
22:30 Taiwan's Toughest
23:20 Ultimate Survival Alaska

00:20 The Naked Superhero
01:10 Paradise Islands
02:00 Amazing Animal Selfies
02:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
03:40 My Life In A Zoo
04:40 Photo Ark
05:35 Africa's Deadliest
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Wild 24
09:15 Snakes In The City
10:10 Animals Gone Wild
11:05 Philly Undercover
12:00 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo
12:55 Bandits Of Selous
13:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
14:45 Photo Ark
15:40 Symphony For Our World
16:35 Africa's Lost Eden
17:30 Madagascar's Fantastic Creatures
18:25 Wild India
19:20 Photo Ark
20:10 Symphony For Our World
21:00 Africa's Lost Eden
21:50 Madagascar's Fantastic Creatures
22:40 Wild India
23:30 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo

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

00:20 American Pickers
01:10 American Pickers
02:00 The Rise And Fall Of El Chapo
03:40 Alone
04:30 Alone
05:20 Alone
06:00 Ice Road Truckers
06:50 Milwaukee Blacksmith
07:15 Pawn Stars
07:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
08:30 Hoard Hunters
09:20 Ice Road Truckers
10:10 Alone
11:00 Milwaukee Blacksmith
11:25 Pawn Stars

00:08 Max & Ruby
00:32 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:42 Kiva Can Do!
00:53 The Day Henry Met
00:58 The Day Henry Met
01:04 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:27 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:49 Team Umizoomi
02:12 Team Umizoomi
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Paw Patrol
03:21 Shimmer And Shine
03:44 Shimmer And Shine
04:06 Nella The Princess Knight
04:28 Nella The Princess Knight
04:52 Rusty Rivets
05:15 Rusty Rivets
05:39 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:23 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Nella The Princess Knight
07:21 Kiva Can Do!
07:32 Kiva Can Do!
07:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:06 Bubble Guppies
08:51 Nella The Princess Knight
09:14 Paw Patrol
09:38 Rusty Rivets
10:01 Wallykazam!
10:24 The Day Henry Met
10:30 Bubble Guppies
10:54 Team Umizoomi
11:17 Kid-E-Cats
11:22 Shimmer And Shine
11:46 Sunny Day
12:08 Max & Ruby
12:31 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:42 Kiva Can Do!
12:53 The Day Henry Met
12:58 The Day Henry Met
13:04 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:27 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:50 Team Umizoomi
14:13 Team Umizoomi
14:37 Paw Patrol
15:00 Paw Patrol
15:23 Shimmer And Shine
15:45 Shimmer And Shine
16:07 Nella The Princess Knight
16:30 Nella The Princess Knight
16:53 Rusty Rivets
17:16 Rusty Rivets
17:39 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:23 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
19:21 Kiva Can Do!
19:32 Kiva Can Do!
19:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:06 Paw Patrol
20:17 Paw Patrol
20:29 Shimmer And Shine
20:52 Nella The Princess Knight
21:14 Paw Patrol
21:38 Rusty Rivets
22:01 Wallykazam!
22:24 The Day Henry Met
22:30 Bubble Guppies
22:53 Team Umizoomi
23:16 Kid-E-Cats
23:21 Shimmer And Shine
23:44 Sunny Day

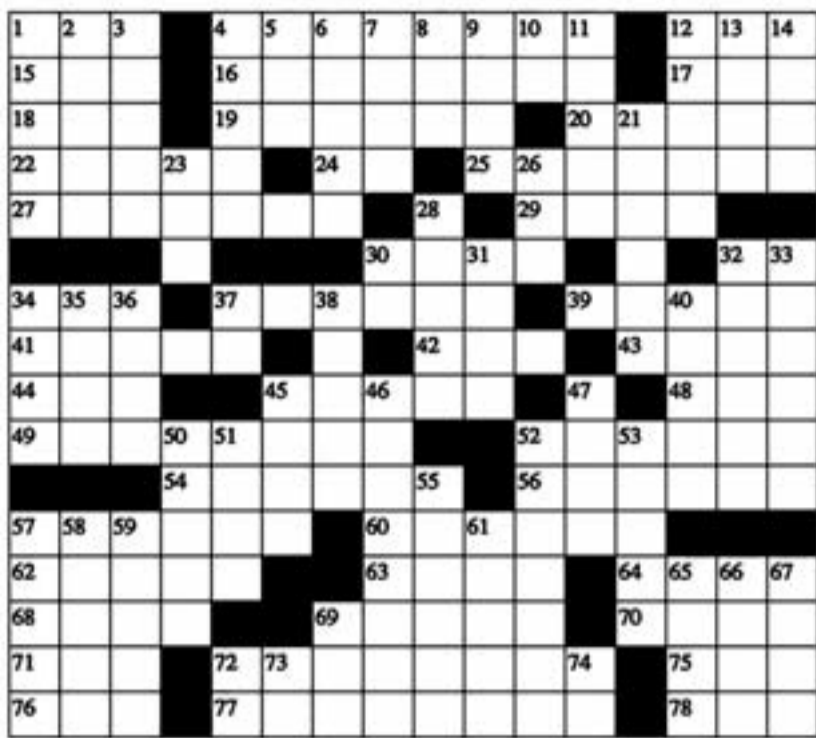
00:08 Max & Ruby
00:32 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:42 Kiva Can Do!
00:53 The Day Henry Met
00:58 The Day Henry Met
01:04 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:27 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:49 Team Umizoomi
02:12 Team Umizoomi
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Paw Patrol
03:21 Shimmer And Shine
03:44 Shimmer And Shine
04:06 Nella The Princess Knight
04:28 Nella The Princess Knight
04:52 Rusty Rivets
05:15 Rusty Rivets
05:39 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:23 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Nella The Princess Knight
07:21 Kiva Can Do!
07:32 Kiva Can Do!
07:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:06 Bubble Guppies
08:51 Nella The Princess Knight
09:14 Paw Patrol
09:38 Rusty Rivets
10:01 Wallykazam!
10:24 The Day Henry Met
10:30 Bubble Guppies
10:54 Team Umizoomi
11:17 Kid-E-Cats
11:22 Shimmer And Shine
11:46 Sunny Day
12:08 Max & Ruby
12:31 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:42 Kiva Can Do!
12:53 The Day Henry Met
12:58 The Day Henry Met
13:04 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:27 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:50 Team Umizoomi
14:13 Team Umizoomi
14:37 Paw Patrol
15:00 Paw Patrol
15:23 Shimmer And Shine
15:45 Shimmer And Shine
16:07 Nella The Princess Knight
16:30 Nella The Princess Knight
16:53 Rusty Rivets
17:16 Rusty Rivets
17:39 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:23 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
19:21 Kiva Can Do!
19:32 Kiva Can Do!
19:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:06 Paw Patrol
20:17 Paw Patrol
20:29 Shimmer And Shine
20:52 Nella The Princess Knight
21:14 Paw Patrol
21:38 Rusty Rivets
22:01 Wallykazam!
22:24 The Day Henry Met
22:30 Bubble Guppies
22:53 Team Umizoomi
23:16 Kid-E-Cats
23:21 Shimmer And Shine
23:44 Sunny Day

01:05 Judwaa 2
03:00 Judwaa 2
03:35 The Front ROW
04:00 Koffee With Karan
05:00 My Friend Ganesh 2
07:15 Dil Kya Kare
10:45 Bade Miyan Chote Miyan
12:45 Ready
15:15 Sanam Re
17:25 Khatta Meetha
20:00 Golmaal Again
22:55 One Two Three

01:00 The Fashion Fund
00:58 The Fashion Fund
02:00 Grey's Anatomy
03:00 Project Runway All Stars
04:00 Black Box
05:00 Devious Maids
06:00 Black Box
07:00 Devious Maids
08:00 Devious Maids
09:00 Project Runway All Stars
10:00 Black Box
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 Black Box
17:00 Devious Maids
18:00 Wedding Band
19:00 Wedding Band
20:00 Grey's Anatomy
21:00 Married At First Sight
22:00 Black Box
23:00 Devious Maids
23:59 Wedding Band

00:05 St. Elmo's Fire
02:00 The Cable Guy
03:40 Nine Lives
05:20 Finding Altamira
07:00 Healing
09:00 A Monster Calls
10:50 Liberal Arts
12:30 The Cable Guy
14:10 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge
15:45 Creed
18:00 Dreamgirls

CROSSWORD 1889



ACROSS

1. A magnetic tape recorder for recording (and playing back) TV programs.
4. Large South African oryx with a broad black band along its flanks.
12. A period of time spent sleeping.
15. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
16. Italian painter and sculptor and engineer and scientist and architect.
17. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
18. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
19. A Dravidian language spoken in south central India.
20. A member of the Nahuatl people who established an empire in Mexico that was overthrown by Cortes in 1519.
22. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
24. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
25. Small genus of Eurasian shrubs with yellow flowers and bladdery pods.
27. Pig iron containing manganese.
29. A small cake leavened with yeast.
34. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.
39. A male religious of an order of mendicant preachers of the gospel.
41. An item of factual information derived from measurement or research.
42. (Judaism) Sacred chest where the ancient Hebrews kept the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments.
43. The capital and chief port of Qatar.
44. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
48. A loud harsh or strident noise.
49. The large yellow root of a rutabaga plant used as food.
54. A medicated solution used for gargling and rinsing the mouth.
56. A narrow headband or strip of ribbon worn as a headband.
57. Cut the head of.
60. Italian Benedictine monk who was archbishop of Canterbury from 1093 to 1109.
62. United States anatomist who identified four pituitary hormones and discovered vitamin E (1882-1971).
63. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
64. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
68. Informal terms for a (young) woman.
70. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
71. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
75. An enzyme that catalyzes the oxidation of many body compounds (e.g., epinephrine and norepinephrine and serotonin).
76. The force of workers available.
77. An early Christian church designed like a Roman basilica.
78. The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.

DOWN

1. A mixed nerve that supplies the pharynx and larynx and lungs and heart and esophagus and stomach and most of the abdominal viscera.
2. A fastener (as a buckle or hook) that is used to hold two things together.
3. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation.
4. Scandinavian punch made of claret and aquavit with spices and raisins and orange peel and sugar.
5. The fatty flesh of eel.
6. Designating a solution containing 1 mole of solute per 1000 grams of solvent.
7. An unforeseen obstacle.
8. A room or establishment where alcoholic drinks are served over a counter.
9. In or relating to or obtained from urine.
10. Being one hundred more than three hundred.
11. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
12. Italian chemist noted for work on polymers (1903-1979).
13. American novelist (1909-1955).
14. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
21. (Sumerian) Evil storm god represented as a black bird.
23. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
26. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
28. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
30. Informal terms for a mother.
31. A Greek sandwich.
32. An island in the south Pacific.
33. A genus of orb-weaving spiders including common garden spiders and barn spiders.
35. Chevrotain somewhat larger than the kanchil.
37. Before noon.
38. Confederate general during the American Civil War who was defeated by Grant in the battle of Chattanooga (1817-1876).
40. A nonmetallic element belonging to the halogens.
45. One of a set of small pieces of stiff paper marked in various ways and used for playing games or for telling fortunes.
46. (Italian cookery) Squid prepared as food.
47. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
50. A yellow pungent volatile oil (trade name Agene) formerly used for bleaching and aging flour.
51. South African term for 'boss'.
52. Of or relating to or composed of fat.
53. A city in western Lithuania on the Baltic Sea.
55. Hard white substance covering the crown of a tooth.
58. Avoid or try to avoid, as of duties, questions and issues.
59. (Old Testament) The minister of the Persian emperor who hated the Jews and was hanged for plotting to massacre them.
61. An African river that flows northwest into Lake Chad.
65. Slightly wet.
66. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
67. Any of a group of antidepressant drugs that inhibit the action of monoamine oxidase in the brain and so allow monoamines to accumulate.
69. Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
72. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
73. An informal term for a father.
74. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You find you're dealing with matters of the spirit: d j vu, intuition and other such aspects but you can't explain them. It's as though you know what coworkers, family and friends are thinking and it turns out what you suspect is true! Your competitive spirit is boosted with the help of the stars; you could feel the vibration of this very strongly. Your investigation into investing pays off as you uncover a little-known loophole. You are compelled to contact someone by phone later in the afternoon; a long, meaningful discussion clears the air and mends fences. Where finances are concerned you are on a clear path to success. Contemplate all you have learned on spiritual and moral levels and you see how very far you have come.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your mind is on big things such as eternity and life in general; remembering small details such as leaving something out of the fridge or paying a phone bill could slip your mind if you're not careful! Your intuition, spiritual gifts, or whatever you'd like to consider them, are all the more now. The cycle you have just entered creates an energy of fact-finding that helps with figuring out the motives of others. A circumstance arises that leaves you exasperated and confounded. You have the ability to overcome having a temper tantrum; remember that all things pass. Being calm is difficult but you are able. An evening beneath the stars can serve to refresh your senses. Someone dear makes a suggestion that's perfect for making positive changes soon.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Intuitive vibrations stay with you throughout the day as you putter around the house or workplace. Your mind is preoccupied with the unknown mysteries of life and death. Cosmic information is an interest you enjoy. You could overlook normal tasks as your mind is fixed upon things you consider more important. You find yourself center stage regarding an enormous accomplishment. You feel good about your work and the opportunities offered through certain areas of endeavor. Your humor is strong and easily shared by others who come into contact with. Organic gardening or food takes a place of priority in your life. If you find that your plans may need to take an unexpected turn, remember that much success can be found in change.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your gift of knowing is strong and at its height of intensity! The stars are aligned for ethereal energy and confirmation of what some call hunches or gut feelings. You are tapped in to the flow as you get tasks and chores done with ease. Vibrations of love and contentment are prevalent today and you're shown in gratitude and humility. You seek more information regarding cosmic or mystic secrets that keep repeating through your mind; could there be life on other planets and UFOs, are ghosts are truly haunting physical spaces or mundane situations send you running in the opposite direction. An interest in all things new appeals to you now; art, clothing, furniture and all manner of accessories are more than likely indicated.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

When hunches are confirmed over and over again, you have got no choice but to recognize this substantial spiritual gift: speaking of this to people who understand is helpful. No matter the label you apply, gut feelings, mother's intuition or d j vu, pay attention to what you're picking up on. This ability is one you can rely on. Emotional bonds grow and strengthen within your circle. You feel the urge to stay to yourself and spend the majority of the day at home alone. Your thoughts focus inward toward your life and actions; have you completed working on your self liking who you are makes any tasks or chores easy and not worth complaint. Tonight, special friends revisit a trip you took together many years ago when much younger.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your savvy business skills kick in when you discover a new situation for a potential financial investment. You're able to use foresight to create a plan that works for all concerned parties. You could realize you have more money than you originally thought. You have a reputation for bringing people together by playing the diplomat; you feel empowered in a positive way for this. A surprise gathering could be held in your honor; your good works don't go unnoticed as you thought! You enjoy sharing time with others of like mind and heart. Finding out a new way to research is strongly indicated: go in an try it, you'll like it! Your intuition is a strong part of your new journey that you can't, and won't, ignore: be still and listen to this gift.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Intuition is so strong and demanding! That you could be irritated and cross. Pay attention to your knowing but strive to keep it in its place. Spiritual gifts could take your mind off of your normal tasks and responsibilities so figure out how to prevent this; you'll enjoy your abilities a lot more! You discover several good books and films regarding eternity and the mysterious workings of the universe that scratch your itch for this type of information. You'll want to jump into a situation you should take time to consider; stop for a moment, take a deep breath and think. Success can be yours if given a chance to prove your capabilities; be prepared when the opportunity does come. This evening could be a good one to practice meditation outside.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You're hands-on and full throttle when tackling domestic chores. You actually enjoy cleaning out and giving away to those less fortunate. You make the most of enjoying yourself even when surrounded by the demands of every day life. You feel strong and healthy as you go through an important meeting with your healthcare professional. You may make many new connections at a convention or large meeting of some kind. You could escape into a new hobby that satisfies your energy and mental levels; keep an eye on expenses regarding this. Your close circle of intimates provides security and comfort. Indulge your love of beauty by visiting a lovely old home or a unique museum; spending time with someone new could be indicated.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your intuitive side is fully awakened when someone from your past reaches out to you. This person made your parting ugly, so carefully consider this before reconnecting. People can, and do, change but sometimes they don't. Someone rude interrupts repeatedly as you attempt to get a word in edgewise. Your future looks bright after you discover a promising new investment opportunity in an emerging field or market. Someone criticizes an idea you have for your home; ignore this person as they're jealous. A friend or family member makes an effort to hide something from you; again, the intuition kicks in! Enjoying a movie with friends takes you away for a while! Let the sense of being loved and included warm your heart tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

The energy of prosperity surrounds and supports you. The new cycle you've entered creates an atmosphere of abundance and opportunity; it's up to you to accept these. Your understanding and feel for the social graces propels you forward. You enjoy your work which is why you do so well at it; if you don't like your job, you don't thrive nor even stick with it! Romance holds your interest and you wonder about a certain person. If you're romantically attached you make plans for an intimate evening. It feels good to stretch and move your body. You may want to keep your thoughts and ideas to yourself until they finish forming; someone's interested in taking credit for something you come up with. Be true to yourself.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

The mysteries of life take prominence in your thoughts and attention. A period of great spiritual evolution is at hand according to the new cycle you have entered. You could find yourself overlooking small details because you mind is focused on deep ideas and questions regarding the mystic workings you long to know more about. Be mindful that when considering eternity, you could become overwhelmed. The finer things in life interest you at this time; you are a lover of beauty and comfort. You could come across new recipes that are healthy; this could pertain to eating only whole foods that are not processed. Tonight, you feel very good about yourself and your efforts to grow; enjoy this special time with those you love.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

The heavens create an energy that focuses on your appearance as well as your health. Your beauty and intellect shine as the work week finally comes to a very successful end. Your mind is fixated on what is fair; if you discover what actually is the fair thing to do, this will generate peace and good feelings. Should you make decisions that are incorrect, you stand to lose a lot; do the right thing! There is someone who surprises you with their acceptance of wrong doing. You are motivated to complete a task; the energy of completion surrounds you now and later in the month. The day ends with handy discoveries and new methods that create ease and performance; use a new cookbook this evening to practice for a big dinner for loved ones.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Types of Music 1

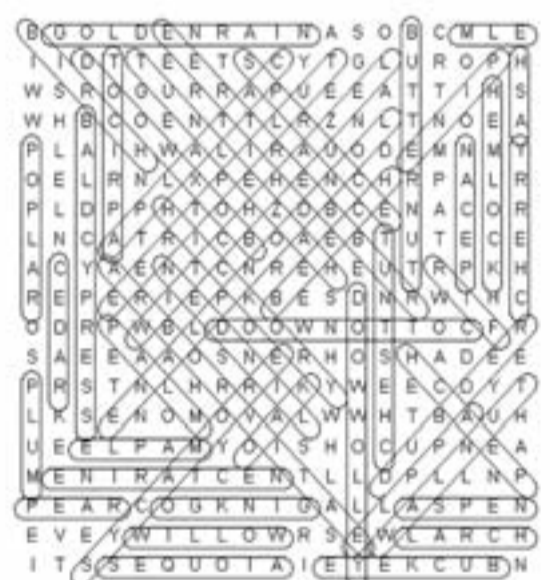
Find and circle all of the different types of music that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 14 letters spell an additional type of music.



- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| ACAPPELLA | CHRISTMAS | HIP HOP | PSYCHEDELIC |
| ACID ROCK | CLASSIC ROCK | INDIAN | PUNK |
| ACOUSTIC | DANCE | INDIE | ROCKABILLY |
| AMBIENT | DISCO | JAZZ | SAMBA |
| AVANT-GARDE | ELECTRONICA | LATIN MUSIC | SOUL |
| BIG BAND | FLAMENCO | LOUNGE | TANGO |
| BLUESGRASS | FOLK | MERENGUE | WALTZ |
| BROADWAY | GANGSTA RAP | MEXICAN | WORLD |
| CABARET | GOthic | NEW WAVE | |
| CHORAL | HEAVY METAL | POLKA | |

Friday's Solution

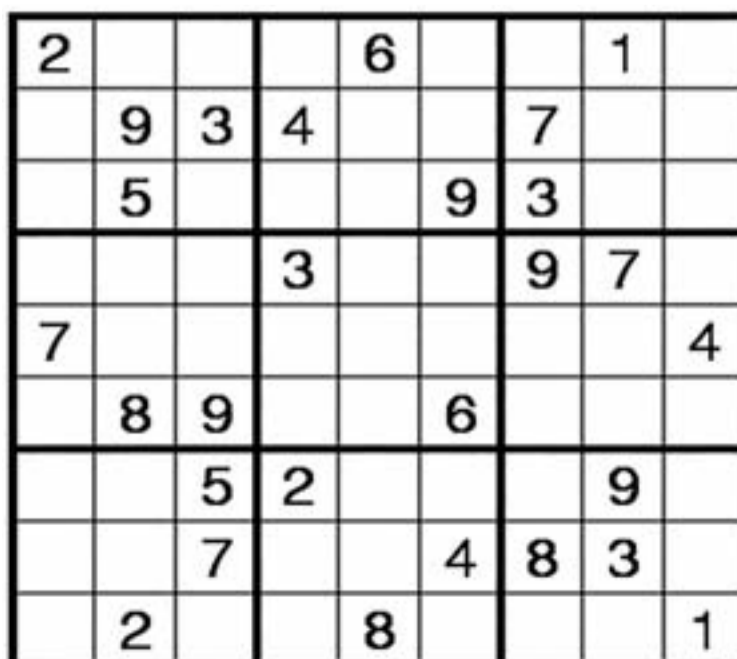
Trees



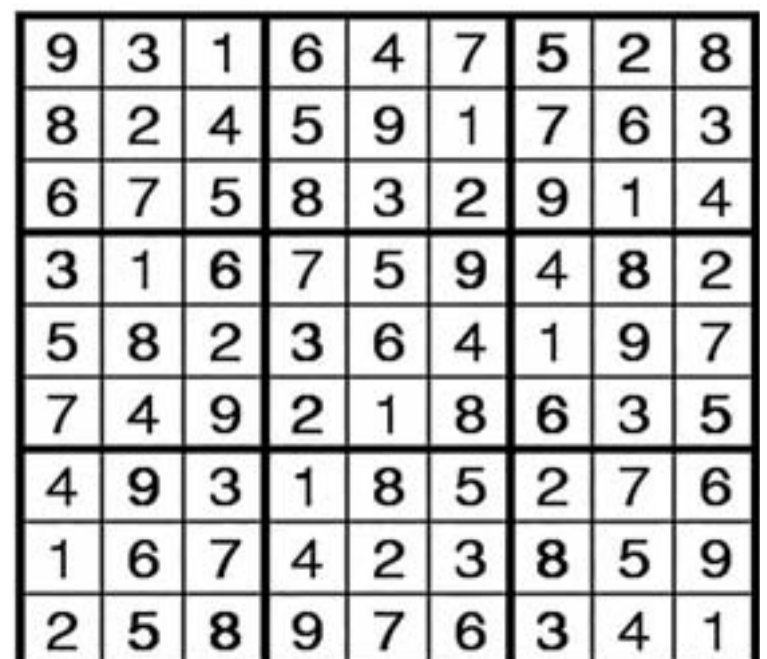
- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| APPLE | CEDAR | LINDEN | POPULAR |
| APRICOT | CHERRY | LONDON PLANE | REDBUD |
| ASH | CHESTNUT | MAPLE | RUBBER TREE |
| ASPEN | COTTONWOOD | NECTARINE | SEQUOIA |
| ARBORVITAE | ELM | OAK | SPRUCE |
| BALD CYPRESS | FIR | PALM | SYCAMORE |
| BEECH | GINKGO | PEACH | TULIP TREE |
| BIRCH | GOLDENRAIN | PEAR | WALNUT |
| BOXWOOD | HAZELNUT | PICACAN | WITCH HAZEL |
| BUCKEYE | HEMLOCK | PLUM | WILLOW |
| BUTTERNUT | HICKORY | PINE | YELLOWWOOD |
| CATALPA | LARCH | | |

The hidden sentence is: A SOCIETY GROWS GREAT WHEN OLD MEN PLANT TREES WHOSE SHADE THEY KNOW THEY SHALL NEVER SIT IN

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution



Classifieds

Sunday, April 22, 2018

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

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817
 Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Partly cloudy and Dusty with moderate to fresh north westerly wind changing to south easterly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Dust will subside gradually with moderate in general south easterly wind, with speed of 20 - 35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

WEATHER WATCH			Drop in visibility	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 21/04/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	35 °C	27 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	37 °C	24 °C		
ABDALY	36 °C	25 °C		
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C		
JAHRA	-- °C	-- °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	34 °C	25 °C		
SALMIYAH	28 °C	25 °C		
AHMADI	28 °C	25 °C		
NUWAISIB	37 °C	22 °C		
WAFRA	38 °C	23 °C		
SALMY	36 °C	23 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	04/22	Partly cloudy causing rising dust	33 °C	21 °C	SE	20 - 45 km/h
Monday	04/23	Clouds will decrease gradually causing rising dust with a chance for scattered rain	35 °C	21 °C	S-NW	50 - 20 km/h
Tuesday	04/24	Sunny and Clouds will increase	33 °C	20 °C	VRB-VRB	06 - 30 km/h
Wednesday	04/25	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for scattered rain	33 °C	21 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:53
Sunrise	05:16
Zuhr	11:47
Asr	15:22
Sunset	18:18
Isha	19:39

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	39 °C
MIN. Temp.	18 °C
MAX. RH	40 %
MIN. RH	06 %
MAX. Wind	SE 50 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

FOR RENT
IN 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

CHANGE OF NAME
 Airport Road, Khaitan, Rent KD 85 only. Contact: 51614467. (C5394) 17-4-2018

I, Shaikh Irfanahmed Mohammadyusuf, Passport No: J6971528, has changed my name to Bhura Irfanahmed Mohammadyusuf. (C 5393) 17-4-2018

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is
1889988

SITUATION WANTED

MEP Engineer (HVAC, plumbing, fire fighting) Indian (M) can join immediately. Phone: 99054703, mail: shibin@live.in (C 5392) 11-4-2018

ACCOMODATION

Room available for Family/couple/working ladies/one bachelor, on

EMERGENCY

112
 For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
 Call MSAL hotline
128

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 22/4/2018				Departure Flights on Sunday 22/4/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	417	Manila	00:25
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MSR	2615	Sohag	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	FDB	073	Dubai	00:30
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:45
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	JZR	142	Doha	03:20
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	QTR	128	Istanbul	04:25
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
JZR	551	Alexandria	04:05	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:05
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	KAC	103	London	05:45
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:50	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	JZR	786	Riyadh	06:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	RJA	649	Amman	07:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	JZR	902	Baku	07:15
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	QTR	8512	Doha	07:55
QTR	8511	Doha	06:25	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	MSB	122	Baghdad	08:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	BAW	156	London	08:20
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	KAC	165	Rome	08:25
KAC	358	Kochi	07:40	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	117	New York	09:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
WAN	352	Luxor	08:30	WAN	133	Doha	09:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	JZR	535	Cairo	09:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
WAN	312	Asyut	10:20	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	JZR	124	Bahrain	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	IRC	529	Ahwaz	10:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	101	London	10:00
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:10	KAC	617	Doha	10:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
WAN	542	KTM	12:50	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	JZR	788	Riyadh	11:20
JZR	903	Baku	12:55	WAN	873	Istanbul	11:20
JZR	125	Bahrain	12:55	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
WAN	134	Doha	13:30	RSB	1073	TQD	12:10



No charges in Prince death after two-year probe

Two years after pop icon Prince died of an overdose, prosecutors said Thursday they would not file any criminal charges and announced a settlement with a US doctor who prescribed powerful painkillers for the star. A prosecutor in Prince's home state of Minnesota said it remained unclear how the Purple One obtained counterfeit pills containing fentanyl, an intense opioid, that ultimately killed him. "The bottom line is we simply do not have sufficient evidence to charge anyone with a crime related to Prince's death," Mark Metz, the attorney of Carver County, home to Prince's Paisley Park estate, told reporters. After searches, Metz said that Prince had bottles of pills marked with common commercial pain relief labels such as Bayer and Aleve and that the singer thought he was taking Vicodin-but was in fact taking the more potent fentanyl instead. Metz acknowledged that someone gave Prince the counterfeit pills, saying: "There is

no doubt that the actions of individuals around Prince will be criticized, questions and judged in the days and weeks to come." But he added: "Suspicious and innuendo are categorically insufficient to support any criminal charges." Prince died on April 21, 2016 at age 57 — stunning fans and bandmates who recall the singer as an outward model of health who rarely drank alcohol, ate a vegetarian diet and would kick out musicians who abused drugs from his studio. But the pop star-so versatile he could literally play guitar blind-folded behind his back—secretly suffered from pain stemming from a hip operation. In his death, Prince became the most famous face of the epidemic of painkiller abuse in the United States. Last year, more than 42,000 people died and 2.1 million others abused opioids around the country, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

ABBA reunites - with avatars - for TV tribute

It's the closest thing yet to an ABBA reunion: computerized avatars of Sweden's legendary disco group will perform during a televised tribute to the quartet to be broadcast this autumn, ABBA member Bjorn Ulvaeus said Thursday. Agnetha Faltskog, Anni-Frid Lyngstad, Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson split up in 1982 after dominating the disco scene for more than a decade with hits like "Waterloo", "Dancing Queen", "Mamma Mia" and "Super Trouper". The group, which has sold more than 400 million albums, has not sung together on stage since 1986. The avatars will perform an as yet unnamed ABBA song during the tribute show, produced by British broadcaster BBC and US network NBC. Other top musical artists are also expected to perform. "It's a kind of ABBA tribute show, but the centrepiece ... will be something I call 'Abbtars'. It is digital versions of ABBA, from 1979," Ulvaeus told AFP. "It's the first time it's ever been done." In order to create the avatars, "techno artists" from Silicon Valley measured the heads of the four ABBA members and photographed them from all angles. "With videos and lipsynching, they'll create digital copies of us from 1979," he said, referring to the year the album "Voulez-vous" was released. Ulvaeus was in Brussels on Thursday to try to persuade European Broadcasting Union (EBU) member networks to sign on to the show. The EBU is the broadcaster of the Eurovision Song Contest, the competition that launched ABBA on the international scene when it won in 1974 with the hit "Waterloo". "I hope that some of them (European broadcasters) will join us and make this ... a global program at the end of this autumn," Ulvaeus said. The show is expected to go on tour the following year.



Back from therapy, Kanye announces two albums

Kanye West, the once-omnipresent rap superstar who vanished a year and a half ago amid a purported mental breakdown, on Thursday re-emerged to announce not one but two albums. The 40-year-old rapper and fashion designer who has likened himself to Michelangelo tweeted that he will release a seven-track album on June 1 and another album a week later with his protege Kid Cudi. West, who returned to Twitter earlier this week nearly a year after deleting his account, said little about the new albums. But he wrote that his collaboration with Kid Cudi will be called "Kids See Ghosts." The husband of socialite Kim Kardashian in 2016 cut short a tour after increasingly erratic behavior on stage, including alleging that rap mogul Jay-Z was out to kill him and throwing his support behind now-president Donald Trump, a rarity for an African American celebrity. His associates said he went into therapy for a breakdown and he has made few appearances since—other than showing up shortly after the 2016 election to meet the then president-elect at his Trump Tower residence. Once known for his introspection, West became increasingly boastful in his lyricism, interviews and social media postings although he has consistently won high marks for his musical skills. His last album, 2016's "The Life of Pablo," broke from the traditional recording model by initially coming out only through streaming, with West tinkering with it even after its "release."



Paramount announces Elton John biopic

Paramount has agreed to fund and distribute "Rocketman," a biopic about British entertainer Elton John, a spokesman for the US studio said on Thursday. The film will star Taron Egerton ("Kingsman," "Eddie the Eagle"), who will sing the songs featured in the film, the spokesman said. And it will be directed by Dexter Fletcher, who also helmed a biopic about another British singer—Freddie Mercury of the group Queen. Filming is scheduled to begin this summer. John, who in the 1980s became one of the first openly gay major celebrities, has announced that he plans to "go out with a bang" with a massive final global tour that will open on September 8 and last through 2021.



Daniel Craig's Aston Martin fetches \$468,500 in New York



James Bond actor Daniel Craig's Aston Martin, numbered with the character's signature 007, sold at auction Friday for \$468,500. Christie's, which announced results of the bidding, had estimated the limited-edition midnight blue 2014 Centenary Edition Vanquish would fetch \$400,000-\$600,000. All proceeds from the sale will benefit The Opportunity Network, a charity helping under-served youths develop their careers. Both Craig and his wife, actress Rachel Weisz, sit on the charity's board. Craig made a surprise appearance during the auction, joining the Christie's team to encourage a client to bid higher. The car, which has a top speed of 183 miles (295 kilometers) per hour, is part of a series of just 100 which Aston Martin created in 2014 to celebrate the firm's 100th anniversary. It is made of a lightweight bonded aluminum structure and motorsport-inspired carbon-fiber exterior. The handcrafted interior includes luxury leathers, carbon fiber and aluminum.

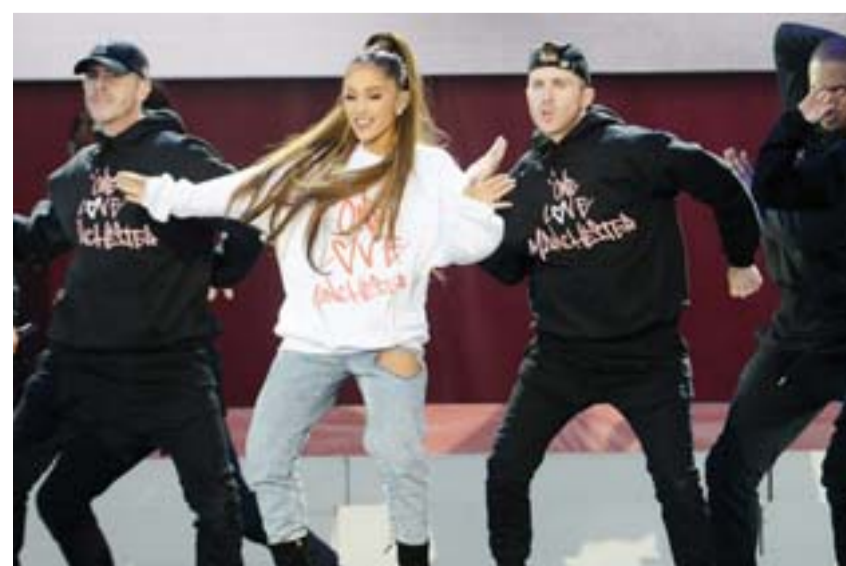
Shaggy: Sting's like a big brother



Shaggy sees Sting as a "big brother". The unlikely duo recently collaborated on their new album '44/876' and the 'It Wasn't Me' hitmaker has likened the 'Shape of My Heart' singer to an older sibling and a "teacher". Sting said: "We are both family men, married to strong women, we have lots of children, we care about our communities. We care about the world ... It's surprising how much in common our wives have. They do a very good job of keeping us in check. We know who the bosses are." Whilst Shaggy added: "His kids are older than my kids. I've got two grown kids, but I've got little ones too, and it's a learning process for me, so I lean on him. He's like my bigger brother, teacher." The main aim of the pair's new album was for it to be "timeless". Shaggy shared: "We wanted it to be timeless. He's no stranger to making timeless music. I'm no stranger to making timeless music. We connected on that, on many things." With Sting adding to People magazine: "It's a lot of sunshine on this record. I think we need sunshine at the moment. It's a lot of darkness around us politically and whatever. So this record is like springtime, saying things are going to get better, morning is coming." Meanwhile, Sting recently admitted he was put in a "slightly uncomfortable" place when him and Shaggy first started working on their joint record. Sting confessed: "We have very different creative processes. I'm very private and I don't reveal anything until I'm ready, it's anxiety I think. But this one [Shaggy] is such a spontaneous creator."

Ariana Grande's surprise Coachella performance

Ariana Grande made a surprise appearance at the 2018 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival on Friday. The 24-year-old singer made a special appearance during Kygo's set at the annual music festival, which is held in Indio, California, to perform her new single 'No Tears Left To Cry'. Her manager Scooter Braun had previously teased a surprise performance from Ariana at the festival. Alongside a cactus emoji, referencing the desert location of the festival, he tweeted earlier in the day: "Hey @ArianaGrande ... what are u are you doing tonight???" (sic) His message was followed by a second one, which read: "On the way the Coachella stage! Let's see who is there?????" (sic) Ariana also shared short videos and photos of herself in a helicopter with her mother Joan and boyfriend Mac Miller, further fuelling speculation she was heading to the annual event to perform. 'No Tears Left To Cry' marks Ariana's first single since last year's Manchester terror attack, which left 22 people dead. In the track, she touches on the resilience of the city, especially felt at the One Love Manchester benefit gig that she headlined in the wake of the horrific attack outside her Manchester Arena concert in May. On the chorus, she sings: "Ain't got no tears left to cry. So I'm loving, I'm living, I'm picking it up." The single - which was produced by Max Martin - also features the line: "We're way too fly to partake in all this hate. We out here vibin', we vibin'." The accompanying music video includes the worker bee - which has been a symbol of the city of Manchester since at least 1842. — Bang Showbiz



Lifestyle | Music & Movies

Dance music superstar Avicii dead at 28

Avicii, one of the world's most successful DJs who helped usher in the global boom in electronic music but struggled to cope with the hard-partying lifestyle, died Friday in Oman, his representative said. He was 28. Two years after his unusually early retirement from touring amid recurring health scares, the Swedish DJ was found dead in the Gulf sultanate's capital Muscat. "It is with profound sorrow that we announce the loss of Tim Bergling, also known as Avicii," his management said in a statement, without specifying the cause of death.

"The family is devastated and we ask everyone to please respect their need for privacy in this difficult time. No further statements will be given," Maitrai Joshi, a DJ at the Muscat Hills Resort, said he had spotted Avicii and understood the dance superstar was on vacation in Oman for the first time and had extended his stay. "I saw him again the next day and again he was friendly, humble and took some photos," Joshi told AFP by email.

Avicii was among the first DJs to break through in the mainstream as electronic dance music grew over the past decade from nightclubs to Top 40 radio. He created a global hit out of Coldplay's "A Sky Full of Stars," to which he added a layer of energetic electronica. He also helped produce Madonna's last album. On Instagram, the pop icon posted a picture of herself in the DJ booth with Avicii and wrote: "So Tragic. Goodbye Dear Sweet Tim. Gone Too Soon." His biggest individual hits included "Wake

Me Up," which went to number one across Europe in 2013 and featured the soul singer Aloe Blacc.

In 2015, he DJ-ed the wedding reception of Sweden's Prince Carl Philip and his bride Sofia. The couple mourned him in a statement, saying: "We had the honor to have known him and admired him both as an artist and the beautiful person that he was." Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven called Avicii "one of the greatest names of music in Sweden in modern times."

Scene 'not for me'

Avicii has spoken publicly in recent years about his health problems, including pancreatitis, triggered in part by excessive drinking. The condition forced him to cancel shows in 2014 as he had to have his gallbladder and appendix removed. In 2016, Avicii stunned fans by retiring from touring when he was just 26. "The scene was not for me," he told music magazine Billboard after his decision.

"It was not the shows and not the music. It was always the other stuff surrounding it that never came naturally to me. All the other parts of being an artist," he added. "I'm more of an introverted person in general. It was always very hard for me. I took on board too much negative energy, I think." Avicii later returned to the more quiet life of a studio artist. Last year, he put out a six-song EP that featured British pop singer Rita Ora.

'Genius and musical innovator'

The son of Anki Liden, a prominent Swedish actress, Avicii had his start upload-



In this file photo DJ Avicii arrives at Clive Davis & The Recording Academy's 2013 Pre-GRAMMY Gala and Salute to Industry Icons honoring Antonio "LA" Reid at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.



Picture taken on May 30, 2015 shows Swedish musician, DJ, remixer and record producer Avicii (Tim Bergling) performing at the Summerburst music festival at Ullevi stadium in Gothenburg, Sweden. — AFP photos

Grammy nominations. He took his stage name from the Sanskrit word for the lowest level of hell in Buddhism, adding an additional "i" at the end.

In 2014, he was tied with Tiesto as the third top-grossing DJ in the world on the list of Forbes magazine, which estimated his earnings for the year at \$28 million. Pop star

Charlie Puth paid tribute to Avicii as "a genius and a music innovator" and said he "really opened my eyes to what my production could one day sound like." Deadmau5 — an outspoken top DJ who had mocked Avicii when he quit touring so young— offered his "sincerest and most heartfelt condolences." — AFP

Cinema makes return to Saudi Arabia



A handout picture provided by the Saudi Royal Palace on April 18, 2018, shows Saudi Information Minister Awwad Alawwad (center) holding a small bucket of popcorn as he attends a test screening at the AMC cinema in the capital Riyadh, the first test in over three decades. — AFP photos

Saudi Arabia hosted its first public film screening in over 35 years on Friday, two days after US movie giant AMC unveiled the kingdom's debut theatre in Riyadh. Clutching prized tickets for what AMC said was a sold-out showing of Hollywood blockbuster action film "Black Panther", men and women walked into the movie hall with tubs of popcorn and fizzy drinks. Families huddled around movie posters to take selfies, soaking up an experience that is mundane in most parts of the world but a novelty in the ultra-conservative desert kingdom.

Saudi Arabia lifted a decades-long ban on cinemas last year as part of a far-reaching modernization drive, with AMC Entertainment granted the first license to operate movie theatres. AMC chief executive Adam Aron on Wednesday said its multiplex theatre at Riyadh's King Abdullah Financial District will for now operate one screen with a seating capacity of around 250. He said plans were afoot for three more screens in the coming months. Access to the tightly guarded cinema complex, although open to moviegoers is highly restricted. An AFP reporter was invited to Friday's opening but was not allowed by AMC and Saudi authorities to talk to audience members or attend the screening.

Next up: 'Avengers'?

Religious hardliners, who have long vilified movie theatres as vulgar and sinful, were instrumental in shutting down cinemas in the 1980s. Reopening movie theatres is part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ambitious reform drive as he seeks to balance unpopular subsidy cuts in an era of low oil



Two actors perform in front of the AMC logo during a cinema test screening.

prices with more entertainment options—despite the risk of riling hardliners. The choice of "Black Panther", a film about a young monarch of a fictional resource-rich African kingdom, has drawn parallels with the Saudi prince.

An AMC official said the movie chain could possibly release the much-anticipated thriller "Avengers: Infinity War" at the cinema next week, around the same time as its global release. On social media, many Saudis complained that the ticket price of 75 Saudi riyals (\$20), which included a new entertainment tax and value-added tax introduced this year, was too exorbitant in an age of austerity. "If

we go as a family we will need a loan," one Saudi quipped on Twitter.

Saudis currently splurge billions of dollars annually to see films and visit amusement parks in neighboring tourist hubs like Dubai and Bahrain. "Welcome to the era when movies can be watched by Saudis not in Bahrain, not in Dubai, not in London... but inside the kingdom," Aron said Wednesday at the launch of the theatre. International theatre chains have long eyed Saudi Arabia with its more than 30 million people as the Middle East's last untapped mass market, the majority of whom are under 25. —AFP

Natalie Portman says backed out of prize over Netanyahu

Hollywood actress Natalie Portman said she was backing out of a Jerusalem ceremony where she was to receive a \$2 million prize to protest against the policies of Israel's prime minister. "I chose not to attend because I did not want to appear as endorsing Benjamin Netanyahu, who was to be giving a speech at the ceremony," Portman said in a statement posted late Friday on Instagram. She also denied accusations by Israeli Culture Minister Miri Regev who on Friday said Portman subscribed to the ideology of the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. "I am not part of the BDS movement and do not endorse it," the Oscar-winning US-Israeli actress said. "Like many Israelis and Jews around the world, I can be critical of the leadership in Israel without wanting to boycott the entire nation," she said.

On Friday the Genesis Prize Foundation said that Portman had cancelled her participation in a Jerusalem ceremony slated for the end of June. One of Portman's representatives informed the foundation that she was troubled by "recent events" in Israel and "does not feel comfortable participating in any public event in Israel," the foundation said. The foundation did not say which events distressed Portman. Portman said her decision to stay away from the award ceremony had been "mischaracterised", insisting that she wanted to set the record straight and "speak for myself".

"Israel was created exactly 70 years ago as a haven for refugees from the Holocaust. But the mistreatment of those suffering from today's atrocities is simply not in line with my Jewish values," she said. "Because I care about Israel, I must stand against violence, corruption, inequality and abuse of power," Portman added. Portman did not go into details, but her decision came amid a series of controversies for Netanyahu and his government. The army has come



In this file photo actress Natalie Portman arrives for the premiere of "Annihilation" in Los Angeles. — AFP

under scrutiny over its use of live fire over the past three weeks during protests and clashes along the blockaded Gaza Strip's border with the Jewish state.

In a fourth straight Friday of mass demonstrations, four Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli forces, bringing the total death toll since March 30 to 38.

Netanyahu also recently reversed a controversial deal with the UN refugee agency aimed at avoiding the forced deportations of thousands of African migrants. The Israeli premier is also the subject of a series of corruption investigations. — AFP

Janelle Monae plans dystopian film to accompany album

The singer Janelle Monae on Friday announced the release of a dystopian film to accompany her first album in nearly five years, which was initially being produced by Prince. Monae, who has increasingly focused on acting of late with roles in the Oscar-winning film "Moonlight" and the well-received NASA history pic "Hidden Figures," will roll out "Dirty Computer" on April 27. The 44-minute film, "Dirty Computer: an Emotion Picture by Janelle Monae," will come out a day earlier and bring together music videos tied to the album, the singer said.

The film will air on the music and youth culture network MTV, African American-oriented entertainment network BET and their international partners. The "emotion picture"—which also stars "Selma" actress Tessa Thompson—features Monae playing a woman named Jane 57821 who lives in a totalitarian society where citizens are described as computers. The film "explores humanity and what truly happens to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness when mind and machines merge, and when the government chooses fear over freedom," MTV

and BET parent Viacom said in an announcement. Monae, 32, won acclaim starting with her musical debut a decade ago for her blending of classic soul and jazz with psychedelic, science-fiction narratives.

In an era in which female stars often maximize sex appeal with skimpy outfits, Monae casts a bookish figure and performs in customized tuxedos. Monae had found a mentor in Prince who died suddenly two years ago from an accidental overdose of powerful painkillers. In an interview with The New York Times Magazine, Monae said she had been working with the pop legend on "Dirty Computer" and shelved the project temporarily after his death. "I just never could imagine a time where I couldn't pick up the phone or email him, and he'd contact me right back and we'd talk about all these things that I was unsure of," she said. Monae has already released three tracks from the album including "Django Jane," a rap track on which she hits back at threats she has received as a prominent advocate for the Black Lives Matter movement for civil rights. — AFP



In this file photo Janelle Monae attends the 2018 Vanity Fair Oscar Party following the 90th Academy Awards at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills, California, on March 4, 2018. — AFP



Photo shows the inauguration of the festival in the presence of UAE Supreme Council member and Sharjah Governor Dr Sultan Al-Qasimi.



Photo shows Um Saeed's medicinal herbs where she offers treatment for various ailments and bone fractures.



An elder lady uses a traditional wheat grinder to produce flour.

SHARJAH CELEBRATES ARABIC HERITAGE

By Abdellatif Sharaa

The 16th Sharjah Heritage Days festival was inaugurated in the presence of UAE Supreme Council member and Sharjah Governor Dr Sultan Al-Qasimi under the slogan "With Heritage, We Rise". The event is organized by the Sharjah Institute of Heritage. Qasimi toured the heritage village and its booths and saw firsthand the participation by various countries and communities, including depictions of UAE's agricultural, mountainous and desert environments.

Qasimi made a special visit to the Czech pavilion, the guest of honor this year. He also opened the Al-Nabouda Museum, which is supervised by the Sharjah museums authority. This ancient house, built in 1845 by Obaid Al-Shams, is known as Al-Naboodah, as Shams traded in pearls and reached India and Europe due to his business relations. The event witnessed around 600 experts, researchers, writers and media from 31 countries around the world.

Chairman of the Sharjah Institute for Heritage Dr Abdulaziz Al-Musallam told Kuwait Times Sharjah preserves old heritage, starting with education and culture, as the first cultural symposium in Sharjah was held in the 1920s by Humaid Al-Kindi. The first regulated school was a co-ed established in 1942. Cultural festivals began a long time ago, he added. He said modern introductions like the first radio, airport, etc began in Sharjah, so it is fitting for Sharjah to be the capital of culture.

Musallam said Sharjah has six cultural establishments that are working within the vision of the Sharjah governor. They are the Sharjah Book Authority, Sharjah Heritage Institute, Cultural Department, Sharjah Museum Authority, Sharjah Antiquities Authority and Sharjah Arts Institute. He said Sharjah witnesses 2,000 cultural events annually, and its publications are vast and relate to all Arabs. "We do not make it exclusive to the UAE only, but it is available for all Arabs," he said.

He added a new department called Arab Heritage Center at the institute supports research, studies and archives and the ethnographic aspect of the Arab world. Musallam said this is supported by education, as there are eight universities in Sharjah. There is also support of innovation and the Arab language through the new Arabic language complex, which will include elite Arabic language institutions in the Arab world.

So how did the idea of the "With Heritage, We Rise" slogan come about? "We have a slogan every year, and we try to project heritage with great importance, as



Chairman of Sharjah Institute for Heritage Dr Abdulaziz Al-Musallam speaking to the media. — Photos by By Abdellatif Sharaa

heritage in many events is not given its deserved attention. So, we try to make heritage the focus of our events. Just like the pyramids in Egypt and Taj Mahal in India are must-visit tourist attractions, so is the Bait Al Naboodah, located in the heart of Sharjah. It is a major attraction for visitors all year round and during the ongoing Sharjah Heritage Days event," Musallam said.

Bait Al Naboodah

Offering visitors an opportunity to learn about the authentic architectural design of the traditional Emirati houses, as well as the lifestyle and values of Arab ancestors, Bait Al Naboodah is a marvelous piece of architecture. Shamsi, nicknamed Al Naboodah, was a prominent pearl trader who had commercial ties with India, Africa and France. The construction process of the house passed through several phases, according to the family's growth. Built around a large courtyard, the walls are made of coral with an innovative method of air conditioning and inimitable decorative carvings in both plaster and wood. The ancient architectural marvel also features ancient traditional family life and routines displayed through works of ancient Arabian craftsmen.

"The idea in hosting the Sharjah Heritage Days fest

is to encourage the youth to explore and learn about the tradition and heritage of our country. Bait Al-Naboodah is one of the most-visited places in the heart of Sharjah and we are glad to let visitors including young and old see and explore this magnificent structure, which takes you back to the ancient Arab era," Musallam said.

Spanning across 1,100 sq m, the stunning heritage building assists visitors of all ages, nationalities and interests to learn, discuss and explore Sharjah's past. Legend says that Al Naboodah lived in this house with his three wives and children. The ancient heritage structure contains many rooms, water wells, majlis (guestroom) and a library, and the interior and exterior designs are characterized by unique decorative carvings in plaster, wood and palm trunks.

Sharjah has been known for its rich heritage and the desire to offer a multicultural experience for its visitors. All these preserved architectural sites and projects combine an Arabic, Islamic and Emirati focus with an international outlook which makes it easy for visitors from all over the world to explore UAE's rich culture and heritage. This year's cultural fair oversees a growing plethora of ancient artifacts, galleries, exhibitions,



A photo shows an old man simulating oyster cracking to look for pearls. This custom was the source of income before the era of the discovery of oil. Pearl diving was used by Kuwaitis and Bahrainis to a large scale.



A sign reads 'eat and keep silent'. A dish made of peanuts and other ingredients was being made in the old days. When anyone asked about what it was, he was told to eat and keep silent.



An elderly lady uses natural plant dyes to color clothes and other textile pieces.



Lifestyle | Travel



Photo shows visitors during the opening ceremony.



Children dance during the opening ceremony.



(Left) Photo shows a traditional Omani box maker and as clay jars are seen to the right.



An elderly man is making 'gargour', a traditional fishing tool in the Arabian Gulf region.



Exposition of Czech Republic.



A booth shows the logo of Sharjah institute for Heritage.



A woman uses the traditional way of making Arabic ghee and butter by manually shaking the milk inside a special container made out of goat skin.

historical sites and cultures of people from 21 countries. Held under the theme 'With Heritage, We Rise', the cultural festival is an opportunity for visitors to experience diverse segments of the society which showcases tangible and intangible heritage items of the emirate and beyond.

Barakat Al-Turath Initiative

Sharjah Heritage Days (SHD) has a special section for the elderly called "Barakat Al-Turath Initiative" (Blessings of Heritage). This section receives appreciations from various authorities and visitors as it keeps senior citizens busy with what they enjoy. Head of Public Relations at SHD Aisha Ghabish said "we always do our best to attract elderly people to engage them through the community and to allow them to teach today's generation out of their experience." She added "here at SHD, senior citizens teach handicrafts, pottery, crochet, etc.

Ghabish said that the elderly started being engaged in 2017, and there are more than 20 men and women over the age of 60 who are displaying their skills and passing them to young visitors. The E-Turath section in SHD event located in the heart of Sharjah contains two technologies which are the 360-degree virtual reality and the Touch and Throw technology

The 360-degree virtual reality presents mementos and items owned by Sheikh Sultan Bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, ruler of Sharjah. Visitors can try the 360-degree VR at E-Turath to get immersed in the Arabian Heritage Center exhibition located in the University City of Sharjah. The exhibited items owned by Sheikh Sultan Al-Qasimi are received mostly from presidents, kings, and princes. The Arabian Heritage Center is a great exhibition for individuals passionate about cultures and heritage.

It contains wedding dresses of UAE and GCC countries, traditional clothes of many cities in Levant and

Mesopotamia, traditional clothes and swords of North Africa, and many other items. Visitors of SHD can either view these items at E-Turath using the VR or enter the actual exhibition of the Arabian Heritage Center at the University of Sharjah for free during the work hours.

As for the Touch and Throw technology, visitor can press the desired logo of a certain event on the screen and the visitor will get information in Arabic as well as English. The events presented are organized by Sharjah Institute for Heritage which includes Sharjah Heritage Days, World Cultural Heritage Weeks in Sharjah, Nisf Sha'ban Celebration, Sharjah International Narrator Forum, and Sharjah International Award for Cultural Heritage.

The Sharjah Institute for Heritage, the organizer of Sharjah Heritage Days, recently launched the Sharjah Institute for Heritage application for Android devices and will soon launch it for iOS as well. It contains many subjects including news and events organized by the institution.



Visitors are seen during the 16th Sharjah Heritage Days festival.



Old ladies weave and stitch clothes and other pieces.

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018



An aerial picture shows the blumming bulb fields of Lisse (the Keukenhof) in The Netherlands . — AFP

Japan's Akita dogs melt foreign hearts

Hollywood actor Richard Gere, French film star Alain Delon and Russia's figure skating sensation Alina Zagitova have one thing in common: They adore Japan's Akita dogs. And they're not alone. In recent years, foreign ownership of one of Japan's most famous indigenous breeds has skyrocketed, outstripping domestic demand for the fluffy, perky-eared pooches. Earlier this year, the trend hit the headlines when Zagitova proclaimed her love for Akitas after spotting them while training in Japan, and local officials pledged to get one to her.

Her affection for the cute canines comes as no surprise to veteran breeder Osamu Yamaguchi, 64, who has been supplying Akita dogs to foreign owners for two decades. "My clients used to be 50 percent Japanese and 50 percent foreigners but recently the number of overseas clients has increased," Yamaguchi told AFP in his garden in Takasaki city, about 100 kilometers (60 miles)

north of Tokyo. The Akita dog preservation association confirms the surging overseas demand for the dogs.

The number of Akitas registered by overseas owners jumped from just 33 in 2005 to 359 in 2013, and up to 3,967 in 2017. Yamaguchi has around 20 Akitas at any given time, many of them tiny fluff-ball puppies with white, brindle or reddish coats that tussle with each other or nuzzle their mother looking for food. Originally a hunting breed, Akitas emerged from the northern Japanese region of the same name. They are large, around 60 to 70 centimeters (24 to 28 inches) tall and between 40 to 50 kilograms (88 to 110 pounds), with prominent ears that stand straight up, deep-set eyes and almost bear-like faces.

National treasures

They are one of six breeds of Japanese dogs recognized as "natural treasures" by the government. But local

“ Akita dogs are responsive. That's their most attractive feature ”



Rika, an Akita dog, feeds her puppies at a breeding center in Takasaki, Gunma prefecture.

ownership has been on the decline, with no more than 3,000 puppies registered each year over the last decade, from a peak of 40,000 in the 1970s. "The housing situation in Japan is affecting" the number of people who can own dogs as large as Akitas, said Kosuke Kawakita, head of the Akita dog preservation association's Tokyo branch. "There are many people who want to own one, but they say they cannot because of a 'no pet' policy at their apartment or because they live in a small place."

Foreign owners have picked up the slack, with Yamaguchi saying he travels overseas about 20 times a year to personally deliver Akitas to their new owners. His dogs sell for around 200,000 yen (\$1,870) each, and most of his clients are from the United States, Russia and China, though he has also flown to France, Egypt, Kuwait and Indonesia to make sure owners have a proper home for their puppies. "Akita dogs are



An Akita puppy, plays with a ball at a dog breeding center in Takasaki, Gunma prefecture.



Japanese Akita dog breeder Osamu Yamaguchi cleans kennels at his center in Takasaki, Gunma prefecture. — AFP photos

responsive. That's their most attractive feature," Yamaguchi said. "They understand how you feel just by being near you. And they're loyal."

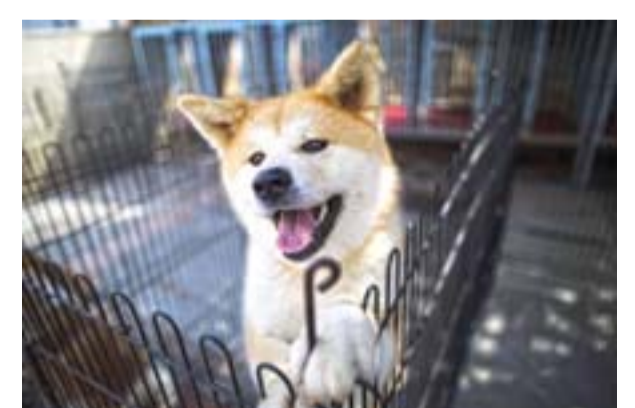
The dog's faithful character is central to the decades-old true story of Hachiko, an Akita who in the 1920s waited patiently each day at Tokyo's Shibuya station for his master to return from work. One day, his owner passed away while teaching at the Imperial University of Tokyo but the faithful pet waited for him at the same station for the next decade.

'Dignified' dogs

Hachiko is commemorated in a statue outside the station, as well as elsewhere in Tokyo, and his story was turned into a Hollywood film in 2009, starring Gere as the professor. "The Akita became a very popular dog" overseas after the movie came out, said Kawakita, who has owned more than 30 Akitas since falling in love with them as a teenager. Other famous Akita admirers have also raised the pooches' profile overseas, including deaf-blind political activist Helen Keller who brought one back to America and Russian President Vladimir Putin, who received a dog as a gift from the Akita governor.

In China, the dogs have become so sought after that some pet shops began selling "fake Akitas" with falsified pedigree certificates, Kawakita said, adding that dogs with reddish fur were usually the most desirable for for-

eign owners. Yamaguchi is delighted to see the dogs gain overseas fans, but hopes the popularity won't be simply a fad. "I don't want the boom of Akita dogs to be a passing trend. I want it to continue," he said. And for that to happen, he said, owners in Japan "have a big responsibility" to keep the Akita breed alive. "Dogs will not thrive if the country of origin stops producing them," he said. — AFP



An Akita dog in a kennel at a breeding center in Takasaki, Gunma prefecture.



Japanese Akita dog breeder Osamu Yamaguchi combs a one-month-old Akita puppy at his center in Takasaki, Gunma prefecture.



An Akita dog, feeds her puppies at a breeding center in Takasaki, Gunma prefecture.